



## Glimpses February

I was asked the other day how I would describe my favorite color to a person who had been blind since birth. My absolute favorite color is blue. Not just any blue but that deep rich pure blue. I picture the blue found on those crisp perfectly clear spring days when the sky has what seems an absolute purity of blue that nothing could penetrate its perfection. But how do I describe something so perfect when viewed best through my eyes? What other sense could do it justice? Can I smell, taste, touch, or hear that perfect blue? I noticed a water faucet not long ago that had blue on the cold side so could I say my perfect blue tastes like cold water. But, last time I looked at my water bottle my water was clear, not blue. I also noticed a perfect blue painted car so could I say my perfect blue feels smooth. I heard a blue bird sing and I have smelled a blueberry pie cooking. As you can tell I will never be able to convey what my eyes see. I fall short.

February is a month that often calls us to thoughts of love. Much of the hoopla is because of the 14<sup>th</sup> which is Valentine's Day. Perfectly normal people go absolutely crazy and as a nation we will spend millions of dollars to express our love for others. Does that truly describe love? Is there any other way to describe the heart of love? Is love only allotted one day at a cost of millions?

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:4 that "Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." I cannot think of anything I could buy to convey the depth and purity of that love. It seems like the love Paul describes is something to be lived every day.

John 3:16 describes the depths of God's love for us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His that he gave His one and only Son..." My guess is that love touches all five senses far beyond our best description. We fall short in describing God's love. The love of God changes lives and sharpens all our senses toward greater understanding of perfect love. Death did not win and God's love conquers all but only when lived out in patience, kindness and void of envy, boasting and pride.

As hard as it is for me to describe blue to a blind person, it is equally hard to describe love to an impatient, unhappy or prideful person. Yet I believe those are the ones God calls us to love. Try not to describe love with words but rather try to be the hands and feet of love. Words fall short when describing the heart of God's love. Who does God want you to love? Not just on February 14 but every day of the week.

God's Blessings!

Pastor Tim

## Guatemala Mission Trip

**Casa de Familia de Ángela Chiroy Santay  
February 16 – 26, 2012**

Ángela Chiroy Santay (44) has been a widow for six years. Her husband, Austin Ajcabul, died from an ulcer or stomach problem due to alcohol abuse. They weren't able to get medical care.

Angela earns \$13 a week washing clothes and making tortillas. She always feels nervous and weak.

Austin and Angela had seven children. A 20 year-old son lives in Santiago Atitlan and sends a little money for food when he can. Another lives near but doesn't help his mother and siblings. A daughter is married and lives in San Jose Chacaya in a separate house. Another is a functioning alcoholic. He has a decent project house near Angela's house but won't share anything with his family. He owns the stove and several other items in Angela's house. Angela prefers to make peace by separating herself from him as best she can.

There are three children still living with Angela. Elena Marili Ajcabul Chiroy (13) is in the sixth grade. She began having epileptic seizures a year ago. Her mother utilized available government resources but could not afford the \$300 diagnostic tests. Porch de Salomon funded these exams December 12, 2011.

Álvaro Samayoa Ajcabul Chiroy (11) has some schooling. He gathers firewood and sticks in the mountains for family use and to sell for food. Baldomero Ortega Ajcabul Chiroy (7) has been to school. He helps Alvaro with the firewood gathering.

The plan is simple: construct a one-family home on family-owned land.

Our VIM team members will be assisting local workers in the construction of a new block/concrete home for Angela Chiroy Santay and her three children. Currently, the family is living in a dirt-floored, crumbling adobe house with a leaky, rusty tin roof. The "bathroom" is in deplorable shape. Angela sleeps on a rickety cot and the three children sleep on mats on the dirt floor nearby.

The cost will be \$4000 for material and foreman/helper labor for two small bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom and covered sink area; concrete floors, block walls, tin roof for all (approx. 450 sq. feet).

The entire cost will be funded by the Community UMC Oakdale team led by Tim Gravatt and Team Heritage UMC (Kansas).

TEAM CUMC Oakdale:

The Gravatt Family  
Jonyce O'Neill

Claudia Parrish  
Margie Anderson

Christine Winders  
Marsha Kolsters

Sabrina Richardson  
Morgan Kline

There is also a need for new and gently used twin sized sheets. Please bring them to church by February 5 packed into labeled zip-lock bags. Or you can donate money to be used to purchase sheets and supplies.



# Guatemala



Ángela  
Chiroy  
Santay  
&  
her family  
in their  
crumbling  
adobe  
home



# Super Bowl & Potluck Tailgate Party

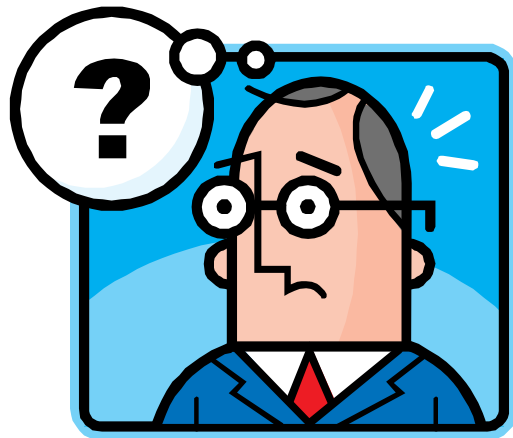
February 5  
at  
3 pm  
Johnston Hall



Bring your  
lawn chairs,  
your appetites and  
something to share

## Super Bowl of Caring TV:

All donations collected in the little TV will go to Community Sharing to aide in their continuing efforts to help the needy in our area.



## WHO DO I TALK TO?

- If something needs to be fixed in the church:  
Trustees – Glen Gorman, Chairperson
- If you have questions about church employees:  
Staff Parish Relations – Jim Austin, Chairperson
- If you want to know what the men in the church are planning or when they meet:  
United Methodist Men  
Glen Gorman – Chairman  
Secretary – Mike Epting  
Treasurer – Jim Austin
- If you want to know what the women are doing, when the next Rummage Sale is, or when they will be having the Tea:  
United Methodist Women  
Mary Prezel – President  
Jeanne Wharff – Vice President  
JoAnne Kearns – Secretary  
Phyllis Pottle – Treasurer  
Doreen Stevers – Devotions
- Want to garden, help with potlucks and barbeques, plan Lodestar, work on Operation Christmas Child or Prayer Shawl Ministry:  
Becky Officer & Christine Iwahashi, Chairpersons



## **Community United Methodist Church**

### **Oakdale, California**

#### 2012 Report from Committee on Lay Leadership

Church Council (M.A.P. Ministry Action Planning) – meets 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after church in the Johnston Hall or Chapel

Chairperson – Jim Fonda

Chairperson of Staff Parish Relations – Jim Austin

Committee on Lay Leadership Nominations – Jim Austin

Secretary – open

Lay Leader – Joe Officer

Treasurer – Becky Officer

Financial Secretary – Becky Officer

Lay Member to Annual Conference – Ken Iwahashi

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference – Joe Officer

United Methodist Men – Glen Gorman

United Methodist Women – Mary Prezel

Trustees – Glen Gorman

Membership Committee – Nancy Smith

Staff Parish Relations Committee & Committee on Lay Leadership Nominations

Chairperson – Jim Austin – meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after church in the Library

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Jim Fonda	Becky Williams	Joyce Riddle
Jim Smith	Jim Austin	Doreen Stever
Joan Taylor	Carolyn Hallinan	Mike Epting

Board of Trustees – Chairperson – Glen Gorman – meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7PM in Library

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Roy Banducci	Claudia Parrish	Mary Prezel
Glen Gorman	Judy Bradley	Kirby Smith
Joe Officer	Herb Williams	Becky Williams

Finance Committee – Chairperson- Ken Iwahashi – meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7PM in the Chapel

Current leadership team:

Administrative Board Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Chairperson, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee Chairperson, Lay member to Annual Conference, Lay Leader, and Pastor

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Nancy Smith	Marsha Kolster	Joe Officer
	Ken Iwahashi	

Missions – Chairperson – depends on project – meets as needed

Christine Iwahashi	Margie Ballard	Margie Anderson
Becky Officer	Linda Amate	Marge Lucero
Claudia Parrish	Deb Manly	Ann Butler

Membership Team – Chairperson – Nancy Smith – meets with Ad Council 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Church in the Johnston Hall

Memorials Secretary – Jeanne Wharff

Hospitality Hostess – Darlene Banducci

## Thank You

*I want to thank each and every one that sent cards, notes, thoughts, and prayers my way. It was greatly appreciated.*

*May God bless one and all.*

*Margie Anderson*

## United Methodist Women

Phyllis Pottle

The first Rummage Sale for 2012 will be the first weekend of March (March 2 – 3). Its time to clean all those closets so we will have wonderful thing to sell. Our clients look forward to our sales.

We will have a preview of quilting material, books etc. on the Thursday evening from 6 – 8 pm. The regular sale will be on Friday 8 am – 2 pm and Saturday 8 am – 1 pm.

The money that we make goes to our mission projects: UMCOR, Community Sharing, Gospel Mission, Salvation Army, Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, and many more.

## United Methodist Women - January Meeting

JoAnn Kearns

We were served a wonderful ham, baked beans, cold slaw, rolls and ginger bread with whipped cream and a chocolate bundt cake.

The meeting was held and then for the program we had a memorial service for the women of the church who passed away in 2011. There was a reading for each of them. Communion was served and then the meeting was adjourned.

## Savvy Living



## How to Get Your Affairs in Order

*"I would like to get my personal and financial information organized so my kids will know what's going on if I die or become incapacitated. Any tips would be appreciated."*

Organizing your important papers and personal information is a smart move and a great gift to your loved ones. Here are some tips to help you get started.

## Get Organized

The first step in getting your affairs in order is to gather up all your important personal, financial and legal information so you can arrange it in a format that will benefit you now and your loved ones later. Then you'll need to sit down and create various lists of important information and instructions of how you want certain things handled when you die or if you become incapacitated. Here's a checklist of areas you need to focus on.

## Personal Information

- **Contacts:** Make a master list of names and phone numbers of close friends, family, clergy, doctors and professional advisers such as your lawyer, accountant, broker and insurance agent.
- **Personal documents:** Include such items as your birth certificate, Social Security card, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.
- **Secured places:** List all the places you keep under lock and key or protected by password, such as safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.
- **Service providers:** Provide contact information of the companies or people who provide you regular services such as utility companies, lawn service, etc.
- **Pets:** If you have a pet, give instructions for the care of the animal.
- **End of life:** Indicate your wishes for organ, tissue or body donation including documentation (see [donatelife.net](http://donatelife.net)) and write out your funeral instructions. If you've made pre-arrangements with a funeral home include a copy of agreement, their contact information and whether you've prepaid or not.

## Legal Documents

- **Will:** Include the original copy of your will and other estate planning documents you've made.
- **Power of attorney:** This names someone you trust to handle money matters if you're incapacitated. If you don't have a will or power of attorney, do-it-yourself resources like [legalzoom.com](http://legalzoom.com) can help you create them for a few dollars.
- **Advance directives:** These documents - a living will and medical power of attorney – spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment when you can no longer make decisions for yourself. For free advanced directive forms visit [caringinfo.org](http://caringinfo.org) or call 800-658-8898.

## Financial Records

- **Income and debt:** Make a list of all income sources such as pensions, Social Security, IRAs, 401(k)s, interest, investments, etc. And do the same for any debt you may have – mortgage, credit cards, medical bills and car payment.
- **Financial accounts:** List all bank and brokerage accounts (checking, savings, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, etc.) and their contact information. Keep current statements from each institution in your files.
- **Company benefits:** List any retirement plans, pensions or benefits from your current or former employer including the contact information of the benefits administrator.
- **Insurance:** List the insurance policies you have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, Medigap, prescription drug, etc.) including the policy numbers, insurance agents and phone numbers.
- **Credit cards:** List all credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.
- **Property:** List real estate, vehicles and other properties you own, rent or lease and include documents such as deeds, titles and loan or lease agreements.
- **Taxes:** Keep copies of tax returns for seven years and the contact information of your tax preparer.

Keep all your organized information and files together in one convenient location - ideally in a fireproof filing cabinet or safe in your home. Also be sure to review and update it every year and don't forget to tell your loved ones where they can find it.

**Savvy Living is written by Jim Miller**

### Special Note:

Please let the office know if you have not received your 2012 Giving Statement.

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

## **Friendly Visitor Program**

### **Connections to Enhance Life Experiences**

#### **Friendly Visitors:**

- Provide companionship to senior citizens in homes and care homes
  - Prevent loneliness and depression
  - Identify potential elder abuse
    - Learn from seniors
  - Gain new insights and experiences
    - Give back to the community
    - *Get More Than They Give!*

#### **Requirements:**

- Must be at least 16 Years Old
- Apply through the Area Agency on Aging
- Pass a Live Scan Fingerprint Background Check (cost is covered)
  - Attend orientation at the Area Agency on Aging
    - Be available to visit twice a month
  - Keep in touch with the Area Agency on Aging
    - *Expect to Enjoy New Friends!*

#### **For more information:**

**Alicia James, Volunteer Coordinator**

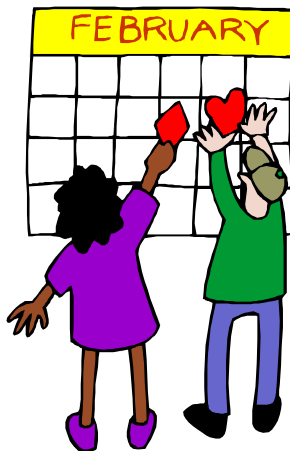
**(209) 525-4613**

**[jamesa@stancounty.com](mailto:jamesa@stancounty.com)**

**\*Mileage reimbursement available!**

Dept. of Aging & Veterans Services—209-558-8698  
121 Downey Avenue, Suite 102  
Modesto, CA 95354





## Important Dates to Remember:

### February 5<sup>th</sup>

Super Bowl Party in Johnston Hall – All donations put in the TV will go to Community Sharing.

### February 5<sup>th</sup>

Boy Scout's Pancake Breakfast from 8am to 9:15am

### February 9<sup>th</sup>

United Methodist Women's Luncheon – noon

### February 12<sup>th</sup>

United Methodist Men's Breakfast – 7:30am

### February 16<sup>th</sup> through February 26<sup>th</sup>

VIM trip to Guatemala for 12 members

### February 18<sup>th</sup>

United Methodist Men's Spaghetti Feed

### March 2 and 3

UMW – Rummage Sale

### March 17<sup>th</sup>?

UMM Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner – be looking for more details in the coming weeks

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – Palm Sunday – Sedar Meal**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> – Gift Legacy – Susan Peters**

## Something to Think About:

I asked Jesus ... "How much do you love me "  
And Jesus said ... "This much." Then He stretched out His arms and died.

- Unknown

If you judge people, you have not time to love them.

- Mother Teresa

God is the author of  
who we are and  
where we are to go.

- Ley Anne

Even if you are on the right  
track, you will get run over if  
you just sit there.

- Will Rogers

Be who you are and say what you feel because  
those who mind don't matter and those who  
matter don't mind.

- Dr. Seuss

For the man who prays in his heart, the whole  
world is a church.

- Sylvain of Athos






## ATTENTION:

We are planning a new 2012 Church Directory to be published by the end of February. Please let the office know of any new addresses, phone numbers or email addresses you have.



# February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	2 1 pm Al-Anon Mting	3 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	4
 5 8 am Scout Breakfast 3 pm Super Bowl & Tail Gate Party	6 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	7 7 pm Refresh Prayer & Meditation	8 7 pm Al-Anon Mting 7 pm Praise Team Practice	9 Noon UMW Luncheon 1 pm Al-Anon Mting 7 pm Trustees	10 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	11
12 7:30 am UMM breakfast 11 am Church Council Mting	13 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	14 7 pm Refresh Prayer & Meditation	15 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	16 Mission Trip to Guatemala 1 pm Al-Anon Mting 7 pm Finance	17 Mission Trip to Guatemala 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	18  UMM Spaghetti Dinne
19 Mission Trip to Guatemala 11 am SPRC & Nominations Committee	20 Guatemala 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	21 Guatemala 7 pm Refresh Prayer & Meditation	22 Still in Guatemala 7 pm Al-Anon Mting 7 pm Praise Team Practice	23 Mission Trip to Guatemala 1 pm Al-Anon Mting	24 Packing their bags 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	25 Flying, flying..... 
26 Mission Trip to Guatemala Returns	27 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	28 7 pm Refresh Prayer & Meditation	29 7 pm Al-Anon Mting	