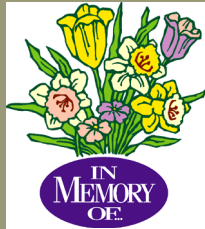


The Messenger

A Publication of Nameoki United Methodist Church



Memorial Day

Memorial Day to most is considered the day in which we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. It was formerly known as Decoration Day, to decorate the graves of those who died in the war. "Decoration Day" was first enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War. Later, it also included World War I and came to include all American casualties of any war or military action.

At Nameoki UMC we remember those who lost their lives in the military as well as those loved ones who were *members* of our church that we have lost throughout the year. On May 24th, during our late service, a flower will be given to the surviving spouse, child or parent of the deceased *member* of Nameoki. This is a time of recollection but also a time of celebration for their lives.

On this **Memorial Day** remember those who gave their lives for our country. Also for those who are still serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.

Please display your United States flag in remembrance and in honor of our troops.

Strength for Service to God and Country

Following the September 11, 2001 attack upon the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, American men and women have been asked to risk their lives in the war against terrorism.

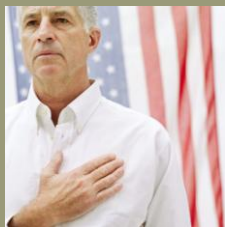
Chaplains and other religious leaders note that these young men and women are now raising questions about spiritual issues they had ignored until they were forced to acknowledge their own mortality. During the Vietnam War, chaplains recognized they had no spiritual resource to give

to the men, but thanks to the work of Evan Hunsberger, a California Boy Scout, a book of daily devotions that provided comfort and guidance to troops during World War II and the Korean conflict has been rediscovered, and an updated version has been published.

The book, *Strength for Service to God and Country*, was published in 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Starting with his grandfather's original book, Evan made slight editorial changes in the

text and solicited additional contributors from many of today's religious leaders. Over 250,000 copies of the historic book have been sent to members of the armed forces and public service personnel.

The Nameoki Men's Group has made it their mission to help distribute this book to our military. The cost for each waterproof, tear resistant book is \$7, they have committed to 100. If you have questions or would like to help call Dick Portell at 876-6350.



In this issue:

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Thank You

Thanks to EVERYONE for your help in the Rummage Sale and Barbeque. Such a big undertaking could not be done without everyone pitching in!

Thanks to all those who gave of their time to attend the Forged in the Fire workshops. These workshops were to help learn about spiritual disciplines, analyze the communities' un-churched, and to provide

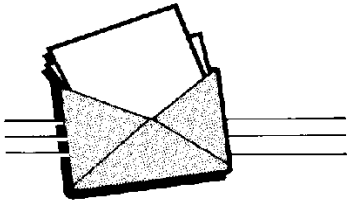
radical hospitality and irresistible evangelism to our members.

There were 10 of our members who attended the first evening and 8 who came back for the full day of study.

Thanks to our musicians; Marilyn Bernaix, Erla and Jerry Mainer, Margi Gehling, Becky Pate and Jenifer Spiroff, for the beautiful music throughout the fall and winter months. Many thanks to the children and adult bell choirs and to the chancel

choir for your dedication throughout the seasons providing us with your wonderful sounds. We look forward to the soloist and the special music numbers through the summer, until the choirs return again in the fall.

Our landscape crew is terrific! Thank you in advance for staying on top of the lawn cutting all summer, as you so faithfully do. The church grounds always look nice.



**THE NEW
DIRECTORIES AND
BIRTHDAY BOOKS
ARE AVAILABLE IN
THE NARTHEX.**

Member News

Raechel Guitierrez and Scott Haas were united in marriage on April 4th, 2009 at the Jewel Box in Forest Park. Congratulations!

Vic Gehling, one of our Lay Leaders, attended the *Men's Walk to Emmaus* on April 16, 17, and 18th. He reported that, "It was a very spiritual week end."

Although Julie Montoya has been coming to services for a while here at Nameoki UMC, she

officially joined the church on April 19th. Welcome aboard, Julie!

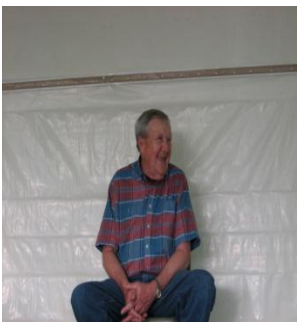
The Masters Voice Choir will perform their summer musicals on May 2nd at 7:00 pm, and at 2:00 p.m. on May 3rd at Suburban Baptist Church.

Congratulations to Sarah Elizabeth Stone and Andrew Lee Green who will exchange their wedding vows here at Nameoki on May 16th,

2009. We wish you the best!

Walker's Walkers will have a Bake Sale on Sunday, May 3rd before and after the morning services, as a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Scouts will pass out your orders this Wednesday night and Sunday morning. If you are unable to get them they will be placed in the freezer with your name marked on it.



Bob Taylor, getting ready for a pie in the face, during the Youth Face Auction! What a guy!!!

Youth News

Myna and the Youth Group are busy these days earning money to go to the church camps this year. As part of their fund raising efforts, on Sunday, April 26th they held their Annual Potluck, Face Auction and Silent Auction. Bob Taylor was

among many who got a "pie in the face" for a good cause!

In the coming months they will be involved in other activities such as the Relay for Life, to benefit the American Cancer Society as well as touring different

camps with their puppet ministry. Myna says, about her youth group, "There is never a dull minute." She asks that you continue to pray for them. There are so many wrongful paths that can lead our kids away from Christ; a constant support system is always appreciated!

Missions

The KIDS IN MISSION will be collecting loose change in May for our local *Faith in Action*. We have contributed to them before, but they are in constant need of finances to remain a vital part of our community. Their mission is to help the elderly through finding volunteers for transportation, visits, or running errands for those who are unable to do the everyday driving themselves.

When asked about the impact of this ministry,

one lady commented, "Well, it renewed my faith in God more and also in human beings. It also makes me know that other people care about my well being. All of the ones I have met are just wonderful." This witness of God's love is made possible through the generosity of caring people like you. Thank you for helping to touch so many lives. Please give what ever you feel you can. Or if you would like to volunteer please

call Diane Copeland at 877-9020.

Thank you for caring!

If you should have any questions on our Kids in Mission recipients please call the Mission's chair person - Dorothy Luckert at 931-3099.



Day of Pentecost

Pentecost is one of the principal days of the Christian year, celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. The Greek word *pentecoste* means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem (see Acts 2). It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red.

On Sunday, May 31st, Pastor Tim suggests that we all wear red in recognition of this special day. This is a day of celebration. Come with a happy heart knowing if you have asked, the Holy Spirit is within you!

DID YOU KNOW

*The term "Christian" didn't surface until about a decade after Christ, the earliest Christians called themselves followers of "the Way," short for "the way of God" (Acts 24:14)

*Though Acts is the first known history of the church, written as early as 30 years after the Resurrection, it is probably not the first Christian document. Most of Paul's letters were written even earlier, some as early as 20 years after the Resurrection.

Getting into the Bible
By Stephen M. Miller



A Mother's Day Tribute

The strange thing was, mom seemed to change her "favorite" quite often.



The "Favorite"

I am one of 10 children, so competition for mom's attention was tough. I would often feel that one of my siblngs got more attention than I, or was considered her "favorite". The strange thing was, mom seemed to change her "favorite" quite often. Just when I was certain my oldest sister was the preferred child, because mom was so compassionate when there were school or work problems; she would turn her affection to my younger brother. I would feel he was most loved because he always seemed to "get his way."

One time I overheard a friend ask her, "now Wanda, who of all those kids is your favorite?" My mom seemed to be taken

back by such a question. Her reply was something I'll always remember. She said, "How could I possibly have a favorite, how could I choose one over the other? At one time or another one may need more attention, but they are all equally loved."

I can recall her crying with me the first time I had a "broken heart"; and another time when one of my brothers had wrecked his first car. I remember her sitting up all night at the hospital when my oldest brother had his appendix taken out. Not until I was older did I realize that at one time or another we each got to be "the favorite" depending on the circumstances.

I imagine it was difficult at times to be spread so thinly. Although... I do recall her more than once jokingly saying that she was going to change her name or that she would like to run away. I don't know why???

Thanks to all of you mothers who have made us the "favorite" so many times!
Happy Mother's Day! Lb

THE MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET

The Mother & Daughter Banquet is scheduled for May 11th at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Carol Harmon's, Dolly Madison and First Ladies. Cost is \$6 for adults, under 12 is \$3.00. Tickets can be purchased from Mary Karoly or Betty Stone. Come and join us for delicious food, and good entertainment, plus you don't even have to clean up the mess, the men take care of that! Now you really can't miss out!

.....

May the Lord give you increase more and more, you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 115:14-15



MOTHER & DAUGHTER BANQUET
Monday, May 11th
at 6:30 p.m.

Go Forth and Reflect God's nature

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for all the creatures and Earth itself." God created human beings; he created them Godlike, reflecting God's nature. (Genesis 1:26-27; Petersons, The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language.)

Knowing that we have a creator who has fashioned us to be something like himself, we can figure that, in Christ, God feels love and hate, joy and pain. God knows our feelings and emotions because God has created us from the very nature of himself, and the Lord experienced the human condition through Jesus. We are emotional creatures, and God has created us with all our natural senses for a purpose. Some of us can turn our emotions down or off and others of us have little control. I believe we have been given our emotions to enhance or promote the wonder and glory of God and to receive and share love like God loves us. Our emotions allow us to love and heal or empower us to hate and destroy. We have been equipped for every good work, but often we use our emotions for self preservation and maybe even selfishness. However you see it, we are emotional creatures of

our creator with a function.

You may have noticed that sometimes I get emotional when I preach. It is as if the Spirit brushes so close to me that I cannot contain the spiritual joy or the deep realization of the sanctity of that particular moment. I get caught up in the words I preach and their meaning as related to the unfolding of God's wondrous caring for each of us. It can happen to any of us if we will allow it. But some of us can turn the feelings meter down a little so others won't notice. I have a hard time controlling that dial; when I get caught up in the moment, oh well, it's too late.

I have known preachers who reacted differently to those emotional eruptions. One would get happy, bend his body forward, place his hands on his knees and smile real big or even laugh while slapping his knee. Not to make light of that emotion, but a few times when he did that, I wondered if I should pay more attention because I just missed something significant. I have known other pastors who got more dramatic or a lot louder when they hit those holy moments. As you know, when that happens to me, my voice cracks, I tear up, and I have to wait a few seconds to recompose myself.

This is not a confession of one of my idiosyncrasies, an unconventional behavior. This disclosure is meant to explain why I get emotional about God's word, and that we are all subjected to these kinds of feelings because we are creatures of our God and King who made us this way. We have been given gifts to share with those who are not connected with God and those who are connected but have had a weak signal for some time now.

This affirmation of our emotions can become a springboard of sharing God's grace in the most genuine way possible. People want to know that we are sincere about our faith journey. They can see right through our play-acting if we try masking our relationship with Christ with emotionless rhetoric. Our expressions of faith are planted in the very heart of God which is connected with our heart, and if I just playact my relationship and don't really live and feel it, then I'm just fooling myself.

God looked down on the being he just created and it was like a reflection of himself. Be God's reflection. Be who you are and who you are made to be, and God will bless and keep you, make his face to shine upon you and be gracious upon you, and lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



Tim's Tub Thumping



"Be God's reflection. Be who you are and who you are made to be, and God will bless and keep you..."

Just for Grins

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
Nameokiumc.org

A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for

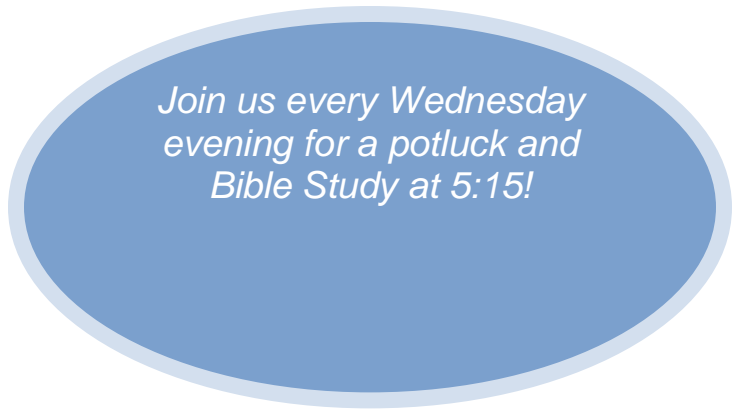
good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're

done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

A young grandson called his grandma the other day to wish her a Happy Birthday. He asked how old she was. "62" was her reply. He was quiet for a moment, then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

This month's study is on the, Ascension of Christ on the fortieth day after the resurrection and the study of Pentecost, (the beginning of the church).



Our Service Times

Which service will you be attending?
8:15 a.m. Informal Service
9:15 Sunday school for all ages / Nursery provided

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
Sunday Evenings
4:00- 6:00 Jr. High Youth
5:00-7:00 Sr. High Youth

Wednesday Evenings
5:15 Potluck
6:15 Bible Study
Look forward to seeing you here!

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In God We Trust

