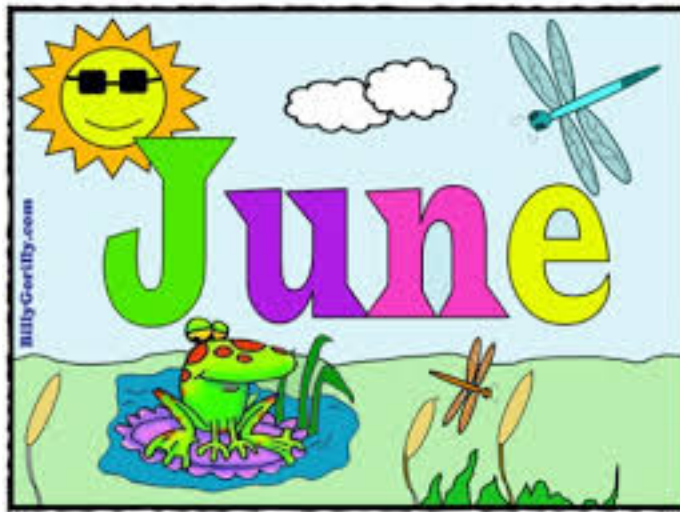


# *The Methodist Messenger*

In the Spirit of John Wesley

*“Bringing faith into life by loving God  
and all people as God loves us”*



## 2016

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## Notes for the Journey

As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from earth to heaven.

And he saw the angels of God going up and down on it.

At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I will give it to you and your descendants.

Genesis 23:12-13

The high school commencement speaker was giving a rather conventional address. "It is important for you, as you go forth," he said, "to have a great dream. Dream big things, great things."

The speaker didn't quote any Scripture, but I immediately thought of Jacob's dream the night he was on the run from his angry brother. A great ladder was let down from heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it. In that dream Jacob got a new vision for his life. He saw that his life was meant to count for something, that he ought to go back, make peace with his brother, and live a better life.

Then I caught myself and realized that this was not exactly what the story implied. There were angels ascending, taking messages from earth up to the throne of God, but there were also angels descending. Angels were busy bringing messages down from heaven to earth.

Christians are those who believe in large, ambitious dreams. But our dreams are not exclusively self-derived. It is important for us to have a dream, some vision for what our lives and our church ought to be. But we ought not to forget that in our dreaming, God is also dreaming. The story of Jacob's ladder implies not only that we have dreams of God but that God has dreams for us.

One of the great joys of Christian discipleship is to be part of something larger than one's self. One of the things that make Christian discipleship a great way to spend our lives is that we are busy living out the dreams of God. You are Christ's ambassador, God's instrument. You are an aspect of God's dream for the future. There is business, conversation, communication between heaven and earth, and your life is meant to be part of it.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

**Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee (P/SPRC)**

supports the church ministries and keeps communications open between the congregation and the pastor. As part of our ongoing evaluations of personnel and all ministries in our church, we ask for your comments and observations on ministries that are being done well, and/or ministries that could be improved. We work together with you to benefit everyone in our congregation. Please help us help you by contacting a P/SPRC member - Cat Barclay, Patty Ferrell, Roy Randles, Carole Hester, Connie Cavazos, and Samantha McDonald.

**OFFICE COVERAGE AND CHILDREN'S TIME VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are needed to be substitute secretary on June 20 - 24,  
and June 27 - July 1.

Children's Time volunteers are needed for Sundays, June 19, 26, &  
July 3.

**Please contact the office if you can help on any of those days.**

Thank you, Jan Franke



## EMERGING DIVERSITY?

*How much do you know about your neighbors who sit in church every Sunday? How did they become your co-worshippers?*

*“Diverse Disciples” goals in part will be to enjoy the fellowship as well as to learn to accept members of the church who hold different views of their spiritual journeys than yours.*

*The sessions continue on  
Wednesday evenings  
June 1, 8  
from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
with a free light supper.*

***Roy Randles***

## **WORSHIP CONNECTIONS**

### Worship Coordinator

**June 5:** Chris Payne  
**June 12:** Peggy Gregory  
**June 19:** Mary Jane Gozun  
**June 26:** Cat Barclay

### Lay Worship Leaders

**June 5:** Bob Junell  
**June 12:** David Beeman  
**June 19:** Patty Ferrell  
**June 26:** Cat Barclay

### Greeters

**June 5:** Patty Ferrell  
**June 12:** Mary Durham  
**June 19:** Diana & Lily Boone  
**June 26:** David & Vicki Beeman

### Ushers

**June 5:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina  
**June 12:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**June 19:** Creed Cavazos, Mary Durham  
**June 26:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Counting Team

**June 5:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows  
**June 12:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**June 19:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**June 26:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Coffee Hour

**June 5:** Bob & Pollie Geissler, Mike Pina  
**June 12:** Jim & Karen Shoemaker  
**June 19:** Candy Bertaina  
**June 26:**

**At FUMC Hanford, we take the vows of membership very seriously. We have promised to uphold the United Methodist Church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.**

**Please keep the following in your prayers this month:**

**Prayers of Health Concern**

Mike Bertaina, Jim Taylor, Mike Pina, Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Andrea McDonald, Pepper Ramsey's son Hunter, Kathleen Wilson, Ellie Wagner, Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living and is in declining health), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Larry McDonald, Gloria Brown, Peri Neos, Alison Klein, June Kruger, Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631)

**Other Prayer Requests**

- John Meadows grieving the passing of wife Penny Meadows
- Firefighters, Police Officers, Ambulance and other first responders
- Laundry Love ministry, Salvation Army Food Giveaway, Shower Ministry, and our food offerings to the Soup Kitchen
- 1st Christian's Rev. Tom Warren & family
- Those in the midst of crisis, tragedies, disasters, accidents and conflicts
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- Ministry Support Team & Board of Discipleship
- Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers who give so graciously of their time and talents. We are the church!



At our May meeting of the United Methodist Men we learned about the perspectives of people in Kazakhstan from Jim Gregory, freshly returned from there. He had visited farms and thousand year-old cities like Samarkand on the Silk Road.

Our June meeting will conclude our year, and so (UMM) United Methodist Men will conduct our election of officers. Our plan is to not meet in July and August, and then start up again on the second Monday of September.

So don't miss the June meeting on Monday, June 13th. Make your dinner reservation by calling or emailing me by Friday, June 10th. Thanks,

David Beeman, 584-2911 [dpbeeman@yahoo.com](mailto:dpbeeman@yahoo.com)

The Hanford Breakfast Lions Club and the Hanford 1st Presbyterian Church are co-sponsoring a blood donation event for Central California Blood Center on Thursday, 30th from 4:00pm—7:00pm at the Hanford 1st Presbyterian Church.



At our May 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, we discussed the Spring Luncheon, some of the positives and some of the negatives. Next year, we definitely need to be sure the luncheon is mentioned as much as possible in the Hanford Sentinel, and we all need to do a better job of selling tickets. This year, we definitely had great food, and even better entertainment (thanks to Bob Peden's barbershop quartet).

There was also discussion on the Bazaar, final decision to be made at the General Meeting in June (Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, lunch will be provided). So, if you aren't going to be able to attend that meeting, please let me know if you have any suggestions for the date. Right now, we are thinking of Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, which is Veterans Day. Also, we will need a cook, so if you think you may be interested, PLEASE let me know.

On the subject of the November Bazaar, we will need craft items for sale, so you can start now on making items you could donate. In November, we will need donations of baked goods.

There is still time to register for the Mission u events. The first one will be August 5-7 in Merced, August 13 in Visalia, August 20 in San Rafael, and August 27 in Roseville. See Andrea McDonald for registration forms and scholarship applications if you are interested. The forms are also available in the church office. So far, we have three ladies going to the weekend event, and one going to the one-day event in Visalia.

Our next General meeting will be Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service.

The UMW District Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> in Oakdale. The UMW Conference Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in Santa Rosa, Pastor Cynthia will be the speaker that day.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions.  
----- Vicki Beeman (584-2911)



## Canned Food Drive

For the  
Episcopal Church  
Soup Kitchen Report:

This is a great opportunity  
to help in our community

but will not be possible without your support,  
so please join our church in this battle against  
hunger. **Please no expired items.** There's a  
container in the main entrance where you may  
drop off your donations. Thanks again and  
God bless!

## Shower Ministry

For the Homeless at The Hanford  
Pentecostal Church has been wonderful.

**Thank You to everyone who has  
donated.**

We will continue to collect in the coming  
months. Put items in the Narthex.

Needs: *Shampoo, Tooth Brushes,  
Toothpaste, Talc or Baby Powder, Terry  
Bathmats*

Peden's Family Cookbook  
For Sale \$20  
Makes a great gift this holiday  
season! Books can be purchased



LAUNDRY LOVE IS A COOPERATIVE  
EFFORT AMONG SEVERAL CHURCHES IN  
OUR COMMUNITY TO OFFER A REGULAR  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE  
STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY TO COME  
AND DO THEIR LAUNDRY. LAUNDRY  
LOVE PROVIDES SOAP, MONEY FOR THE  
MACHINES AND FELLOWSHIP.

Our next Laundry Love event is  
planned for **Thursday, June 16th  
from 3-8 pm.**

Volunteers are needed! Talk with  
Peggy Gregory or just come on by!



## Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, June 17th,  
8 am - 12 noon

Salvation Army 380 East Ivy Street

Join us in helping distribute fresh food to  
those in need  
in our community.

Volunteers are needed!  
Many hands make light work!

## Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our  
church that is tasked with caring for  
our resources; money, staff and  
building.

Next Meeting:  
Thursday, June 16th at 5:00 pm



## A SUPER CONDENSED SUMMARY OF THE UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE

After almost three days of considering an alternative method for discussing legislation, The United Methodist Church's top legislative body referred its most difficult subject – sexuality — to a study commission and moved on to other matters. The bishops suggested they might call a special General Conference in 2018 or 2019 to deal with such proposals.

During 10 days, delegates passed an increased budget, and voted on many petitions.

### Presentations, celebrations

General Conference 2016 celebrated a few notable milestones. They included the 60th anniversary of the Methodist Church granting full clergy rights to women, the 200th anniversary of Francis Asbury's death, the 250th anniversary of John Street Church in New York City, the 30th anniversary of DISCIPLE Bible Study, the upcoming 25th anniversary of Africa University and a whole day dedicated to United Methodist Women, which will soon turn 150, and the Imagine No Malaria initiative launched in 2008.

### New hymnal project gets green light

The United Methodist Church is on track to get its first new hymnal since 1989, and this one will be Internet-cloud based and print-on-demand — the first high-tech hymnal for a mainline denomination. General Conference 2016 approved on a consent calendar May 17 a petition authorizing the creation of a 15-member Hymnal Revision Committee

### Stirring worship

As the only time the entire global church is together every quadrennium, General Conference always features festive and moving worship services. The opening worship service began with a drum welcome from indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest and a cacophony of “alleluias” in many languages.

Every worship service featured sermons by United Methodist bishops, and a running theme for the event was to stay humble, serve others and be the church that Christ wants us to be. Chicago Area Bishop Sally Dyck urged United Methodists to do as Pope Francis said, Go; learn mercy. Sierra Leone Area Bishop John K. Yambasu issued a challenge “to dismantle the demons of all sorts of inequalities in our world.” Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams, top executive of the World Methodist Council, reminded delegates that Methodism was founded on a commitment to those on the margins. “Conference,” he asked, “is this still true for us today?” On the last day, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky reminded those attending that “we will not leave divided because God is not finished with us yet!”

Excerpts from an article by Joey Butler a multimedia editor/producer for United Methodist Communications. Contact him at [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org) or 615-742-5470.

## WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

The offer of an Oboe stop for our organ was presented to me by Tom DeLay. The stop is coming out of a church in Monterey. It is 5 years old- which in organ years is brand new. He said, "This stop would make an excellent addition to our organ in place of the horrid sounding Vox Humana stop. The Oboe will provide a wonderful sound for the organ and make it much more appealing for organists to play."

The cost is not cheap. Brand new, the stop would run about \$10,000 (+ shipping) installed. They are willing to sell the 61 oboe pipes for \$3,000 with another \$2,000 to install.

Talking to other members of the church we have decided to go ahead and have it installed. I said that I will once again start having monthly luncheons, once a month, to help in defraying the cost. This would take about 8 months to raise the required amount but we are hoping and praying that members of the church and community would help with a private donation to the project.

Thank you and may God Bless you,

Bob Peden

