



Messenger

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF PORTOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AUGUST 2011 – VOLUME 2

Where is your blessing?

By Pastor Hayes

During the era of great sea exploration in the 15th century, pilots used to read a book called “rutter”. A rutter was a log of events kept by earlier voyagers who chronicled their encounters with previously unknown and difficult waters. By reading the sailing details in a rutter, captains could avoid hazards and make it through difficult waters.

During the summer in 2004 I was frustrated because I did not have any appointment to a church. One day I took a nap in the afternoon. I was about to sleep. Then suddenly I saw a vision and it says “Galatians 4:15”. I felt it was a revelation from God. I went to the next room to open a Korean Bible. Galatians 4:15 says “Where is your blessing?” (In English versions, it sounds different.) What kind of blessing do I have from God? I questioned myself with complaints.

(Continued on next page)

Baptism and Membership Class

Do you love Jesus but have not been baptized yet? Come to join the “Baptism Class” on Sep. 28th, Wed. 5pm – 6:30pm.

Do you love the Portola United Methodist Church but have not yet joined? Come to the “Membership Class” on Oct. 5th, 5pm – 6:30pm.

It is open to everyone. Call or Email to make a reservation for the classes. - 530-832-4979 or portolaumc@hotmail.com

Church Events

- Railroad Days 8/19-21 (Fri – Sun)
- Railroad Days Ecumenical Service 8/21, 8:30am
Breakfast 8/21, 8am.
- Church Website Workshop
9/4 Sun. 9/7 Wed .
- Christian Education Sunday
9/5
- New “Kids Activity Time”
begins Sep. 8th, Thursday, 4-5pm, for ages 5-12.
- Baptism Class is on Sep. 28th,
5pm. Wed.
- Membership Class is on Oct.
5th, 5pm. Wed.
- Service for Baptism and New
Membership is on Oct. 9th,
Sunday.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval.” (Hebrews 11:1-2)

Where is your blessing?

(continuing from front page)... My life situations were not good at all. I did not know what the meaning of the verse was to me.

I meditated on it for a week, and then suddenly I realized it like an inspiration. I was blessed because I had books of faithful Christians who experienced hard times in their lives but got through them with faith and finally made a success in their lives.

During that time, I read many Christians' autobiographical books. All of them said that they had walked through hard times but

Church News

CENTENNIAL

With a Biblical theme of “rooted and grounded in love”, (Ephesians 3:17) we had a joyous celebration of our church's centennial. Special music was enjoyed and we heard from Bishop Warner H. Brown.

The time capsule from 1948 was opened and new items gathered to add to the contents.

A short history and power point presentation were enjoyed. Much good food was consumed. Many thanks to all who helped make the celebration possible.

There are still Centennial Books and CDs available. Contact Connie Biaggi (530-832-4373)

GRADUATION

On June 12, four high school graduates connected to our church were honored. They are Shelby Stockdale, Kelsey Heil, Shannon Trenchard and MacKay Smith.

they kept their faith in God and finally were blessed by God. Those books were blessing to me, because they taught me and guided me to walk through the hard times with faith, as the pilots followed the guide of the rutter to make it through difficult waters.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval.” (Hebrews 11:1-2) If you walk through a hard time, I want you know that you are not alone in that journey. There were many who got through it and there are many who are getting through it now. As Jesus was there with them, Jesus will be there with you. It is only ‘faith’ that gives you hope and we pray for you.

Blessings to all, Pastor Hayes



101st Birthday Celebrated

On June, a celebration of Blanche Lund's 101st birthday was enjoyed with a cake during fellowship hour. She is Blanche Farnam's mother. Congratulations.

Methodist Church Celebrate 100 years in Portola

Dennis Miller (59) – I was about 10 years old the first time I set foot in the church in 1951-52, or perhaps earlier... My two sisters and I were active in the MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship). My best memories of that were when Gary Blair was the leader of that group.

Margy Nielsen (69) – Our church had truly fabulous adults who cared about young people and were generous with their time and energy. I was baptized in the Methodist Church as an infant in 1951, and I have happy memories of growing up in the church.

Vera Freeman (55) – The first pastor I remember was Reverend Morris. He was a wonderful gentleman & lived in the parsonage across from Grandma Freeman's house. He was always so kind. I guess when I was about 4 years old, I told him what my Daddy's favorite swear words were... Grandma Freeman almost had a heart attack! You have never seen a little kid marched home that quickly!

Susie Morgan (63) – Since I lived directly across the street from the church, I got to know all the pastors and their families. They all lived in the same house one right after another.

Ray Martin (55) – My family drove from Clio to attend the Methodist Church until the Graeagle mill closed in 1957. My dad and I sang in the choir, directed by Jim Fields, High School music teacher. Mrs. Dorothy played the organ for many years. Both my sisters, Joyce and Kathleen, were married in the church.

John Luzzader (55) – Hey All! I was baptized into this church when I was 12 years old. Billy John was our youth leader and what a Great Leader She was... We all loved her.

(All From Website Posting,
to celebrate the Church's 100 anniversary.)

How many foods named in the Bible do you remember?

Submitted by Butch Niford

The answers to the statements below are the names of foods found in the Bible. Questions:



1. Bread made from this grain figured in a dream about striking down a tent in the war camp of Midian. The five loaves of bread that Jesus multiplied were also made from this grain.
2. These bitter vegetables eaten at Passover - possibly endive and chicory - were designated only by what generic name in the Bible?
3. This red stew figured in a bargain between twins that ultimately had to do with a Bible prophecy regarding the Messianic lineage.
4. The blossoms of this nut tree were used by Solomon to picture the white-headedness of old age.
5. To sit under the tree that produced this food was considered a symbol of a person's security.
6. One tiny grain from this vegetable plant figured in one of Jesus' illustrations about faith.
7. These sometimes plague-like insects were on John the Baptist's wilderness food menu.
8. Jesus pronounced woe to the hypocrites who gave a tenth of these three herbs, yet disregarded justice and mercy and faithfulness.
9. According to the Mosaic Law, everything offered on the altar to Jehovah must have this item added to it.
10. This male animal, which was used as a draft animal by the Israelites and was permissible for them to eat and to sacrifice under Mosaic Law, was worshiped as a god by the Egyptians and some unfaithful Israelites.

The answers are at Page 4.

Financial Report By Carl Chavez

We are now half way through our 2011 Budget Year. As you may recall from our 2011 Estimated Budget we need to **average** approximately **\$1846.00** each Sunday. To date we are averaging approximately **\$1686.00**. Our average attendance through 26 Sundays is 59 including children. Our Apportionment commitment is \$19,866.00. we are woefully behind in Apportionment payments having contributed only \$4000.00 or 20% of our commitment to date. At the halfway point of the year we have brought in approximately 43% of our total budget requirements.

FIRST QUARTER

<u>ATTEND.</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>HEIFER</u>	<u>EPCAN</u>	<u>SPECIAL*</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
565	\$22,656.00	\$299.50	\$157.00	\$1060.00	\$23,172.50

SECOND QUARTER

<u>ATTEND.</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>HEIFER</u>	<u>EPCAN</u>	<u>SPECIAL*</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
976	\$22,171.00	\$220.50	\$191.00	\$2790.00	\$25,372.50

TOTAL 1541 \$43,827.00 \$520.00 \$348.00 \$3850.00 \$48,525.00

- **SPECIAL FUNDS INCLUDE: UMCOR, SR. FOOD BANK, MEMORIAL GIFTS, CENTENNIAL, MISC.**

submitted by Carl Chavez

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. (Genesis 1:28-30)



ANSWERS to the Bible food quiz:

1. BARLEY (Judges 7:13; John 6:9, 13)
2. GREENS (Exodus 12:8)
3. LENTIL (Genesis 25:23-34)
4. ALMOND (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
5. FIG (1 Kings 4:25)
6. MUSTARD (Matthew 13:31)
7. LOCUSTS (Matthew 3:4)
8. MINT, DILL, CUMIN (Matthew 23:23)
9. SALT (Numbers 18:10; 2 Chronicles 13:5)
10. BULL (Exodus 29:10-14; 32:8; Numbers 14:4, 5; Leviticus 22:23, 24; 1 Kings 19:21; Psalm 106:19, 20)

When Help is Needed?

Sometimes people need more than the Bible, prayers and faith in Christ to deal with our problems. Do God's providences and mercies include medication, support groups and an understanding of the family history, temperaments and deeply burned motives? Proverbs 11:14 says "When there is no counsel, the people fall." Proverbs 12:15 says "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who needs counsel is wise."

Skilled counselors can guide a client through their own values, belief and motives including the Bible. Professionals can offer valuable services that complement spiritual solutions.

Heifer Project International

Our church has been supporting this organization for years, including fundraising associated with our youth; passing a plate at "Children's Time". You've seen the little boxes some of us use for collecting change, and others simply write checks to the Heifer Project.

Heifer International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending hunger and preserving the earth through distribution of livestock and training. They also support farming, community development, and economic self-sufficiency of families, and women in particular. They partner with groups that share their mission and Christian tradition, including UMCOR.

There are so many projects and stories, the best way to learn more is via their websites – search the name, check them on Facebook, etc.. We also have some info in our Fellowship Hall.

Professional counseling is needed to deal with very complex issues. Intense counseling is like doing deep surgery. Questions that you need to ask yourself are; is the counseling helping me to deal with the truth or just helping me to believe what I wanted to believe? Are they helping me to be honest about my own frustration/desires, aching disappointments and secret struggle? Good counseling helps us to face our own disappointments in an unsettled life.

The painful problems of life are often complicated by choosing to take solutions into our own hands. Our hearts are deeply masked by denial. We have all chosen at times solutions that have made our problems worse. We need to choose very carefully the best counselor for ourselves. Also without guilt, know that the Bible does not condemn the seeking of professional help outside the church and pastor. Please don't hesitate by thinking your problem will just magically go away. Solving your issues will only get you closer to God.

Kathleen Toland,

Licensed individual and marriage, family therapist



Charity Navigator rates Heifer Project 3 stars, with 76% to programs, 6% adm., and 18% fundraising.

Submitted by Ralph Caldwell

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METHODIST CHURCH

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STAMP

To: Portola Families



Messenger

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MESSSENGER

Do you have any good stories or news that you would
like to share with us in this Newsletter ?

Email to PortolaUMC@hotmail.com