



About the Artist ~ Page 2

EASTER MEANS HOPE!

Celebrate because
there is reason
to hope.

The living Christ tells us
there is still hope.

The presence of the
living Christ is
life changing.

As we yield to the
living Christ
He will change us.

Everywhere death is,
the risen Christ comes
and brings life.

The passion of Christ -
his suffering and death -
is our healing
and our salvation.

"But He was pierced for
our transgressions,
He was crushed for our
iniquities;
the punishment that
brought us peace was
upon Him,
and by His wounds
we are healed."

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.

Church Office

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Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Whittaker

Administrator

Theresa Weber

Bookkeeper

Sandy Dewart

Christian Education

Patience Nave

Music Department

Mary Kay Messenger

Joy Potts

Dayna Middlebrooks

Parish Nurse

Shirley Exley

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

THE ARTIST'S STATEMENT

(from the front cover)

"It is my hope that many people can share in the positive energy that lies within my simple works of art. I allow for my intuitive heart to take hold as I transfer feelings and emotion onto canvas. It is my deepest prayer that many people will resonate with my artworks so that they are inspiring and uplifting."

Jaison Cianelli

Jaison was kind enough to allow us to use his "Jesus Offering His Hand II" drawing on the front cover of this Genesis.

If you would like to order a canvas print, poster art print, or greeting cards of his go to : <http://fineartamerica.com/featured/jesus-offering-his-hand-ii-jaison-cianelli.html> or you can phone Fine Art America at 312-238-9009.

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
- Individual Bible Study Groups (Men, Women, and Couples)
- Fibromyalgia Support Group
- P.A.W.S.
- Saturday Sisters
- Serendipity

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
- Our Father's Table

Wise Discipleship

by Jan Wise



The Disciple and Communion ~ Part 1 ~

As the communion elements passed along the row, a young child spoke, breaking the reverent mood of the congregation. "Why can't I have some? I'm hungry, too!"

We laugh, because no Christian adult would think of communion as a time for eating and drinking because of physical hunger. But why do we eat of the bread and take of the "wine"?

One woman, when asked by an observer why she took communion, responded, "That's what my church does. It's a traditional rite of the church." As a disciple of Christ, what would you say if someone asked why you take communion?

When Jesus and his disciples were eating their last Passover meal together, "Jesus took bread, gave thanks and _____ it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat; this is my _____.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my _____ of the _____, which is poured out for many for the _____ of sins.'" (Matthew 26:26-28)

Why were Jesus and the disciples partaking of this observance on which our communion service is based? Historically, the first Passover occurred the night God prepared the Israelites for their journey out of Egyptian bondage. Each family had been told to take a year-old, _____ lamb, slaughter it and spread some of its _____ on the doorframe of the house. When the angel of death, sent by God to strike down the _____ of all the Egyptians, saw the _____, he would pass by the blood-sprinkled homes and no harm would come to the inhabitants. Then the Israelites were to roast and eat the meat of the perfect lamb, along with bitter herbs and bread without yeast. They were to do this quickly, protected by the blood and nourished by the meal. Moses told them: "Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's _____." (Exodus 12:1-11)

The Lord instructed the Israelites that whenever they were asked about their observance of Passover, they were to say, "It is the _____ sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in _____ and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians." (Exodus 12:27)

The Psalmist writes of the fate of the Egyptians not under the blood covering: "He [God] also destroyed _____ the firstborn in their land, The first of all their strength." Then the writer speaks of the Israelites: "He also brought them out with silver and gold [spoils from the Egyptians], And there was none _____ among their tribes." (Psalms 105:36-37 NKJV) Not only had the blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from death, but feeding on the lamb had given them the strength they needed for the arduous journey so there were "none feeble among their _____."

Writing to the church at Corinth, Paul speaks with authority about communion, saying, "For I received from the _____ what I also passed on to you." This was not something Paul had reasoned out nor had he gotten it second-hand from the disciples—the Lord had shown him and he had then taught the Corinthians.

Paul writes of the Lord Jesus taking bread, giving thanks and breaking that bread, saying, "This is my _____, which is for _____; do this in _____ of me." Then he writes of Jesus taking the cup, saying, "This cup is the _____ in my _____; do this whenever you drink it, in _____ of me." Paul follows the words of Jesus with this explanation: "For _____ you eat this bread and drink this cup, you _____ the Lord's _____ until he comes."

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Paul then admonishes the Corinthians for taking communion in an unworthy manner—they were treating it as a meal, lacking respect for the bread and wine as representative of the body and blood of Christ. Overeating and over-imbibing, many took communion in an irreverent and self-centered manner. So we don't take communion bread as a "snack" or enjoy the grape juice as a refreshment, but could it be that we sometimes take communion in an unworthy manner? Paul wrote, "Therefore, _____ eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be _____ of _____ against the body and blood of the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 11:27)

Do his words mean something to us today or were they only for the Corinthians?

THINK ABOUT IT:

- How would it be possible for us to sin today in the way we take communion?
- Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)
- If communion is coming to the Father's table, what is the only way we can approach it?

THE "GOOD NEWS"!

What happened on that first Easter Sunday? How did events unfold that morning some 2000 years ago?

We don't know for sure. There was no video camera recording when the women (or a woman) arrived at the tomb. We don't know whether the stone was rolled back before or after they arrived. The different writers tell slightly different stories about what happened so we don't know the exact chronology.

But do we need to know? Do we have to have the details written in stone, videotaped, notarized? What matters is the event itself—that it happened—and we can see and share in the results.

Whether there were three women or just one, whether the stone was rolled back before the women arrived or after they got there, whether there were angels present or not really doesn't matter. What matters is that the tomb was empty, and on that one detail all the writers agree.

What matters is that death took a back seat to life. All that evil can do, all that seemed to be final, ultimate, finished, was just a bump in the road on the way to the truth: He is Risen! The tomb was empty, and the one who was dead is alive! God raised Jesus from the dead and gave us the promise that we who believe in him will be raised as he was. Through Jesus Christ we have been given eternal life.

We know the resurrection happened because of the change it made in the lives of the people involved and in the history of the world. The disciples who fled in fear, the mob who cried, "Crucify him," the soldiers who were just doing their duty—all found their lives changed by what happened on that weekend. Within weeks, those same scared disciples were boldly preaching that Jesus had risen, not letting the power of the Sanhedrin or of Rome intimidate them.

What happened that day? Many of the details will be forever obscured by the fog of time and history. But the one thing we know in our hearts is that Jesus who was dead is alive and as he lives, so we also will live. This is the message of Easter; it is the core of what it means to be a Christian. This is the "good news" we have been called to share with others so they can then share in the joy and peace and hope we have received from our risen Lord.

Easter is not a celebration of what was, no matter the uncertain details. It is not something we look back on with nostalgia. Easter is a celebration of what is to come. We celebrate the assurance of an eternal life and an eternal relationship with the God of all creation through the death and resurrection of his Son.

This is what Christianity is all about, the core of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ:

"He IS RISEN!"

"He IS RISEN INDEED!"



Pastor Mark

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

A couple books of the Bible I have been reading are having a tremendous influence on my thinking. I read verses I memorized long ago, and suddenly it is as though they were new to me. The above verse is one of those.

"In everything give thanks," Paul says to the Thessalonians. Many times I have struggled with that. Give thanks when someone we love dies? Give thanks when someone suffers? Give thanks when life seems difficult? Give thanks when someone says something cruel? I have finally learned that God is not asking me to be thankful for the event or the action but to be thankful for him and his ever present interaction in my life in the midst of the difficult situations. So maybe I have dealt with the "in everything give thanks" part of the verse.

But today I saw the second part of that verse with new insight. I am to give thanks because it is *God's will* for me to do so. My giving thanks has nothing to do with circumstances. It has nothing to do with feeling. Giving thanks really has nothing to do with anything but my obedience. If I want to live my life according to God's will, to be obedient, I will *"in everything give thanks."* This understanding seems to put a whole new slant on the verse.

My friends in Haiti have learned this lesson. In the midst of the chaos following the earthquake, I have seen many lift a hand to the sky and declare, "*Bondye bon tout ton e tat ton Bondye bon!*" God is good every day; every day God is good!

Prayer: *Father, teach us to be a people who love you and praise you and thank you every day, not because things are good or smooth or untroubled but because it pleases you for us to be obedient to your will. Amen.*

CONFIRMATION CLASS COMMENCES

After a delay due to the necessity of turning time, effort, and attention to conditions in Haiti following the earthquake in January, we kicked off our 2010 Confirmation Class with a taco dinner on Thursday, February 25, in the Fellowship Hall. This initial gathering was intended as a "get-acquainted" meeting for the students, their parents, and their mentors, and it seemed to be a great success.

The ten confirmands and their mentors are Alicia Argote and Myrna Evans, Noel Bentley and Gerry Graham, Michael Connor and Joe Crawley, Jerry Crawford and Ernie Dorrell, Sandra DeClue and Marcia Bader, Caroline Dixon and Peggy Benson, Kayla Micali and Theresa McCracken, Dominique Platt and Neretta Brobst, Amber Slack and Anna Cooley, and Alex Weber and Roger Kirby. These pairs and the instructors, Patience Nave and Neretta Brobst, meet each Thursday evening, 6:30 until 8:15, in Room 306. The format includes instructional and discussion time, activities, and snacks, so the time passes quickly.

By the time you read this, the students will have spent a weekend at a Confirmation Retreat at the Warren Willis Youth Camp in Leesburg, learning and sharing experiences with hundreds of other young people from throughout the state.

Those who complete the six-session course and related activities will be confirmed on Sunday, April 25. Three of these young people will be baptized during the same service. The service in which they will be confirmed has not been determined, but it will be either 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. You will be informed well ahead of time, and we hope you will share in their excitement and delight on this special day.

In the meantime, your prayers for and encouragement of these wonderful young people and their mentors will be most appreciated. May they all be blessed as they share this spiritual journey.

Neretta Brobst
Patience Nave

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group has been quite busy recently, and there appears to be no end in sight for their activities. In February, they learned about the history and customs of St. Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. They especially enjoyed eating the doughnuts and hot cross buns as traditional treats of "Fat Tuesday," and playing a current variation of "Pancake Racing." The month also included some self-examination and identification of strengths and weaknesses, as well as an investigation and discussion of sacrifices, both religious and personal.

March found us learning about ministry and missions, particularly as they pertain to our sponsorship of two students, one in Ecuador and the other in the Philippines. We actually enjoyed sorting and organizing the hundreds of used ink cartridges donated by church members; these are packaged and sent to a recycling company, which then pays us. These funds are used to help sponsor mission students. **(So please do keep bringing in those cartridges!)** It wasn't all work and no play during this month. Since St. Patrick's Day fell on a Youth Group meeting day, we learned about Patrick, Ireland, and wearing of the green, as well as other traditions of the day. And we sampled varieties of Irish Soda Bread! With Palm Sunday approaching, we focused on the significance of the day and the importance of Holy Week in the Christian calendar. The month concluded with a Passover Seder, so the students would understand the history, form, and significance of the Last Supper, as observed by Jesus and His disciples.

In April, we will be looking at the Ten Commandments from both historical and contemporary perspectives. There should be some interesting discussions around the table.

Lest you think the Youth Group meetings are just another class, rest assured that the kids make good use of the ping pong tables, board games, air hockey table, and the Wii. They are quite competitive and enjoy the variety of recreation available to them. With more daylight hours on the horizon, we hope to have some outdoors activities to burn off some of that excess energy.

Remember, we still collect aluminum beverage cans to be redeemed for cash to help sponsor our mission students, so please continue dropping them off for us. Thank you for your support.

Neretta Brobst

Christian Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

Some time ago Pastor Mark and I made a list of the ministries of our church, and we found we actually work through small groups and individuals on almost 100 different ministries. It would be easy to settle down and not even listen to a suggestion for another ministry, but that is not the way we function. We have a wonderful problem. Our people want to serve!

So let me tell you about the latest addition to our ever-growing list of ministries.

One of our newest Bible studies told me that they would like to find some kind of outreach, something they can do in response to all they are learning. Coincidentally, Debbie Lattin had recently called me to see if we would like to be part of the Citrus County Harvest, Inc. ministry to give food to the children in the county who probably have little or nothing to eat on the weekend. You may have read about this ministry recently in the Chronicle, a ministry that Hernando United Methodist Church is doing for the Hernando children.

I went to Hernando, to the old Lakeview School, to see the work in progress. Harvest raises the money to buy the food, buys the food, takes it to the center in Hernando for packaging in the book bags of the children, collects the bags and delivers them to the school. All the volunteers do is pack the bags for delivery. The packing process took 17 minutes. I timed it! In that time they prepared 32 bags with food for 49 children. I came away amazed and excited that we had been asked to do the same thing for Homosassa Elementary.

So listen for more information about this exciting new ministry. I talked to Debbie today, and we are going to meet next week to finalize plans. We will then organize two teams of about ten people, and the teams will take turns preparing the bags—one team one week, and the other the next. The Bible study will take one team, and I have an idea for the makeup of the other team. We'll probably never have to prepare for more than 50 children, but won't we get an enormous blessing from knowing that **50 children** are eating well each weekend because ten of us spent 20 minutes preparing food?

"As you have done for the least of these," Jesus said. I think he is going to be pleased, and I love to imagine that he is smiling as we work!

The Journey Through Lent To Easter

As we continue our journey through Lent toward Easter, there is one thing we can not avoid. That one thing is the cross!

Without Christ's crucifixion, there would have been no resurrection for anyone. If Christ were not crucified for our sins, where would we be? It's something to contemplate. Without the cross, we would still be in our sin and struggling with the impossible task of trying to obey the Law.

Over the years I've heard a lot of talk about the Apostle Paul's theology, his supposed views about various things, and particularly his emphasis on the cross. Nothing in the Scriptures which Paul wrote ever seemed out of kilter – to me anyway. I gained new understanding recently when I read [Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross](#) (required reading for The Academy for Spiritual Formation). The author addressed some of the points of contention about Paul's theology of the cross, explaining in great detail the spirituality of the cross. He points out how the love of Christ led him to endure the cross and how this same type of love needs to be our motivation.

I've come to the understanding that to become more Christ-like, we must endure our own type of cross bearing. While not literally bearing the cross, we go through things that cause us to grow spiritually and develop those characteristics which are more Christ-like than the worldly characteristics we once had. Obviously this journey to Christ-likeness is a process which takes much longer than a single Lenten season. This spiritual formation process will need to continue throughout our Christian journey.

Fortunately we don't make this journey alone. We have fellow travelers who understand and come alongside. There are encouragers who help us see the path more clearly. Most importantly, it is God who starts us on the journey through his prevenient grace, continues to guide us through justifying grace and completes our journey in His sanctifying grace.

We have many wonderful tools to cause us to be more open to His working in our lives. A list of spiritual disciplines is available in the Narthex. Descriptions of "other" prayer methods are on the Spiritual Formation Bulletin Board in the Administration/Education Building. The Prayer Labyrinth will be available on Good Friday from 9 – 8 and on Holy Saturday from 9 – 3. Please use every opportunity to intentionally spend time with Christ – remember what He has done for us!

Have a blessed Resurrection Sunday,
Marilyn Watson

READING IS FUN – ENJOY A GOOD BOOK

When looking through the card file at the Library, we find that **many books have been taken out in the past year and not returned.** Please check your library books at home and bring back any stragglers. When checking out books, please put your name and date on the sign-out card and leave it in the basket on the desk in the library. **We appreciate your cooperation** so that we can keep the records current.

- “A Good Yarn” another good book by Debbie Macomber – Lydia Hoffman opened her shop, A Good Yarn, a year ago and has found happiness with Brad Goetz but suddenly his ex-wife has appeared on the scene. The book also follows Elise Beaumont, a retired librarian, who has joined one of Lydia’s popular knitting classes. Elise and Bethanne Hamlin are both facing fallout from divorce and having problems trying to reshape their lives. Courtney Pulanski is a depressed and overweight teenager. She’s staying with her grandmother who’s trying to help her. Like so many women, these four find companionship and comfort in each other and in this age-old craft. Who would have thought that knitting socks could change your life?
- “The Jasmine Moon Murder” by Laura Childs, a book for mystery lovers - Theodosia Browning, owner of the Indigo Tea Shop, is always happy to contribute to worthy causes. She and her staff are catering an elegant if unusual Charleston society event. It’s a “Ghost Crawl” through the spooky grounds of the historic Jasmine Cemetery, complete with hired “ghosts.” The event is sponsored by a local medical organization, and the organizer, Dr. Jasper Davis, doesn’t get to enjoy the proceedings because unfortunately, during the Crawl’s theatrical number, he drops dead. Theodosia has a sensitive nose for trouble, and, before long, chasing down the culprit gets her in hot water up to her neck.
- “The Perfect Life” by Robin Lee Hatcher. Katherine Clarkson has the perfect life – married to Brad, a loving and handsome man, respected in their church and community, with two grown daughters on the verge of starting families of their own, a thriving ministry, good friends and a comfortable life. She has it all until the day a reporter appears with shocking allegations of Brad’s financial impropriety at his foundation and worse, an affair with a former employee. How can she survive the loss of what she thought was the perfect life?
- “Lady of Milkweed Manor” by Julie Klassen – Even a proper vicar’s daughter can make a mistake, and now Charlotte Lamb must pay a high price for her fall. To avoid the prying eyes of all who knew her, she hides herself away in London’s forbidding Milkweed Manor, a place of mystery and lore, of old secrets and new birth. Once there, she comes face-to-face with a suitor from her past, who now hides secrets of his own. Both are determined, with God’s help, to protect those they love. But neither can imagine the depth of sacrifice that will be required. Sprinkled with fascinating details about the lives of women in Regency, England, this is a moving romantic drama about the redemption of past failings and the beauty of sacrificial love.
- “What Once We Loved” by Jane Kirkpatrick – Book 3 of Kinship and Courage Series. A circle of fascinating, courageous women in a challenging setting of the Oregon-

California 1850’s frontier, these big-hearted heroines face past and present challenges with unswerving dreams and hardscrabble labor. Eventually their faith and friendship triumph over daily struggles and wrong-headed, past decisions.

- “Beyond This Moment” by Tamera Alexander – When Dr. Molly Whitcomb, Professor of Romance Languages, steps off the train in Colorado Territory, she makes a choice – one that goes against everything she stands for, yet it’s the only choice that offers her a chance to regain a fraction of all she’s lost. Sheriff James McPherson’s instincts sense Professor Whitcomb is hiding something – he just doesn’t know what. When he does learn Molly’s secret, his own reputation is undermined when Molly’s reinvented life begins to unravel. It threatens his job, the stability of Timber Ridge and what he always knew to be true about himself. An amazing story.
- “Jillian Dare” by Melanie M. Jeschke – Things are looking up for Jillian Dare. She has left her Shenandoah Valley foster home behind and is striking out on her own. She lands a job as a nanny at a large country estate in the rolling foothills of Virginia and is enthralled with the beauty of her new home.. Her young charge, Cadence Remington, is a delight and she even has the opportunity to travel frequently to the family castle in England. When she meets her handsome but moody employer, Ethan, she realizes she is falling in love with her boss. How can a humble girl with no connections ever hope to win a successful entrepreneur from a wealthy family? And what dark secrets from the past is he hiding? This contemporary story is inspired by the well-loved classic “Jane Eyre.” It’s a timeless romance.
- “The Wildwater Walking Club” by Claire Cook – The women of this club are a delightful trio, full of heart and determination. As they literally put one foot in front of the other, the three friends find unlikely paths that point them toward more fulfilling lives.
- “Full Circle,” an easy-to-read novel by Davis Bunn – He’s a hotshot financial analyst who has lost it all. She’s a broken-hearted world traveler forced to come home and beg for money. His job hangs by a thread; her dreams of making a difference in Africa are circling the drain. But sparks fly – and danger threatens – when these two wounded souls must work together to solve a mystery and right a wrong.
- “Mercy & Eagleflight” by Michael Phillips – Young, inexperienced evangelist’s assistant, Mercy Randolph, suddenly finds herself alone and penniless in a small Kansas town in the 1890’s. As she tries to preach to the uninterested townspeople, her spiritual foundations are tested by a most unusual card playing cowboy with an even more unusual name – Jeremiah Eagleflight. Challenged by their dialogue, Mercy must explore deep within herself to discover her true conviction while Jeremiah deals with questions of belief he has never considered. Meanwhile, a vengeful troublemaker, bent on murder, threatens whatever happiness Mercy and Eagleflight hope to find.

DVD – Nicholas Sparks Film Collection. Four separate DVDs – “Nights in Rodanthe” rated PG-13; “The Notebook” rated PG-13; “Message in a Bottle” rated PG-13 and “A Walk to Remember” rated PG.

Happy Reading!

From your Library Staff - Barbara Jackson and Helen Lefave

Did anyone see the SHARE article in Genesis last month? Did you miss it?

That's kind of how we feel about SHARE and the question as to why more of you may not be taking advantage of our program. Did you see the menu for February or March? If you did not take advantage of our produce in February, this is what you missed: a stalk of celery, a bunch of broccoli, a bag of onions, a small bag of potatoes, a head of romaine lettuce, a bunch of green onions, 2 grapefruit, 4 apples and 2 lemons. All of this for only \$6.00! Did you miss out on the savings? If you didn't order, yes, you did! With summer coming, and more of us enjoying the simple pleasures of salads and fruits for a meal, you'll be spending a lot more for your fresh produce if you don't take advantage of SHARE savings. **You are welcome to visit us from 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM on April 24th to see the food and pick up a menu for May.** If you cannot make it this month, I urge you to come any delivery Saturday and see the quality of the food for yourself. If you have any questions call me at 628-5945. Vickie Williams

SHARE Florida Food Network is dedicated to providing savings on high quality food, while encouraging personal involvement in the community. Everyone and anyone is welcome to participate in SHARE. **There are no income requirements**, just a desire to make a positive difference in the world. We encourage our members to donate their time to a worthy cause within the community. Join SHARE today!

A Good Way to Give - and Receive!

In the current economic climate of very low interest rates on regular Savings accounts, Money Market accounts, and Certificates of Deposit, **Charitable Gift Annuities** offer an attractive option. **CGAs** are a good way to "give" and to "receive." You can provide yourself an excellent rate of return with guaranteed payments for the rest of your life and, at the same time, make a significant gift to your church after your death.


You can have as many as two annuitants, which is common for married couples who want to ensure that both spouses receive income for the remainder of their lives. Then, upon the death of the second annuitant, the remainder of the principal of the gift annuity will be disbursed to the church to be used in whatever manner you designate.

You are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the gift portion of the annuity in the year of the gift. If you fund the annuity with appreciated assets, such as stocks, you may also avoid the tax on a portion of any capital gain. The annuity will not become part of your estate, thus avoiding any estate taxes and probate costs.


Example: Jim and Jo Ann Robertson (ages 80 and 78) decide to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity with \$30,000 and name their church as the beneficiary. At their ages, the rate of return is 6% which means that \$1,800 a year will be paid to them (or to the survivor) as long as they live. Slightly more than \$1,300 will be tax-free. They will also receive a charitable income tax deduction of more than \$12,800 in the year of the gift. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson have the satisfaction of knowing that, at the death of the surviving spouse, their church will receive the remainder portion.


To learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities, or to inquire about funding one, contact the church office (628-4083) or the Florida United Methodist Foundation (866-363-9673). At www.fumf.org you can use the online calculator and determine the CGA rate for your age. (Click on Planned Giving/Charitable Gift Annuities/ Gift Calculator.)

~ Submitted by the Permanent Endowment Committee.



SHARE
2010 SCHEDULE
ALL SIGN-UP
TIMES: 10 - 11 A.M.





Month	Wed.	Sat.	D-DAY
April	7th	10th	24th
May	5th	8th	22nd
June	9th	12th	26th
July	7th	10th	31st
August	11th	14th	28th
September	8th	11th	25th
October	6th	9th	23rd
November	3rd	6th	20th
December	1st	4th	18th

First United Methodist Church
88 W. Brashaw Street
Homosassa, FL
Vickie Williams 628-5945

STEPHEN MINISTERS -



“GOLDEN PARACHUTES” DURING TROUBLED TIMES

Many of us go through difficult times in our lives, such as the death of a loved one, a divorce, unemployment, or a health crisis. We may experience stress from serving as a caregiver to others or from trying to make ends meet financially.

The current state of our economy has us all feeling uncertain, wondering how our families and our nest eggs will make it through the next few years. We see the government providing golden parachutes in the form of bailouts to big businesses—but what about us? Who is going to help us through not only our financial troubles but also the other difficult challenges we face?

As Christians, we know we are not alone. God loves us and listens to our thoughts and prayers, but sometimes that doesn't feel like enough support because we cannot see or hear him. When we're feeling stressed out, alone, lost, or in serious need of comfort and support, we need someone to listen to our concerns and to physically be with us through these times.

Stephen Ministers can help you glide to a safe landing in a peaceful place. With God's guidance, they can be a “golden parachute” for you; all you need to do is ask for their help.

Stephen Ministers don't try to solve or fix your cares. Instead, they skillfully listen to you, pray for and with you, and care deeply about you for as long as you need. If you're in need of a “golden parachute”...

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

The Academy For Spiritual Formation

By Marilyn Watson

The courses at the last session of The Academy For Spiritual Formation were “New Testament Spirituality” taught by the Rev. Dr. Robert Mulholland and “Liturgy and Spirituality” taught by the Rev. Dr. Don Saliers. Dr. Mulholland is Professor of New Testament and Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Asbury Theological Seminary. Dr. Saliers is the Wm. R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship, Emeritus, at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Dr. Saliers is the author of a number of books and a contributor to the United Methodist Hymnal, The Book of Worship, and Upper Room Worshipbook.

Our church will be blessed from the opportunity I had for an hour of one-on-one time with Dr. Saliers. During this time we discussed our church's particular worship and spirituality. Dr. Saliers is a passionate Christian man of profound insight, ideas, talent, and judgment. His ideas for us are amazingly insightful. The course he taught focused on the movements within a worship service, the power of liturgy, the corporate expression of who we are, and the seasons of the liturgical year.

Dr. Mulholland is “radically abandoned to God” and “radically available” to Him as well. Through his example, as he taught, we learned more than just New Testament Spirituality! We studied ways people come to and grow in Christ, how to implement programs geared to their spiritual growth, and so much more.

It was a blessing for me to be able to lead the worship service one evening. As a bonus, the Lord blessed me with something I'd never experienced before – snow!

I look forward to sharing insights with you that I received from this session at the Academy.

Serendipity Happenings

Through Serendipity the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things. "Feed my flock"... Feeding, literally, is happening through this men's Bible-study group, the help of Sally's Saturday Sisters, and the cooperation of other volunteers.



Never forgetting that Bible study and learning God's word are the focus of Serendipity, we don't want to overlook the good that comes from our monthly pancake breakfasts.

Since last fall and through January, the average attendance was well below 100. When we opened the February breakfast to our community and to those in need of food, attendance increased to 150 plus, with 18 needy men and women joining us as well as representatives from the Salvation Army.

Income from the event soared beyond \$600, with contributions to our community homeless and needy groups exceeding \$330.

Each month we learn how to better help those in need, and we become more capable of doing so.

Your presence and donations have accomplished much and are very appreciated.

Please continue that help and invite your friends and neighbors to join you at next month's breakfast. We continue to hear wonderful compliments about food quality, service and experience. We are not yet perfect, but we do continue "to try harder." We will look for you next month.



Men and friends of FUMC: We continue to grow, adding another 3 or 4 men last month. Won't you consider Serendipity as your Bible-study source? You can make a difference.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 until 4:30. Join at any time or call Jim Potts for further information. (382-1842).

SERENDIPITY'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST All You Can Eat ~ \$4.00

APRIL 10
8:00 - 10:00 AM



HELP US, HELP THEM



Picture by: Will Dickey

Again we wish to thank everyone who generously donated winter-weather clothing and gear.

Along with the Salvation Army's Lieutenant Vanessa Miller who sheltered men and women and offered hot food when the temperature

dropped below 40-degrees F, we assisted many during those long, chilly nights.

With the temperature on the rise we find ourselves in need of different seasonal items.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOMELESS

- Lighter clothing for the warmer weather: i.e. shorts, t-shirts, flip-flops, sandals, white socks, baseball caps. (At this time there are no women in need of clothing.)
- Antiperspirants, razors, small sized toothpaste, t-brushes, mouth wash, hand cream and also small tissue packs.
- Tarps.
- Mosquito netting, bug repellent, citronella candles, "Off" mosquito coils, and the like.
- 1 Lb. Propane tanks for cooking. Wal-Mart sells (2) Pkg. canisters for (plus, minus) \$5.60/6.50. The off-brand are good.
- Always a need for D & C batteries.
- "Pop-top" cans of soup.
- Reusable tote bags (limited to + -) no more than 20.
- Monthly need for donations of "laundry soap" in 50 oz. containers. Jerry and Jan break it down into 12 to 16 oz. (easy to carry) containers in clean plastic water or soda bottles to fit into a backpack.
- A limited amount of bleach (for washing socks & tea shirts-preferably t-shirts with no writing).
- Small portable radios (to help get storm warnings).

These are needed over the warm season, but "not all at once." Thanks to all who provide these important items for our friends in the woods.

~ Jan & Jerry Tanner

The Church Bell By John Gibbs

One of the listed “six Church Treasures” of the original First United Methodist Church of Homosassa is our Church Bell.

The Bell was first placed high atop the then First Methodist Church in old Homosassa in the late 1930s. It was dedicated in 1937. There it rang the Call to Worship for some 35 years.

This Bell was a gift given to the Church by Mr. R. W. McMullen, a retiring Atlantic Coast Line Railroad conductor, who requested and received it from the ACL Railroad for this specific purpose. Contrary to local legend, the bell was not from a locomotive that reached Homosassa.

In 1981, our Bell was placed aloft the second Sanctuary by a group headed by Joe Henry. In later years this building would become our first fellowship hall.

Rev. John Denmark was pastor at the time the Bell was crane-lifted up and into the rooftop cupola. The cupola roof was then put in place with the Cross surmounting it.

The Church Bell is now placed between the (third) Sanctuary and the Education Building, on a Georgia black granite block, with a cast iron dedicatory plaque attached. The gold color of the solid brass bell contrasts beautifully with the rich black of the granite. On February 26, 2010, the complete Bell Monument was crane-lifted over the walkway roof and onto the prepared site.

The contractor was Travis LaPerle of LaPerle Monuments, Inverness. The LaPerle Company did the metal and granite work, site preparation and crane work.

All costs incurred were by a single donation. No church funds were used.

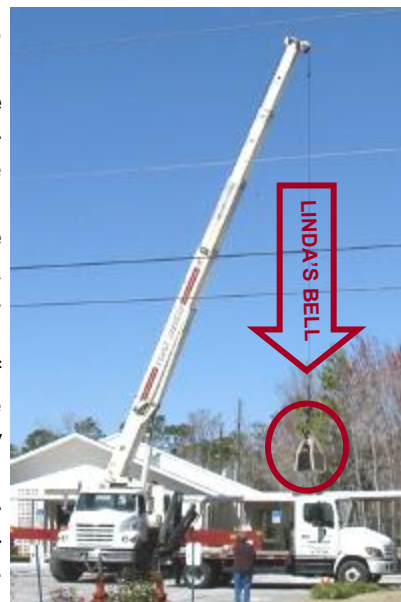
The Bell Monument Committee, formed in August, 2009, consisted of Rev. Richard Evans Chairman, Jack Schrock, Joe Henry and John Gibbs.

The Bell Monument was re-dedicated to the Glory of God and dedicated to the memory of Linda M. Schrock, on March 21, 2010. The dedication was done by Pastor Mark Whittaker and Rev. Richard Evans, with the congregation at each of the three services participating.

The number 1779 on the bell frame is thought to be the unknown foundry’s bell casting number--it’s 1,779th bell cast. On the solid brass bell and on the bell frame is the number 307, the number of the coal-fired steam locomotive of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad on which the bell rang.

Additional history of our Church Bell can be found on Pages 102-104 of “The First Hundred Years” written by Evelyn C. Bash, then Church Historian, and printed in the year 2000. Some of the history given here is referenced from that publication.

Another railroad locomotive bell, also complete with a heaven-pointing ringing arm, but with an outside ringing cord to the ground, can be seen high atop the Congregational Church in Tavares, Florida. This is the oldest church building and congregation in Tavares.



EBADOC DISCIPLESHIP ACADEMY

Every Sunday classes and groups offer learning opportunities for all ages.

Pre-School: Infant care and where preschoolers hear about Jesus and develop creativity.

Children (K-5): Where dedicated leaders teach children about God's love (9:30-10:30 a.m.) using the most current resources and teaching methods.

Youth (Middle & High School): Where youth get answers to their difficult questions about the bible, Jesus and relate their faith to their everyday lives as young Christians.

Adults: Where new members are always welcome. Regular Bible study groups meet weekly and short-term groups meet periodically for Bible study, prayer, and Christian growth.

Vacation Bible School: During the summer, we offer a week-long vacation church school for children, where they learn about Jesus and his way of love.

**EBADOC Discipleship Academy
April 11 - May 16, 2010**



"So what's the deal about going to 'Big Church'?"

All 1st graders and up are invited to join us every Sunday for Countdown at 9:25 in Room 112.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kim Bennett at 382-3941.

The EBADOC children and youth will be doing a special "outreach mission craft" on May 9th. We need all children and youth to help out! Thanks!

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

Chancel Choir: This great group of singers rehearse on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., and provide regular music for the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services.

Hand Bell Choir: The bell ringers rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m., and present music occasionally at the three traditional worship services on Sunday morning.

Instrumental Music: Some talented instrumentalists, including harpists, rehearse periodically and play occasionally on Sunday mornings and at special events.

Sacred Dancers: This inter-generational group prepares and performs interpretive dance presentations occasionally on Sundays and for seasonal worship services and programs.



Sharon Cooley and Jean Beck
Violin Duet:
"Canon In G"

**February
28th**



Jubilation Choir called into being, through the use of musical powers, Goliath, from 1 Samuel 17.



"Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" 1 Samuel 17:44

**St. Lawrence River Cruise
Sept. 19-27, 2010
by Rev. Richard Evans, Tour Host**

The St. Lawrence River begins at the foot of Lake Ontario, opposite the city of Kingston, and flows in a northeasterly direction for almost 800 miles until its waters mingle with those of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Beyond the gulf is the vast Atlantic Ocean. Sir J. M. LaMoine called the St. Lawrence "the noblest, the purist, the most enchanting river on God's beautiful earth." This river, for miles upon miles, serves as a natural boundary between the USA and Canada.

Our 9 day/8 night cruise tour will explore many of those miles in a leisurely journey up-river from Quebec City, through Montreal and the Thousand Islands, to Kingston, Ontario. We will visit many interesting ports-of-call along the way. The MV Canadian Empress is a 66-passenger replica steamboat built in 1981 to reflect the classic style of North American river-boats.

After boarding the ship in Quebec City, unpack just once and enjoy a relaxing week with congenial friends, delicious meals, luxurious accommodations, beautiful autumn scenery, and interesting shore excursions—before disembarking in Kingston. Then enjoy a special treat—a party at the Pohlman's home overlooking Lake Ontario. We will fly to Montreal and return from Toronto. The pp. price is \$3,425 (dbl. occ.), based on a group of 30 people, and includes the cruise, airfare, all ground transportation, shore excursions, fees, taxes, and travel insurance.

Pick up a flyer at the church office, and register with J & L Travel of Homosassa. The cruise company is holding 16 staterooms (half of the total) for us, so **it is important to register now**. \$350 will do it, with the balance to be paid by June 18. Call me at 563-5833 or Jess Mackey (J & L Travel) at 382-7708 if you have questions. I look forward to traveling with you.

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for:

- All who come to walk the Prayer Labyrinth to be blessed.
- Each of us to finish the Lenten season well.
- All who attend the Easter Services to truly understand what Christ did for us on the cross.
- The people of Haiti and Chili and those ministering to them.
- Everyone in Bible studies, small groups, and circles as they continue trying to draw closer to Christ.
- The choir, staff, and other ministries involved with extra Easter season programs and responsibilities.
- Our youth group.



Finger Labyrinth



The image above is a finger labyrinth that you can "walk" on with your finger. Tracing the path in the labyrinth can be relaxing. It also can be balancing as you journey back and forth to the center. Repeat several times in succession to get the most benefit. Try it with your non-dominant hand for more of a challenge. It will help you to give up control and break out of your routine response pattern.

The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. At its most basic level the labyrinth is a metaphor for the journey to the center of your deepest self and back out into the world with a broadened understanding of who you are.

THE GREEN COMMITTEE

The Green Committee's meeting on Thursday, March 4th has come up with the following. Implement a recycling program, which will consist of the following items:



- glass
- plastic
- corrugated cardboard
- tin cans
- aluminum cans

Bins and locations will be announced at a later date. Plans for an energy audit of the church are underway, and their findings and recommendations will be shared with the congregation when we receive them. We are looking into setting up a seminar for energy conservation, recycling, and composting.

The Green Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 o'clock in Room 206.

Wayne Haynes, Chairman



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A special thanks to all persons who participated in the Sunday afternoon February 28 Crop Walk. You "stepped up to the plate" and did a fabulous job in soliciting donors. The donors, in turn, responded with extremely generous contributions.

Just one more of the many examples where FUMC members reacted to the challenge of helping people in need! Your efforts resulted in a total contribution of \$2,295.00 from just our church alone. Contributions to both walkers and donors for a job well done!

Thanks again,
Jim Stoneman/FUMC Crop Walk Coordinator

Kits For Haiti Packing team on March 5, 2010



Transport Team March 10, 2010



Patience's Office. Packing the boxes to be shipped.



Packing the van.



To Haiti With Love.

Homosassa UMC, Hernando UMC, and Crystal River UMC prepared about seven hundred Health Care Kits according to instructions given us by UMCOR. Those kits have been "stored" in my office for weeks, waiting for a way to get them to Miami where they will be placed in a container and shipped to Haiti. On Wednesday, March 10, John Petro, who is a member of the Haiti team-in-waiting, came and picked them up.

As you can see from Judith Huffer's picture, his van was really loaded. To these he'll add more boxes from the Hernando Church. He and his wife, Jann, will leave on Friday for Miami to deliver the kits to Pastor Montreuil, to be placed aboard the next container for Haiti. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our church and its generous support of these people whom you have never seen! Thank you for everything you have done!

I'm glad to have my office back!

~ Patience Nave

To Our Dear Church Family
and Prayer Warriors,



We are incredibly proud and happy to announce the safe return of our son-in-law, Sgt. Robert Berg Jr. (of the U.S. Army Reserves) from Afghanistan.

We give God the glory and will forever be grateful for your prayers and support during his deployment.

Please join us in welcoming him home as we continue to remember those still battling abroad to keep us safe and free in this great country of ours.

In His love ~
Mindy and Steve Bassler

MANY THANKS

We want to say thank you all for the many cards, phone calls, visitations, and especially your prayers and loving friendship during our recent "his and hers" identical back surgeries, hospital stays, and rehab and recoveries.

A special thank you to Pastor Mark for his visitation and prayers, and to the Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawls. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful and caring church family. May God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Marge and Mert Davis



First United Methodist
Church of Homosassa
**PASTORAL MINISTRY
AND
SERVICES**

Besides giving general supervision and consultative leadership to the staff and to many of the programs and ministries of the church, Pastor Whittaker is available to individuals and families in the following ways:

Crisis Counseling: Pastor Whittaker, or another staff member, is available in crisis situations and will suggest further community resources if needed.

Hospital Visitation: Pastor Whittaker regularly visits in local hospitals. Members and friends need to notify the church office when they, or a member of their family, are hospitalized.

Nursing Homes and Home Bound: Our Parish Visitor Committee calls regularly on these members. Pastor Whittaker visits by request as he is able.

Home Visits: Pastor Whittaker will be glad to make a pastoral visit to your home. It is best to make a specific request and set a convenient time when you will be at home.

Children's Baptism: Parents who wish to present their children for the Sacrament of Baptism should plan to meet with Pastor Whittaker in preparation for the Baptism.

Marriage: Couples should schedule well in advance to meet with Pastor Whittaker and the Wedding Coordinator in preparation for the wedding ceremony.

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and calls on the death of my beloved mother.

The compassion you showered upon us was overwhelming.

Blessings to you all, in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Carolyn Roth

ISSUEING A CHALLENGE!

**Have you ever heard of the
"Rule of Three?"**

This is a theory based on the idea that guests in worship typically leave the building within three minutes after the service.

The challenge I am giving to you all is to devote the first three minutes after the benediction to speak with someone you don't know or have not yet met (Rule of Three).

Can you follow this rule this coming weekend by greeting and speaking with a person you do not know?

Always remember that we welcome because Christ first welcomed us.

Dear Praying friends,

As we head into the month of heavy pollution and increasing heat here in *Chiang Mai*, we are thankful for three things: air conditioning, the coming two-week April school break, and your prayers! Thanks for regularly lifting up our requests to the Lord; we know the brown haze surrounding the city can't block His answers.

Praises

✠ After much prayer and discussion, we feel that God is asking Elaine to **step away from her teaching ministry** at Grace International School at the conclusion of this school year (June 1) in order to focus all her ministry time on the work of our new PIONEERS church-planting team. While Elaine has been blessed to serve at the school teaching 2nd grade for five years now, we feel that our church-planting work, which is really flourishing, is deserving of all of her ministry time. In addition, Elaine feels the need to give more direct time to Joe and the boys and to take back some of the family responsibilities that Joe has covered for the past five years. We are thankful to the Lord for His clear guidance in this matter and are excited by what He has for us in the coming years. We also ask for your prayers for Elaine to transition well from mostly school-based ministry into full-time Thai ministry.

✠ Our new team (The HOME Team) has its **third official Thai partnership**. Praise God! Following a survey trip and much prayer and debate, we decided to partner with *Aajaan Dapoe* in western Chiang Mai province. As we shared last month, *Dapoe* is an evangelist who is working to share the good news in six villages that have only one Christian. Please pray that our team would be effective in the coming months and years in assisting *Dapoe* in his ministry.

✠ Praise God that we had a **great series of meetings** recently with a PIONEERS family already serving in Chiang Mai who is interested in joining our team. As they contact their supporters and others about this change back into hands-on church-planting work, please pray that they would receive confirmation and encouragement about this move and about the exciting ministries the Lord has already prepared for them.

Prayers

✠ As we have been lining up Thai partnerships over the past six months for our team, there has been one thing missing: **missionary teammates**. Well, that is about to change! We are so thankful that the Lord is in charge of this process as every step has been completed in His timing. That is no different as we have turned our attention to finding teammates. Already, one family is making plans to join our team (see third praise item above), and there have been two other families and two singles who have been introduced to us as possible teammates in just the past six weeks. All these folks would be excellent fits in our partnerships, so we would ask for you to pray that the Lord clearly lead every one of these missionaries to our team if that is what He desires. Our Thai partners are waiting!

✠ We wanted to give you a quick update on our **financial situation** after our plea for help late last fall. At this time, we are at 90% of our monthly support goal, which is an encouraging increase from 75% last fall. We need an additional \$540 per month to finally get back to 100% support. In addition, after receiving \$11,000 in one-time gifts, we now need just \$5,000 more to be totally caught up in terms of business-expense reimbursements that are still owed to us. Praise God for the generosity of so many people and churches; please pray that these final financial goals would be met soon so that we can move forward in Thai ministry on firm financial ground.

✠ We had a meeting on Saturday with **another prospective Thai partner** for our team who has a tremendously fruitful and potentially large ministry. This work could lead to churches/community centers being planted in several inner-city areas across northern Thailand. Please pray for wisdom and clear direction for all involved as we consider how The HOME Team might assist this promising work.

✠ We are making plans for **Brittany to come back to Thailand** for three months to visit us this summer during college break. The visa situation here has become a lot more tricky and complicated for tourists recently, so please pray for wisdom for us to find the best/cheapest way to keep her here legally all summer long.



This month's **cultural photo** is "ash." While this photo looks like it was taken at an abandoned bomb-testing site somewhere in the South Pacific, Caleb actually took this photo about a quarter-mile from our house! One of the reasons the pollution is so bad this time of year is that people burn *everything*...grass, agricultural waste, trees, trash, etc., mostly due to "slash-and-burn" farming techniques. Obviously, that creates way too much smoke, and the very dry weather and subsequent forest fires just add to the problem. A few weeks ago, folks sent flames shooting 50 feet into the air when they cleared out a massive abandoned area near our house. The scene in this photo is the result. (By the way, for those of you who are familiar with the *Where's Waldo?* books, this picture is the introductory offering of a new series entitled *Where's Jamie?* The first person who spots our youngest son wins, well, nothing. But you'll get the satisfaction of having the best eyesight among our millions (or dozens, at least) of readers!)

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



Kevin and The Children from the Village praying before Sunday School.

Greetings from Siberia dear friends.

He is risen...He is risen indeed!

What wonderful words to hear and believe.

The women in Horinsk have begun to come together every other week. We're so excited to see them taking some time to meet together for prayer, sharing what the Lord is doing in their lives and encouraging each other in love. We have around 19 women who attend but not all come to the fellowship regularly. However, we stay in touch and find the "home" group setting is perfect for these gals. Our hope is to have these ladies build solid relationships with each other, learn from the Word his will in their lives,



and then take the love and hope that only comes from the Father out into their community. In addition to these home-study times, they also come together once a month to prepare a meal for the fellowship. These monthly meals have become a huge success... everyone loves the extra fellowship and of course the great meals.

The ladies are also working on various crafts projects. A fellow worker is great at such activities and has the ladies excited about doing some special things for the building where we meet. They are working on banners for Easter and hope to make others to hang permanently in the hall. The younger gals are working on making jewelry from beads and shells... not certain if they will be selling them or just making them for gifts, so we'll keep you posted.

Kevin and our teammate Doug have been helping out at a local alcohol/drug rehab center. They travel weekly to the center to teach the men on different topics, bringing them closer to a better knowledge of their Savior. Alcoholism in Russia is such a national problem that the President of the Russian Federation, President Dmitry Medvedev, recently acknowledged, "*Alcoholism in Russia has become a 'national disaster'.*" Just 40% of this year's high school graduates are likely to live to the pension age of 55-60, according to World Health Organization figures quoted

by Health Minister Tatyana Golikova. Doctors believe alcohol-related diseases cause around half of all deaths of Russians between the ages of 15 and 54. As you can see, this problem is enormous...but, there's **hope**. Please join us in prayer for this nation, for this problem.

Moving--Within a few short months, our lease for the apartment in the city will end as will Laura's commitment to help teach "her girls". After much prayer and consideration, we've decided this is the best time to make the move out into the village. For the past two years, we've been spending part of a week in the city and part in the village. This makes building up the fellowship difficult at best. We believe the local officials will allow us to live and register in the village since we have been "in country" now for many years. Our organization has done many projects not only in the city and village but also across Russia. We have found an apartment--something we didn't think would be possible in the village--for a very reasonable price. Living in a village "home" requires endless work. With Kevin leaving for weeks at a time, this seemed a daunting task for Laura to handle. The apartment has running (cold) water and heat. Still, it's easier than chopping wood, hauling water in from a well, and using an outhouse at -40. Pray with us as we make yet another move to a much smaller region...knowing it IS where He leads.

Praise and Requests:

- ◇ Found a place to live in village.
- ◇ Growth in the fellowship.
- ◇ He meets all our needs in His time.
- ◇ Favor with the local officials.
- ◇ Opportunities to meet more people in the village & share Jesus.
- ◇ Wisdom.
- ◇ Love for the people.

Thank you, faithful friends, for your continued support and prayers. We are so blessed. May His peace be with you always.

Kevin & Laura Wooster

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KEVIN!

It looks like your friends threw you a real bash!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Gerry Graham Dorothy Koehler	17 Russell Chapman Molly Norman
2 Ed Carnahan	Janet Small
3 Hazel Meyerhoff	18 Freda Hale
4 Mary Casper	19 Grete Nygaard
6 James Earl Robert Gidlow William Schuessler	20 Olive Stevens
7 Richard Bader	21 Thelma Jean Buzby James Eyster
8 Robert Blum	22 Gloria Elsea Dale Miller
9 JoAnn Guthrie Larry Raymond Joshua White	22 Judy Williams
9 Stacey Dawson	23 Dean Moore
11 Elaine Harwood Donald Tam	25 Robert Powell George Woodward Jr.
11 Theresa McCracken	26 Alan Buraw Dolores Moore
12 Virginia Rese	26 Eileen Ferguson Lawrence Maddox
12 Robert Yusko	27 Katherine Tidswell
14 Joy Potts	28 Virginia Will
15 Mary Joy Speicher Laurie Stainton	28 Marjorie Veenstra
16 Peggy Benson William Murray Edythe Shaffer Jim Winder	29 Roger Ferguson
	30 Dene Balmer Carl Benthusen Kim Hamrick

Lord, I have passed another birthday
And come to thank Thee for Thy care.
Forgive my faults in work or play
Please listen to my evening prayer.
Thy favor gives me daily bread
And friends, who all my wants supply.
Once again I rest my head. Amen

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Sasha & Cody Shuart ~ 4 years ~	6 Dottie & William Baker ~ 31 years ~
5 Catherine & Richard Barrett ~ 63 years ~	9 Helen & Buddy Hansen ~ 65 years ~
11 Sharon & Dale Miller ~ 40 years ~	11 Judy & Robert Powell ~ 46 years ~
12 Neretta & Bill Brobst ~ 9 years ~	12 Julie & Louis Garthaus ~ 14 years ~
13 Dee & Dick Otto ~ 31 years ~	15 Grete & Dan Nygaard ~ 10 years ~
16 Marge & Mert Davis ~ 50 years ~	17 Loretta & Charles Blair ~ 34 years ~
18 Mary V. & Donald Wither ~ 51 years ~	19 Jerry & George Cole ~ 62 years ~
19 Marilyn & Ralph Siegel ~ 19 years ~	22 Ruby & Larry Raymond ~ 50 years ~
24 Judy & Tom Williams ~ 6 years ~	

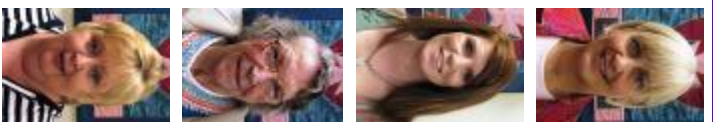


**In Our Thoughts
And Prayers**

**PERSONS RESIDING IN
LONG-TERM CARE
(As of 3/11/2010)**

- AVANTE**
Annie Preston
- CR HEALTH & REHAB**
Betty Farewell
Robert Smith
- DIAMOND RIDGE**
Jean Buzby
Betty Duncan
Mike Gettings
- HEALTH SOUTH**
Conrad Keniston
- HUNT RESIDENCE**
Bill Marquis
- LIFE CARE**
Don Sneaker
Marge Davis
Larry Raymond
- NEW HORIZONS**
Bud Jenks
- SUGARMILL MANOR**
Shirley Hart
Grace Payne
- SUNFLOWER SPRINGS**
Marguerite Betzer
Ruth Eaton
Ruth & Bill Willis
Fran Graham
- WOODLAND TERRACE**
Shirley Weber

**Welcome New Members
MARCH 2010**



Dyane Koskela
3 Gypsophila Court
Homosassa 34446
352-382-2077
From: Canton, MI

Melissa Pezzuti
7278 Hadenotter Lane
Homosassa 34446
352-398-7300
From: Homosassa

Marie Raymond
3355 W. Susan Lane
Lecanto, FL 34461
352-527-0389
From: Miami, FL

Karla Saynor
4400 S. Marquis Point #37
Homosassa 34446
352-212-7977
From: Spring Hill, FL

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Since I am no longer in the Thrift Shop I would like all my friends to know that if they have supplies, such as yarn or any craft items that can be used for our bazaar crafts, to please call me at 628-6602 and I will make arrangements to get them.

Thank you very much for all your support. The bazaar is the United Methodist Women's big fund raiser which supports our mission projects both local and foreign.

Also, I am looking for 18 to 22 inch dolls to be recycled. These need to be dolls that can be played with, not porcelain please. I will redress and redo their hair.

Thank you,
Pat Blake, Bazaar Chairman

IM MEMORIAM



**GORDON G.
LAWRENCE**
6/27/1926
TO
2/20/2010



AS OF: 3/9/10

APRIL 2010

<p>Sunday 4 EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>7:00 Choir Easter brkfst 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship</p>	<p>Monday 5</p> <p>8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:00 Stephen Ministries</p>	<p>Tuesday 6</p> <p>10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministries 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministries</p>	<p>Wednesday 7</p> <p>7:00 Mens Prayer Group 9:00 Won. Wed. Prep 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Lamountain Bible 10:00 SHARE Sign-Up 2:00 Wise Bible 3:00 ABC Bible 5:30 Won. Wednesday 6:30 Youth Group</p> <p>Choir and Music Ministry Vacation</p>	<p>Thursday 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 1:00 Fibronyalgia 2:00 Green Commission 3:00 Adult Bible Study 4:00 Video Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Maundy Thursday 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Friday 2 GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED GENESIS DEADLINE</p> <p>9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00-8:00 Prayer Labyrinth 9:30 a.m. Disciple III</p>	<p>Saturday 3</p> <p>8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 Decorating 9-3 Prayer Labyrinth 10:30 Bereavement 10:30 God's Clouds</p>
<p>Sunday 11 DISCREATIONARY SUNDAY</p> <p>8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship</p>	<p>Monday 12</p> <p>8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise</p>	<p>Tuesday 13</p> <p>9:30 Helping Hands Circle 9:30 Faith Hope Circle 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Dorcas Circle 2:00 Stewardship Comm. 3:00 Serendipity Bible 7:00 Grown-Up Movie 7:00 Salty Circle 7:30 Kitchen Comm.</p>	<p>Wednesday 14</p> <p>7:00 Mens Prayer Group 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Lamountain Bible 10:30 Bus Trip - Hudson 1:00 Shawl Ministry 2:00 Wise Bible 3:00 ABC Bible 4:00 VBS Team Meeting 5:15 Music 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>Thursday 15</p> <p>9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 1:00 Fibronyalgia 3:00 Missions 3:00 Adult Bible 3:30 Trustees 4:00 Video Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Creative Worship 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Friday 16 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE</p> <p>9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible 10:00 Women's Health</p>	<p>Saturday 17</p> <p>8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Kids Movie 10:30 Bereavement</p>
<p>Sunday 18 PANTRY SUNDAY</p> <p>8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Easter Native American Offering</p>	<p>Monday 19</p> <p>8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:00 Safe Driving Class 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:00 Stephen Ministries</p>	<p>Tuesday 20</p> <p>9:00 Safe Driving Class 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministries 2:00 Finance Comm. 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministries</p>	<p>Wednesday 21</p> <p>7:00 Mens Prayer Group 9:00 Won. Wed. Prep. 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Lamountain Bible 11:00 Diabetics 2:00 Wise Bible 3:00 ABC Bible 3:30 Staff/Parish Comm. 5:15 Music 5:30 Won. Wednesday 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>Thursday 22</p> <p>9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 3:00 P.E.C. Meeting 3:00 Adult Bible 4:00 Video Rehearsal 6:30 Confirmation Rehearsal 7:00 COUNCIL 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Friday 23</p> <p>9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible 1:00 Our Father's Table</p>	<p>Saturday 24</p> <p>8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 SHARE Delivery 10:30 Bereavement</p>
<p>Sunday 25 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</p> <p>Student Confirmation 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship</p>	<p>Monday 26</p> <p>8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 8:30 Census 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise</p>	<p>Tuesday 27</p> <p>8:30 Census 10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 Serendipity Bible 7:00 Ladies Movie</p>	<p>Wednesday 28</p> <p>7:00 Mens Prayer Group 8:30 Census 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Lamountain Bible 1:00 Shawl Ministry 2:00 Wise Bible 3:00 ABC Bible 5:15 Music 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>Thursday 29</p> <p>8:30 Census 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 3:00 Adult bible 4:00 Video Rehearsal 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>Friday 30</p> <p>8:30 Census 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible</p>	<p>Saturday 31</p> <p>8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 - Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 SHARE Delivery 10:30 Bereavement</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Celebrate His Love And Resurrection!</p>						

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

Office Hours: Weekdays
8:30AM to 4:30PM
Office Telephone: 352-628-4083

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Soli Deo Gloria

**HAVE A HAPPY
AND BLESSED EASTER**



April 2010