

# CHAPEL CHIMES



GRASS VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Jan. 1, 2009

Vol. 159, Issue 1

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will meet on January 8, 2009 in Wesley Hall.

Executive Board meets in Susanna Wesley Room at 9:30AM with Continental Breakfast at 10:30AM.

The program entitled "Books Shine a Light on Life" will be presented by Dr. Joan Venes at 11:00AM.

Mizpah Circle will be our hostesses for the breakfast.

Joan Heinsohn and Lynn Schorr thank all the ladies who attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> UMW meeting and Installation of the 2009 UMW Officers. It was well received and lots of positive comments were made by several members. Thanks to Pastor Barb for attending, and special thanks to Susan Kopp, our District President for her part in the installation. We recognized Mary Liebke, our District Vice President, and our Officers were duly installed for next year.

UMW has a wonderful list of programs to be presented in 2009, so everyone plan to attend each meeting. You don't want to miss out on any of the programs.

We are pretty sure that Peggy Servaes was surprised to receive the Special Mission Recognition Award!

## A SEWING MACHINE FOR CAMBODIA

Susie Ernst and her friend, Judy Sisneros, will be traveling on February 4, 2009, to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The goal of their trip is to teach girls rescued from sexual slavery how to quilt pillows.

Both Susie and her friend are master quilters and they wish to share their talents and skills with these Cambodian girls living in the Agape Restoration Center in Phnom Penh (The center provides transformative, long term after care for girls rescued from sexual slavery.) Susie and Judy will be helping the girls to learn a skill they can use to earn a living.

The Friday Afternoon Emmaus group donated money for Susie to purchase a sewing machine which can be electrically powered or manually powered by foot treadle to help further the girls' vocational training.



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in those who forgive,  
in those who seek justice,  
in those who share,  
and in those who show mercy. “

With a special thanks to an unknown author I share these words with you.

“The **story of Christmas** can be summarized this way:

“God’s love became flesh and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.”

Jesus is the human form of God's forgiveness,  
the human form of God's mercy,  
the human form of God's justice,  
the human form of God's truth,  
the human form of God's love.

This is the Christmas story... the word became flesh and dwells among us.

Jesus - the word of God is still among us, is here: teaching those who choose to follow, that which they need to know, comforting those who follow with a peace that surpasses all of our human understanding and a love that knows no bounds.

And what is that truth we need to know?  
Where is the word for us today?

It is in the same place that it was when Jesus walked among us,  
it is in the acts of love that followers perform,  
it is in the mercy that disciples give to others,  
it is in the truth that they utter,  
the justice that they struggle for,  
in the forgiveness that they bestow.

The Word of God took on flesh in Jesus of Nazareth,  
and it takes on flesh today,  
wherever the word is believed and lived.

God's word is here this day, as it was in Jesus in those days. That word becomes alive and made real in simple acts of love and kindness,  
in those who heal,

God is looking for people who will be Jesus incarnate; who will allow the word of God to dwell in us, who will live in the world as transformed and transforming people, sharing together the work of building community with all people. This is the task before us as the body of Christ. Together we will heal, forgive, seek justice, share and show mercy as we allow Jesus, the word of God, to come fully alive in us. My prayer is that God’s word; God’s love will be made alive in me and in you during 2009.

## Happy New Year

Check out our **NEW** connectional giving website.

[www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org)

### **LOVE OFFERING ENVELOPE**

This month’s envelope goes to: Human Relation’s Day. You may mail the enclosed envelope to the church or bring it on the first Sunday service of the month.

### **"Crucible of History"**

**The December National Geographic included a marvelous map of the Eastern Mediterranean.**

**If you can donate your copy of this map to the church, we will laminate it for use in our adult and youth Sunday School.**

**Thank you.**



## THE END

. . .And then that last star died.  
Its feeble fitful flow of photons ceased.  
And all was dark.

In all the cosmos neither glint nor spark.  
No place in black star-spiral that might mark  
Where once one planet's ruined cities flared  
When swelling sun engulfed where once we fared;  
Now such redgiants, cinders had become,  
Long since they did to frigid doom succumb

But now, at last, space-fabric strains to rend  
As time and space slow to a faltering end  
And stop; reversing slowly to recede  
Accelerate, with nothing to impede  
Flow backward as vast space begins to shrink;  
And, faster than some ancient eye might blink,  
Upon themselves collapse, and surging in  
To that lone point from which all did begin  
From which all had exploded long ago  
And smaller, ever smaller does it grow  
Until, at last, in singularity  
It gathers as a single frozen seed,  
An angel then, as if there were some need,  
Quick picks it up and holds it in her hand,  
(Creation's used up mote, you understand)  
But, as she watches, it will disappear  
(Perhaps she smiling, hides a happy tear)  
Thus is this cosmos ended. . .

When we know  
We scarce remember, though to it we owe  
Our life; indeed it was our place of birth.  
It once had served a use that gave it worth.  
But now, almost forgotten, all is past;  
Our joys did all those galaxies outlast.  
But this is not the sum of what's to be;

Thus ends the first day of eternity!

-Earl Leonard Langguth

## VOLUNTARY SERVITUDE

It happens that I choose to be a slave,  
Though I was purchased at a fearful price;  
And now I must obey and serve in love,  
So naturally, you won't heed my advice.

For "freedom" is that thing you treasure most  
Your first concern is self, your "number one"  
I know the feeling; I was once like you,  
But traded "freedom" for true life begun!

In point of fact, I feel supremely free,  
I choose to use my life in just this way,  
I view my tasks as greatest privilege  
And live in rich contentment day by day.  
My Master knows my needs, and acts in love  
He gives me work I just delight to do,  
He's promised me a place to serve above  
When, in His service, earthly life is through.

-Earl Leonard Langguth

### DRAMA ANYONE ???

**We are hoping to act out some of our scriptures  
during worship at the 8:45 service.  
If you would like to be a part of these simple dramas,  
talk with Pastor Barb.**

### JUST A REMINDER

**Together we feed the hungry and build  
community at our Lunch at the Crossroads and  
Second and Last Friday Suppers.**

**Could You ?? Would You ??  
Come and be a part of this wonderful ministry?  
Talk to Joseph Salas, or Shirley Payne or  
just show up to help.  
Lunch January 16. Dinners January 9 and 30.**

( Cont'd from Page 1 ) **UNITED  
METHODIST WOMEN**

How many of you knew she worked for the FBI at one time? You can all look at the pictures that Tracy Slaughter took of the meeting and Installation and Mission Award. Lynn has begun putting pictures together for the Historian album and they will be available at the January meeting.

Our great team is off and running for 2009, the theme is "Let Your Light Shine", so everyone find your light and prepare to let it SHINE!

( Cont'd from Page 1 ) **A Sewing  
Machine for Cambodia**

If you would like to help with Susie's mission, you may send a check made out to Adventure Christian Church (on the notation line please write—Missions/Cambodia 193), to Susie Ernst, 20076 Lakeside Lane, Penn Valley, CA, 95946. You will receive a letter for your tax donation.

**"LIVING THE QUESTIONS"  
RESUMES AFTER  
JANUARY. 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**Four (4) groups listed below are going to the next level and welcoming new members.**

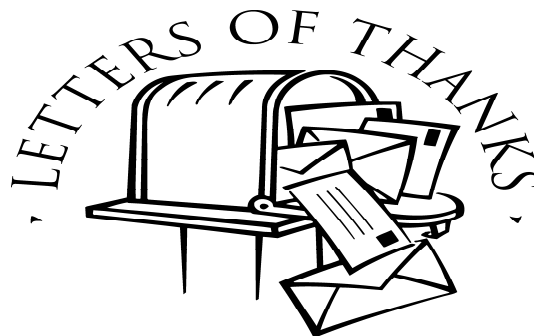
- 1) Margaret Currier: 273-3784, Tuesdays @ 4:30 PM @ church.**
- 2) Bob Briel: 274-7855 Thursdays @ 9:00 AM @ church.**
- 3) Marilyn Wilson: 274-8952 Thursdays @ 4:00 PM @ church.**
- 4) Judy Emerson :432-5899 Beginning January 9 and continuing on Fridays @ 6:30 PM @ Emerson's.**

**Hymn for Peace**

By Helen M. Bowden

O Healer of nations  
Give ear to my cry!  
Your people are wavering;  
Confusion runs high.  
If ever we needed the grace  
that you give –  
Send it down in showers so  
that we may live.

Our prayers we send you  
In hope that you will  
Fill all with your spirit  
Their anger be still.  
O, heal all our spirits  
and make us feel love  
And let us be ruled by your  
grace from above



**Thank You**

**To the Wonderful People Who Sent Me the  
Prayer Shawl,**

I received my shawl and was moved to tears, to think that strangers would show such compassion and encouragement to one they have never met.

The enclosed poem and signatures are incredibly comforting—feeling wrapped in prayer is an experience like nothing else.

Forgive my delay in not thanking you sooner. Recent treatments have been a bit difficult, leaving me with limited energy.

Please know how blessed you have made me feel – and how I appreciate each and every one of you who cared.

Warmly,  
Cheri Beechel

## AN INVITATION

Some teens from the Jewish Synagogue joined us at our second service on December 14th. We are invited to join them at their ceremony to celebrate the birthday (or anniversary) of the trees, which will happen near the end of January. The date depends on the Hebrew calendar and they're not sure yet when it falls on our calendar, but they'll let us know. The spelling of the Hebrew name for the occasion varies, but one I've seen several times is Tu B'Shabbat.

It is held because the law forbids gathering fruit from trees less than two years old, and the service celebrates four different kinds of "fruits." After each kind is eaten, wine is shared, each time more red than the time before, to show how things ripen as the harvest time approaches. When kids are present they use colored sugar-water and possibly grape juice instead of wine.

I noticed some possible Christian symbolism since the Tu b'Shabbat reminded me of our Communion service. The act of passing the grape juice (God is with us) and the bread (being crushed, like the crucifixion) tie in with that

Even though we have many important theological differences, we worship the same God, and in our community people of many faiths work together for the common good. For that reason, it's important for us to understand each other, so I hope some of you will accept the invitation to attend that ceremony.

Because food is provided, they'll need to know how many to expect, so please let me know if you plan to attend a couple of weeks before the date. I'll let everyone know when that is as soon as I hear from them. -- Jan Collins



Our Chapel work crew - Bill, Dick, Charlie, Gordon and Howard.

( Picture by Tracy Slaughter )



**Open Hearts**

**Open Minds**

**Open Doors**



### **SHE'S A VOICE FOR THE OPPRESSED.**

It is where the homeless find a bed, where the hungry find a meal, where the vulnerable find safety. It's also where 25-year-old Delia Ramirez works – and once called home. For the first six years of her life, Delia lived in the homeless community that is a ministry of Humboldt Park United Methodist Church. Today, as executive director of The Center for Changing Lives, she conducts business in the same room her parents used as a bedroom when they lived in the facility and exchanged work services for rent. "I have always known my calling in life was to be a voice and hands for the oppressed," she says.

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY MAKES IT  
POSSIBLE FOR COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPERS LIKE DELIA TO TURN  
LIVES AROUND.**

**WE OBSERVE HUMAN RELATIONS DAY  
AS A REMINDER THAT ALL PEOPLE  
HAVE THE RIGHT TO REACH THEIR FULL  
POTENTIAL.**

# Healthy Living with Chronic Conditions- A Self Management Class

## Healthy Living with Chronic Conditions – a Self Management class

This workshop is for anyone with a heart condition, lung condition, diabetes, arthritis, or any other ongoing health problem. If you can say **YES** to any of the following questions, then *Healthier Living* is for you.

- Would you like to feel better and healthier?
- Do you have pain or feel tired and frustrated?
- Would you like to learn how to better manage the symptoms that trouble you most?
- Would you like to be able to do more of the things you enjoy?
- Would you like to be able to communicate better with your doctor?
- Would you like to learn from others who also have on-going health problems?

**Healthier Living is powerful medicine.** It is a prescription that is proven to work. In a recent study, people who took the workshop experienced ...

- Less fatigue and more energy
- A more active lifestyle
- Better communication with their doctors
- Better health
- Less time in the hospital
- More confidence in their ability to take care of their needs

I hope you will take this wonderful opportunity to participate in these valuable health workshops by signing up for the **Healthier Living** program.

Sincerely,  
| Dan Bibelheimer, MD

**When – Every Tuesday from 1:30 – 3 pm at Grass Valley UMC beginning January 13 signup today by calling the church office 272-1946 If possible we are asking for a donation of \$25 to cover materials.**

**Who - Stanford Patient Education Research Center in collaborative grant efforts with Sierra Nevada Community Health Plan**

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH ?

### COMMITTEES

Church Council	3rd Monday	6:30 pm
Church & Society	1st Monday	4:00 pm
Finance	2nd Monday	6:30 pm
Missions	As Scheduled	
SPRC	1st Monday	10:00 am
Trustees	1st Friday	9:00 am
Worship	As Scheduled	

### 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	4:45 pm
Prayer and Share	Sunday	6:00 pm

### MUSIC

Striking Bells	Wednesday	5:00 pm
Wesley Ringers		
Hand Bells	Wednesday	6:30 pm
Choir Practice	Thursday	7:30 pm

### WELCOMING ADULT GROUPS

Family Fun Activities	Call	272-1946
Men's Breakfast		
At IHOP	Wednesday	7:30 am
Pasty Bakers		
Call Dorothy Miller		273-7046
Circuit Writers Critique Group		
Call Jan Collins		272-4905

### HOW TO REACH PASTOR BARB

There are several ways to reach Pastor Barb. Through these various contact points she strives to be **available at all times** for our people. Call Pastor Barb for appointments outside office hours.

\*Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:00-12:00 AM  
Call for appointment.

\*Church phone: 272-1946

\*Pastor's cell phone (24/7): 559-5661

\*Pastor's home phone: 273-5660

\*Pastor's e-mail address: pastor@gv-umc.org

# THE CHAPEL CHIMES

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**OPEN HEARTS**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

**OPEN MINDS**

**OPEN DOORS**



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**OUR MISSION:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**OUR VISION:** An alive growing, "on fire" church where individual lives are transformed by their relationship with Jesus Christ. Members pray and read the Bible daily, faithfully keep the covenants with God through their daily actions and minister to others.