



GENESIS - APRIL 2012, Volume 16, Issue 4

On Easter evening the disciples (except for Thomas) were all hiding out when Jesus came and spoke to them. Being able to see and talk with Jesus convinced them that he was alive. But not Thomas! Thomas wouldn't believe until he saw for himself. A week later Jesus came again and this time Thomas saw – and believed!

It is from this story that we get the able “Doubting Thomas.” We kind of pick on Thomas because he was from Missouri (the “Show-Me-State.”) Somehow we forget about the Thomas who was willing to risk death and be with Jesus when he went back to Jerusalem after fleeing from the threats of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Or the Thomas who wasn't afraid to ask Jesus what he meant when he said, “You know the way I am going!” Or the Thomas who left Jerusalem to start churches in India – and to die there for the name of Jesus.

We call him Doubting Thomas, but which of us would believe such a fantastic story? Could you go from the sadness and fear and sorrow of losing your friend and teacher to believe in his resurrection in one long weekend? The problem is that we see ourselves in this “doubting” Thomas and fail to see the courageous Thomas. We know our doubts and we are afraid of them, afraid to admit them, to allow the pain or even acknowledge that doubt is possible. But it is as we face our doubts that we can understand just what it is we say we believe, and so make a choice about our faith. Out of doubt comes faith and strength, not based on what someone else says/believes, but on what you, in your soul, believe. “Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe.” Blessed are those who face their doubts and then make a commitment to follow what they know is true, with all their heart.

Mark



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. The 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**Phone: (352) 628-4083****Fax: (352) 628-9086****WEBSITE****www.1umc.org****PASTOR****Rev. Mark Whittaker****ADMINISTRATOR****Theresa Weber****ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT****Carol Eriksson****BOOKKEEPER****Sandy Dewart****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****Kay Bast****MUSIC DEPARTMENT****Dixie Lay****Joy Potts****Dayna Middlebrooks****PARISH NURSE****Karen Kline****PARISH VISITOR****Peggy Benson****SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT****& NURSERY SUPERVISOR****Sandra Tam****YOUTH COORDINATOR****Lori DeClue****SOUND TECHNICIAN****Sharon Cooley****Ron Hesketh****NIGHT SECURITY****Michael Rodgers****CUSTODIAN****Dale Evans****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.





Calvary

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

4

by Kay Bast



Plans for VBS during the first week in June are in progress. Sessions will be held from 8:30 to 12:30 for the 5 days from June 4th through June 8th. We hope to have a short program to present at one or both services on Sunday June 10th.

Our theme for VBS is Fruits of the Spirit, and we are in need of

volunteers. Please let Laurie Painter or I know if you would like to help. It should be a lot of fun. We plan to have good activities in place so you only need to lend a hand, not plan.

A new confirmation class is also being planned and Lori DeClue will be seeking some assistance for that class also.

Bible studies and Sunday school classes are always open and would welcome you any time. Please call me if you have questions or want information.

MANY THANKS!

Wayne and I would like to thank everyone who prayed for us, sent cards, brought food, called us and stopped by. It was all very much appreciated and we wanted to give you our gratitude. Wayne is coming along and healing well. Thanks again, Rosalie & Wayne Haynes

IN MEMORY



DOROTHY (DOT) REED
Went to Our Lord 2/18/2012



RAY MARS
Went to Our Lord 3/6/2012



Time is too slow for those who wait,
Too swift for those who fear,
Too long for those who grieve,
Too short for those who rejoice.
But, for those who love –
Time is eternity.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY!

'Heavenly Father, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in this our time of need.

These things I humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.'



Karen Kline



Bedroom: Keep a lamp close to the bed that is easy to reach.

5

Keep a flashlight available as well in case of a power failure. Keep the pathway to the bathroom clear of clutter and make sure there is a light source.

Falls are No Laughing Matter

Did you know that falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among seniors? One out of three people over 65 will fall this year. Two out of those will fall again within 6 months. Falls can lead to hospitalization, possible surgery, rehabilitation and increased dependence on medications. Loss of mobility and independence can lead to depression. Falls break not only bones, but spirits.

Now is the time to check your home and environment for fall risk factors:

Floors in each room: Remove or secure throw rugs. Clear the pathways by rearranging furniture. Remove clutter on the floors such as magazines, shoes, toys (children or pet?). Secure wires, such as extension or telephone cords, or oxygen tubing.

Kitchen: Are the articles most used within reach or do you need to use a step stool? If you use a step stool make sure that it is one that has a handle, and never use a chair.

Bathrooms: Install grab bars in the shower and next to the toilet. Check and make sure that there is a non slip surface mat or strips in the shower and tub. Place toilet articles at shoulder height in the shower.

Stairs and Steps: Inside and outside the house: Keep stairways clear of books, shoes and other clutter. Check for any broken or loose steps and get them repaired. If stairs are carpeted make sure carpet is firmly attached or remove the carpet and replace with non-slip rubber treads. Check to make sure handrails are in place and secure. Make sure stairway is lighted. Mark the top and bottom steps with a bright colored strip.

Consider having an emergency medical alert necklace or bracelet to be able to call for help, especially if you live alone. You may also want to have additional phones in your home or carry a cell phone.

If you do fall, you need to know the correct way to get up from that fall. If you are alone and there is no way to call for help, look around for a sturdy piece of furniture or bottom of staircase. Roll over onto your side and head in the direction of that object. Push up your upper body and rest. Slowly get up on your hands and knees and crawl to the sturdy object. From this kneeling position slowly pull yourself and sit for a few minutes before trying to do anything else.

SANDRA & GARY PARTIN



111 Byrsonima Circle
Homosassa 34446
352-382-2567

from: W. Palm Beach, FL

Sandy was born in Abington, PA and was a legal assistant for 42 years. She has lived in FL since 1955.

Gary was born in Greenville, OH and has been a Floridian since 1949, and was employed as mechanic most of his life. They were married June 24, 1978, in West Palm Beach.

RICHARD (Rick) GRAVES

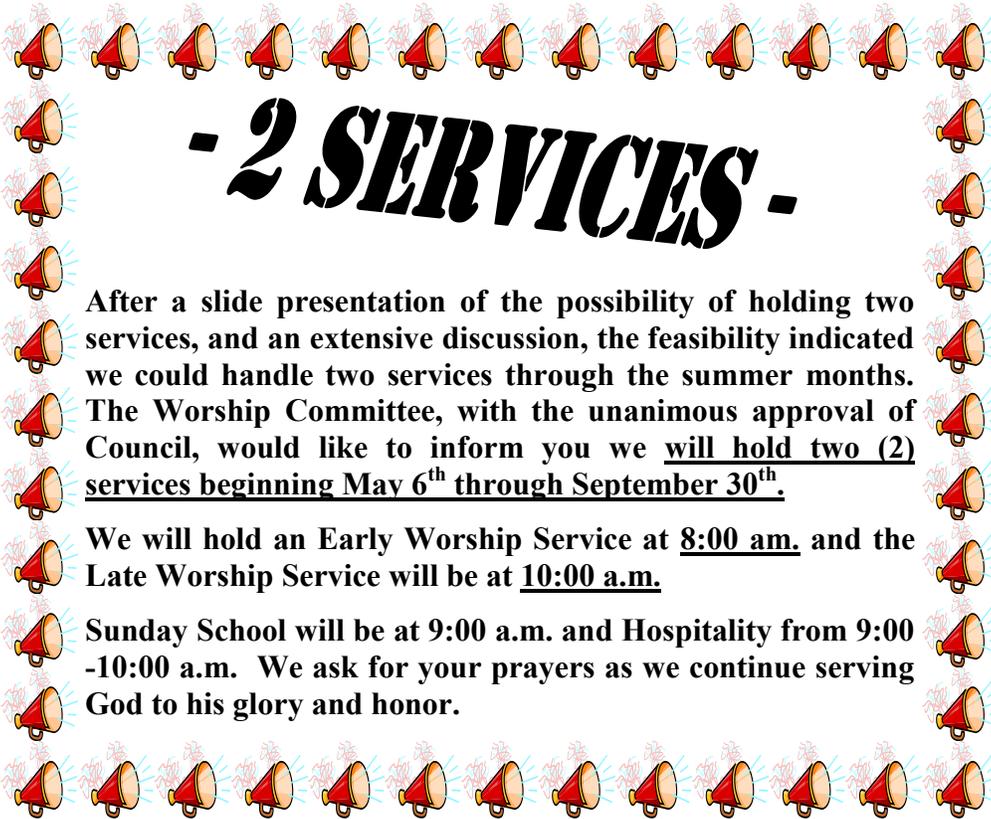


10200 W. Fishbowl Drive
Homosassa 34448
815-985-3678

from: Belvidere, IL

Rick attended the U of IL, served in the Air Force, and made a career in the trucking business. After retiring, he served as the Head Custodian at 1st UMC of Belvidere. He has wintered in FL since 2004, but sadly lost his wife of 50 years in 2011. He is now a full-time Floridian.

He says "it's my pleasure to be about my Father's business whenever and wherever asked, and as my abilities permit."



- 2 SERVICES -

After a slide presentation of the possibility of holding two services, and an extensive discussion, the feasibility indicated we could handle two services through the summer months.

The Worship Committee, with the unanimous approval of Council, would like to inform you we will hold two (2) services beginning May 6th through September 30th.

We will hold an Early Worship Service at 8:00 am. and the Late Worship Service will be at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m. and Hospitality from 9:00 -10:00 a.m. We ask for your prayers as we continue serving God to his glory and honor.

Jesus said, “...**The seed is the word of God.**” The Psalmist wrote: **I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Luke 8:11b; Psalm 119:11)**

The headline read: “Crops sheltered in doomsday vault.” The article explained that chickpeas, fava beans and other seeds from a facility in Syria are among the 25,000 new samples being deposited in an Arctic seed vault built to protect food crops from wars and natural disasters. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault (a master backup to the world’s other seed banks) has now secured 740,000 samples since opening in 2008.

We humans are noted for storing things in preparation for the future. We plan ahead for unexpected company, for the possibility of hurricanes, and for other unexpected happenings like the sudden flat tire or a dead battery.

In explaining the parable of the sower to his disciples, Jesus said, “The seed is the word of God.” As I read about the world storing seed for troubled times, I wondered, “How carefully am I sowing the seed of God in my heart in preparation for when adversity comes?”

Jesus said to his disciples: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) Jesus assures

us that we will have trouble. When the promised trouble comes, do we have the seed of the word of God stored in us so we can experience the peace Jesus promised?

A friend said, “I read my Bible every day. But so often I can’t remember what I read. Even when I try to memorize a verse, it never seems to stick with me.” I assured her that what she read was being “stored” in her heart, and when she had need of guidance from God, the Holy Spirit would bring out of storage what she needed for that time. Her part is to store the seed; the Holy Spirit’s part is to bring it to her mind when needed.

Jesus said, “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45) If we sow seeds of bitterness in our hearts, bitterness will overflow into our conversation. Seeds of love and mercy sown in our hearts will result in our speaking with love and compassion even in troubled times.

What kind of seeds are we storing in the spiritual vaults of our hearts? Are we prepared so when trouble comes we can walk through adversity without sinning against God?

Father, help us understand the importance of storing your Word in our hearts. Amen.

DEFERRED GIVING TO OUR CHURCH WITH LIFE INSURANCE!

Needs for life insurance change through different stages of our lives.

Children may become self-sufficient, and investments may provide surprising levels of income and security. In short, life insurance no longer may be needed for the reasons it was purchased.

One of the easiest ways to plan for a significant charitable gift in the future is to name our church as beneficiary for all or a portion of the proceeds of a policy no longer needed for its original purpose.

Example: Lois and Ralph Sherman purchased a \$200,000 life insurance policy on his life in 1975 when their children were dependent and Ralph was at the peak of his earning power.

Now in their early 80's, the Shermans decided to change their beneficiaries to provide a \$50,000 gift to their church in memory of Mr. Sherman's parents.

The remaining \$150,000 will be paid to their three grandchildren in equal shares. Perhaps something similar will work for you.

For more information on planning for deferred gifts to our church and/or charity, contact the church office, or any member of PEC, or the Florida United Methodist Foundation at 866-363-9673 (X7125).

THANK YOU!

Thank you FUMC friends, for your prayers for my recent surgery, and the therapy involved. Thanks too, for the lovely cards, phone calls, and offers of help; you are a loving and caring group.

Sharon Deutsch



DIXIE & BRAD LAY,
ARE THE PROUD PARENTS OF:

Baby Reed, who was born March 13, 2012,
weighed 9.67 pounds,
and was 21.5 inches long.

Baby and Mother are doing well!

CONGRATULATIONS!

THE CARPENTER

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I 'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day -- measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

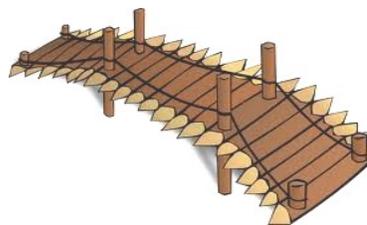
The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all.

It was a bridge .. A bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."



DO YOU HAVE ONE TO BUILD?

Your church library has a variety of books, magazines, DVDs and audio tapes. The items listed in Genesis are displayed on shelves on the left wall.

“Mystery on the Midway”, a Patchwork Mystery, by Vera Dodge. Sarah Hart’s specialty is sewing up loose ends. She understands that the key to making an intricate quilt – or solving an intricate mystery – is knowing how to put it all together. The summer county fair is in full swing in Maple Hill. The day before it opened, Sarah noticed that the oldest quilt in Maple Hill history has been stolen and replaced with the tribute quilt that she chose as the winner of the quilt competition. Who could steal an antique quilt right from under her nose? Sarah is ready to solve the mystery on the midway.

“Now and Always” by popular author, Lori Copeland. Financial difficulties have piled up for Katie Addison and she finally admits she may need help. Tall, handsome Warren Tate is done with independent women but he reluctantly agrees to help Kate. Meanwhile Sheriff Ben O’Keefe can’t seem to get Kate’s attention. He has a longstanding crush on her but to Katie, Ben is just Ben. When mysterious events turn Katie to him for help, is it the chance Ben has been waiting for?

“Angel Harp”, a novel by Michael Phillips. Widowed at thirty-four, amateur harpist Marie Buchan realizes that her life and dreams are slowly slipping away. A longed for summer in Scotland offers far more than a change of scenery. Not only does the music of

her harp capture the fancy of the small coastal village she visits but she is unexpectedly drawn into a love triangle involving the local curate and the local duke. The boyhood friends have been estranged as adults because of their mutual love of another woman (no dead) some years before. History seems destined to repeat itself with Marie in the thick of it. She becomes involved in the lives of the two men as well as with quirky characters in the community and she lands in the center of the controversy over a mysterious death. Eventually she must decide – what is the truth and with whom will she cast the lot of her future? There is a helpful appendix with the meaning of words from Scotland.

Fans of Lori Wick’s books will want to read **“Jessie”**. Jessie is Jessie Wheeler, the owner of Token Creek’s general store for eight years – ever since the day her husband walked out on her but she knows how to take care of herself and her girls. Seth Redding, Jessie’s husband, has done a lot of thinking in those years some of it in a jail cell. Looking back, he can’t believe he left Jessie and their baby. It was true that Jessie had her own way of doing things and was hardheaded, but they had shared a special kind of love, at least early on. Seth is a changed man, but will he ever be able to show Jessie that? Will she even let him try? If only he’d known then what he knows now.....

“Love on the Line” by Deeanne Gist. Georgie Gail is proud of her independence in a man’s world. She’s a rural switchboard operator and she is really vexed when the telephone company sends a man to look over her

shoulder. Dashing Luke Palmer is more than he appears though. He's a Texas Ranger working undercover to infiltrate a notorious gang of train robbers. Repairing telephones and tangling with this tempestuous woman is the last thing he wants to do. But when his stakeout puts Georgie in peril, he realizes more than his job is on the line.

"Head in the Clouds", a novel by Karen Witemeyer. Adelaide Proctor longs to find a real-life storybook hero to claim as her own. When a husband-hunting debacle leaves her humiliated, she interviews for a governess position on a remote Texas sheep ranch. Gideon Westcott left his privileged life in England to make a name of himself in America's wool industry, never expecting to end up with a child, five-year-old Isabella who hasn't uttered a word since she lost her mother. The unconventionality of the new governess concerns Gideon – and intrigues him at the same time. When Isabella's uncle comes to claim her – and her inheritance – Gideon and Adelaide must work together to protect Isabella from the man's evil schemes. There's a growing attraction between them, but will Adelaide be willing to get her head out of the clouds and put her heart on the line?

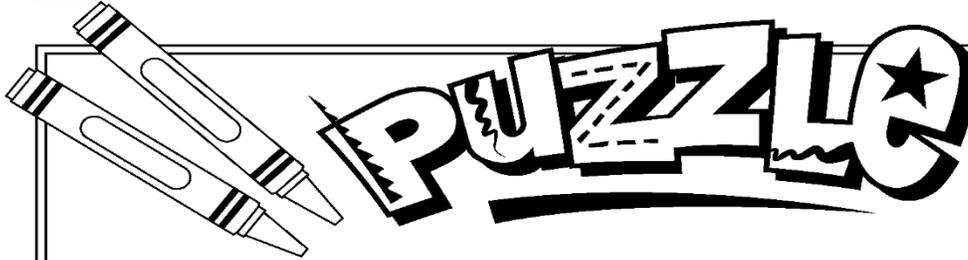
"Not a Sparrow Falls" by Linda Nichols. Mary Bridget Washburn thinks "If Mama were here, everything would still be right ". Or at least not as bad wrong as it had become. But Mama was dead and Papa was gone, her brothers and sisters scattered, and she was here. Mary was tired of running, of being haunted by the empty shell her life had become. How in the world did the little girl she'd once been now

become a woman on the wrong side of the law? Determined to make a new start, she escapes to the quaint city of Alexandria, Virginia, where she takes on her mother's identity and finds sanctuary in the shadow of a decades old church. However, a little girl's plea proves her undoing, and the Reverend – well, someone has to open his eyes before disaster comes calling. She wonders if she can hide her tainted past long enough to bring hope to a family falling apart.

"Belonging" by Robin Lee Hatcher. Can two bitter pasts make one sweet future? In the high desert town of Frenchman's Bluff, Idaho, Felicia Kristoffersen has set out to create a future for herself that is better than her painful past. Alone in the world with only her faith to sustain her, she must prove herself as this tiny community's new school teacher. She cannot, must not fail! Five years after the death of his wife, local merchant Colin Murphy cares about just one thing, raising his daughter, Charity. He wants to give her educational advantages. And if this teacher up and marries like the last one did, Charity's heart will be broken once again. In the midst of the wide open plains, each is about to discover that life's bitterest circumstances truly can work together for good.

HAPPY READING FROM YOUR
LIBRARY STAFF – Barbara Jackson,
Helen Lefave, Ann Ice, and Pat Barton

***"Life has no remote.
You have to get up and
change it yourself!"***



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame



1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand



1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and
 _____ of  5  7. For the  3 set before  6
 he  3 the  5, _____ its  7, and
 sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7.
 Consider  6 who  6 such _____  4
 from  4, so that you will not _____  6  2
 and  2 _____  4." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
 For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and
 sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who
 endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary
 and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

1
Sasha & Cody
Shuart
~ 6 years ~

6
Dottie & William
Baker
~ 33 years ~

9
Helen & Buddy
Hansen
~ 67 years ~

11
Sharon & Dale
Miller
~ 42 years ~

Judy & Robert
Powell
~ 48 years ~

12
Neretta & Bill
Brobst
~ 11 years ~

13
Julie & Louis
Garthaus
~ 16 years ~

13
Dee & Dick Otto
~ 33 years ~

15
Grete & Dan
Nygaard
~ 12 years ~

17
Loretta & Charles
Blair
~ 36 years ~

18
Mary V. & Donald
Wither
~ 53 years ~

19
Jerry & George Cole
~ 64 years ~

Marilyn & Ralph
Siegel
~ 21 years ~

24
Judy & Tom
Williams
~ 8 years ~.

IN OUR PRAYERS 13

(as of 3/14/2012)

BRENTWOOD

Joyce Minnicks

CEDAR CREEK

Lois & Jack Schoch

CYPRESS COVE

George Cole

DIAMOND RIDGE

Betty Duncan

MONROE LIFE CARE

Mary Huey

SUGARMILL MANOR

Marge Dilling

Joanna Miller

Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS

Ruth Eaton

Fran Graham

Joan & Jack Ness

Abbye Jean & Bill Richner.

UMW UNIT MEETING

TUESDAY 4/17/12 9:45 A.M.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME!

“TAKE A WALK WITH CHRIST”

SPEAKER: IRIS WHITTAKER

UMC FELLOWSHIP HALL



Sunday 1*COMMUNION SUNDAY
PALM SUNDAY*

8:00 Traditional Worship
 9:30 Sunday School
 9:30 Traditional Worship
 10:45 New Beginnings
 11:00 Traditional Worship
 12:00 Labyrinth

Monday 2

8:00 Work Crew
 8:30 Labyrinth
 8:30 Shine
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 10:00 Sacred Hour
 11:00 Reserved
 1:00 Diabetes Support
 1:00 ML Respite
 4:00 Stephen Ministries
 7:00 Maund. Th. Rehearsal

Tuesday 3

8:30 Labyrinth
 9:30 UMW Ex. Meeting
 10:00 Staff Meeting
 12:00 Weight Watchers
 1:30 Stephen Ministries
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministries
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Serendipity Bible
 7:00 Maund. Th. Rehearsal

Wednesday 4

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
 8:30 Labyrinth
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 10:00 LaMountain Bible
 2:00 Spirit Heart
 3:00 Benson Bible
 4:00 PREPS BS
 5:15 Music
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir

Thursday 5*MAUNDY THURSDAY*

8:30 Labyrinth
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 1:30 Serendipity Women
 2:00 Green Team
 7:30 MAUNDY THURS.
 8:00 AA
 8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 6

GOOD FRIDAY
OFFICE CLOSED
GENESIS DEADLINE

9:00 Labyrinth
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:00 Wise Bible
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 7

8:00 Saturday Sisters
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:00 Decorate
 9:00 Labyrinth
 10:30 Bereavement
 10:30 God's Clods

Sunday 8*EASTER SUNDAY
DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY*

8:00 Traditional Worship
 9:30 Sunday School
 9:30 Traditional Worship
 10:45 New Beginnings
 11:00 Traditional Worship
 12:00 TAKE LAB. DOWN

Monday 9

8:00 Work Crew
 8:30 Shine
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:00 PED
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 10:00 Sacred Hour
 11:00 Reserved
 1:00 Alzheimer Support
 1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 10

9:30 Faith Hope Circle
 9:30 Helping Hands Circle
 12:00 Weight Watchers
 1:00 Dorcas Circle
 2:00 Stewardship
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Salty Circle
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 11

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 10:00 LaMountain Bible
 1:00 Shawl Ministry
 2:00 Spirit Heart
 3:00 Benson Bible
 4:00 PREPS BS
 5:15 Music
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir

Thursday 12

9:00 Back Packers
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:15 Ruth Circle
 3:00 Permanent Endowm.
 8:00 AA
 8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 13

8:00 Volunteer Breakfast
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:00 Wise Bible
 2:00 Cancer Support
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 14

8:00 Serendipity P/cakes
 8:00 Saturday Sisters
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:30 Bereavement
 6:00 H. Ele. Talent Show

Sunday 15

*PANTRY SUNDAY
GIDEON SUNDAY*
 8:00 Traditional Worship

9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Traditional Worship
10:45 New Beginnings
11:00 Traditional Worship
12:00 CONCERT SETUP
3:00 CONCERT

Monday 16

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Shine
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
10:00 Sacred Hour
11:00 Reserved
1:00 ML Respite
4:00 Stephen Ministers

Tuesday 17

9:00 WW PREP
10:00 Staff Meeting
10:00 UMW UNIT MTG.
12:00 Weight Watchers
1:30 Stephen Ministers
2:00 Finance Committee
3:00 Serendipity Bible
3:00 Stephen Ministers
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 18

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 Siegel Bible
10:00 LaMountain Bible
1:30 New Member Class
2:00 Spirit Heart
3:00 Benson Bible
3:00 Staff/Parish Relations
4:00 PREPS BS
5:15 Music
5:30 WW dinner
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir

Thursday 19

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
1:30 Serendipity Women
3:00 Missions Committee
3:30 Trustees

7:00 Creative Worship
8:00 AA
8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 20

COUNCIL REPORTS DUE
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:00 Wise Bible
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 21

8:00 Saturday Sisters
9:00 CPR Training
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:30 Bereavement
2:00 CHORAL SET-UP

Sunday 22

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Traditional Worship
10:45 New Beginnings
11:00 Traditional Worship
3:00 SMW CHOIR

Monday 23

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Shine
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
10:00 Sacred Hour
11:00 Reserved
1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 24

General Conference
10:00 Staff Meeting
11:00 Gen. Conf. Bus Trip
12:00 Weight Watchers
3:00 Serendipity Bible
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 25

General Conference
7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 Siegel Bible
10:00 LaMountain Bible

1:00 Shawl Ministry
2:00 Spirit Heart
3:00 Benson Bible
4:00 PREPS BS
5:15 Music
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir

Thursday 26

General Conference
9:00 FOLD/MAIL
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
11:00 BASEBALL TRIP
7:00 COUNCIL
8:00 AA
8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 27

General Conference
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 Our Father's Table
10:00 Wise Bible
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 28

General Conference
8:00 Saturday Sisters
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 29

*CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY
BLOOD MOBILE*

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:30 Sunday School
9:30 Traditional Worship
10:45 New Beginnings
11:00 Traditional Worship
12:30 MOVIE

Monday 30

General Conference
8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Shine
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
10:00 Sacred Hour
11:00 Reserved
1:00 ML Respite.

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

JOIN - THE VISITATION TEAM

The Visitation Team Members visit those in the hospital, nursing homes, and the homebound, as a way to keep such members connected with the church and to help them with their spiritual needs.

There is a great need for volunteers at this time because illness and other circumstances have resulted in the loss of some members. Anyone who has an interest and would like to know more about this wonderful ministry is encouraged to contact Peggy Benson at the church office 628-4083.

Celebration & Worship

On Easter Sunday we feel like celebrating when we say, “Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed”. It really *is* what we do Easter Sunday. Celebrating His resurrection is what we do every Sunday morning when we come to worship. Think about it -- we would have no reason to be in church at all if it weren’t for the resurrection of Christ. During Lent this is even more evident. The 40 days of Lent do not include Sundays because they are considered to be mini Easters!

Since I’m writing about celebration, I’m sure you’ve guessed it’s a spiritual discipline! The definition of the spiritual discipline of celebration is “utter delight and joy in ourselves, our life, and our world as a result of our faith and confidence in God’s greatness, beauty, and goodness.”* A few of the Scriptures which refer to celebration are Philippians 4:4-13, Esther 9:22, and Psalm 145:7. The spiritual discipline of worship is defined as “expressing in words, music, rituals, and silent adoration the greatness, beauty, and goodness of God, by means of which we enter the supernatural reality of the *Shekinah*, or glory, of God.”* Romans 12:1, Ezekiel 1:28 and John 4:20-24 are just a few of the Scriptures where worship is

mentioned. I hope you see the **17** similarities between celebration and worship. There are other spiritual disciplines which are part of our worship services, like prayer, study, and fellowship.

Since we’re talking about worship and celebration, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the upcoming General Conference which will be in Tampa beginning April 24th. I’ve heard the worship at General Conference is amazing. I hope many of you will take advantage of the fact that it is in Tampa this year and go visit or maybe even volunteer. There is an article in this month’s Genesis which has details about General Conference.

PRAYER: Let’s continue to talk about prayer and how God has answered our prayers; it helps to build our faith and the faith of others. The communion rail is available for prayer at any time. If you wish to have someone pray with you after any service, please come to the left end of the rail and indicate that in some way or by open hands as in receiving in prayer. There is a wooden prayer request box on a table in the narthex, near the front doors. If you would like to request prayer, please fill out one of the prayer request cards and put it in the box; your request will be passed along.

*definitions taken from The Renovare’ Spiritual Formation Bible(compiled by Richard J. Foster, Dallas Willard, Walter Brueggemann, Eugene H. Peterson). Used with permission.

Dear praying friends,

Our recent decision to return to the US permanently in June has been met by very kind words and encouragements from so many of you. We want to thank you for those confirmations and especially for your prayers in this important time of transition. One note we'd like to clarify concerns the issue of "pay" vs. "support" in terms of serving in the US. Rarely do nonprofit, non-denominational mission organizations "pay" their workers, whether they serve at a home office or overseas. The workers have to raise support to serve regardless of location. Large denominations – Southern Baptists and United Methodist Church, for example – collect funds to "pay" their missionaries/workers so that they don't have to raise their own support. However, it's only those large denominations that are able to do that because of the large church membership and structure they have. That would be financially unfeasible for PIONEERS or other independent mission organizations to do because they are lean operations that don't have "members" who support the ministry via offerings but rather rely on their workers to gather their own unique groups of supporters. That is why we will continue to rely on generous supporters while living in the US whether we continue as Area Leader for Thailand/Burma or serve at our agency's US office in Orlando, Fla.

Praises

✝ We had one last encouraging visit with our team partner, **Pastor Dapoe**, in *Mae Jaem* in the mountains west



of *Chiang Mai* last month. We accompanied a Florida couple that is hoping to serve full-time in this rural evangelism, outreach and training ministry.

Please pray for Steve and Lisa Carlsen (far left back in the photo next to Pastor *Dapoe*) to be able to raise support and prepare well as they feel led to move into *Dapoe's* village in late 2012 in order to help him share the Gospel in many neighboring, unreached villages.

✝ The women from Cool Shade of Life Church enjoyed their annual **Valentine's cookie-making meeting**.



Elaine shared about love from 1 Corinthians 13 during the Bible study and was thankful that she was healthy enough to host another women's group meeting. And, yes, that is our son Jamie's ear in the foreground of the photo as he also enjoys Mom's food-decorating meetings ☺.

✝ Elaine remains in India at a **church-planting workshop** through Monday. Praise God that she made it there successfully last Friday and has not gotten sick despite a trip to the *Taj Mahal*, lots of different foods, and many other participants having colds and other illnesses. Please pray for her to stay healthy, to gain wisdom, and to return safely.

✝ This month's **cultural photo** is "*Makha Bucha*." On March 7 this year, Thais will celebrate this holiday, which is one of five annual major Buddhist festivals. This event is said to commemorate the *Buddha's* sermon dubbed the "Heart of Buddhism" after his enlightenment roughly

2,500 years ago. In honor of the day, people will gather in the evening to walk around a temple building or *Buddha* image three times carrying candles and offerings to symbolize their faith in the “Triple Gem” of Buddhism: *Buddha*, *Dhamma* (teachings), and *Sangha* (monkhood). The photo shows people at *Wat Chedi Luang* in *Chiang Mai*. Please pray for God to reveal the True Light to Thais during this festival!

***(see photo on bottom of Page 22)**

PRAYERS

✝ Our foundation in Thailand held its important **annual board meeting** earlier this week when documents, reports, budgets and project proposals are prepared and planned. Please pray for the foundation secretary to be able to translate and compile all these documents in a coherent and acceptable way so that the Thai government will be satisfied and so that the foundation can build integrity with all Thai agencies and police officials.

✝ Please continue to pray for **wisdom for our family and PI leaders** in both Thailand and Florida as we all prayerfully consider what God has for us in terms of future ministry. Please ask God to make it very clear whether we should continue to serve as Thailand/Burma leader or in a US headquarters role when we return to Florida in June. Also, please pray that we would be able to keep most of our financial support base intact in order to have enough funding for life and ministry.

✝ We will take part in **PIONEERS regional meetings** from March 8-10 here in *Chiang Mai* involving as many as 10 area leaders (ALs) from our region that includes all of SE Asia and the Pacific. Please pray for wisdom for Regional Leader John Fain and Associate RL Alvin Hull as they lead these meetings and for the ALs to gain new insights and encouragements.

✝ Please also pray for speakers/workers and for us as everyone finalizes

preparations for our **SiAM Area 19 Conference** to be held April 7-14 in *Chiang Mai*. Elaine and I will lead and manage this event that will include approximately 110 people.

✝ Also concerning **our return to the US this summer**, please continue to pray for God to lead us to the right doctors who will help Elaine to recover and maintain good health; for a successful and wise housing search in the Orlando area; for wisdom in how best to homeschool Caleb and Jamie; for our re-adjustment back to US life since we’ve only been there for four months in the past eight years; and for our emotions as we have to begin to say goodbye to so many people and places that have been family/home for almost eight years now.

✝ Our teammates **Andrew and Melissa Peterson** and their four children are in the midst of closing down their lives in New Zealand in order to come to Thailand in early April to serve alongside our partner Pastor Moses in *Mae Ai* in the far north near Burma. Please pray for them to prepare well and for Melissa and the rest of the family as her father passed away earlier this week.

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

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that with the presidential election just months away, Christians are considering what role(s) they should play in politics? This is an interesting and ongoing debate as some believe deep involvement is needed while others believe total separation is required (or somewhere in between!). Pastor and author Randy Alcorn has some challenging thoughts on this often-divisive topic at <http://www.epm.org/blog/2012/Feb/3/christians-and-politics>.

Our village is located in a valley surrounded by mountains. The average temperature in summer is 85 degrees with winter months averaging -28C. We don't get much snow but once we do, it will remain until March. An interesting note here, the snow doesn't melt as much as it 'evaporates' because of the very dry climate.

Our community is approx. 40% Buriat and 60% Russian. (Also folks from Uzbekistan, China and America.) This village was once quite small but as of 2010 it has grown to a population of 8,430. It's the region's central town and



SCHOOL

has two schools, four kindergartens (these are separate from the schools because they are open to children from 2-6 years of age), a library, and indoor gymnasium for the community, four small cafes in town and two on the edge of town. There's also a library, a very old and small museum and of course a monument in the center of town to those who died in WWII.



POST OFFICE

We only have four paved roads, the others are gravel and/or sand with lots of dips and holes. Our cemetery is at the edge of town and is divided for the most part between Russian and the Buriat people. This being the 'county seat', we also have government offices and the courthouse. Not more than 20 years ago, this town also had several factories. There was a chicken farm with 50,000 chickens, a dairy farm that supplied milk products to the region, hay was grown outside of town about 20 km on 100's of acres of land; after 'perestroika' the equipment disappeared and all of these farms and businesses closed. There is a local butcher which has also started a small business that makes a national food that's something like a meat dumpling for this region. There must be 30 or



GROCERY

more small stores that sell groceries, an appliance store and two furniture stores, and our version of home depot (only lots smaller). We also have 6 sawmills, however, they employ the Chinese because it's cheaper and that is where approx. 80% of the lumber is shipped. With all of this you'd think most folks would have jobs....we still see the unemployment rate over 50%!

Answered prayer! We wrote last month of a young lady who almost lost her arm. She is finally home after



HOSPITAL

two operations, a different cast and one more operation in the future. At his point, she has feeling and movement in her fingers, hand and lower arm! PTL!!! She had so many visitors while in the hospital that the nurses told her she would have to visit in the hallway and **not** in her room. Not to be deterred, she shared her books and discussed the Bible with her many roommates over the month long stay.



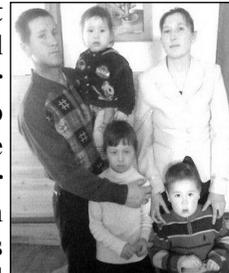
BANK

We need a new banner! This was the consensus of our youth group, so we immediately went online where the girls made a fantastic choice! We don't remember how it started, but we've made a couple in the past and the folks LOVE them. The youth felt it was time for something new and have chosen a beautiful larger cross made of many smaller ones. We will be working on this for the next month and will wait until it's complete before posting a picture....it really is going to be beautiful and has become a great

opportunity for discussions on what the cross means to each of them.

“I must have walked around your building for two hours before knocking on your door!”

It had been at least three weeks since Sergei had spoken with us or anyone else from the fellowship! He had made the decision to go back to that ‘old life’ of drinking and hanging around ‘friends’ that would *drag* him away from his ‘new life’. March 2nd Sergei decided he’d had enough....he called Kevin and with heavy feet and a very heavy heart came to our door to ask for forgiveness. We have written about Sergei and his family and of his problem with alcoholism. We’ve also written of how he has wanted to change his life; to be a better husband and father. We pray this time Sergei will stand firm in his faith and trust the only One who can make a difference in his life. PLEASE remember this family in prayer; they’re expecting their fourth child and we see them becoming a huge part in the fellowship’s future.



We are so grateful for the continued prayers and support you so abundantly give. As Easter approaches, we’re reminded of new beginnings and new life because of our Savior! We will join you and those around the world in celebrating our risen Lord.

Luke 24:5 ...”Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He had RISEN!”

He has RISEN Risen Indeed!

Kevin & Laura Wooster

WELCOME THE YMCA

The Citrus YMCA is thrilled to expand their Group Exercise program to the Homosassa area and will be using our church facilities to provide a healthy living initiative to the people in this area. **All members of FUMC who register before April 9th will receive FREE YMCA membership (\$12.00 value) for one year and their first class is free.** Contact the Y for more information 637-0132 (M-F 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.)

The regularly scheduled weekly classes at FUMC are:

MONDAY

9:30-10:15 a.m. - Cardio Interval
10:30-11:15 a.m. - Stability & Strength

WEDNESDAY

9:30-10:15 a.m. - Pilates
10:30-11:15 a.m. - Stability & Strength

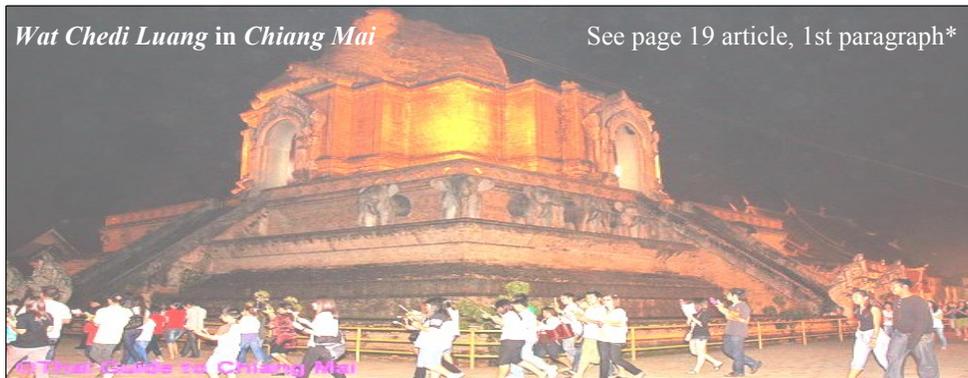
FRIDAY

9:30-10:15 a.m. - Pilates
10:30-11:15 a.m. - Cardio Interval

COMING SOON:
SILVER SNEAKER PROGRAM

Wat Chedi Luang in Chiang Mai

See page 19 article, 1st paragraph*





Wednesdays
7 p.m.
 (about 1 hour)

NO AUDITION!
Good Fellowship!

CALL the church office:
628-4083 to leave a
message for Dixie!

WE NEED



YOU!

Can you find the 16 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?

(I've bolded 1 for you - ML)

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam. Especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you, Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. So relax and see how well you do, for there really are 16 books of the Bible in this story.

submitted by Dottie Baker

NEW MEMBERS & IDEAS NEEDED!

The decorations that enhance the sanctuary for each special season are the Decorating Committee creations. We are looking for new members to bring their creative ideas to our committee, and we will need a new chairperson beginning January 1, 2013. Prayerfully consider heading this committee! To see the completion of the decorations is rewarding. If you are interested please call the church office or Judy Powell at 503-3977.



My First Journey

When I first became a Stephen Minister I was very uncertain of what to expect when visiting my first care receiver. I realized that we were both unsure of ourselves but after a few short meetings together we both realized our need for each other. I found that I was benefiting as much as he said he was. It was a rewarding experience and brought me closer to the Teacher. As I was assigned another care receiver, the 'growing' was easier for me but the results proved to be much the same for each of us. Being a Stephen Minister has truly been a God inspired experience.

We Need Your Help

On Sundays, Stephen Ministers will be in the narthex to talk with any man or woman about becoming a part of this wonderful helpful ministry to those who are hurting.

A new class, training new volunteers, will begin shortly. Please consider joining us. Only a couple of hours weekly are required for the training. After completion of the training you will be richly rewarded.

Think about it, Pray about it. You are needed to help someone else who has a more critical need.

submitted by Carol MacKenzie

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase.

In Jesus' precious name, Amen. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he

added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime! Embrace all equally! **Have lunch with God.....bring chips. Call someone who has touched your life in a special way. Let them know how important they are!**

from Mary Ann

NEW ADDRESS

Joanna Miller

Sugarmill Manor Assisted Living

8985 S. Suncoast Blvd.

Homosassa, FL 34446

352-503-7141

**SHE WOULD LOVE TO
HAVE YOU VISIT HER!**

UMC General Conference Convenes in Tampa

by Rev. Richard Evans

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet at the Convention Center in Tampa from April 24 through May 4. Almost 1,000 delegates and several hundred alternates from around the world will set policy and direction for the church during the next four years. Several thousand visitors and guests also are expected to attend portions of the conference. This is the first time in the 44 years of the UMC that the General Conference has met in Florida.

The theme of the 2012 conference is “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ to Transform the World.” The Florida Annual Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Timothy Whitaker, is hosting the event. Some 4,000 people will serve in support roles—greeters, registration officials, marshals, pages, translators, guides, drivers, musicians, technicians, reporters, and emergency responders. In all nearly 10,000 United Methodists will “invade” Tampa for the conference.

The General Conference website is www.gc2012.umc.org. This is the place to find updates on the conference, read news and feature stories, track legislation, and watch video streaming. All plenary sessions, including worship services, will be streamed live. Following the opening worship at 4 pm on Tuesday (featuring a procession of banners from all of the annual conferences world-wide), most of the remainder of the first week will be devoted to the work of 13 legislative committees as they consider over 1,200 petitions.

Sunday will be a day of “Sabbath” rest, and at 7:00 pm delegates and guests will see and hear a special presentation entitled “We Need a River--a Celebration and Challenge of the Mission and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.” The second week (Mon.-Fri.) is for plenary sessions. All United Methodists are urged to pray for the delegates and that God’s will may be clearly discerned throughout the decision-making. Our own Marilyn Watson is part of the prayer support team preparing for the conference.

During the eleven-day conference, the 988 delegates will revise *The Book of Discipline*, which regulates the manner in which local churches, annual conferences, and general agencies are organized. And delegates will revise *The Book of Resolutions*, a volume declaring the church’s stance on a variety of social issues. These are considered instructive and persuasive but are not binding on members. The conference also approves budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years. Several major proposals and issues will be considered by the delegates.

Streamlining the administrative structure by consolidating nine of the thirteen General Agencies into a new UM Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

Redefining the role of the President of the Council of Bishops to serve full time for four years as the denomination’s chief officer and without the responsibility of overseeing a geographical area.

Eliminating the appointment guarantee for clergy in good standing while retaining the ability of bishops to move clergy to different assignments and churches.

continued on next page.....

Strengthening the UMC as a global church. This would mean less 27 emphasis on the USA and more recognition of the growing UM presence in Africa, Europe, and Asia. General Conference plenary sessions now include simultaneous translation into eight languages.

Sexuality. Since 1972 the issue of homosexuality has been discussed and debated, and this year will be no exception. There continues to be deep disagreement within the church on this issue.

Other social issues will be debated, among which are Abortion, Immigration, War and Peace, and the Environment.

Since the 2012 General Conference will be meeting in our own “front yard,” we have a great opportunity to attend for all or part of a day and to experience our world-wide church in person. The exhibits themselves will be worth the trip to Tampa and back. If you are interested, call the church office. Theresa will be coordinating one or more trips using our church bus.

PRAYER LABYRINTH - HOLY WEEK 2012

Again this year there will be a prayer labyrinth in Fellowship Hall during Holy Week for your spiritual enrichment. It will be open:

Palm Sunday	12 Noon – 4 p.m.
Monday – Wednesday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Good Friday	9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Holy Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Additional information about prayer labyrinths is available in the Narthex and on the Spiritual Formation Bulletin Board. When you come to the labyrinth, there will be a brochure with complete details, tips for your journey, and a reflection booklet. Many who have availed themselves of this opportunity indicate they felt blessed and return year after year. We hope that you will join them this year in this opportunity to worship and pray as Christians have done for centuries.

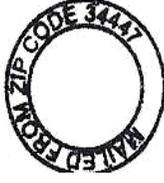
PRAYER CORNER

Please be in prayer for:

- our church staff and Pastor Mark daily.
- our choir and all those preparing for and participating in the special Lenten and Easter events.
- all our committee members and chairpersons.
- our Serendipity Men.
- Bishop Whitaker and his Cabinet as they make decisions about pastoral appointments.
- the decisions which will be made at General Conference.

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

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“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

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ricmar@infionline.net

~ Visit our Website ~
www.lumc.org
Neil Kline, Webmaster

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Pat Blake, Copy Editor

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