



GENESIS

MARCH 2010 ~ VOLUME 14 ~ ISSUE 3



THE CHALLENGE OF CHOICES

Have you noticed that we have a lot of choices in life?

Some of our choices we see as basic rights – we feel that something is wrong with the grocery store if we don't have a dozen different types of catsup from which to choose. We want to have choices when it comes to our occupation, our spouses, our leisure, and some people even want to have a choice when it comes to the sex of their children.

But it is exactly here that we can get into trouble. When we have too many choices, we have too many opportunities to mess up. Dr. Howard Thurman, when Dean of Harvard Divinity School, told of a sign he saw in the Texas town of Big Sandy. "My train coach stopped across a highway," Thurman said, "and I looked out the window and saw this huge sign. It must have been 20 feet on a side. It read "FIVE HIGHWAYS MEET HERE. FOUR CHANCES TO GO WRONG. ASK US."

Life choices are like that. The more choices we have the more likely we are to make a wrong decision. Some of it we leave to chance - just grab a bottle of catsup and don't worry about whether it is the best one you could buy for what you need.

Some choices are forced on us. We are given a choice between six of one or a half dozen of the other. To have to move to California or be fired is a choice, but not one we would call a "freedom" of choice.

In Luke 4:1-13, we read about the temptation of Christ. Satan offered Jesus three choices, which offered three chances to get it wrong. Fortunately, Jesus had been taught the importance of right choices long before he faced making a choice between what his Father would want him to do and what Satan offered. Jesus knew who he was, whose he was, and where he was going. He had been raised with a firm foundation for recognizing and making right choices. Without hesitation, Jesus made the choices that would take him down the road he was destined to travel.

If we take the time to know who we are, if we understand what God has said to us and how it impacts our lives, then we have a much greater chance of choosing correctly when faced with the temptations this world offers. We learn to recognize a temptation when it comes our way, so we can do the right thing the first time.

Someone recently said, "Nothing tastes as good as skinny feels." She knew her goal. She knew what she wanted and why she was working toward it. She was not going to be overcome by a tempting array of sweets or too much fried food. Having decided what is truly important, we can be ready when it is time to make our choices.

Jesus Christ makes right choices possible for us. He teaches us who we are and whose we are. Then, by his indwelling Spirit, he enables us to make decisions that keep us heading in the right direction even when Satan entices us to turn aside with a wrong choice.



Pastor Mark

Serving Members and Friends of The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
~ Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors ~
We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

E.B.A.D.O.C

"Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

The purpose of an organization's mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation.

It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future.

This mission statement of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was adopted on January 27, 2005.

All of us need to memorize the mission statement and do all that we can to make it a reality in our lives.

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Parish Visitor
 Peggy Benson

Sunday School
Superintendent &
Nursery Supervisor
 Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator
 Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician
 Sharon Cooley

Night Security
 Michael Rodgers

Custodian
 Dale Evans



Photograph from: www.myspace.com/ezekiel22thirty

"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Hebrews 12:10-11

The Purpose of Genesis is to:

- † NOTIFY its readers of what has happened, what is happening, and what is scheduled to happen.
- † EDIFY believers by printing material that encourages and strengthens their Christian walk.
- † GLORIFY God by being one of His instruments of communication at FUMCH and wherever else He may choose to spread the Word through this publication.

Within The Church

- Worship Services
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Music Ministries:
- Choirs: Children's Choir
- Men & Ladies Ensembles
- Handbells & Chimes
- Attendance Tracking
- Biblical Travel Ministry
- Blood Bank
- Christian Education:
- 5 Adult Sunday School Classes
- Children's Sunday School
- Communion Stewards
- Counters
- Disaster Relief Programs
- Flower Arranging Ministry
- Folding & Mailing
- Funeral Receptions
- Genesis Newsletter
- Library
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Parish Nurse Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- Stewardship
- Tape Ministry
- UMW Circles
- United Methodist Women
- Visitation Care Group
- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Youth Ministry

Outreach Ministries

- Annual Seminar for Elder Needs
- Bus Ministry
- Disaster Relief & Response Team

God's Clods (Clown Ministry)

- Health Related Workshops (Diabetes, High Blood Pressure)
- Hugs for Soldiers
- Knit For Kids Ministry
- Linda's Loaves
- Men's Monday Morning "Work Detail"
- Men's Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast
- Missionaries to Haiti
- Missionaries to Siberia
- Missionaries to Thailand
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Parish Nurse
- Prayer Blanket Ministry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Shut-in Visitation
- Stephen Ministry
- "Tuned To Revival" Quartet
- Thrift Shop
- Volunteers in Missions
- Vacation Bible School
- Welcome Bags
- World & State Travel Groups

Small Groups

- Bereavement Group
- Cancer Survivor
- Contemporary Issues
- Current Affairs
- Individual Bible Study Groups (Men, Women, and Couples)
- Fibromyalgia Support Group
- P.A.W.S.
- Saturday Sisters

Discipleship Classes

- Companions in Christ
- Disciple I
- Disciple IV

Benevolences

- C.R.O.P. Walk
- Equipment for Handicapped (Wheel chairs, walkers, etc.)
- Food Pantry
- Habitat for Humanity
- Holiday Food Baskets
- Methodist Children's Home
- Salvation Army
- S.H.A.R.E. (Economical food for the church and community)
- St. Andrews Mission (Feeding the hungry)
- The Heifer Project
- The Path (Help for local homeless)
- Toys for Children (at Christmas)

Community Outreach

(Use of our facilities)

- AA
- Al-Anon
- After-school Tutoring
- FCAT Tutoring
- GED Tutoring
- Girl Scouts
- Hospice
- Isaiah's Place
- Kiwanis Breakfast

Wise Discipleship

by Jan Wise



The Disciple's Call to Conform

Ed was known for his bad temper. Every time something set him off, Ed would go to the Lord and ask forgiveness. Finally, after a particularly bad episode, he prayed, "Please, Lord forgive me again. I just can't help it; my father had a bad temper and I inherited it from him." After a few seconds of quiet, Ed heard the Lord say, "And who is your Father?"

In our human nature, we may have inherited sinful attitudes and behaviors from our parents. But when we became children of God through believing in Jesus Christ, our nature was changed. Paul writes, "Therefore, if anyone is _____, he is a _____ creation; the _____ has gone, the _____ has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

With Almighty God as our Father, we have a new source of life and character.

As new creatures, with the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ living in us, we are called to turn from the world's ways and begin to conform to the ways of the kingdom of God. Again, Paul writes to believers, "I urge you brothers, in view of God's _____, to offer your bodies as _____ sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of _____. Do not _____ any longer to the pattern of this world, but be _____ by the renewing of your mind.

(Romans 12:1-2)

Because, by God's mercy, we have been made new in our innermost being, we can offer our bodies as places where the living Spirit of God can dwell. Because of our changed nature and the indwelling Spirit, we can turn from conforming to the thoughts and practices of the world to learning to think as God thinks. We can, but will we make the effort to do so?

In the days of tape players, it was possible to take a teaching tape that you no longer wanted and tape over the old message with a new one. In a sense, this is what we are called to do with the "old" tapes in our mental files—taping over the messages that go with worldly thinking and replacing them with kingdom-of-God thinking and so renewing our minds.

God's plan for those who received salvation through Jesus Christ is explained in Romans 8:29. Once we received Jesus as Lord and Savior, God "predestined us to be _____ to the _____ of his Son." Peter writes, "As obedient children, do not _____ to the evil desires you had when you lived in _____." (1 Peter 1:14)

So often a disciple, formerly steeped in the world's thinking, will struggle with the effort of being conformed to kingdom life, saying: "How can I be expected to think or act like Jesus? After all, I'm only human." If we were still "only human" after becoming new creatures, we would have a legitimate argument. But God's word tells us, "We have not received the spirit of the _____ but the Spirit who is from _____, that we may _____ what God has freely given us."

(Romans 2:12)

A disciple is no longer "only human," for he has the indwelling Spirit of Christ to enable him to change. Paul even goes on to say, "But we have the mind of Christ." (Rom. 2:16b) With the Spirit comes the availability of God-thinking!

THINK ABOUT IT:

- What if you looked at a worrisome problem and, using your renewed mind, greeted it with, "Jesus said I am not worry about anything so I refuse to worry about you. Instead, I am seeking God's peace and his wisdom to know what he wants me to do. ("I tell you, do not worry...but seek first his [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:25, 33)
- You're feeling very angry at what you perceive as an attack on your character. With your renewed mind, you can learn to respond with "God's word tells me not to sin in my anger and not to let the sun go down while I'm still angry, refusing to give the devil a foothold in my life. Lord, I give the anger and the person who has hurt me to you. Give me your attitude and your wisdom." (Ephesians 5:26-27)
- There is someone in the church fellowship you can't stand to be around, and he/she always seems to do things that really annoy you. Are you willing to draw on the Spirit of Christ in you, praying, "Lord, please bless _____. Help me to pray for and to sincerely want your very best for him/her." (Matthew 5:44-45)

**GOD CALLS US TO BE CONFORMED
TO THE LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST.
ARE WE WILLING?**

The Easter Tree

by Victor Hoagland, C.P.

<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/child/easter/index.html>

A wonderful story from medieval times traces the wood of the cross on which Jesus died, all the way back to the Garden of Paradise, where God made grow "every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food." (*Genesis 2:9*) The great tree of Paradise is the "tree of life."

Seeds from the tree of life, our story goes, were planted from age to age, until the time of Jesus, when a tree produced from one of its seeds provided wood for his cross. Once again, God offers new life through the cross of Jesus, his Son, and invites the human family to return to Paradise.

In Paradise where life began a
wondrous tree grew tall,
that stretched its arms to the tiniest bird,
and gave God's gifts to all.



And Adam and Eve in the evening
shade together sang under the tree.
God sang along in their merry song,
a song so light and free.

But then one day a serpent came and
the beautiful garden grew cold.
The tiny birds flew far away and songs were no longer told.

The tree was cased in fiercesome ice,
and cried to God on high:
"O God, let me shelter your creatures again,
"let them sing in the evening sky."

So an angel of God took a seed from the tree
and gave it to Adam and Eve.
"Take this seed from the garden tree,
"plant it and always believe."

" A tree one day shall open its arms
"to tiny birds again,
"and all the world shall sing for joy;
"and children shall sing their Amen."

Before the flood, Noah planted the seed;
from its branches he built the ark.
He built it so strong all the animals came,
to float on the flood mark.

When the waters went down they blessed the tree,
and God who showed them a way,
And a child took a seed from the saving tree,
to plant it another day.

When Jesus was born Mary planted the seed
on a hill near Bethlehem.
"God's peace, God's peace," the angels sang,
"God's peace is coming again."

On that day a tiny Child
crushed the serpent's head,
and earth grew warm in the winter's cold,
around his manger bed.

They looked for a tree when Jesus died
and they found it on Bethlehem's hill.
"Alleluia, Alleluia," everything sang
as he rose from the dead by God's will.

And the Easter tree rejoiced in song,
the tiny birds as well.
It bore a prize beyond all else,
beyond what words could tell.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
by the tree of the cross you have saved the world.*

MISCELLANIOUS DATA

1. The Garden of Eden was in Iraq.
2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization!
3. Noah built the ark in Iraq.
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq.
6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor , which is in Iraq.
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh - which is in Iraq.
9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
10. Amos cried out in Iraq.
11. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem.
12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq.
13. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq. (Jesus had been in Iraq also as the fourth person in the Fiery Furnace!)
14. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the 'writing on the wall' in Iraq.
15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.
16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
17. The wise men were from Iraq.
18. Peter preached in Iraq.
19. The 'Empire of Man' described in Revelation is called Babylon -- which was a city in Iraq.

And you have probably seen this one: Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible: The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia . The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq means country with deep roots. Indeed Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible. No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

EBADOC ACADEMY



Lent/Easter EBADOC Academy Rotation Unit:

"Jesus in the Garden" will continue its lessons until March 28th.

Parents of Children/Youth:

On **Easter Sunday, April 4th**, all our children and youth will attend our Easter service at 9:30 (instead of Sunday school) dressed in our "finest Easter attire" (bonnets & gloves??)

We will sit together as a group on this extra special Sunday.



Please bring your children to the Sunday school room FIRST

before the 9:30 service so we can take attendance and walk over to the sanctuary as a group.



VBS 2010

The next team meeting of all previous and new volunteers will be on **Wednesday, March 17th at 4:00 pm** in Room 111.

As we get closer to our kick-off date for VBS, it is **very important that you attend this meeting**. Please make every effort to be there. We will be firming up assignments, construction details, painting schedules, costumes needed, etc. If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars for **VBS: June 7-11th from 8:30 until noon** every day and a Closing Celebration on Friday night.

If you need any information, please call Kim Bennett at 382-3941 or Crystal Wiseman at 503-7098. Remember.....walk like an Egyptian!!



Show your appreciation to our Armed Forces in Iraq & Afghanistan by joining "Hugs for Our Soldiers" in **Operation: Taste Of Home 2010**"

Girl Scout Cookies continue to be one of the most requested items by Soldiers. This is your opportunity to show your support for our Soldiers so far away from home. Girl Scout Cookies will be available again this year for purchase at the church in March. Please plan to show your support of our Soldiers by purchasing an additional \$3.50 box so that our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan can enjoy a little "Taste of Home."

Watch for details in the Church Bulletin and Announcements.



A Soldier serving in Iraq wrote: "Back at home, Girl Scout cookies are a once-a-year event that one might miss if they didn't go to Target on the right weekend, or if a co-worker wasn't helping a daughter sign people up for some boxes. Here though, in a world that has none of the comforts of home, your simple box becomes so much more than just cookies. They become a way for the battle-hardened and battle-weary Soldiers in my Company to not be completely disconnected with home."

Satisfy your own sweet tooth and send a little "Taste of Home" to our troops!



Hugs for Our Soldiers, Inc. is a non-profit organization; 501©(3).

Your donation is tax deductible.

Please visit us at www.hugsforoursoldiers.org to learn more about how you can support our troops.

Pamela DuBose

Christian Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

Last month there was no report in *Genesis* from my area of work. Its absence was not because there was nothing to report but because I simply didn't have time to write it. We are a busy church!

I'll do my usual bullet thing, just letting you know some of what is going on.

- The ABCs of Christianity class has been meeting for several weeks, and we are having a good time. Wonderful, thoughtful people are looking seriously at their faith and how they fit into the Body of Christ here in Homosassa UMC.
- Our confirmation class begins this month, and you will be pleased to see several young people join our church later in the spring after they have had the opportunity to consider just what's involved in church membership. Along with several weeks of class study, we will take them to Leesburg for a weekend with other students in the state who will make this same commitment to their church.
- The Wednesday ladies' Bible class continues to meet in the Parlor every week at 12:30. We finished the Book of Daniel, and we will soon finish I John. We welcome any who would like to be part of a small group discussion class. We have a great time, and some bring a bite to eat as we study.
- By the time you get this edition of *Genesis*, we'll have had one Soup Supper. The soup this year is being made by Jim and Joan Veronesi and Bill Britland. The circles will set up and clean up after the suppers.

We appreciate their willingness to take on this huge task. The programs have been planned by Jill Wickliffe and Dean Moore, and I'm really look-

ing forward to some thoughtful presentations by some of the men in our congregation.

- Jim and Joan have also been cooking for Wonderful Wednesday. We've had a good WW's year, thanks to the great new facility, the good food prepared by Bill Britland and the Veronesi team, and Barbara Sayers and her volunteers who manage the mechanics of feeding over a hundred people twice a month.
- The Health Kits are packed and ready to go to Miami for shipment to Haiti. We have 196 to date, and more are promised. The Hernando Church will add about 100, and we expect some from the Crystal River UMC as well.
- You are an awesome church! When the earthquake hit Haiti, people immediately began to give me money to take care of our folks in Petit Goave, Carrenage, and Olivier. As of this writing, we have raised over \$11,000! That is a lot of money for our church, on top of all the other things we are doing. I am amazed at your great heart for these people whom you do not even know, and, because I do know many of them, I thank you on their behalf for your generosity. I sent \$5,000 to buy food for a container that will be in Haiti by the time you read this, and then I found that we needed to add some tents to the container. My tent search produced 74 tents! Our \$5,000 container is on its way to Petit Goave with probably over \$20,000 worth of aid for our people there. God's dividends on investments are much greater than those on the open market today. As soon as I am assured that everything gets where we intend it to go, we'll buy more food.
- The Haiti VIM team won't go anywhere for awhile. We have to wait until it is safe and we can do something to really help. God has guided us well up to this point, and we trust him to continue to guide.

MARCH UMW ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have received an invitation to attend the
Key Training Center "Fashion Cares"
Fashion Show and Luncheon
 Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 11:30 am.
 Tickets are \$25.00.

Fashions are from Beall's Dept. Store and Key Center Thrift Stores. The Oriental lunch will be catered by The Gourmet Affair Catering Co. It will be held at the Chet Cole Life Enrichment Center in Lecanto.

**Call 352-527-8228 for information and tickets
 by February 23.**

The **Mariner UMW** has invited us to a
Mission Study entitled "Food and Faith"
 in their Fellowship Hall on **Monday, March 1, 2010.**
 Registration is 9:00 am and class will be from 9:30 AM to
 2:00 PM with a light lunch being served at noon. If you par-
 ticipate, the district will give credit to our unit. Linda Beck-
 ner would like to be contacted no later than Feb. 22 advis-
 ing how many will be attending and their names.

*NOTE: If anyone is interested, please call me,
 Helen Lefave, at 352-628-1380 or email me:
hhunter@tampabay.rr.com.
 We have carpooled in past years.*

Gulf Central District is having a **Spiritual Renewal
 Event at Brooker Creek Preserve in Tarpon Springs.**
 The topic is **"Resurrection Women"**. The retreat was held
 at Brooker Creek last year also and there is a beautiful and
 comfortable auditorium. There are sidewalks and board-
 walk trails and indoor places to visit during your quiet time.

Saturday, March 6 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Registration and lunch is \$22.00 per person.

Registration only (bring lunch) is \$12.00 per person.

Registration is due February 24, 2010.

It sounds like a wonderful Special Day Apart.

Our Unit Treasurer, Jackie LaMountain says that we
 have enough money in our Treasury to pay the fee of
 \$22.00 per person for those who wish to attend. Circle
 Leaders, please call Jackie LaMountain by Friday, Febru-
 ary 19th and let her know how many from your Circle are
 going to attend. She will send in one check for all who are
 going.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

**People attending are supposed to bring their
 own tableware.** We will provide coffee and iced water.
 We can make iced tea if we want to, and we can provide
 either crackers or bread in baskets. It takes an hour for the
 coffee to perk and people start to arrive about 5:00 PM so it
 should be started by 4:00 PM. For people who forget to
 bring table service, we should have available bowls, cups
 and spoons and knives.

You're invited to a SPIRITUAL GROWTH and RENEWAL RETREAT

*Saturday, March 20th
 9 AM to 3 PM
 at the FUMC of Homosassa*

Come join us as Jan Wise explores
"What Happened at the Cross"

Morning Session:
"The Purpose of the Cross"
 Afternoon Session:
"The Power of the Cross"

*Right Believing - leads to
 Right Being - leads to
 Right Doing*

Sponsored by the UMW - Lunch Provided
 Hostesses: Helping Hand Circle & Salty Circle

**Please sign up in the
 Church office or
 contact Lori DeClue at
 628-9574.**

**Deadline for
 registration is
 March 15th.**

ATTENTION UMW CIRCLE MEMBERS!

Lenten Soup Supper Hostess Schedule

Each Circle will take a turn at being Hostess for
 one of the soup suppers. The duties will be to set up,
 make coffee and tea, furnish the bread, butter and crack-
 ers and clean up.

The soup suppers usually start at 5:30 p.m. on
 Wednesday evenings during Lent.

The March schedule is as follows:

- ♦ March 3 - Faith Hope Circle
- ♦ March 10 - Executive Board/SALTY Circle
- ♦ March 17 - Dorcas Circle
- ♦ March 24 - Ruth Circle

If you have any questions or need more information,
 please call me - Helen Lefave - (352) 628-1380
 Or email me at hhunter@tampabay.rr.com

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

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Since many of us are from different faith backgrounds, I thought a smattering of Lenten basics would be helpful.

The forty days of Lent are a time when we prepare for the coming of Easter. Jesus was led into the wilderness where he **fasted** and **prayed** and then was tempted by the devil in preparation for ministry.

Following that pattern we prepare for the **celebration** of Easter through the forty days of Lent. It is a time to focus on our relationship with Christ, to **simplify** our lives, to reflect, to repent, to examine ourselves, and to **give** of ourselves for others.

During His time in the wilderness Jesus found the strength to make some tough decisions and find clarity about God and His own mission. We are often caught up in distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill our emptiness with TV, meaningless chatter, alcohol, food, or other things. We avoid **silence** because we're afraid of what God might say. It's important to take time to **pray**, assessing the importance of God in our lives, and learning where God is calling us to **serve**. We need to re-focus our lives to be more in line with God. Lent is a time to turn away from the distractions and the things that are harmful to our bodies and minds in an effort to be more available to God's leading. We can take on something new. If not a spiritual discipline, we can volunteer or take part in a new project. Our intention in doing something new is to draw us closer to Christ. This **simplifying** or refocusing of our lives allows us to draw nearer to the One who loves us.

(continued next column)

LILIES FOR EASTER SERVICES

We will be taking orders on three Sundays: **March 7, 14 and 21.**

Fill out the envelope order form completely. Place a check or cash in the envelope. Please make check to FUMC. Place the envelope in the OFFERING PLATE. The envelopes will be in the narthex. The plants will once again be \$10.00.

Thank you for your continued support to make our church special for Easter. With appreciation, The Decorating Committee

One of the ways of getting in touch with God is through **prayer**. Why not try a different form of **prayer** during Lent! Here are a few:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Lectio Divina</i> | <i>Ignation Method</i> |
| <i>The Examen</i> | Praying the Psalms |
| Personalizing Scripture | Praying as We Are |
| Praying with Eyes Open | |

There will be brief descriptions of these on the spiritual formation bulletin board, or you may stop by the prayer class on Wednesday and get more detailed information.

Please continue to **“Study and meditate on Scripture in preparation for [Sunday] worship.”**

Marilyn Watson

REMINDERS: A list of **spiritual disciplines** with definitions and Scripture references is available in the narthex and on the Spiritual Formation bulletin board. The Prayer Class on Wednesdays at 2:30 in the Parlor resumed on Ash Wednesday; please come join us.

**APRIL BIBLE STUDY -
“LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE”**

Have you ever wondered what Jesus meant when he said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”?

(John. 10:10)

During the month of April, Jan Wise will be teaching a study, “Living the Abundant Life.”

Classes will be **Wednesdays, 2-4 PM,
April 7, 14, 21 and 28.**

The same study will be repeated **Thursday mornings,
10 AM -Noon,
April 8, 15, 22 and 29.**

To sign up, call the church, 628-4083, or Jan Wise, 382-5799. The study is open to anyone who would like to come, so join us and bring a friend.

PRAYER LABYRINTH

On Good Friday, April 2, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., and again on Holy Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you are invited to come spend time in prayer and silence while walking the prayer labyrinth, which will be in our fellowship hall. Last year was our first time to have the Labyrinth, and many of you have expressed your desire to have it again this year.



Since this may be new for some of you, here's some basic information. As early as 350 C.E., the labyrinth was used by Christian churches for prayer and meditation. The oldest one is in Algeria and bears an inscription meaning "holy church." Many medieval cathedrals had labyrinths inlaid in their floors. The most famous early labyrinth was inlaid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral, France, in the early 13th century. This eleven-circuit path remained under chairs in the cathedral until the return to our more spiritual Christian roots; then they were removed. The winding path leads toward the center, toward God, toward wholeness. Many find it meaningful to remain awhile in the center, praying and meditating; and seeing the journey out as

preparation for offering their gifts to others and the world. Walking the labyrinth becomes more meaningful and profound the more it is walked. Although it is an individual experience, often a time of sharing following the walk enhances the experience.

Since you walk the labyrinth, your whole body is involved and your whole being tends to become part of the process of prayer. A prayer labyrinth is walked slowly, silently, reverently, intentionally. As you walk toward the center of the labyrinth, you will find yourself closer to the center one minute then suddenly further away – much like your spiritual journey. There will be places to sit for quiet reflection or for rest as well as additional tips about using the labyrinth. As you enter the area near any labyrinth, silence is observed out of respect for others and their spiritual journey. Some people walk the labyrinth in prayer while others shed the confusion and busyness from their minds to better focus on their relationship to God. Walking the labyrinth provides a space to meditate on a Scripture, a joy, or a question. You may walk in silent reflection, letting go of all thoughts and feelings to enter a place of silence and solitude. There is no right or wrong way to walk the labyrinth, no way to make a mistake, and no way to get lost since it is not a maze. The labyrinth we are using belongs to the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

We hope you will come and experience this ancient Christian prayer tool and that you will find it to be a meaningful part of Holy Week.

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

John 4:23



"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Mark 11:25

Tithing Beyond Their Lifetimes!

Henry and Rita have been faithful members of the United Methodist Church for decades. They take their Christian stewardship seriously and have given a tithe (10%) of their income to their church during most of their working years. In addition, they support many missions and community outreach causes beyond their tithe. In retirement they have continued to tithe their income from pensions, 401Ks, IRAs, Social Security, and mutual funds.

One day, as they were talking about their pledge to their church for the coming year, Rita said: "I'm glad we are able to give at least 10% to God's work through the church from our annual income. And we have always given our tithe right off the top, just as the Bible suggests. But, you know, I've been thinking about our assets. We have accumulated an estate that is enabling us to live very well in retirement. Why don't we plan to tithe our estate by designating 10% to the church?"

"That's a great idea," Henry responded. "Let's do it. We can help to provide for God's work to continue through our church before the rest of the estate is distributed to our children and grandchildren. And it should give us both a great deal of satisfaction to know that our tithe will continue even after we are gone. It's time for us to review our *wills* with our attorney, again, and we can make that change."

So that's what they did. Henry and Rita continued to name each other as beneficiary, but they revised how the estate of the survivor was to be distributed—10% of the total value of the survivor's estate to their church before the remainder would be divided among the family members they had named. Their revised *will* became a statement of their faith and a great witness to their children.

--submitted by the
Permanent Endowment Committee.

The Power Of A Good Laugh

These days it is difficult to find something to laugh about. Did you know that laughter is good for you? I recently read an article in *Mind, Mood and Memory* (a periodical from Massachusetts General Hospital), which really struck me as an effective remedy. Here are some excerpts from it.

"Looking for a powerful natural tonic to cure what ails you? Research suggests that laughter is potent medicine that provides a myriad of benefits for mental and physical health. With diabetics, a good laugh after eating may help control unhealthy rises in blood glucose levels that can follow meals.

Researchers have discovered that laughter has many positive physical effects. The program uses laughter and Yoga-style breathing to help improve the health of women at risk for cardiovascular disease. A good laugh can raise levels of brain chemicals called endorphins that increase alertness, improve mood, promote a sense of wellbeing, and help reduce negative feelings. As few as five minutes of laughter a day can have a significant impact on your health."

We could all use a good laugh, so here's my advice to you. Laugh a lot and have a great time!

Shirley Exley

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for:

- The people of Haiti especially those in Petit Goave and Carrenage and for all who are giving aid during this crisis.
- Each of us to be led by His Holy Spirit as we journey through Lent.
- Each couple who is participating in the Couples' Retreat in Leesburg March 12 – 14.
- Prayer to be a vital part of all aspects of each group and every meeting that functions as a part of our church.
- All those who come to visit our church—that they will find not only a warm welcome but also the risen Christ.

Do Your Part to Help The Homeless!

SERENDIPITY'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 All You Can Eat ~ \$4.00
MARCH 13
 8:00 - 10:00 AM

ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOMELESS

The Serendipity Men and Jerry & Janet Tanner thank everyone for their generous donations for the homeless of Citrus County. They are well stocked on clothes, blankets, and pillar candles, but are in need of the following:

- There is ALWAYS a need for C & D batteries (Dollar General & Dollar Tree are good sources).
- There is ALWAYS a need for toilet paper.
- Hair shampoo and conditioner, soap, and other toiletry items can be used also. (Partial opened bottles are accepted. How many of us have bought a product and then discovered that it "just didn't work for us" and either threw it out or put it on a shelf, never to see the light of day again?)
- Body Powder.
- Liquid laundry soap.
- Now with warm weather returning, there are needs of a seasonal nature...bug repellent, citronella candles, Off mosquito coils, and the like.

Note: Please be aware that items must be of a size to fit into a backpack. Jerry and Jan portion out laundry soap in clean, plastic water or soda bottles so this will fit into a backpack.

Items can be dropped off at the Church Office, with the notation the items are for the Homeless Ministry.

Serendipity Happenings

Through Serendipity, the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things.

Today is a wintry, cloudy, and cold-looking day. In the past week we have been teased with some warm, bright days, making us think that spring is just around the corner ... and for us in this part of Florida, it really is. I find much encouragement in the brighter things in our lives. As that feeling pertains to Serendipity, let me share with you.

This men's group added 6 new members this past month. We will welcome more at any time.

At our first pancake breakfast in 2010, we doubled the attendance, continuing to receive favorable comments and encouragement for the event. Opening our doors to the community gives promise of further increase in attendance and in the dollars that we take in to help those in need.

The women in Sally's Saturday Sisters have joined with the Serendipity men in helping in the dining room. We are delighted to have their help, which allows the men to assume other responsibilities during and after breakfast. Bill Gilbert will continue to manage that area while Jim Roth coordinates all efforts in and around the kitchen.

Each change is made with the intent to make the monthly pancake breakfast more inviting to our church members, friends, and neighbors and to help us to operate the event more efficiently and effectively. We have learned much since beginning the breakfasts. The attendance and contributions encourage us to grow more and faster. Please plan to enjoy breakfast with us on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Remember: You Help To Help Others.

Men and friends of FUMC: We are a growing, viable, working, men's group. As we continue to grow and work with other projects, we need more men to join us. When we discuss the Bible as it relates to our present world and contemporary living, we see good things happen.

Won't you consider joining with us on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 P.M.? Experience the brotherly love and fellowship in the group and be a part of helping us to help others. Join at any time. Call Jim Potts (382-1842) for further information.

Daylight-Saving Time
Begins
March 14, 2010



Walking on the Path **March 2010**

"And it came about that while he was praying in a certain place, after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray . . ."

Luke 11:1

This Scripture has long intrigued me. These good Jewish boys, trained carefully by the local rabbis, probably bar mitzvahed at thirteen, were accustomed to prayer. They heard prayers at home, in the streets, at the wall in Jerusalem. Surely they prayed, at least occasionally. My curiosity is this: What was so unusual about Jesus' prayer that they would make this request? Jesus had been praying, and when he stopped, *"after he had finished,"* they spoke. Was the question prompted by the quality of his prayer? By the intimacy? By the intensity? My paraphrase of their statement is, *"Lord, teach us to do what you just did."* My contemplation of this passage causes me to question my own prayers: If someone heard me pray, would they say, "I want to learn to do what you just did."

The Bible talks a lot about prayer. *"Ask and it shall be given to you." "I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me." "If two of you agree as touching anything, ask . . ." "In all things, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God . . ."* But the Bible also says, *"You have not for you ask not,"* and *"You have not, for you ask amiss"* (for the wrong reasons).

So, what am I learning in all this? First of all, we need to remember—maybe remember before we begin our prayer—that we are talking to the Living God, the one who made everything, who knows our hearts, who knows what is best for us, who is our Father. Second, we need to ask for the right reasons, not to satisfy our greed for "stuff" but to bring about those things that please our Living God. Third, we must **expect** to hear from him—either yes, no, or wait awhile. Fourth, we understand that he's not looking for impressive language but for honest expressions out of changed hearts. There may be more, but these are the ones I'm working on now.

Prayer: *"Father, teach us to pray." Amen.*

St. Lawrence River Cruise—Sept. 19-27

By Rev. Richard Evans, Tour Host

It's our "big trip" for 2010 and it will be at the height of the Fall Foliage Season along the St. Lawrence River. We will fly non-stop to Montreal and then motor coach to Quebec City where we will board the MV Canadian Empress.

For the next week we will cruise leisurely up the river and through the St. Lawrence Seaway and the famous Thousand Islands to Kingston ON. Included shore excursions along the way will feature many interesting places and Canadian historic sites.

At the conclusion of the cruise, we will board a motor coach and head for Toronto—with an afternoon stop at the home of our friends, Ralph and Lois Pohlman, in Belleville ON. They live in Homosassa during the winter months, but their Canadian home overlooks Lake Ontario and they will host a garden party for us on our way to Toronto. The next day we will fly non-stop back to Florida.

The inclusive price is \$3,425 (double occupancy) and is based on a group of 30. It includes round trip airfare, the cruise, meals on board ship, 2 nights in hotels (Quebec City and Toronto), motor coach transportation to and from Homosassa, motor coach transportation in Canada, shore excursions, and travel insurance. A \$350 deposit will hold your reservation. Pick up a flyer at the church office.

Some folks have registered already. Others have expressed interest, but now is the time to decide! The cruise company currently is holding enough cabins for our group, and those who are interested should register now to avoid disappointment.

Friends and family members are welcome—even those from other parts of the country. J & L Travel can make their travel arrangements to coincide with our group's arrival and departure.

Call me at home (563-5833) if you have questions. And call Jess Mackey at J & L Travel (382-7708) to register.

Travel With Friends

Enjoy a delicious dinner buffet at the SHOW PALACE in Hudson. The play "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," direct from Broadway, is based on the popular 1988 MGM film starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin.

Date: Wednesday, April 14

Time: 10:30am

Cost: \$48.00

\$48.00 check due by April 1, payable to FUMC. Please mail to:

Ann Morrison
7046 W. Lincolnshire Dr.
Homosassa, FL 34446

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Are You in Need?

I am a man who met another man in need. I am a Stephen Minister.

My new friend has lost his way in life. Depressed and grieving, he prays that God will take his life.

A strong, self-made man, confident through life in his own abilities to succeed and excel – happily married for many years until learning of his wife’s terminal illness. When her death came, he did not -- and could not – accept it. He had failed her. He failed to cure her.

Why did God do this to her? Why did God let this happen? He has been a "good" man. Why did God do this to him?

Can you feel his anguish? Can you feel his pain, his new-found ineptness, his remorse and grief? His world has left him behind and he cries out for help.

Each meeting together, every week, we talk of his concerns, fears, anger, hate, about anything and everything he wants to discuss. Most of all I listen. I hurt with him, I cry with him. I pray with him and God comes to us, and God in his own time, begins to heal my friend.

Stephen Ministers are your real and lasting friends when you really need someone there. Do you need a Stephen Minister?

Contact a Stephen Leader:
Kay Bast 382-4908
Karen Kline, 382-7263
Carol MacKenzie 382-8926

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

I am still in recovery from my cervical surgery, but at this time I would like to say "thank you" to all those who sent cards, phoned, visited, brought food, and most of all, prayed for me. Since I was housebound for what seemed like forever, the phone calls and visits made for more pleasant days.

I was also loaned a series of books and, since I am a avid reader, they were certainly an inspiration to me. Thank you Jan! The many cards were read over and over, and each one gave a special message to me. It gives me a great feeling to know that so many people care. We certainly have a wonderful church family, and I am certainly proud to be one of them.

Also, a special "thank you" to the Shawl Ministry for the nice warm shawl, and the beautiful afghan; I love them both.

God Bless each and all of you; I will never forget such special people.

Pat Blake

**You are invited to browse
in your Church Library.
Take a look – Take a book!**

“Twenty Wishes” by Debbie Macomber. On Valentine’s Day, Anne Marie Roche, a 38-year-old childless widow, feels alone, and she gets together with several other widows to celebrate – what? Hope, possibility, the future. They each begin a list of twenty wishes, things they always wanted to do but never did. (Their own bucket list) Anne Marie’s list includes learning to knit, doing good for someone else, falling in love again. Acting on her wishes, she volunteers at a local school, and eight year-old Ellen enters her life. As Ellen helps Anne Marie complete her list of 20 wishes, they both learn that wishes can come true – but not necessarily in the way you expect.

“Recipes & Wooden Spoons” by Judy Baer (Grace Chapel Inn story). While cleaning out the cluttered basement of Grace Chapel Inn, Jane Howard finds an old cookbook brimming with her mother’s recipes and handwritten notes. Through these precious, fragile pages, Jane comes to discover the spirit of her mother, Madeleine, who died giving birth to Jane. But when money troubles threaten, Jane wonders if moving back to Acorn Hill was a mistake. Can her crisis of faith lead to a new solution for the Inn – and for Jane herself? This is a woman’s search for the mother she never knew – an endearing tale.

“The Spirit of the Season” by Dana Corbit (a Grace Chapel book) It’s December and Acorn Hill is festive, but the Howard sisters are about to discover that Christmas doesn’t always mean peace on earth.. There’s a misunderstanding between Florence Simpson and her husband. A harried and overscheduled family is stranded at the Inn on the way to a holiday vacation, and they learn to appreciate the blessing of

simply spending time together. The merchants of Acorn Hill start a Secret Santa

program, and Jane sees a unique way to arrange a special delivery for a needy family in town. As Christmas gets closer, everyone begins to get into the spirit of the season.

“Open Arms” by Traci Depree, a Mystery and the Minister’s Wife book. Kate and Paul Hanlon take over the youth group at Faith Briar Church although it’s been years since their own children were teen-agers. Kate gets a letter from a girl signed “Mouse” who is alone, afraid and has made a terrible mistake. Kate is determined to help her as soon as she can figure out who she is. They are also counseling a young couple struggling with their marriage. As they help the couple rediscover their love for each other, everyone is reminded that anything is possible with open arms and an open heart.

“The Memory Keeper’s Daughter” by Kim Edwards. This stunning novel begins on a winter night in 1964 when a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy, but the doctor immediately recognizes that his daughter has Down’s Syndrome. For motives he tells himself are good, he makes a split-second decision that will haunt all their lives forever. He asks his nurse, Caroline, to take the baby away to an institution. Instead she disappears to another city to raise the child as her own. This is a story of parallel lives, family secrets and the redemptive power of love.

“The Way We Were” by Judy Baer, (Tales from Grace Chapel Inn) When Jane’s college roommates gather for a reunion at Grace Chapel Inn, time seems to disappear. The four women, when last they met, were young and idealistic, but in 25 years since they graduated, their lives have

taken different turns and the decisions they've made and who they've become test the strength of their bond. As they reconnect, they uncover old wounds and con

fess long-buried secrets, and it looks like their time together could turn into disaster. But when Sylvia Songer stops by, the weekend turns into an impromptu quilting retreat that brings healing and encouragement. Meanwhile, Alice cares for a patient suffering from amnesia and the only clue to her identity is the dog who was watching over her after her car went off the road. Louise counsels a guest whose marriage is on the rocks. There is hope for all in the days to come.

"Rekindled" by Tamara Alexander, (Book One of Fountain Creek Chronicles) Ten years ago when Kathryn Jennings made a vow for better or worse, her marriage had not turned out as she expected. When her husband fails to return home one stormy winter night, she is given a shocking glimpse into her husband's past. What she wouldn't give for a chance to turn back time and be able to love her husband for the man that he was, not for the man she always wanted him to be. Larson Jennings made a choice that fateful night. His decision may cost him his life.

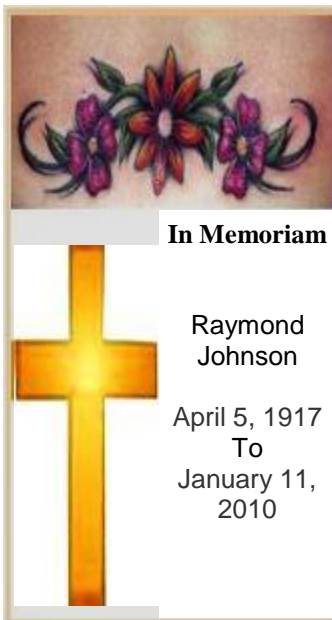
"Revealed" by Tamara Alexander, (Book Two of Fountain Creek Chronicles) Annabelle Grayson has been given a second chance at life. After her husband dies, she advertises for a trail guide to accompany her to land waiting for her in Idaho. The man who applies is Matthew Taylor, a man on the run with consequences of past mistakes pursuing him at every turn. They had met before and that was unpleasant enough, but now her presence in his life and what she reveals is devastating.

"A Busy Woman's Guide to Prayer" by Cheri Fuller. Part One – a Fresh Look at Prayer – covers topics

such as "A Mary Heart with a Martha Schedule", "The Power of Prayer" and "The Longevity of Prayer". Part Two – Overcoming the Barriers – has interesting ideas on "Connecting with God in a Noisy, Fast-Paced World," "P-U-S-H!! Praying the Distance," "Praying on the Spot" and "Praying for Your Enemies: the Clean-Slate Principle." The author leaves us with the admonition to live in continual prayer.

"A Light in Babylon" by Carole C. Carlson. A novel based on the life of Daniel, a young Jew with the fortitude to be God's person in the midst of a pagan court and the potential to become the prophet whom God would choose to pull back the veil of the future, revealing the judgment and salvation to come. He lived an uncompromising life in the midst of a pagan society, held high government positions and respected his superiors. He did all this while keeping his witness intact so that even his enemies could find no fault in him. Daniel is noble, intriguing, fascinating and admirable.

Barbara Jackson and Helen Lefave
Your Church Librarians



Dear Praying friends,

It has been a very interesting start to the new year, as the Lord is moving rapidly in developing new Thai partnerships and new missionary teammates for The HOME Team! We covet your prayers as there are many decisions to be made in the coming months that will dramatically shape the future of our team's church-planting work across Thailand.

Praises

✝ We started out the month with an **encouraging visit to Mae Ai** in the very north of Thailand near the border with Burma. One of our team's Thai partners, Pastor Moses, invited us to celebrate the new year there and to preach at his existing church, so we took him up on the offer. We enjoyed the cooler weather and the chance to visit with a few fellow Christians and Pastor Moses' wife, children and grandchildren.



"Water Blessing"



"Mae Ai Church"

✝ A few days later, Joe traveled with a **western Chiang Mai evangelist** named *Dapoe* to visit his ministry, which involves sharing the gospel in six unreached villages that have only one Christian.



These villages are on a 30-mile stretch of "road" that is better called a ditch/rut/gorge. It took Joe and *Dapoe* six hours to visit all the villages, and most of that time was spent banging through massive potholes and climbing over or dropping down steep, mountain passes. The following picture shows the winding dirt road and is taken from the highest, most beautiful vista of the day's travels. It's an understatement to say this is isolated ministry.



The roads to the Villages

Dapoe has asked The HOME Team for help in planting churches in those six villages, which total approximately 2,000 people. Please pray for wisdom in how to proceed.

✝ We had a couple of **unusual but interesting meetings** this past month. Joe met with a husband and wife who are interested in joining our mission agency, PIONEERS, and are feeling led to church-planting work in Thailand. Please pray for the Lord to guide Ben and Katie as they pursue His will in their lives. In addition, Joe and Elaine met with a team from a Michigan church that is the home church of a dear couple who serve at Grace International School (GIS). It was enjoyable to hear the church's story, share about our ministry and bounce ideas off each other. Praise God for these unique opportunities

Prayers

✝ We will have numerous important, **team-related meetings** this month concerning ministry direction, possible Thai partnerships and missionary teammates. Please pray for wisdom and for the Lord's clear guidance in these matters.

✝ Joe will spend some time this month wrapping up a **few final paperwork items** concerning the new team. Please pray for wisdom as he desires to finish building a solid foundation for future team members.

✝ Our partner church in Sisaket, near the border with Cambodia, has begun **reaching out to children in their neighborhood**. Please pray for the members of Sisaket Siam Baptist Church to share their faith honestly and openly and for both children and adults to respond. Pray also for the leaders at SSBC to be encouraged despite the hard ground they usually encounter.



**Cool Shade of Life Church
in Chiang Mai, Thailand.**

Visit our Web Site:

<http://www.ourchurch.com/member/h/HenryThailand/>

*Until all have heard,
Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie*

News from the Wooster's

AWANA...

(An acronym for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed, from 2 Timothy 2:15) Many are aware of what an Awana club can do for a local community. This program is a Christ-centered bible-based training program for children, youth, and teens. It has been extremely successful around the world; changing young lives for eternity.

In the village, we are working on getting an Awana club up and running. During this month, we will have training sessions for the leaders where we will become familiar with the program as well as learn the games that are a huge part of AWANA.

We are waiting for the weather to warm up a bit before we actually start the program but are hopeful we'll be able to begin by the end of March. We will keep you posted on the progress. A side note...the folks from the fellowship in the village raised almost \$200 to buy the needed materials and supplies. HE is truly working in the lives of the people.



Rehab center update...

We have been actively involved in the long process of helping people get free from the destructive effects of alcoholism. We have written you specifically of two people, Luda and Ivan. This month Ivan should be finishing up 4 months of being alcohol free. He has been working very hard to get free from the lifelong effects of alcoholism; PLEASE continue to lift him up. Luda was at a ladies center and just could not turn the corner and see the destruction this lifestyle was causing in her life. So, after a short time, she left the center and is once again living on the streets. She has made a conscience decision to turn from the help that was there for her and return to the familiar. Through the process of getting her to the center and such, we did get a chance to meet her brother who has tried unsuccessfully for many long years to help his sister. Continue to lift her up; we are convinced that if she does not make a lifestyle change soon, she will more than likely not live to see her next birthday.

Woodshop update...

We are progressing in getting the organization set up in order to start training individuals in the late summer or early fall. We had thought the program would be further along, but are learning patience and His timing in ALL things.

Last year we had heat in this part of the building; this year there was none making it impossible to work in

here. The temperatures are finally getting warm enough to work on the practical things needed in the woodshop, such as a pot-belly stove before next winter. Continue to lift this up as we are still searching for funds to continue to develop and add needed equipment.

Men's Group is going very well. Over the last weeks, new men have come with lots of questions about spiritual things. This is a huge answer to your prayers as men tend not to be interested in these issues; "that's for grandmothers and children." A neighbor in particular has come every week even though the men usually only meet twice a month. He wants his son to join in the discussions and has asked our guys to meet and talk with him first. Please keep this group lifted in prayer...we see this as a huge breakthrough in the village.



Finally, we'd like to share an example of faith that is amazing. This past weekend we had another six inches of snow on top of the foot or more from the week before. Tractors do their best to keep roads cleared; however "country" roads are not a priority. We have a lady who suffered a stroke a few years ago; she has a leg that is paralyzed. This makes walking difficult in good conditions, much less in snow and wind. We'll call her L. She rarely misses Sunday services and was NOT going to let a little snow slow her down. She **walked** at least a quarter of a mile to get to the main road because the guy picking her up couldn't get any closer. Amazing what a thirst for His Word can do for a person.

*"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."
Matthew 7:37b.*

Praise and Requests:

- Changed hearts among the men.
- Opportunities to share.
- Growth in the fellowship.
- Continued prayer for wisdom.
- For a house or apartment for Kevin and Laura to live in the village full time.
- Unity with our fellow workers.
- More opportunities to share His love and truth.

Kevin and Laura Wooster

Facebook: kevinlaurawooster
skype: klwooster
Blog: klwooster.blogspot.com

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Glenn Harwood Stan Sobolak	17 Pat Burns Barbara Gilbert
2 Gladys Bevan Cecelia Bledsoe James Haskell Larry Stanton Helen Vaught	18 James Graham Pat Kern Jerry Winters
3 Henry Mangels	19 Don Foxwell
5 Frances McCrady	21 Charles Peters Shelby Weingarten
6 Jim Wicker	22 Linda Clawson Brenda Loper Wendy Miles
7 Ida Bradley Janet Watson Angela Weiser	23 Jim Price
8 William Busby Edna Forney Glenda Gable	24 Ashleigh Gordon Carl Merritt Cee Merritt Emily Walker
9 Margo Blum Pat Rada John Rada Margaret Woods	25 Vera Irish Gene Ludlow Bill Yuhasz
10 Richard Barrett Mike Gettings	26 Jerry Cole Mary Jane Houchins Barry Reichard Janet Tanner Joyce Wicker
12 Rolland Custer William Squires	27 David Benthusen Ernest Miles Ray Ritter
13 Pat Barton John Guthrie	29 Timothy Sunderland
14 Ed Loper Mary Lee Millikin Lorraine Wood	30 George Cole Judy Lee
15 Gerry Green	31 Larry Rogers Erin Kimble Peter Magmoll

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good..." Genesis 1:31 God gives the world many wonders and treasures to remind us of His love Happy Birthday to each one of them!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

5 Jackie & Sheldon LaMountain ~ 17 years ~
9 Dayna & Ron Middlebrooks ~ 14 years ~
10 Jill & Jim Wickliffe ~ 37 years ~
11 Lavonne & Kevin Brennan ~ 4 years ~
12 Joyce & Robert Learning ~ 19 years ~
13 Mary & Fred Casper ~ 56 years ~
17 Sandra & Donald Tam ~ 8 years ~
18 Nell & Bill Lent ~ 61 years ~
20 Ann & Donald Parkinson ~ 6 years ~
23 Faye & Ozzie Schmitt ~ 64 years ~
24 Claudette & Roger Kirby ~ 37 years ~
27 Pat & John Rada ~ 59 years ~
30 Jan & Peter Magamoll ~ 67 years ~
31 Regina & William Parks ~ 66 years ~

Happy Anniversary

In Our Thoughts And Prayers

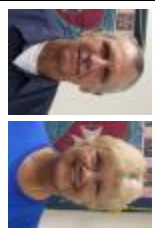
PERSONS RESIDING IN LONG-TERM CARE (As of 2/1/2010)

AVANTE Annie Preston	CR HEALTH & REHAB Betty Farewell Robert Smith
BRENTWOOD Corrine Baritto Evelyn Bash	DIAMOND RIDGE Jean Buzby Mary "Betty" Duncan Helen Hudson
HUNT RESIDENCE Bill Marquis	LIFE CARE Roland Aberle Don Snedeker
NEW HORIZONS Bud Jenks	SUGARMILL MANOR Shirley Hart Grace Payne
SUNFLOWER SPRINGS Marquerite Betzer Ruth Eaton Ruth & Bill Willis	WOODLAND TERRACE Shirley Weber

Welcome New Members
January 24, 2010



CARL ALEXANDER
9 Norfolk Lane W.
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-503-3871
From: West Indies



NANCY and LOU WADE
BRANSON REDDING
684 Crooked Tree Path
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-563-1864
From: Columbia, SC



MARY LOU
and
LOU WADE
601 E. Buckingham Drive
Lecanto, FL 34461
352-726-2327
From: Naples, FL

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, emails, and support during and after my open heart surgery.

In Christ's Love,
Linda M. Cole

SINCERE THANKS

My sincere thanks for all the calls, cards, flowers, and especially for your prayers during my numerous surgeries. It means so much to me to have such a caring churching family.

God Bless You All,
Charlotte Brightman



In Memoriam
NANCY JANET HUBBS
Sept. 25, 1935
To
Jan. 26, 2010

MARCH 2010

Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:30 Stephen Ministries	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministries 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministries	7:00 Mens Prayer Group 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 LaMountain Bible 12:30 Lunchtime Bible 2:30 Prayer Discovery 5:15 Music 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 Safe Driving Class 1:00 Fibromyalgia 2:00 Green Commission 3:00 Adult Bible Study 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 Creative Worship 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	GENESIS DEADLINE 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 Safe Driving Class 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible	8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 10:30 Bereavement 10:30 God's Clouds
COMMUNION SUNDAY Easter Lily Purchase 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 10:00 UMW Unit Meeting 11:00 Exercise	9:30 Faith Hope Circle 9:30 Helping Hand Circle 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Dorcas Circle 2:00 Stewardship 3:00 Serendipity Bible 7:00 Saty Circle 7:00 Grow-Up Movie 7:30 Kitchen Committee	7:00 Mens Prayer Group 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 LaMountain Bible 10:00 SHARE Sign-Up 12:30 Lunchtime Bible 1:00 Shawl Ministry 2:30 Prayer Discovery 5:15 Music 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 Fold/Mail Easter 9:15 Ruth Circle 3:00 Adult Bible Study 4:00 Video Rehearsal 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible
3rd Sunday in Lent	Monday 8	Tuesday 9	Wednesday 10	Thursday 11	Friday 12
DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY Easter Lily Purchase 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	Monday 15	Tuesday 16	Wednesday 17	Thursday 18	Friday 19
4th Sunday in Lent	Monday 15	Tuesday 16	Wednesday 17	Thursday 18	Friday 19
Daylight Saving Time 4th Sunday in Lent	Monday 15	Tuesday 16	Wednesday 17	Thursday 18	Friday 19
PANTRY SUNDAY Easter Lily Purchase 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
5th Sunday in Lent	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
Sunday 28	Monday 29	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 25	Friday 26
PALM SUNDAY New Member Sunday Student Confirmation	Monday 29	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 25	Friday 26
7:45 Blood Mobile 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	Monday 29	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 25	Friday 26
8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise	Monday 29	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 25	Friday 26
10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 Serendipity Bible	Tuesday 30	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 25	Friday 26
7:00 Mens Prayer Group 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 LaMountain Bible 12:30 Lunchtime Bible 2:30 Prayer Discovery 5:15 Music 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	Tuesday 30	Tuesday 30	Wednesday 31	Thursday 25	Friday 26
9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 11:00 PEC 5th Dim. Lunch 3:00 Adult Bible Study 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 COUNCIL 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	Thursday 25	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
GENESIS MAILING 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 11:00 PEC 5th Dim. Lunch 3:00 Adult Bible Study 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 COUNCIL 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	Thursday 25	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible 1:00 Our Father's Table	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 Decorating 9:30 SHARE Delivery 10:30 Bereavement	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 UMW Retreat 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 UMW Unit Meeting 10:00 Kids Movie 10:30 Bereavement 3:00 CONCERT	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 UMW Retreat 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 UMW Unit Meeting 10:00 Kids Movie 10:30 Bereavement 3:00 CONCERT	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
8:00 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 SHARE Sign-Up 10:00 "Travel With Friends" 10:30 Bereavement	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
Set Clocks Ahead	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26	Friday 26
Saturday 13	Saturday 20	Saturday 27	Saturday 27	Saturday 27	Saturday 27

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin."

I John 1:7

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
8831 W. Bradshaw Street
Homosassa, FL, 34448

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

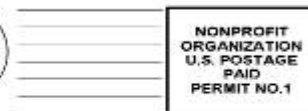


Photo by Carole Crystal, Photo-journalist

We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

Visit our Web Site: www.1umc.org

Neil Kline, Webmaster

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

Rev. Mark Whittaker
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM
Nursery at all services
EBADOC Academy &
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM

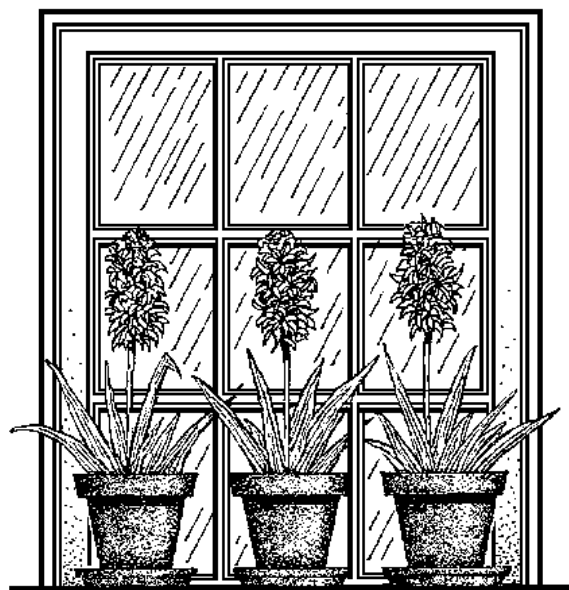
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Soli Deo Gloria



March
2010