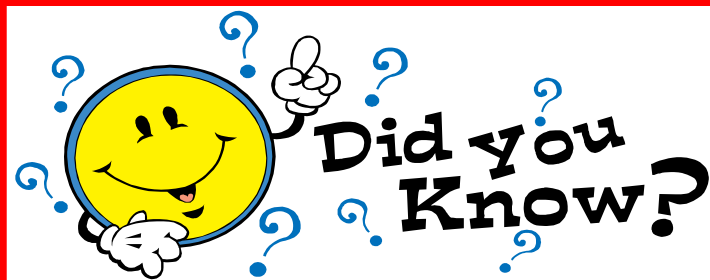




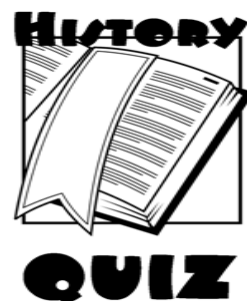
## Plans Firmed Up For The 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER 19 SEPTEMBER 2009

Jamie Foster was named MC for the upcoming dinner celebrating the 125th anniversary of our charter as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Arroyo Grande. The dinner on September 19th will be held at the South County Regional Center starting with a fellowship time at 4:00 PM and dinner at 5:00 PM followed by a fascinating program. Our own Bette Mankins and crew will be cooking up a great steak BBQ dinner, and the best news is "IT'S FREE"! As space at the Regional Center is limited to 300 people, your 125th Anniversary Committee decided to start "pre-registration" on June 28th in Criswell Hall after both services and will continue to take reservations for four weeks. Many guests have been invited, including our former pastors and their spouses, former members living outside the area, and especially YOU, so the capacity of the center will soon be filled. Members of the congregation are urged to sign up early.

We are expecting the District Superintendent, Rev. Cathleen Coots, and our Bishop, Rev. Mary Ann Swenson, as well as local VIPs. There are so many exciting things planned for this historical event you won't want to miss this wonderful evening.



Did you know that Jean Hubbard, our own UMC of AG historian, is writing a book about *our church*? It is scheduled to be completed in time for our special 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, September 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a copy be sure to mention it to Jean!



**We know!  
You wanted  
answers!**  
Look for answers to  
June's history quiz in  
the August edition of  
our *Cast-a-Net!*

## COMMITTEE CORNER

Your 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee met June 14<sup>th</sup> and made some final decisions about the dinner on September 19<sup>th</sup>. See the story on Homecoming Dinner reservations in this edition of the Cast-a-net. Our next full committee meeting will take place on August 9<sup>th</sup>. During July Bette Mankins and Cyndee Rohla, the dinner co-chairmen, will be having their sub-committees meet to work out plans for their jobs. This is your chance to get involved. **WE NEED YOU!** Watch the bulletins for announcements of committee meetings for time and place of each one, or contact Bette or Cyndee (contact information available in the church office). And **THANKS** again to you all in advance for volunteering.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARROYO GRANDE

JULY 2009



## “Extraordinary Service” was Extra-ordinary by Val McClure

When the CAST-A-NET announced an “Extraordinary Church Service” last month it had no idea that the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event would turn out to be one of the highlights of our anniversary year.

One hundred and fifty of our members and friends enjoyed a chilly but outstanding presentation of music, gospel and theater set in the 110 year old Tabernacle. Some 30 volunteers worked Saturday and Sunday to prepare the site for the presentation and turned the old building into a “theater in the round” The Methodist Men moved the camp piano from the Dining Hall to the Tabernacle on Saturday, and under the skilled hands of Sean Lehman, the old building reverberated with some of John and Charles Wesley’s great old hymns. The Chancel Choir sang an outstanding rendition of “God So Loved the World” under the direction of Julie Walters.

Pastor Burgeson led the congregation in parts of the worship service and when it came time for the sermon turned the program over to Roger Nelson, world famous actor, who for 40 riveting minutes held the audience spellbound as he told of the life of John Wesley and his journey to find the Lord. His presentation was highlighted by a fine stage set furnished by Hilary Henderson. Mike Herber helped to furnish the spotlight and ran the lighting during the performance and constructed the stage background. Our thanks to Morrie Gregory for hauling 75 hymnals to and from the program.

Many of the choir and congregation were in costumes of the 1800. At the end of the service 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration Chairman Larry (the pig-man) Wiemers and his side-kick Virginia Mothes announced the winners of the costume contest who were; Patty Melsheimer, Rose Ann Steiner, Betty Johnson and honorary mention, B.G. Perriguy.

At the end of awards the congregation was directed to the camp’s dining hall, next door, to eat an excellent box lunch prepared by the JJ Grocery Store Deli.

Many of the congregation used the bus service provided to and from camp and used the “Tabernacle Transport” golf cart service run by Chuck Perriguy to help members get up to the Tabernacle level. A great deal of help was given to the preparations by Camp Manager Steve Tallant and his staff. Val McClure, a member of the 125<sup>th</sup> Committee was chairman for the event.

History of the Tabernacle building is fascinating. The 12 sided structure was completed on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1897 from plans believed to be drawn up by Pastor W.D. Bell. The 4200 sq. ft. building is of unique design. The wagon wheel truss and joint mechanism holds the inner roof, the center post (the hub of the wheel) extends through the roof some 20 feet and acts as an outside flagpole. In the new master plans for the camp the Tabernacle will be treated as a “rare jewel” and retained and refurbished as the years go on.

# TABERNACLE WORSHIP SERVICE MAY 31, 2009



**Big Thank You!**

Val McClure worked tirelessly for months on the numerous details involved in what turned out to be an extraordinary worship service at the Tabernacle located in the Arroyo Grande Methodist Camp Ground. Those who were there can attest to the success of "Tabernacle Sunday". Those who missed it really missed a terrific event which would not have happened if it weren't for Val McClure. We owe you a him a tremendous debt of gratitude. When you see Val, be sure to give him a big hoo-ha, high five, and say "THANK YOU". He deserves it!