

# CHAPEL CHIMES



GRASS VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Dec. 1, 2009

Vol. 160, Issue 12

## WIN - WIN - WIN

This is one of those rare cases where everyone can win. Our church - you - environment !

### How does this work ???

If you have a computer with an e-mail service, you can ask our church to send the Chapel Chimes ( and other mail ? ) to you by e-mail. This will reduce the expense for postage, paper and printing. There would be no additional cost to you.

Beginning in the month of December the Chapel Chimes will be printed twice in a month, the first of the month and in the middle of the month.

At the present rate this would mean that the total cost of printing and mailing the Chapel Chimes twice every month would be about twelve hundred dollars ( \$1,200.00 ) per year.

There is no way we can reduce this expense to zero, but every dollar saved will help.

If 30 families choose e-mail, that would save about one hundred twenty dollars ( \$ 120.00 ) per year.

**Everyone interested in helping our church to save in this way -  
Contact the church office.**

## CHARGE CONFERENCE - DEC 21

**There will be a Charge Conference with one item on the agenda -**

**Where - Church**

**When - 6:30 PM Dec. 21, 2009**

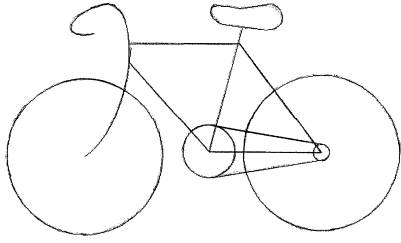
**Why - To approve a volunteer.**

The approval by the Charge Conference is needed in this case because this is a **very special volunteer. Come and be a witness to a historical event in our own time.** With Charge Conference approval, this will be the first Conference Lay Minister to serve in their own church and the first CLay Minister in the GVUMC.

The SPR Committee and the Church Council will be asking the congregation to accept Nancy Thompson's offer to volunteer her services as a Conference Lay Minister in our church. Nancy is a volunteer in that she will not be paid or be classified as a staff person.

She is well qualified to fulfill a variety of

( Cont'd Page 2 )



***Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart. Matthew 11:29***

Henri Nouwen, religious contemplative, writer and teacher provides a guide for us this Advent Season, Living In Hope. This lovely devotional is available for you in the narthex along with the Upper Room and Alive Now! In this precious season of watching and waiting for our Savior to be born anew I invite you to join me in renewing and rebirthing our own personal faith journey. For it is so, that we are reborn in Christ over and over again as we move on to Spiritual Perfection.

Nouwen reminds us that God chose powerlessness. God chose to enter into human history in complete weakness as a baby. That divine choice forms the center of the Christian faith. In Jesus of Nazareth, the powerless God appeared among us to unmask the illusion of power and to bring the divided human race into new unity.

Through total and unmitigated powerlessness, God shows us divine mercy. The radical, divine choice is the choice to reveal glory, beauty, truth, peace, joy, and most of all, love in and through the complete divestment of power.

As we leave again for Bethlehem on Dec. 29, I am reminded of centuries of pilgrims that have gone before us to the Holy Land. In our church this decade, Nancy Thompson, Erma Ford, Joan Heinsohn, Marie Norton, Helen Bowden, Rosann Mackey and Pastor Barb all bravely went into the heart of a war zone cloaked only with their faith and the desire to unmask the illusion of power and to bring the divided human race into new unity. We go to be peacemakers, peacekeepers, peace activists with the good people of all faiths and no faith at all that hear this call from the Holy One. May your Christmas season be Holy and filled with the light that still shines from Bethlehem.

Abundant Blessings,  
Pastor Tana

## CLayM Ministry – Conference Lay Minister Program

Read these words from Cathy Warner who is a graduate of CLayM training and serves as a Conference Lay Minister serving Boulder UMC in the San Jose District: "I found the training to be a time to learn more about leadership and church service, to think about where and how I was being led, to learn how to be pastoral, and to develop lasting connections with other persons committed to responding to God's call with, Here I am, send me!"

I share each of these thoughts with Cathy. I came home revved up by the Holy Spirit ready to see how and where God would work in my life next. It will surely be a relationship with a God who cares. "I have called you by name! Do not be afraid.

My name is Nancy Thompson and I am a Conference Lay Minister.

( Cont'd from P. 1 - **Charge Conference** )

tasks for our church.. She has a B of A Degree, 120 hours of Certified Lay Minister Training, trained for and worked as an assistant Hospital Chaplain for three years, many hours of training as a Lay Speaker and Stephen Ministry and has served as an elected officer of the Emmaus Community.

There will be some expense. Our church will be reimbursing Nancy for any expense she has in performing the tasks we assign to her. And, the District is asking for a payment of one thousand dollars to support the CLay Ministry training program.

Consideration of this application will be the only item on the Charge Conference agenda.

**The Church Council will meet immediately after the Charge Conference.**



### THE TREE

I love to smell a fresh-cut Christmas tree,  
While hanging bright strung lights upon each limb;  
It was not found in far-off Bethlehem,  
But now it is our offering to Him  
Who in that pungent stable came to birth  
Whose baby eyes would dismal dimness see,  
In His first glimpse of what He'd find on earth  
Who'd known the brightness of each galaxy.

We ornament our Christmas tree with joy  
While listening to carols sweetly sung,  
The angel on the tree-top still proclaims  
That God Himself is born, to dwell among  
The faithful, which includes both you and me  
The carol bids us "Come" and we obey  
Our ears and eyes record nativity  
Our hearts recall all shepherds had to say.

The tree will dry; at last be taken down,  
The ornaments in closets disappear;  
The "instruments of joy" will cease their  
"sound"  
We will be caught up living the new year,  
But still we dwell with what our lives have  
known,  
That Christ is here, He does with us abide;  
Our tinsel and our symbols faith have shown,  
That tree bears fruit when'er our souls are  
tried!

Earl Leonard Langguth

Many of Rev. Earl's unpublished poems  
are to be found on the internet at the following  
website: [www.poatree.org](http://www.poatree.org)

### A MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

By the time that you receive this Newsletter, we will have gathered with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, feast on turkey and all the trimmings, and to give thanks for all our blessings. Now we begin our journey into the Advent Season leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Missions Committee will be offering you an easy way to honor those you love with an alternative way of gift-giving -- which also helps families who need a way of feeding themselves the opportunity lifting themselves out of poverty.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger. This organization has worked since 1944 to help the greatest number of families move toward self-reliance by offering help, healing and hope to millions of struggling families worldwide. Through its program to help people build better lives, feed and school their children and provide for themselves against poverty and hunger, they also give the gift of self-reliance.

Currently, Heifer International provides a variety of animals and flocks – from chicks and honey bees to Heifers and water buffalos – as well as fruit tree seeds or saplings and vegetable seeds. The family receiving a Heifer International gift also agrees to pass on the first offspring to another family in need, starting a chain of giving that touches more and more lives.

If your Christmas list includes family or friends to whom you don't know what to give this Season, why not give a goat, a flock of chicks or a water buffalo in their name...and in the process give a family who needs a way of feeding themselves the hope of a better life.

These are the kinds of Christmas Gifts which NEVER STOP GIVING and make the gift giver, and the recipient in whose name the gift is given, a part in making a positive difference in the world.

The Missions Committee will have their HEIFER INTERNATIONAL table set up Sunday, December 6 in the Fellowship Hall. Come by and "shop" !

Carolyn Croker, Missions Committee Chair

## **BECOMING A GREEN CHURCH**

I was fortunate enough to be invited to the UMW brunch, as I am every first Thursday of the month, at least to partake in a plate of food. But this month was an interesting program so I stuck around for the presentation. It was about going Green as our neighboring church has done, the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains. As many of you found out, it takes a bit of work on everyone's part to go Green. The two years I have been with you as your custodian, I have implemented some of the steps for going Green.

One is the recycling of paper from the office and classrooms, also, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal containers from the kitchen. There are a number of blue cans around in the different rooms to recycle paper products. Also, a commercial grade shredder was donated to the office for handling those sensitive documents. \*The recycling of electronics, batteries, fluorescent lights, are boxed up and stored until I get a load to take to the County Recycle location.

Since I have taken over the yard maintenance, I have started a compost bin for the leaves and grass clippings. I have just started mixing it into the flower beds around the church, and hope to start a second compost bin, as it is working so well. The larger woody material is chipped and can be used around the grounds as well. \*At all of the coffee stations throughout the three floors of the church, there is a coffee ground bucket to dump the used grounds into. I then deposit the used grounds in the compost piles as well.

When purchasing a new vacuum I looked for a bag-less canister model, to keep from using a bag every week. Plus some of the dust and lint can be used as compost too.

Another big help is turning off unused lights and setting the thermostat as needed. Not always successful, but I try.

Little by little we are getting away from harsh cleaners. The carpet spot remover, I use, is a green product and it actually works better than the name brand I was using. As supplies are needed to be reordered, that is the time to look into Green products, and we are doing that, but need to do more of it.

I think there is a lot more we can do, as a congregation, to help move toward being a Green Church, like our neighbors. We have decrease our waste by at least 25% or more and increased our recycling by 60-70%. It will take all of us to

make it work, but I would like to see it happen.

By Charlie Luckinbill

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Our next meeting will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with installation of 2010 officers in the sanctuary and also special mission recognition. Displays of members nativity scenes and other Christmas decorations will be in Wesley Hall. See Joan Heinsohn, 272-5421 and sign up to display your nativity scenes and decorations

Hostesses will be the Executive Board  
Executive Board meeting at 9:30am  
Continental breakfast at 10:30am

The program will be the new officer installation and special mission recognition.

Our November program was presented by Anita Wald-Tuttle from Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains.

Anita is part of an organization called Green Sanctuary. Green Sanctuary encourages faith congregations to think "green" and to develop a plan to assess the church and individual's environments. Green Sanctuary encourages everyone to develop a plan to make a difference. The idea is to leave as small a carbon footprint on the planet as possible and to influence as many faith and other communities to follow in our footprints.

United Methodist women in mission are sponsoring Sindyanna organic olive oil made by women living in Palestine. This olive oil is selling for \$7 a bottle. The proceeds go back to the women who make it. See Mary Liebke, Margaret Currier, or Joan Heinsohn.

The January meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Lynn Schorr has the program entitled "Nurturing Ministries".

Hostess is Mizpah Circle  
by Lynn Schorr

## CHILDREN'S TIME

"Where Have All the Shepherds Gone?" You'll find them on Children's Christmas Sunday, December 6th, both services. You'll feel the hope and joy of Christmas as you watch Mary Wood's fun-filled Christmas Pageant and hear the Children's Chimes sing and play, "Mother Mary, May I Hold Your Baby?" and "Away in the Manger".

Listen, too, for our Children's Chimes to perform on KNCO. They are recording on Dec. 9th. We'll keep you posted.

Mary Liebke

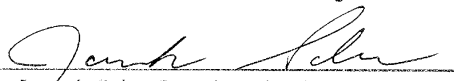


## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF GRASS VALLEY**

for their generous donations to  
"Lunch at the Crossroads"

Thank-you for helping our community.

  
Joseph Salas, Lunch at the Crossroads

9-18-9  
Dated

"Lunch at the Crossroads" is one of the programs that provide free meals for anyone in and around the Grass Valley area. Joseph Salas has been the driving force behind this consistent source of free meals for many months in our church.

Being a part of a giving program should be and is rewarding in and of itself.

However, a "thank you" is always appreciated. And, I hope our response will always be -

**"You're welcome".**

## Hospitality House Christmas

Once again we will be stuffing stockings for our Hospitality House guests. This year we will hand out the stockings on Saturday morning Dec 19. We would appreciate any donations you might want to make. Some suggestions are underwear, socks, gloves, knit caps, coffee tokens, bus passes (expensive but really appreciated) or any thing you feel would be appropriate. There will be a large box in Wesley Hall with a sign on it in which you can place your donations. Thank you.

### FROM THE "SEEKERS"

Civility - Has it died? As Christians, the questions go even deeper as we ask how our faith directs our interactions with others.

Food and Faith - For some, the table has become more of a fueling station than a place of nourishment, a gift from God.

All Saints Day - Saints are those who aspire to the holiness of the Holy God whom they serve.

Seasonal Depression - When life brings difficulties and challenges, suffering persons do not feel like singing cheery Christmas songs or taking part in holiday festivities.

by Shirley Payne.

*Question - Why didn't they play cards on the Ark ?*

*Ans. - Because Noah was standing on the deck.*

## Grass Valley UMC — Scripture and Sermon

**Dec. 6, 2009—Communion Sunday—  
Children's Play  
2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle Lighting and Reading**

**Dec. 13, 2009—3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle Lighting  
and Reading**

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79

Sermon: The Human Factor

**Job's Daughters closing cross and hymn**

**Dec. 20, 2009—4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle Lighting and  
Reading**

**Plan for a lot of bells throughout this  
service..???**

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45;

Sermon: The Iconoclastic Christmas

**Dec. 24, 2009—5:00 Christmas Eve Candle  
Light Service**

**5<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle Lighting and Reading  
A special evening of song and drama**

**Dec. 27, 2009**

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10; Luke 2:41-52;

Sermon: Genius Jesus

**January 3—Rev Don Baldwin preaching**

**January 10—Kathy Mortensen preaching**

**January 17, 2010—Holy Land pictures from  
the Jordan plus the sermon slides**

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: The Mark of Mud

**Children's Time—Martin Luther King Day**

**January 24, 2010**

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon: Me and My Band

**January 31, 2010-10:00 One Service Pastie  
Honors**

Scripture: Jeremiah 4:1-10; Luke 4:21-30

Sermon: Did you Mean...?

*HAPPY*

*BIRTHDAY*

12/02 Shirley Jonsson  
12/05 Margaret Hammond  
12/06 Helen Bowden  
12/10 Howard Coffey  
12/12 David Schorr  
12/12 Stacy Hicklin  
12/12 Lisa Stade  
12/13 Dona Barbera  
12/14 La Nell Lee  
12/16 Geni Reid  
12/17 Betty Gears  
12/26 Gerri Griswold  
12/28 Lillie Phelps  
12/31 Marcus Madden

### New Church Office Hours

**Beginning December 1, 2009 the church office will be closed at 12 noon on Tuesday and Friday. If you have any business with the office please try to have it completed before these closing times.**

**Thank you,  
Your SPR Committee**

### HOW TO REACH PASTOR TANA

There are several ways to reach Pastor Tana.  
\*Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:00-12:00 AM  
Call for appointment.  
\*Church phone: 272-1946  
\*Emergency (24/7): 274-8370  
\*Pastor's home phone: 274-8370  
\*Pastor's e-mail address: pastor@gv-umc.org  
**Call Pastor Tana for appointments  
outside normal hours.**

### WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH ?

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Wed. - Thurs. 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am - Noon

#### COMMITTEES

Church Council	3rd Monday	6:30 pm
Church & Society	1st Monday	4:00 pm
Finance	2nd Thursday	6:30 pm
Missions	As Scheduled	
SPRC	1st Wed.	10:00 am
Trustees	1st Friday	9:00 am
Worship	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.	10:00 am

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children	Sundays	8:45 am
Adults	Sundays	9:00 am

#### BIBLE STUDY

Adults	Mondays	1:30 pm
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#### PRAYER

Contemplative Prayer		
2nd & 4th	Wednesday	4:15 pm
Prayer and Share	Sunday	6:00 pm

#### MUSIC

Wesley Ringers		
Hand Bells	Wednesday	6:30 pm
Choir Practice	Thursday	7:30 pm

#### WELCOMING ADULT GROUPS

Men's Breakfast		
At IHOP	Wednesday	7:30 am
Pasty Bakers		
Call Gordon Beatie		477-8485
Circuit Writers Critique Group		
Call Jan Collins		272-4905

#### CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

Friendly Visitors		
Call Marilyn Wilson		274-8952
Stephen Ministers		
Call Judy Emerson		432-5899

#### NEWS LETTER – CHAPEL CHIMES

Alvin Emerson - alvingvc@msn.com

# THE CHAPEL CHIMES

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Grass Valley, CA 95945

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The Chapel Chimes is published once a month.  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**OPEN HEARTS**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

**OPEN MINDS**

**OPEN DOORS**



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**Our Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world by focusing  
on three discipleship areas:  
**Spiritual discovery for everybody**  
**Outreach to our community and world**  
**Nurture and care for our congregation**  
**"Focus on the SON"**