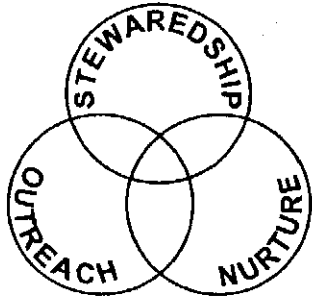


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Jesus said, "When you did it to one of these my brethren, you did it unto me." Matt. 25:40



Volume V

JANUARY 2005

Issue 1

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS OR.....

The idea of New Years Resolutions is not a Biblical concept as we practice it today. It does say a lot about human behavior though. We decide to do something we need to do, but so often we don't stick to our commitment. We break our resolution. That is definitely human nature. The Biblical equivalent is a time of covenant renewal.

A covenant is a solemn agreement, or contract between two parties. Like most contracts there are terms and conditions spelled out in a covenant. God made covenant with Noah, Abraham, and David. Moses, Joshua and King Josiah shared with us the idea of covenant renewal. We have sacred covenants in the church such as our Baptismal Covenant and our Marriage Covenant. We even talk about the Old and New Testaments or old and new covenants. Holy Communion is a celebration of the new covenant community offered to us through the sacrifice of our Lord's body and blood.

We make a covenant between God and his people the church when we are baptized and become members of a local church. In the United Methodist Church we covenant to support the local church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. Just as we make New Years Resolutions and eventually break them, we also break our baptismal and church covenants.

This prompted John Wesley to develop a covenant renewal service for early Methodist. "Wesley was aware of the work of Richard Alleine, a Puritan in 1663, who published *Vindiciae Pietatis: or, A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It*. In

1753, it was again published in John Wesley's *A Christian Library*. Wesley used one chapter, *The Application of the Whole*, on Monday, August 11, 1755, in what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement."

"Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences ... I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards, many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775). In London these services were usually held on New Year's Day.

(Continued on page 2 Covenant)

BLACK-EYED SUNDAY & CHURCH COUNCIL Sunday, January 2nd

Everyone is invited to join us for our traditional Dinner of black-eyed peas, greens and ham sponsored by the United Methodist Men after worship service. We will also have our organizing Church Council meeting. Please plan to stay for this important meeting.

(Covenant continued from page 1)

Around the country the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies."



"After the time of Wesley several versions of the Covenant Service were developed, gradually giving Wesley's material less place in the total service. The present service follows our Basic

Pattern of worship, enables the congregation to participate more fully, and updates language. Most significant, the liturgy beginning with the Invitation is taken directly from Wesley's service of 1780.

The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God. This covenant is serious and assumes adequate preparation for and continual response to the covenant. Leaders of worship must take seriously the need to prepare the congregation for this service, possibly through study sessions and prayer."

"The Covenant Service is most commonly held on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, or the first Sunday of the new year. On New Year's Eve it is sometimes called a Watch Night Service. Historically, a Watch Night Service would be three hours or longer, including readings from Scripture and hymn singing. This Covenant Service would also be appropriate on one of the Sundays after the Epiphany, during Lent, on a church anniversary, or during a revival or preaching mission. Ideally, the service should be used only once a year on the same Sunday. Red is an appropriate color for paraments and vestments.

Individual copies of the Covenant Service are recommended for all worshipers so that they may sign and keep them as reminders. Information from *The Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church*.

We will celebrate this great tradition Sunday, January 2nd. Come join us.



There were **18** men present at our last meeting on December 19th. Breakfast was prepared by Randy Caldwell and Wayne Hager. It was followed by a devotion by Calvin Rome. Text was taken from *Joshua 24: 15* and *Acts 16: 28-34*

concerning influences of men. Who will you follow? Who will your lifestyle influence? Who is the spiritual leader in your home? Men Leaders are becoming scarce in the church today. There are not many active men taking leadership roles in today's church.

Day Care Program was discussed by Dr. Hale. It will possibly start in the Spring.

A **THANK YOU** from the FFF was noted for our aid with the "Happy Birthday Jesus" party and the "People Without Partners" dinner. The UMM are always happy to help these ladies in their efforts to help others.

The "**Black-Eyed Sunday Dinner**" was discussed and will be held on **January 2nd** following the morning worship service. We will have the traditional New Year's menu consisting of Black-Eyed Peas, Ham, Greens, Corn Bread with all the trimmings.

Amy-Jo Everts spoke to the men about the **United Methodist Campus Ministry at East Carolina University**. They are going to Florida in the Spring to help rebuild and repair hurricane damaged areas. They hope to have a large group go to help in this ministry. There was a request for financial aid and the men made a positive response.

Although the grass has quit growing now, there is still a need for funds to support the **Lawn Care Service**. This item is not budgeted, so there is a need for funds to pay for this service. Anyone wanting to help can drop a check in the offering plate made out to St. Matthew's UMC and at the bottom put for Lawn Care Service. Randy and Ike are planning to take care of the leaves and shrubbery in the near future to improve the appearance of our church. Thanks Ike and Randy!

Sweetheart Banquet will be held on **February 12th**. Make plans to have that date open. We will have more on this later.

Missing at our last meeting were Joe Bledsoe, Bob Galliera, Grover Green, Lynwood Griffin, Bob Lambert, Rock Merritt, John Pauk, Fred Rozier, J.A. Sessoms and Jack Spakes.

Troy Willoughby, UMM Secretary

EXPLANATION OF GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think it's because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at other times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to ter and performing miracles and try- to learn about God. They finally got crucified him. He was good and kind, that they didn't know what they were O.K.



do all the hard work like walking on wa- ing to teach the people who didn't want tired of him preaching to them and they like his father, and he told his father doing and to forgive them and God said

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure! God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God.

(This was written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton of Chula Vista, CA. for his third grade homework assignment which was to explain God. I just wonder if any of us could do as well?)

Submitted by: Lou Johnston



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 14 - Lisa Rogers
Roxie Server | 23 - Nan Blehi
Betty Willoughby |
| 15 - Joyce Christian | 24 - Fred Rozier |
| 18 - Brad Everts
Gidget Borst | 25 - Eva Smith |
| 21 - Mary Schneider | 27 - Dustin Graham |
| 22 - Debbie Hager | 31 - Reed Rozier |

FRAYED & FRAZZLED FLOCK

The FFF will meet on **January 15th** at **8:30 a.m.** for **cooking** at the church. Afterwards, we will meet at the **Pizza Palace** at **11:30 a.m.** for our Book Club. Our book for January is **"The Five People You Meet In Heaven."** Anyone is welcome to come and join us.

February 6, we will be helping the youth with their **"Soup-er Bowl" Lunch**. Types of Soup will be announced later.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2:00 - 5:00 P.M. HAYMOUNT UMC

(Theme: Reshaping Our Ministry from Good to Great!)

1. Meaningful Worship - Johnny Wright
2. Staff-Parish Relations Committee/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee - David Malloy
3. 21st Century Evangelism Outreach - Danny Allen
4. Reshaping the Body of Christ - Dr. Michael Hale
5. Revitalizing the Church through Small Groups - Ellen Lliston
6. Spiritual Gifts - Carlin Johnston
7. Recruiting and Equipping Local Church Leaders - Rev. Lawrence Johnson
8. Empowering Youth Ministry - Rev. Adam Seats & Jay Locklear
9. Dealing With Church Conflicts - Rev. David Hollowell
10. How to be a Mission Church - Helen Little
11. UMW - Dr. Alice Smith, UMM - Steve Pittard
12. Reshaping Ministry Through Prayer - Rev. Gil Wise
First Class will be from 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Break & Refreshments - 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Second Class will be from 3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FROM:

CHURCH POWER BILL

- ◆ The Thrift Shop
- ### EMERGENCY FUND
- ◆ Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle
 - ◆ The Thrift Shop
 - ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study Class
 - ◆ Rebecca Ramirez
 - ◆ Wayne & Elaine & Amy-Jo Everts
 - ◆ Bob & Betty Probst
 - ◆ Night Owls Circle
 - ◆ James & Joyce DeBruhl

MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ Irma White & Children IMO Charles T. White

YARD MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Frank Bagley

YOUTH BREAKAWAY

- ◆ Wayne & Elaine Everts



JANUARY FLOWER CHART

2 - None

9 - None

16 - In honor of Brad Everts birthday
By Wayne, Elaine & Amy-Jo

23 - None

30 - None

The "2005 Flower Chart" is now ready for you to sign-up and give recognition to a friend or loved one. Flowers are only \$20.00. Please make your check out to St. Matthew's UMC and put "flowers" in the memo section and place in the offering plate.

SIGN UP TODAY!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

As I sit reflecting on the year "2004" and planning for the year "2005", I realize that we must thank God for all our blessings. Many lives have been touched by our actions during the past 365 days. I am sure that most of these were positive, but would like to pray to God that we will be able to do more positive things in the next 365 days.

I trust that you have had a wonderful holiday season. Thanks to everyone who prepared the food and those who helped make the fellowship hour after the Cantata a success. **THANK YOU!!**

Thanks to your actions, we touched the lives of 5 children making it possible for them to have a better holiday season.

Please be in prayer for everyone who is working to get 2005 off to a good start. Hopefully, we will see you at our **General Meeting on Monday, January 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** A light supper will be provided, and we should be through by 7:30 p.m. We will try our best to have our Handbooks ready for you at this time so that you can mark your calendar for the entire year.

I look forward to working with you again during the coming year and ask for your prayers that we may accomplish more in 2005 to assist in missions at St. Matthew's and all the outreach programs through the UMW.

REMEMBER READ!

Adella Pray, UMW President

RECIPE OF THE MONTH "TORTILLA SOUP"

2 10 oz cans Chicken Broth	2 cups cooked chicken, chopped
1 cup water	1 10 oz. can cream of chicken soup
1 onion, chopped	1 zucchini, chopped
2 14 oz cans diced tomatoes	1 yellow squash, chopped
1 10 oz can tomatoes and green chilies	1 small bunch cilantro, chopped
1 jar mild salsa	grated Monterey Jack cheese
1 tsp garlic powder	Tortilla strips
1 Tbs ground cumin	

Bring chicken broth and water to a boil. Add chopped onion and cook until tender. Stir in canned tomatoes, salsa, garlic powder, cumin, chicken, and cream of chicken soup. Simmer 20 minutes. Add zucchini, yellow squash, and cilantro. Continue to simmer 10 minutes or until squash is tender. Top each serving with grated Monterey Jack cheese and tortilla strips. Makes 4 - 6 servings.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Black-Eyed Dinner - 12pm followed by Church Ministry Council Mtg.	3 UMW - 6:30pm NO One-By-One	4 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	5 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	6	7	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 8
9 UMYF - 12:00pm Lay Leadership Training Haymount UMC 2:00 - 5:00pm	10 One-By-One - 7:00pm	11 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	12 Ruth-Ethel Smith Circle - 11:00am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	13 Night Owls Circle - 7:00pm	14	15 FFF - 8:30am Lisa Rogers 16 th Birthday Party - 7:00pm
16 UMIM Breakfast Mtg - 8:30am UMYF - 12:00pm	17 NO One-By-One	18 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	19 Home Extensions-10am Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	20	21	22
23 UMYF - 12:00pm	24 One-By-One - 7:00pm	25 Prayer Group - 6:30pm	26 Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm	27 Help-N Hands Seniors 11:00am	28	29
30 UMYF - 12:00pm	31 One-By-One - 7:00pm	Prayer Group - 6:30pm	Card Ministry - 5:00pm WNA & B.Study-6:30pm Choir Practice - 7:30pm			