

Pigs, Pigs, Pigs!

Hundreds of PIGS! Thousands of PIGS! Millions of PIGS!

Well, maybe not that many, but certainly enough for every man, woman, and child in this church. Since the **Kiss-a-Pig Contest** for our **Harvest Celebration** was such a successful fundraiser for the Youth, your 125th Anniversary Committee decided to follow suit. Only your pig is very special. *It is red (not pink), clean, easy to handle, and guaranteed not to bite if you try to kiss it.*



Your piggy bank is a special memento of our church's 125th anniversary. It has been imprinted with "First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande— 125 years of ministry, 1884-2009. Our purpose is twofold. Every time you look at your piggy bank you will be reminded of your connection to this church. And whenever you have extra change in your pocket you can drop it in. You would be surprised how fast change can add up. The committee felt that this would be a relatively "painless" fundraiser. You would be surprised how much your small change can add up over the next nine months.

Pigs are notoriously greedy and love to be fed. This is true for the BIG PIG at church. Periodically we will have a "Feed The Pig Day" when you can bring and empty your little piggy. You will want to take your pig home and start over...this will be ongoing all year.

The Church Council gave the 125th Anniversary Committee "seed money" to be used to cover preliminary expenses for the special events of this year long celebration. With this we have rented the Regional Center for our 'homecoming dinner' on September 19th, paid to digitize our old slides, bought supplies for displays, purchased materials for our "Kick-off Sunday" potluck, and bought the piggy banks for the fundraising effort. There will be more expenses to come. Our hope is to raise enough money throughout the year to offset the costs and repay the church fund.

Committee Corner

Way back in April of 2008, Jean Hubbard stated to Lorie Ford and Pat Wiemers that 2009 would be our 125th anniversary. She mentioned a concern about the church's archives. Thus, a small group of interested people met in April and made three major decisions.

1. We should have a year long celebration with many events;
2. We should have a 'homecoming dinner' and charter Sunday in September;
3. We should wait until our new pastor was on board to do any more.

The rest is history. (No pun intended)

Since July, this committee has 'grown like Topsy' and there is always room for more. Everyone is welcome! All ideas are valued. And, of course, any and all help is greatly appreciated. **"Kick-Off Sunday"** may be over, but hold on...there is much more to come. You won't want to miss a minute!

We hope to see you Sunday, February 8th at 11:45 AM (after second service) in the McMillen Room. Come and be a part of it!

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!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

February 2009

125th Anniversary Celebration

"Kick-Off Sunday" Potluck A Success!

On "Kick-off Sunday," January 11, Pastor David's sermon was Christ centered, and many of the congregation had the opportunity to confirm the commitment made at their baptism.

The beginning of Christian faith and the beginning of the Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande were our focus on January 11th. During the service a wonderful video produced by Caitlin Herber showed interviews with our oldest member, Mary Fernamburg and her son, Bob, who both attended church in the village. Long time and totally involved members, Gladys and Bill Paulsen, Lorie Ford, Angie and Dave Ackerschott, and Niki Raetz were also interviewed. If you missed this video, you might be able to talk the Herbers into showing it again.

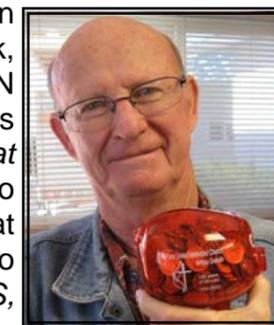
At the potluck that followed the second service, the members who attended the church in the village were introduced. We were fortunate to have Isabella Sloan, Iris Caldon, JoAnn and Vern Wiseman, Mary Lou Fink, Lorie (Sloan) Ford, Judy (Fink) Pinkston, Kay Walker, Esther Miller, and Mary Alice Mankins with us for the occasion. If you didn't get a chance to talk with them about the "good old days" catch them at church. You'll enjoy it.

Jean Hubbard had set up displays of the archives she has collected over forty years as church historian. Holding old records from 1902, reading MYF minutes from the 50s and 60s, seeing the old property deeds from the 1880s, and viewing the huge old Bible from the village church was quite an experience. Many people took advantage of the opportunity to go through the scrap

books which contained newspaper clippings, programs, and pictures that Jean has kept over the years.

Adeline Bottorff added to the display with beautiful story boards of the church history. Vern Wiseman passed out copies of a 1949 photo of our current site when it was still 'the country'. Most people had a hard time figuring out where we fit into the picture.

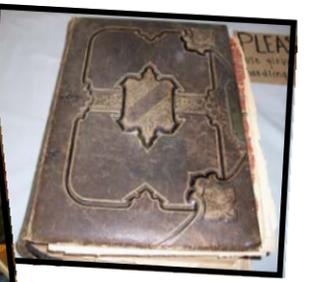
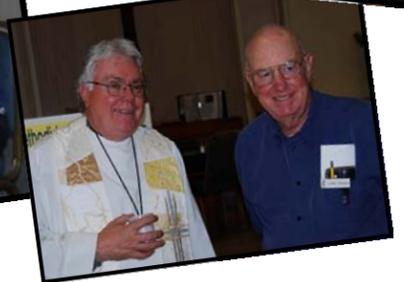
The 125th committee had chosen a simple fundraiser to help defray the costs of the year-long celebration. Each person was given a piggy bank with our church logo on it and asked to drop in extra change throughout the year. When your bank is full you can bring it to church and feed the BIG PIG. (And after you empty your special pig, you can take it home and start again.) Rumor has it that there is some competition going on in a few of our families. You may have the distinction of being the first in your family to fill your bank, but the honor of the FIRST IN THE CHURCH to do so goes to **Tom Egan** (pictured at right with his little piggy) who announced on Monday that his was full, and he's ready to start over. (See PIGS, PIGS, PIGS on back cover.)



The Green Umbrella did a fantastic job with the potluck. It looked beautiful and went smoothly. There was plenty of food, fun and fellowship. To use an old cliché, A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

See picture inside

“Kick-Off” Sunday Potluck



Thank you all for
making this day such
a success!!
We were glad to see
so many of you there!

