

UNITED METHODIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
P.O.BOX 47, REEDLEY CA 93654; PH.: (559) 638-2712  
WEBSITE: [www.gbgm-umc.org/reedleyfellowship](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/reedleyfellowship)  
Rev. Neal Harris, Res.: 1374 S. Church Ave., Reedley CA 93654, Home Ph.: (559) 637-9964  
**Grapevine newsletter**  
**SEPTEMBER, 2003**

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR***

Dear People of God,

As we enter into the fall of the year and as we begin to get back into the normal routines of our lives and of the church, we get back to our normal work patterns. Ministry is also work, for ministry means service. Jesus spoke often about how we are to work in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25. So, let us look at what Jesus says in this parable for clues.

The parable is about a landowner who goes on a long trip leaving some of his money to three different servants to manage while he is gone. Today, we say they were acting as the landowner's investment managers. What would we expect our managers to do? Invest our money, of course, and that is exactly what the first two did. An important thing to remember when one invests money is that one puts that money at risk. We do not know exactly what kind of risky investments they made, but we can say they put the money at some risk because they doubled their money. The third manager took no risk and, of course, got no return.

Another expectation of a money manager is that they know how much risk the investor is willing to take. So, what is the master's investment philosophy? *"Then the man who had received the one talent came, 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.'* I believe this is the investment philosophy Jesus has for his church.

This philosophy of Jesus has less to do with money than our philosophy about our ministry. Are we willing to try new ministries, reach new people, be willing to fail? Or is our philosophy to do what we did last year. Jesus challenges us to change our philosophy of ministry.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we have an opportunity to hear how we can do ministry in new ways. Tom Bandy, an expert in how churches are effective in ministry in new ways, will be the presenter at the District Training Day, held at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Clovis.. I hope all of you go so that we can hear Jesus say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May God Bless You!

In Christ,

Pastor Neal

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Sept. 16, Tues., 8:30 a.m., Sr. Boutique Food Sales Mtg., Soc.Hall  
 4:00 p.m., Choir Prac., Sanctuary  
 17, Weds., 10:00 a.m., Bible Study, Soc.Hall  
 21, Sun., 11 a.m., Worship Service  
 Tea Time by September Toban  
 23, Tues., 4:00 p.m., Choir Prac., Sanctuary  
 24, Weds., 10:00 a.m., Bible Study, Soc.Hall  
 28, Sun., 11 a.m., Worship Service  
 30, Tues., 4:00 p.m., Choir Prac., Sanctuary  
 Oct. 1, Weds., 10:00 a.m., Bible Study, Soc.Hall  
 3, Fri., 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sr. Boutique Food Sales, Community Center  
 4, Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sr. Boutique Food Sales, Community Center  
 5, Sun., 11 a.m., Worship Service with Holy Communion  
 7, Tues., 4:00 p.m., Choir Prac., Sanctuary  
 8, Weds., 10:00 a.m., Bible Study, Soc.Hall  
 11/12, Sat./Sun., Reedley Fiesta Activities  
 12, Sun., 11 a.m., Worship Service  
 Noon, Welcome Back (Aloha) Potluck for Pastor Neal & Family.  
 14, Tues., 4:00 p.m., Choir Prac, Sanctuary  
 15, Weds., 10:00 a.m., Bible Study, Soc.Hall

**HAPPENINGS**

The MOST IMPORTANT HAPPENING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY (after our July/August Grapevine was published) was the birth of KENT AUSTIN HARRIS on JULY 15, 8:35 p.m., 7 lbs. 11 oz., and 21 inches long! Kent is now 2 months old and thriving! We continue to pray for Kent's good health.

**SEPTEMBER**

Choir Practice will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 16, with Tina Mizuno as Choir Director and Margaret Crabtree as Accompanist. We will meet every Tuesday from 4 p.m. until further notice.

Bible Study will also resume on Wednesday, Sept. 17, with Pastor Neal Harris as our leader. We will plan to meet every Wednesday from 10 a.m.- 11 a.m.

**HAPPENINGS (cont.)**

**OCTOBER**

Annual Holiday Craft Festival sponsored by the Reedley Senior Commission, Friday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sat., Oct. 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Reedley Community Center. Our church is in charge of the Food Sale.

October Toban in charge this year. Duties for each toban will be as follows:

**July/January: Emy Mizuno/Misako Rice**

Hot dogs; Frito boats

**February/August: Tamae Ieiri/Betty Jane Oki**

Chicken Noodle Soup; Baked potatoes

**March/September: Shiz Tsutsui/Judy Yamada**

Pastry/Sushi/Misc.; Sales

**April/October: Thelma Ichiyama/Mary Wake**

Tuna sandwich; Potato salad

**May/November: Shiz Kunishige/Mary Yamagata**

Chili beans

**June/December: Mae Matsuzaki/Nobie Osato**

Chinese Chicken Salad

**Men: Pastor Neal /Kit Sugai**

Coffee; Sodas; Water; put bbq beef\* sandwich together; general "run about".

(\*bbq beef prepared by Shiz T./Barbara S.)

Be sure to keep good record of what, how, how much, where purchased, etc. for next year's committee. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser for our church.

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Sun., Oct. 12, Noon (right after church service), will be our WELCOME BACK (ALOHA)

POTLUCK for Pastor Neal, Lynn, Heidi, & Kent!

You are all invited to come to church dressed in your Hawaiian shirts/shorts/pants/mumus/dresses and zoris/sandals/shoes, etc. If you don't have anything "Hawaiian" to wear, don't fret! Just come in your casual, comfortable clothes – be relaxed, laid back, and ready for a Luau (although the food may not be Hawaiian!).

\* \* \* \* \*

Sun., Oct. 26, 11 a.m., Joint Worship Service at our church with First United Methodist. D.S.

HAPPENINGS (cont.)

Vickie Healy will baptize Kent Harris during the service. Then we will all go over to the First Church for a potluck luncheon with cake from the Harris family (so no dessert needed). All this will be followed by a Joint Church Conference presided over by D.S. Vickie Healy. We had a good turnout last year, the food was delicious, and the Conference was short and quick so please plan to attend! Understand there will be an anthem sung by the First Church in honor of Kent's baptism, too!

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UMW

September Toban

Chairpersons: Shiz Tsutsui/Judy Yamada  
June Araki Hanako Nishimoto  
Helen Ishii Willene Yoshimoto  
Fumiko Matsumoto

October Toban

Chairpersons: Thelma Ichiyama/Mary Wake  
Karen Ishii Voola Sasaki  
Kim Katsuki Yuri Watari  
Smackie Sano

**Thank-You to the following:**

- Tamae Ieiri – Memory of husband, Tetsuo
- Seyichi Kiyomoto – Memory of wife, Betty
- Miyo Mizuno – 88<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Mitzie Osumi – 2003 dues
- Sharon Sano – donation

**“Thank You” Note dated Aug. 4, 2003**

*Dear Ladies of Fellowship UMW,*

*Thank you so much for my welcome card and generous monetary gift. It was very kind and thoughtful of you. I can't wait to meet you all very soon and thank you in person.*

*My parents will put the money into my college fund for me.*

*Thank you all again!*

*Love, Kent  
(his parents too)*

Please continue with your monthly duties. Bills and yearly dues may be sent to Yuri Watari, UMW Treasurer. Thank you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS!

PLEDGES RECEIVED IN JULY

Rev./M Ken Crabtree	Mrs. Nobie Osato
Mrs. Yoshiko Halpen	Mrs. Misako Rice
Rev./M Neal Harris	Mrs. Mae Sakaguchi
M/M Joe Ishii	M/M Geo. Sakamoto
M/M Stan Ishii	Mrs. Smackie Sano
M/M George Katsuki	M/M Kit Sugai
Ms. Rose Katsuki	Dr./M Akira Tajiri
Mrs. Shiz Kunishige	M/M Paul Tsutsui
M/M Gino Malattia	M/M Sam Tsutsui
Mrs. Miyo Mizuno	M/M William Wake
Mrs. Alice Nakamura	M/M Geo. Yamagata
Mrs. Sue Nakamura	

PLEDGES RECEIVED IN AUGUST

M/M George Araki	Mrs. Alice Nakamura
Rev./M Ken Crabtree	Mrs. Nobie Osato
Mrs. Yoshiko Halpen	Mrs. Misako Rice
Rev./M Neal Harris	Mrs. Mae Sakaguchi
M/M Joe Ishii	M/M Geo. Sakamoto
M/M Stan Ishii	Mrs. Smackie Sano
M/M George Katsuki	Mrs. Voola Sasaki
Ms. Rose Katsuki	Dr./M Akira Tajiri
Mrs. Shiz Kunishige	M/M Paul Tsutsui
M/M Gino Malattia	M/M Sam Tsutsui

MEMORIALS

- Mrs. Fumiko Matsumoto – For Mr. Charlie Kim
- Mrs. Betty Jane Oki – For Mr. Charlie Kim
- M/M Kit Sugai – For Mr. Charlie Kim
- Mrs. Kazuko Tatami – For Mr. Yoshihiko Tatami
- Mrs. Sue Miyakawa – For Mr. Norman Miyakawa
- Ieiri Family – For Mr. Tetsuo Ieiri (1 year)

SPECIALS

- M/M Joe Ishii – 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
- Mrs. Miyo Mizuno – 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday

BIRTHDAY

Yuri Watari Smackie Sano

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IN APPRECIATION

This month we would like to **THANK STAN ISHII** for his many years of dedicated service to our church as Administrative Council Chairperson! He not only keeps us on task but serves with a jovial spirit. He is also active in all aspects of the church. We would like to thank his wife Karen and children, Randall,

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**IN APPRECIATION (cont.)**

Douglas and Timothy for sharing him with us. Stan is also involved with his community and school activities..

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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**SEPT. 21** Worship Leader: Margaret Crabtree

Usher: Shiz Tsutsui

Altar Flowers: Nobie Osato

**28** Worship Leader: Yuri Watari

Usher: Bill Wake

Altar Flowers: Shiz Kunishige

**SEPT. CALLER: Alice Nakamura**

**OCT. 5** Worship Leader: Stan Ishii

Usher: Roy Watari

Altar Flowers: M/M Geo.Sakamoto

**12** Worship Leader: Barbara Sugai

Usher: Amy Yano

Altar Flowers: M/M Bob Kim

**19** Worship Leader: Rev. Ken Crabtree

Usher: June Araki

Altar Flowers: M/M Geo. Katsuki

**26** Worship Leader: Mary Wake

Usher: Tamae Ieiri

Altar Flowers: Yuri Ito

**OCT. COMMUNION – OUTREACH**

**OCT. CALLER – SHIZ KUNISHIGE**

**Note:** *If you cannot serve your above duties as scheduled, please trade with someone and let Barbara Sugai (638-2659) know about the change by the Sunday (1 week ahead) before your turn.*

*Thanks!*

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**BIRTHDAY “GUYS & DOLLS”**

**MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

Betty Jane Oki

Lilyan Kiyomoto

Brad Osato

Akira Nishimoto

Yuri Ito

Tina Mizuno

Giichi Yamagata

Amy Yano

Carolyn Watanabe

Shiz Tsutsui

**\*\*HAPPY BIRTHDAY\*\***

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**ACTIONS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CONGREGATIONS**

**To: California-Nevada Churches**

**Date: August 25, 2003**

**From: Virginia Pearson, Conference Secretary**

These are the adopted recommendations from the 2003 Annual Conference that request action(s) of local churches:

- Concern for Climate Change (Item 5)  
Members of local United Methodist Churches are urged to show leadership as stewards of God’s creation and take concrete actions to:
  1. educate our congregants on energy production and usage in relation to global warming,
  2. conduct an energy audit of our homes, church facilities, and camp structures to identify sources of energy waste and the potential financial savings of energy related improvements,
  3. make energy efficiency improvements to our homes, church facilities, and our structures,
  4. replace light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs,
  5. expand our use of public transportation, carpooling, and teleconferencing to reduce fossil fuel consumption,
  6. choose a cleaner vehicle that is the least polluting and most efficient,
  7. keep our vehicle’s engine tuned and tires properly inflated,
  8. study the consequences of our consumer choices and take action to lessen our impact on the environment, and
  9. use our votes by telling our elected officials that we need laws that support the most important solutions to climate change: cleaner cars and cleaner power plants.
  
- Children and Poverty (Item 6)  
Each congregation in the conference is asked to undertake a study of the issues of children and poverty using the United Methodist study material in Community with Children and the Poor: A Guide for Congregational Study (available from Cokesbury).

**ACTIONS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CONGREGATIONS (cont.)**

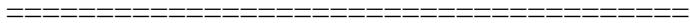
- Fair Trade Coffee (Item 7)  
Local congregations and their affiliated organizations, which use coffee, are urged to purchase coffee for corporate and personal use through the fair trade partner, Equal Exchange or through another similar fair trade organization.
- Jubilee Debt Relief (Item 8)  
Each congregation in the California-Nevada Conference is encouraged to become a Jubilee Congregation supporting the advocacy work of the Jubilee USA Network ([www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org)) toward further debt cancellation, freeing funds in poor countries for health services, education, and environmental protection. The Jubilee USA Network asks that each Jubilee Congregation pledge four things: to pray for a Jubilee for the world's poorest countries, to appoint a Jubilee contact person, to contribute one dollar per member to the Jubilee USA Network (or whatever they can afford), and to send one letter per member to a member of Congress or a member of the administration calling on them to "Drop the Debt."
- Boycott Coca-Cola (Item 27)  
Calls upon individual members, congregations, boards and agencies not buy Coca-Cola for any event for one year, beginning July 22, 2003.
- Call Sunday (Item 27)  
Local churches are urged to participate in a Conference-wide "Call Sunday" on a Sunday of May (or another appropriate Sunday) to focus on God's call to ministry as "call-stories" of church ministers are proclaimed and worship resources from the Conference Enlistment Committee are offered.

**JESUS GAVE THREE CHEERS!**

**The Cheer of Forgiveness**  
*Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*  
**Matthew 9:2**

**The Cheer of Courage**  
*Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*  
**Matthew 14:27**

**The Cheer of Victory**  
*Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*  
**John 16:33**



**CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.  
ADDRESS ON TOP OF FRONT PAGE.  
INTERESTING, INFORMATIVE,  
MIGHT SEE SOMEONE,  
AND WELL WORTH  
THE "PEEK"!**

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