

The 9th Annual Alpha Omega & Agape Beach Retreat

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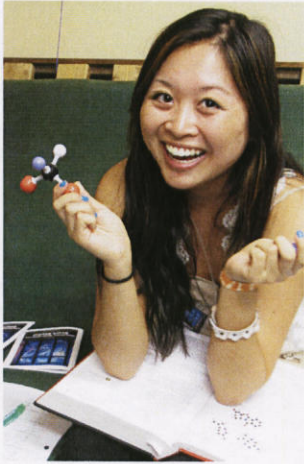
ALPHA OMEGA

College age to age 25

αγαπη

agape fellowship

Post college singles to age 30



October 7-9, 2011 @ Camp Arroyo Grande "God In The Transitions of Life"

Get Ready! It's that time of the year again!

On the weekend of October 7-9, we will hold our 9th annual Alpha Omega & Agape Retreat at the United Methodist Camp Arroyo Grande in Arroyo Grande, CA (near Pismo Beach; see map). This year again we are glad to include programming for young adults ranging from college age (Alpha Omega) to post college career singles (Agape Fellowship).

We have exclusive use of Camp Arroyo Grande and therefore can accommodate a maximum of 110 if needed but must gather a minimum of 50 participants. Therefore, please help us circulate the word and the registration form and materials to others in and outside your churches so we can gather as many people as possible.

What is Alpha Omegas?

In biblical reference to Jesus the Christ as the "alpha and the omega; beginning and end" we affirm our desire to grow in our Christian faith and service. Our desire is to keep college age young adults connected to the local churches by providing spiritual enrichment programming and fellowship both locally and cooperatively that is relevant to where college age young adults find themselves. The usage of the greek letters "A" and "O" was used not only as a reference to our spiritual heritage but a way to provide a connection to college life through the establishment of a kind of greek co-ed organizational fellowship.

History of Alpha Omegas:

The fellowship group called "Alpha Omega" was first begun at the United Japanese Christian Church in Clovis in 2003 affirming that college age young adults needed a ministry to transition into after

graduating from the local church youth groups. The bottom line was that we valued the gifts and graces of college age young adults and their participation in the local church and therefore wanted to support ministry to and by them.

The need for the development of a college age ministry at Faith UMC in Torrance attracted the Faith United Methodist Church to consider establishing their own Alpha Omega chapter which it did in 2004.

A fall retreat seemed a good time to gather college age young adults; before the academic year got too busy and participation in summer camp counselor training weekends became overly hectic for many.

The UJCC Alpha Omega had been retreating around Pismo, CA at beach rental homes through the fall of 2003 & 2004 but with the movement toward a cooperative retreat with Faith UMC in 2005 we booked the United Methodist Camp Arroyo Grande as beach rental units simply could not accommodate our numbers. Therefore this is the seventh year the Alpha Omegas will hold their annual retreat at Camp Arroyo Grande.

College age Alpha Omega chapters from both Wesley UMC San Jose and Buena Vista UMC Alameda joined us for the first time in 2006 and several young adults from Blaine Memorial UMC in Seattle and Aldersgate UMC Palo Alto in 2007. It was exciting to realize that over 60 participants joined us last year. We hope that more may join us this year!



What is the Agape Fellowship?

"Agape" is one of several greek words translated as "love". This particular greek word for "love" was a term used by early Christians to refer to the self-sacrificing love of God for humanity, which they were committed to reciprocating and practicing towards both God and to one another. It only seemed fitting to provide a name for this fellowship that we hope will grow as a succeeding ministry for those who are transitioning out of Alpha Omegas and those who are at a different point in their young adult lives.

Who can attend?

All college age and post college career single young adults are welcome to attend. You do not need to have an already established college age or post college career single young adult ministries in your church though we do hope that these ministries are developed at the local church level as we know that this is a very vital and much needed ministry.

Details of This Year's Retreat!

Our retreat begins on Friday with registration starting at 8pm. Our hope is to begin programming at 9:30pm. The retreat will offer moments of rest and relaxation, worship and singing, fellowship & games, Bible study and personal reflection, sharing meals together, an outing to the beach and town of Arroyo Grande, campfire, and even some time to tend to some homework for those who need to get in some studying. Our retreat will end on Sunday late morning.

Theme & Leadership:

This year's theme will focus on acknowledging the transitions of life that young adults go through at this age and discern where God is in all of these transitions that we encounter in life. The Joseph story found in Genesis will be the scriptural narrative that helps us reflect upon these issues.

Bible study and personal sharing will also be an integral part of our time together. Rev. Keith Inouye (Wesley UMC, San Jose), seminarians Jon Visitacion (Master's of Divinity graduate of Claremont School of Theology/staff member at Faith UMC), Karen Yokota (2nd year seminarian at Claremont School of Theology/intern at First UMC Fullerton), and others will provide leadership with much planning assistance from other young adults from the various local churches.

Cost: \$110 per person

The cost of the retreat will be \$110 which includes lodging, programming & meal expenses (3 meals on Saturday only). This is a

\$10 decrease from last year's registration fees due to the cancellation of contracting a Sunday meal.

This is a change from last year in order to accommodate participant's desires to eat brunch/lunch on Sunday in the nearby beach town of Pismo at some of the great seafood eateries like "Splash." Though this outing to Pismo is not part of our programming and everyone is on their own, it is something that many look forward to sharing before we say goodbye to one another. Therefore please bring some extra money for Sunday's lunch.

Transportation:

Transportation is to be coordinated by each local church.

Registration Deadline:

The registration deadline is: September 23rd. Please return your registration forms and fees to:

Rev. Keith Inouye
c/o Wesley United Methodist Church
566 N. Fifth St. San Jose, CA 95112
 (408) 355-0837 cell
 (408) 295-0367 church
 (408) 295-0612 Fax
 KInouye27@aol.com

Checks should be made payable to:

NJAUMC

Please earmark the check for "2011 AO & Agape Beach Retreat"



What to bring:

Bring your pillow and sleeping bag or bed linens, towel and toiletries, clothing or swim suit for the beach, bible, notepad, pen, warm jacket, school or local church Alpha Omega or Agape sweatshirt, flashlight, homework, and extra money for Friday dinner (on your own), Saturday night ice cream parlor visit in downtown Arroyo Grande and Pismo lunch on Sunday (on your own).



2011-2012 Alpha Omega & Agape Fellowships Registration & Liability Release Form

9th Annual Alpha Omega & Agape Fellowship Beach Retreat
October 7-9, 2011 @ Camp Arroyo Grande

REGISTRATION & PERSONAL INFORMATION:

By completing and signing this form you are registering for the above named event and also give permission for this liability release to be used as valid release for any other Alpha Omega and/or Agape Fellowship programs and activities that may be planned for the current 2011-2012 year (September 1, 2011-August 30, 2012).

NAME: _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____

GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be included in the Alpha Omega group
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be included in the Agape group

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' NAME(S):

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ - _____ HOME EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CELLULAR PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

OTHER MEANS OF CONTACT: _____

YOUR SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS: _____
if different from home address

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

SCHOOL PHONE: (____) _____ - _____ SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

FILLING OUT THE ITEMS BELOW ARE OPTIONAL:
Please note, you do not need to be in college to participate in Alpha Omegas (just past high school age up to age 25.)

NAME OF SCHOOL ATTENDING: _____

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Frosh Soph Junior Senior Graduate School Post college age

FIELD OF STUDY/WORK: _____

Got Sweatshirts?

For Alpha Omegas:
Please contact your home church to see if you can obtain a local church's A.O. sweatshirt before the retreat. (optional). Many simply bring the sweatshirt representing the college you are attending or attended.

2011-2012 Alpha Omega & Agape Fellowships

Medical Release & Health Form

HEALTH INFORMATION:

PLEASE LIST ALL PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, ALLERGIES, MEDICATIONS, OR RESTRICTIONS:

PLEASE LIST ALL ALLERGIES TO MEDICATIONS:

DATE OF LAST TETANUS SHOT: _____

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CONTACT;

DAYTIME - NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

EVENING - NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

MEDICAL INSURANCE COMPANY: _____

POLICY #: _____

PHYSICIAN'S NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

LIABILITY RELEASE:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN PLEASE SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE:

As the parent/guardian of _____, I hereby grant permission for attendance as well as authorize the Alpha Omega Retreat staff to make any necessary decisions in case of an emergency. I also hereby give permission to a physician selected by the church staff to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, order injection anesthesia or surgery, for the above named, and will be responsible for any expenses incurred, including transportation back home if necessary for my son/daughter.

In no event will the the sponsoring body of the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus (NJAUMC) be held liable for any first aid rendered or treatment, drugs or medicines, or surgical procedures performed pursuant to this consent. In the event of an emergency, every effort will be made to contact the parent or guardian before any medical service is rendered aside from general first aid. Copies of this form will be considered as an original.

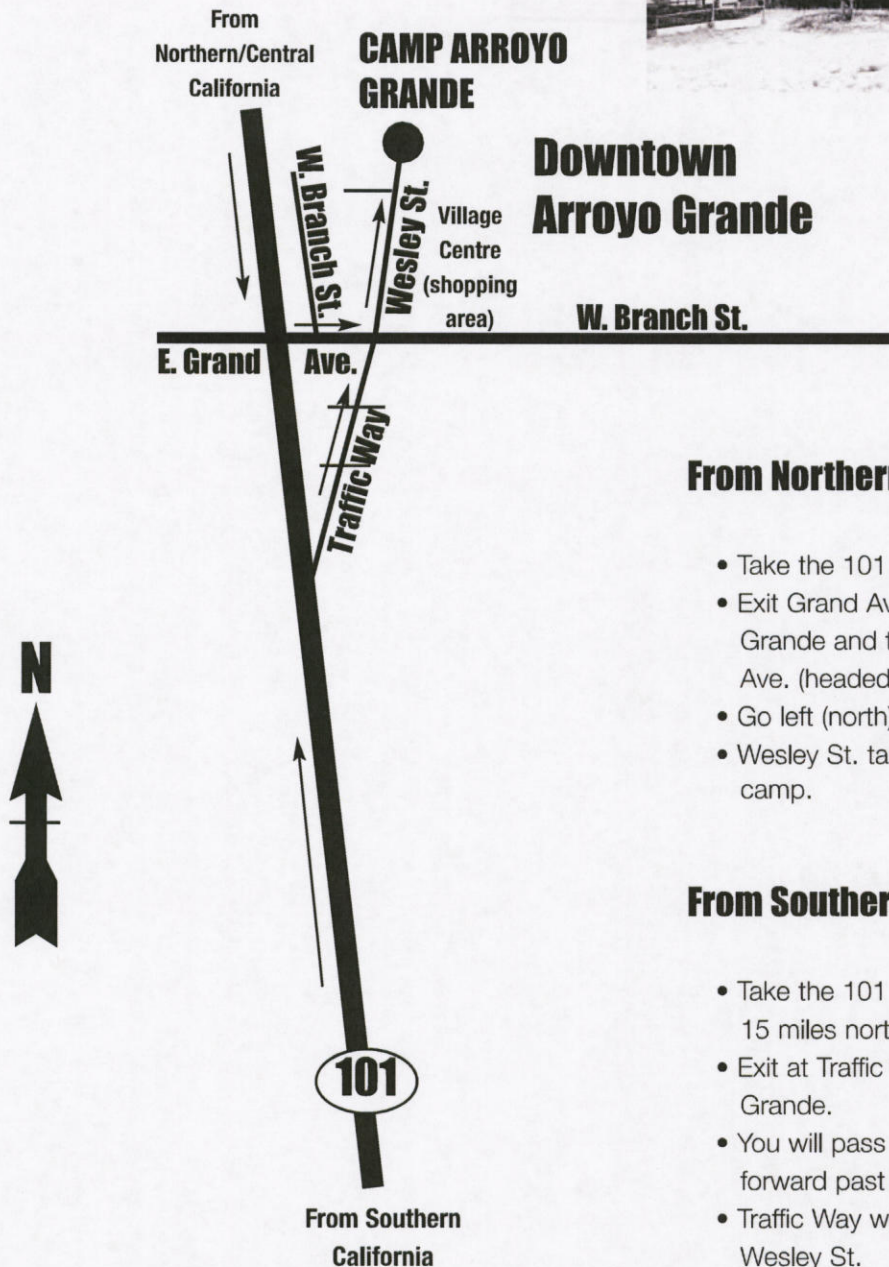
Signed, Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

The liability release can be signed by the registrant below only if the registrant is no longer a minor.

_____ Date: _____

Map to United Methodist Camp Arroyo Grande

250 Wesley Street (P. O. Box 328)
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421-0328
Camp office: (805) 489-4139



From Northern & Central California

- Take the 101 south past Pismo
- Exit Grand Ave. in the town of Arroyo Grande and take a left onto E. Grand Ave. (headed east)
- Go left (north) on Wesley St.
- Wesley St. takes you straight up into the camp.

From Southern California

- Take the 101 north, drive approximately 15 miles north of Santa Maria
- Exit at Traffic Way in the town of Arroyo Grande.
- You will pass several stops but continue forward past E. Grand Ave/W. Branch St.
- Traffic Way will put you straight onto Wesley St.
- Wesley St. takes you straight up into the camp.

Running Late? Need to Call?

**Rev. Keith Inouye's
cell phone: (408) 355-0837**