



Our Big Pig Still Needs Feeding!

You will have the opportunity to feed our big pig through out the month of May. The big pig and the "pig-o-meter" are located on the piano in Criswell Hall. When you make your donation to the big pig from your little red pig, be sure to read the "pig-o-meter". It is currently at **\$903.45** as of this printing but you may want to check and see how much higher it has risen. If you would like to write a check for your pig donation instead of bringing the coins, be sure to write "125th" in the memo line of your check.

In case you haven't heard, we are feeding the pig to underwrite some of the costs of our ongoing celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande. Some of these costs include covering the costs for some special guests, photography expenses, use of the Regional Center for our Celebration dinner in September, and the use of the campground.

SLO COUNTY BAND

14th Annual Spring Concert Celebrating 135 years of Music

This 40 piece band delighted a packed audience in our United Methodist sanctuary with a wide ranging variety of musical pieces on Sunday April 19. The band and the audience were well represented by members of our congregation. The Conductor of the band is our own Leonard Lutz and Don Gugeler plays the clarinet as a member of the band. It was a special treat to enjoy the World Premiere performance of a march written by Don McGuire, our organist.

The concert was celebrating the Band's 135th anniversary. Gary Thompson was the special guest Conductor. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Francis Fink who had been a member of the band for over 62 years.

If you were so unfortunate as to miss the concert, you still have an opportunity to enjoy their concerts in San Luis Obispo's Mitchell Park. The programs begin at 1:00pm on Sundays, June 21, July 19, August 16, and September 20. Go and enjoy the fun.



Bible Sunday

This was the day to share many special Bibles! Approximately 80 Bibles were displayed in Criswell Hall. In addition to [English](#), we saw Bibles in Welsh, High Dutch, Spanish, German, Italian, Greek, and Hebrew. Most notably, the oldest Bible was 309 years old, and written in "High Dutch". It was brought by Richard De Bruyn. "High Dutch" was a reference to areas of the Rhein which are mostly German today. Germany didn't exist in the 1700s; it was a collection of over 400 independent states of various sizes, and the English used the term "high Dutch" to describe this collection of states.

The ribbon for Most Used Bible went to Pastor David's grandparents' Bible. Nancy St. Laurent's was the Best Illuminated. Tom Egan's Catholic Bible and Sally Weitkamp's Bible were also among the Best Illuminated. The Newest Bible, brought by Jamie Foster, was printed in 1999, in Spanish. The Most Unusual English Bible was brought by Gary Hughes. It was a Parallel edition which included columns in King James, Modern Language, Living Bible, and Revised Standard versions. A Welsh Bible of 1865 was the Most Unusual Language.

Charlie Sloan and Alex Paredes were presented with a Bible by Pastor David during the service.

Thanks to everyone who shared their treasured Bibles and to Jamie Foster for organizing this very successful display!

Homecoming Herald

"Rock Founded, Christ Centered, Faith Sustained"

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

May 2009

On **Sunday, May 3rd** choirs of the United Methodist area churches from the San Luis Obispo and North Santa Barbara counties will gather to sing together as part of the annual Methodist cluster choir sing. Seven choirs have already responded and more are expected. As part of the ongoing celebration of our 125th Anniversary, Arroyo Grande Methodist Church will host the event which begins at **3 PM** in the sanctuary.

Each choir will perform at least one piece. The combined "mass" choir will then perform, under the direction of our own choir director, Julie Walters. A special treat this year will be the premier performance of an original composition by Don McGuire. Don wrote this piece to honor our church's 125th anniversary. It is a very lively tune and will probably send you away singing or at least humming the song!

This is a wonderful experience for both the participants and the audience. It is also a good opportunity to meet and greet other Methodist from other churches in the area. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy wonderful and inspiring music sung by an array of talented choirs! If you would like to help provide refreshments for the performers, contact Chuck Burns.

Cluster Choir Sunday



Care and Feeding of Little Piggy Banks

1. *Count your money (should you need to keep track for tax purposes;)*
2. Bring money to church on "Feed the Pig Day:"
3. Empty change into the *Big Pig* in Criswell Hall;
4. Take your pig home and start again!

125th Anniversary Celebration

Calendar of Events

Have you entered these dates on your calendar? If not, do so now! You don't want to miss out on any of these exciting activities.

May

- 3 Cluster Choir Festival
- 17 125th Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting in the MMR
- 31 Combined Worship service at the Tabernacle at Camp AG

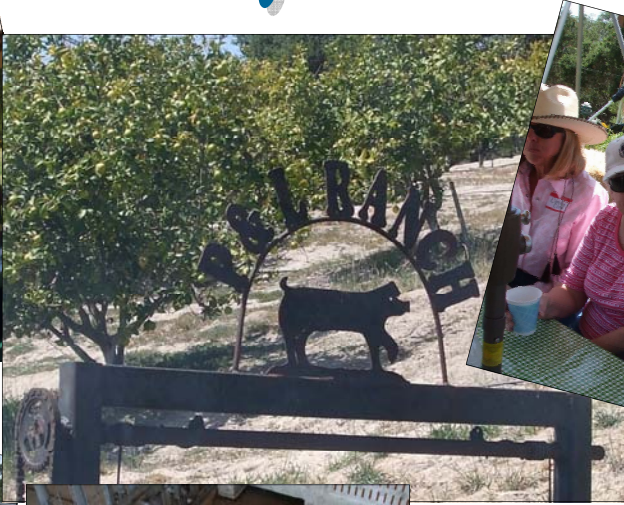
June

- 7 Music Sunday
- 14 Youth Sunday

September

- 19 Homecoming Dinner at Regional Center

125th Anniversary Celebration BBQ at the home of Larry and Pat Wiemers



Family Fun Day A huge success!

What a wonderful time everyone had at the Wiemer's ranch on Sunday, April 26th, so ably hosted by Pat and Larry Wiemers. This was a superb way to continue the celebration of our church's *125th Anniversary!* The weather was warm and sunny and beautiful views were enjoyed as well as the many activities through out the grounds. The music was great and to think that much of it was provided by our very own very talented members and their friends made it all the better. The delicious Santa Maria BBQ was prepared by many of Pat and Larry's friends who also assisted in the traffic direction and registration. A big "Thank You" is extended to them.

In addition to all the good fun and fellowship, \$663 was raised to assist in paying for other 125th anniversary events still to come. Approximately 190 people attended the BBQ. Pat Wiemers said her goal was to have everyone talk to at least five people that they didn't know before. Did you meet anyone new as you chatted with fellow pic-

