

GENESIS

MAY

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~ OPEN HEARTS ~ OPEN MINDS ~ OPEN DOORS ~

Serving Members and Friends of The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa

The Rev. Glendon Harris shares a story told by Buffalo Bill Cody. Buffalo Bill recounted how an English visitor to the West was riding through a Rocky Mountain canyon one day. Suddenly a tremendous gust of wind swooped down and actually carried the Englishman off the seat of his wagon. After he picked himself up and combed the sand and gravel out of his whiskers, he said, "I say! I think you overdo ventilation in this country."

In the second chapter of Acts, we read that there is power in the wind - and even more power in the Breath of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit came swooping on the wind into that upper room where the disciples and the followers of Jesus had been praying and waiting. The Spirit gave them the ability to speak in different languages and brought a holy boldness to Peter so he could preach the good news of the Gospel to the crowd that had gathered. The Holy Spirit moved and convicted the partisan crowd of Jews who had gathered to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit is also gentle. He is the still, small voice of God speaking to us of God's presence and power. He is the breath that filled the once dry bones in Ezekiel so they came alive, even as He breathes God's life into us who believe. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God in our lives every day, speaking to us if we are willing to listen.

The Holy Spirit provides each of us with at least one gift that is particularly suited to the person he has created us to be. He gives gifts to be used in establishing the Kingdom of God. Paul writes, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord." (1 Corinthians 12:4-5) Then he adds, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7) Each person's gift is valuable, and when we fail to function in our giftedness, a piece of the whole is missing.

The Holy Spirit inspires our worship and fills us with the presence and power of God as we celebrate the good news that Jesus Christ is risen. When we sing, when we pray, when we take communion, the Holy Spirit is present.

Paul tells us how the Spirit helps our prayer life: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." (Romans 8:26-27)

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, there was more than just wind and fire. It was a time of the opening of men's hearts to the presence of God. Today the Holy Spirit is among us, God present in our lives each day. Our celebration of Pentecost is also more than just wind and fire - it is our opportunity to open our lives to God's presence and to celebrate.



Glendon Harris

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.



We
Are
A
Stephen
Ministry
Church

Church Office

Phone: 352-628-4083

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Website

www.1umc.org

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 &

Visitation

Sharon E. Smith

Sunday School

Superintendent & Nursery Supervisor

Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator

Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician

Sharon Cooley

Night Security

Michael Rodgers

Custodian

Dale Evans

Within The Church

Worship Services

Music Ministries:

Choir

Men & Ladies

Ensembles

Children's Choir

Handbells & Chimes

Christian Education

Adult Sunday School

(5 classes)

Children's Sunday School

Youth Ministry

Lenten Soup Supers

Fine Arts Program

Prayer Ministry

UMW Circles

Tape Ministry

Blood Bank

Visitation Care Group

Parish Nurse Ministry

Wednesday Night Dinners

Disaster Relief Programs

Funeral Receptions

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Women

Stewardship

Biblical Travel Ministry

Counters

Folding & Mailing

Attendance Tracking

Outreach Ministries

Parish Nurse

Nursing Home Ministries

Shut-in Visitation

God's Clods (Clown Ministry)

"Tuned For Revival"

Barbershop Quartet

Disaster Relief & Response Team

Thrift Shop

Linda's Loaves

Volunteers in Mission

Prison Ministry

Stephen Ministry

Prayer Blanket Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knit For Kids Ministry

Health Related Workshops:

(Diabetes, High

Blood Pressure)

Annual Seminar for Elder

Needs

Men's Monday Morning

"Work Detail"

Men's Wednesday Morning

Prayer Breakfast

Hugs for Soldiers

Vacation Bible School

World Travel Group

State Travel Group

Bus Ministry

Missionaries to Siberia

Missionaries to Thailand

Missionaries to Haiti

Small Groups

Cancer Survivor

Current Affairs

Individual Bible Study

Groups (Men's,

Women's,

and Couples)

Saturday Sisters

Contemporary Issues

Bereavement Group

P.A.W.S.

Discipleship Classes

Disciple I

Disciple IV

Companions in Christ

Benevolences

Habitat for Humanity

St. Andrews Mission

(Feeding the hungry)

The Heifer Project

S.H.A.R.E.

(Economical food for the

church and community)

Food Pantry with weekly

baskets to needy

Holiday Food Baskets

Toys for Children

(at Christmas)

Salvation Army

The Path (Help for local

homeless)

Methodist Children's Home

C.R.O.P. Walk

Equipment for Handicapped

(Wheel chairs,
walkers, etc.)

Community Outreach

(Use of our facilities)

AA

Al-Anon

After-school Tutoring

Girl Scouts

Hospice

GED Tutoring

Kiwanis Breakfast

Isaiah's Place

FCAT Tutoring

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.

Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

THE DISCIPLE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

It's always hard when someone we love leaves us. Children especially dislike having a parent go away, even for a short time. But when the parent promises, "I will send you something special," it makes the parting somewhat easier. The child has something to anticipate.

1) Jesus had explained to his disciples that he must return to his Father in heaven, and they were grieving at the thought of his leaving them. He said to them, "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. He will convict the world of guilt..." (John. 16:7-8a)

Who is Jesus promising to send them?

We know from other passages of scripture that Jesus is promising to send them the Holy Spirit. What is to be one of the functions of the Holy Spirit when he comes?

2) Then, just before Jesus ascended to the Father, he told his followers: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5)

Why was it important for them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit before they went out to witness?

3) Jesus told them plainly, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Notice the widening circle - from their base city of Jerusalem, through their land of Judah, and then to the land of the Samaritans who were commonly looked down upon by the Jews - and then to all the world, which would include the heathen Gentiles.

What does Jesus' promise to his followers then mean to us today?

4) After witnessing Jesus' ascension, the disciples gathered together in a room in Jerusalem - to pray and to wait for the mysterious Holy Spirit Jesus had promised. What would happen? How would he come? Would they recognize this "Counselor" when he arrived? What questions would you have been asking?

5) In Acts 2, we read: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:1-4) Suddenly the gift was here; he had come just as Jesus promised. Imagine yourself in this Bible setting. What do you think your reaction would have been?

What two things happened to the believers who had been waiting?

In the crowd were God-fearing Jews from every nation, and each person heard the disciples speaking in his own language. Why were these two things important for the beginning of the church?

6) Then in Acts 2:14-40, we read the powerful sermon that Peter, a common fisherman but now gifted by the Holy Spirit, preached to the crowd. Verses 40-41 tell how Peter warned and pleaded, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." About 3,000 people believed and were baptized. Looking back at Jesus' promise in Acts 1, what had Peter been empowered to do?

From John 16:8a in question one, what had the Holy Spirit done?

THINK ABOUT IT:

- When God gives you the opportunity to share the good news with a person or a group, what will the Holy Spirit empower you to do?
- As you share, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the process? Do we sometimes try to fulfill his role, feeling we have failed to share effectively if we can't bring a person to believe?

**THE DISCIPLE IS TO SHARE THE TRUTH;
THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST DO THE CONVICTING**

Construction Is Underway!

Construction of our new Fellowship Center is now underway. Bollenback Builders has been busy demolishing the old buildings and preparing for construction of the new facility. Shortly after Easter they began setting up their work center, disconnecting electrical, plumbing, security, and sprinkler systems, installing barriers between the areas to be demolished and the areas to be renovated, removing interior walls, shoring up roof trusses, removing sheet rock, ceilings, insulation, plumbing and electric lines, and preparing for complete removal of the old fellowship hall, kitchen, thrift-shop workroom, and vestibule. By the time you read this newsletter, construction fencing should be in place, and the old buildings may be gone completely.

We were able to remove and store all equipment that we can use in the new structure and to donate many serviceable items that we cannot re-use to various community charities. The demolition sub-contractor will salvage steel, copper, and other materials during the demolition process, and even the concrete block walls will be crushed and recycled as construction materials. Relatively little will end up in the land fill.

Jim Tierney is Bollenback's on-site supervisor; he will be present and supervising all work every day during the construction period. Jim has installed several new doors in the hallway between the construction area and the administrative building. We ask that you do not enter the construction area at any time, for your safety and to avoid liability issues with the various sub-contractors. It's not safe there, and we certainly don't want anyone getting hurt.

We will try to keep you well-informed of the construction progress throughout the next 10 or 11 months. Photos associated with this article illustrate the progress to date, and future issues of Genesis will illustrate work underway at those times. In addition, Theresa Weber, Church Administrator, has established a construction bulletin board in the Administrative building (on the wall opposite her office). We will also post photos on the church website at www.lumc.org on a regular basis. Please visit those locations frequently to see how we are doing.

Dave Marquis, Chairman
Building For Tomorrow Committee

Bollenback Builders Inc.



Jim Tierney's first day on the job. Jim is Bollenback's on-site supervisor, and he has set up shop temporarily in the vestibule outside fellowship hall to get the Phase III project underway.



Left: Jim installing a new door to separate the construction area from the Administrative Building .



Right: This is the new door installed at the end of the hallway in the Administrative Building. Beyond here will be a construction zone for the next 10 to 11 months.



Left: A temporary wall across the width of the old building was erected to separate the fellowship hall/kitchen/vestibule area - which will be completely demolished - from the former restroom/library/thrift shop work room area - which will be extensively renovated. The wall is visible from the Administrative wing.



Right: bracing used to support the roof trusses in the former restroom area during demolition.

Fellowship Hall

Old Fellowship Hall after removal of all furnishings and fixtures – looking south on the left and looking north on the right.



Standard Demolition Corp's Bob Cat working in fellowship hall.



Don of SDC removing sheet rock from walls.



A mountain of materials left from Standard Demolition Corp's demolition of the Fellowship Hall.



Kitchen, Restrooms, Library

Kitchen after removal of re-usable equipment.



The JAWS of the Standard Demolition Corp's Bob Cat removed anything in its path (below left). The results: kitchen (below right), fellowship hall/restroom area (bottom left), restroom, library, corridor area (bottom right).



Brian, of Frontline Fire Protection Inc. removing fire sprinkler pipe in former restrooms.



Mission Trip to Haiti

Patience Nave, Sharon Smith,
Ann Eckman & Maggie Skidmore

Monday March 24: The FUMCH Bus picked up team members: Maggie Skidmore from Kanas city, MO, Bonnie Falk from Milwaukee, WI, and our FUMCH members Sharon Smith, Patience Nave & Ann Eckman at 4:15 p.m. to drive to Clearwater, where 13 team members stayed overnight at the beautiful home of Wally & Susan Voege. Suitcases were opened, repacked, weighed, labeled and deemed ready for departure to the airport check-in on Tuesday AM. We had little sleep that night and left the house at 3:30 AM, Tuesday, for the airport.



Tuesday, March 25: Bill Brobst, our FUMCH bus driver, with some team members, organized the loading of "check-in" bags on the bus, and the unloading of the suitcases, plus our carry-ons, from the bus at the airport. Each suitcase weighed close to 50 pounds. Twenty-eight suitcases were checked in and boarding passes obtained in a timely fashion.

It was a short flight to Miami. Customs went smoother than expected. At Port au Prince's Customs, the Rev. Milord, a native Haitian, from FL, met us and helped us thru customs, easing an otherwise tense situation with the medical supplies we were bringing into the country.



Arrangements had been made for us to stay in Petit Goave, at the Methodist Guest House, for our week in Haiti. During our 5-hour ride, we had opportunity to observe from the road the concrete homes with tin roofs, trash on roadways and side-streets, and the apparent poverty of the Haitian people. Approaching Petit Grove there was natural beauty to be seen in the water of the Canal of Gonave, in the ripening fruit of the banana and palm trees, and in the harvesting of the sugarcane fields, as we approached .



Dinner was a feast at the Methodist Guest House - mixed vegetable dish with pasta, goat roast tips, cole slaw, and chocolate chip ice cream for dessert. They have limited food supplies, and yet they gave to us generously.



Wednesday, March 26: The first day we hit the floor running. The 12-persons' medical mission was the primary focus. Sharon Smith, a co-leader, ordered medical supplies



based on assumptions of what might be needed; the team had no idea what lay before them. The Medical Clinic was set-up at the Olivier Methodist Church.

It was so interesting to see what the children enjoyed playing. We tried to teach them dodge ball with beach balls, but they did not understand. They were just happy to keep hitting the ball up in the air, and we counted how many times before it hit the ground. They loved the face painting that Patience did and delighted in bubble-blowing with Ann Eckman and Maggie Skidmore.



The little girls liked to touch our light hair, and they were even fascinated by the veins in our hands which you could not easily see in their little brown hands.

Thursday, March 27:

We gave the children worm pills to swallow and then they were given a piece of candy. We put a cross on their hand to tell who had been given the pills. The pills are very bitter, but even then some of the children tried to rub off the cross so they could get more pills and so have another piece of candy.



Children were taught about tooth care with toothbrushes. Ann created a song for children to know when and how to brush their teeth. A few older brothers and fathers came too. Mostly, they wanted a toothbrush like the children had received.



Six of the team went to the Methodist Grade and High School in Petit Goave, where they taught preventive dental care and distributed toothbrushes, toothpastes and



pencils to the 500 students and staff. There were almost 600 of each item handed out. The rest of the team held a second day's Clinic at Olivier. The school project took all morning and part of the afternoon.



Friday, March 28: Early Friday, Sharon Smith and six team members left early for a rural school and church in the mountainous town of Carrenage.

What a road! What an experience! We traveled for some time after leaving the main highway, driving up the mountainous road. We had no idea how far it was, and it was a bumpy ride. There would be huge boulders in the road or path and large mud holes. We saw few people or signs of



life except at the spring, where women and children were washing their clothes, taking baths, or filling their containers with fresh water.

At the top of the mountain, we found the rural school where 100-150 children attend. There is a school principal and 4 teachers for the grade and high school. The teachers had not been paid since December 2007, giving up their salaries to feed the children.



Then we stopped at a little Methodist Church. Many people came from everywhere to see the visitors. Someone had picked fresh coconuts from the surrounding palm trees. A man used a machete to carefully cut the tops off, carefully, right down to the final membrane of the coconut. They showed us how to puncture the membrane and drink the coconut juice. They bought chairs from the houses nearby and made a row of them where we could sit and eat our refreshments. Later, the coconuts were cut in half so we could enjoy scooping out the coconut meat. Of their little, they gave much.



Our churches can make a difference in Haiti. The need is great and opportunities are many with the school-age children of Carlenage. There are approximately 600 people in this community, with 100-150 students in the school. Some of the things needed are a deep well for community water, a work team to repair and paint the facility, and to build a new latrine, money for principal and teacher salaries, school supplies and school lunches.



At devotion time, Bonnie Falk shared John Wesley's quote, "To the world, you are just one person. To one person, you may be the world."

Saturday, March 29: The United Methodist Church owns a currently non-producing Experimental Farm outside of Petit Goave. The farm has the potential for becoming a profitable working farm once again.

The Clinic was held at the Experimental Farm Pavilion and other buildings, with areas set up for doctor's treatment rooms. Patients were seen by the medical team and medications were given. The children colored pictures

and had their hands and faces were painted with a heart, a flower or balloons.

Our Clinic work was finished.

Sunday, March 30:

The leaders divided the team for the Methodist Church's Sunday Services at Petit Goave town church, and at Olivier. We sang in Haitian Creole from their hymnal.



Team co-leaders informed us of 2 team members and their churches who had donated \$1400 for Haitian projects. Carrenage, the rural school, had the greatest need, and the teachers' back-salaries from December were paid and monies for school lunches were provided. Our Medical team provided an additional \$500 toward the same project - \$1900 total. Bonnie Falk's Church gave \$485 for the toilet facilities at the Carlenage School. The superintendent was overjoyed!

Monday, April 1: The trip home was 20 hours long. The airplane was late from Port au Prince so we missed our connecting flight from Miami to Tampa. Bill Brobst waited for us through all of our delays. It was just after 11:00 PM we left from Tampa and headed for Homosassa.



Thank you for your prayers, support, encouragement, and love. How inadequate those words seem. We praise God for each and every one of you. We felt your prayers every day. Those prayers kept us safe and gave us strength every minute. Your prayers let us realize that the Haitian people just needed the love of Jesus in their life.

Our accommodations and the food were so much more than we expected. The food was wonderful. We had rice and beans every evening meal along with things like a mixed vegetable dish and goat meat. There were delicious juices and a bread pudding made with sweet potatoes. We even had spaghetti with onions and hot dogs for breakfast. There was always bottled water for us to fill our water bottles.

There were cold-water showers but even that felt good after a day in the sun and heat. We often remarked on how the women looked so fresh and their clothes so clean. We saw them washing their clothes in the water that had come down from the mountains after the rain. Their white skirts were so white and their hair always so neat.

At times we would feel frustrated that we could do so little – almost nothing it seemed - to help these people. But then we had to be reminded that God was not asking us to clean up all the garbage or build lovely homes for them. His greatest command is that we love others as He loves us.

Where There's a WILL, There's a Way!

By Rev. Richard Evans

I continue to be amazed at statistics that cite the large number of people - even my age or older - who do not have a WILL. A national poll, conducted last fall by Bankrate Inc, showed that 57% of Americans had made no such provision. Although three quarters of the respondents said that everyone needs a will, many simply don't follow through. Of those 50 years and older, 63% do have a will, although 90% of that age group said that they want to make their death as easy as possible on their families.

I suppose it is a human tendency to postpone or avoid things that seem sad and unpleasant - like death. But the results of such procrastination can be huge. Without a valid WILL or TRUST, the state decides how assets get distributed, heirs may quarrel over property, and parents may not be able to determine who will care for their dependent children. Preparing a WILL is one of the most important and considerate things you can do for your surviving family members - and for yourself.

Although some "do-it-yourselfers" decide to write their own, a simple WILL drafted by an attorney usually is worth the cost of several hundred dollars - both to avoid mistakes and to benefit from legal advice. For more complex estates, a Revocable Living TRUST may be a good alternative. The cost may be several thousand dollars but the result, usually, is to avoid probate. The combined costs of a WILL and probate often are similar to the cost of preparing a Revocable Living TRUST.

Once you have a WILL or TRUST, however, don't become too complacent. Those documents should be reviewed periodically, and possibly revised, as your circumstances change. A good rule of thumb is to review them at least every 10 years and/or when you change your residence to a different state.

When you create or revise your will, why not name your church (and possibly some favorite charities) among the beneficiaries of your estate? That is a wonderful way to extend your Christian stewardship beyond your lifetime. If you would like to discuss possibilities for specific designation of such a gift to our church, just give me a call (563-5833). And if your bequest to First United Methodist Church of Homosassa is invested in the Permanent Endowment Fund, the annual earnings will keep on "giving" forever - in your memory. What a legacy!

If you have named FUMCH in your WILL or TRUST, why not let me or Pastor Mark know that? We don't need to know any details; only that you have done it. We'd like to welcome you into the 5th Dimension Society and thank you for your faith, your foresight, and your generosity in planning for a deferred gift to your church.

Yes, where there's a WILL, there's a way!

Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

As I write this article for Genesis, I'll borrow words from an old song and begin by saying that "I've got [not Georgia but] Haiti on my mind."

It is Thursday, April 3 (articles for *Genesis* are due the first Friday of each month for the following month). We returned on April 1, and I haven't fully made the transition back. I will try to not allow Haiti to be my only topic of conversation for the next weeks, but, for right now, my thoughts and heart are still not settled back in Homosassa.

First, I must thank you for allowing me to go and represent you there. The trip was difficult, exhausting, challenging, emotionally devastating, physically draining, and heartwarming, rewarding, spiritually enriching, and memorable. Can all that be? Yes.

The Haitian dire poverty, their lack of hope, and the emptiness in their eyes broke my heart. Children and adults reached out to touch us and to have us touch them. The need was beyond my comprehension, and so we gave our complete concentration and attention to whatever task was at hand. I constantly thought of two verses from the scriptures: "As you do for the least of these, you do for me," and "Christ in me, the hope of glory." I couldn't really talk to them, so I talked to the Lord instead, asking Him to somehow let them know that my love for Him causes me to do for Him through them. As I held and painted little Haitian faces, I asked Him to let some portion of Him in me use my hands to touch them at their point of need. I told them in my terribly crude Haitian Creole that they are beautiful and that Jesus loves them.

The need is enormous, and the initial response is to feel defeated in just knowing that we cannot change what we see. I was greatly helped when one of our team members gave us a little card one morning when she gave the team devotion. It reads, "To the world, you may be one person. To one person, you may be the world." I constantly looked for ways in which we can be the "the world" to a small group of people, to find ways our church can make a small difference. I found that way in a little community of about 600.

For right now, just know that I thought of the church often, thanked God for you and your continued generous hearts, and prayed for ways to represent you well there. I am glad to be home, to see my church family, to enjoy good drinking water and hot showers. It will also be awhile before I eat rice and beans again.

Note of Upcoming Need
Here at Home:

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is next month. We still need volunteers to work with the children, and all new volunteers must be screened. Please call or come to see me - SOON - if you are willing to work with the children for one week in June. We expect more children this year.

*United Methodist Women of Homosassa
cordially invite
All FUMC Women & Men (yes, Men too!)
to our Unit Meeting
June 17th, 2008.
9:30 AM Gathering & Social Time
Room 114
10:00 AM Program: "For the Love of Children"
A Presentation & Tour of our new
EBADCE Discipleship Academy
immediately followed by an
Old-Fashioned Ice-Cream Social,
Hosted by Ruth Circle*

- Ribbons will be awarded for:*
- Most Creative Sundae*
 - Most Unique Banana Split*
 - Strangest New Dessert Creation*

*"He called a little child and had him stand among them.
And he said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and be-
come like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of
heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a
little child like this in my name welcomes me.'"*

Matthew 18:2-5

YOUTH NEWS

April 15th marked my one-year anniversary of working with the youth of this church. It's been a year of learning, exploring, enjoying, and working together. We've helped and supported one another, weathered tragedies, celebrated good times, and become a family. We've prayed for the Lord's guidance (often), for His forgiveness (often), and to express our thankfulness to Him for His many gifts to us (not often enough.) Through all of these experiences, we have been drawn more closely together.

Most of you recall that the vending machine in the previous church hall was vandalized months back. In all honesty, it would have been removed anyway when the razing of the building began. The income from that machine, however, was a major part of the Youth Group's support for our two mission children, Ralph (in the Philippines) and Lissette (in Ecuador.) Although the income from recycling printer ink cartridges also goes to the same purpose, it is not sufficient to pay the entire bill each month. We discussed other means of raising money to help these young people, who are members of families living on less than \$200.00 per month, but being without kitchen and fellowship hall facilities severely limited our options for the time being. Samantha Mc Callister donated her birthday money, which was a very giving act (and the Lord smiled.) Finally, the group decided that instead of their usual Sunday lunch of pizza, subs, or sandwiches, one Sunday each month we would have just peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The money saved by not buying more substantial food would go towards supporting our mission kids abroad. It's really not much of a sacrifice for us, but it can make a huge difference to Ralph and Lissette, and their families. I'm pleased that our Youth Group members made this choice (and the Lord smiled again.)

During April, we held a Seder, the traditional Passover meal, learning the significance of each portion of the meal and the relevance in the life of Jesus. This year, Passover began the evening of April 19th; we had our observation on April 13th so the youth would understand what their Jewish friends and neighbors were experiencing.

On Saturday, April 12th, several members of the Group participated in a clean up and beautification of the Stage Stand Cemetery, assisting the local Garden Club in their annual project. After several hours of mulching and raking, pizza and soft drinks were greatly enjoyed.

My husband (Mr. "B") and I will be gone from May 8 until June 7 as we will be headed to California to visit children, grandchildren, a brother, nephew, and friends. In the meantime, others will be helping out with the Youth Sunday School class and the Youth Group. I hope all of you will be supportive of their efforts and will keep an "extra eye" on the kids. We will return in time for the opening day of Vacation Bible School.

Neretta Brobst, Youth Coordinator

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

"And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

For the past ten months, I have been learning to live alone. My house is quiet. Dinner is different with no one to talk to about the day. Ideas are not fun with no one to share them. Daydreams of the future get replaced with memories of the past. Life - all of life - changed for me in May of last year.

This wonderful verse at the end of the gospel of Matthew, spoken by Jesus just before he returned to heaven, has encouraged me. The statement is such a paradox. It's like he said, "I'm going, but I won't be gone." Impossible - unless we remember that in the gospel of John Jesus told the disciples it was imperative he go away. Otherwise the Holy Spirit would not come. He, in body, was going. His Spirit was coming and would remind them of everything Jesus had said.

That Spirit did for me exactly what Jesus promised. He took the above verse and reminded me of other promises and statements God has made that we can count on Him to keep.

- *"I am the Truth."* We can trust what he says because Truth cannot lie.
- *"If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness."* We are forgiven because he promised. No maybe. Just fact.
- *"I no longer call you servant. I call you friend."* We serve, but Jesus sees not a servant but a friend. Awesome.
- *"God will supply all your needs according to his riches."* We can rely completely on God. Jesus promised.
- *"In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for thou alone hast caused me to dwell in safety."* The psalmist has promised God's care, even when we sleep.
- *"I go and prepare a place for you . . . and I will come again and receive you unto myself."* Even death isn't scary when we know that he has everything ready for our arrival in heaven, and he is coming to take us there.

What a Savior. His list of promises is so long. He reminds me of many others. What joy to remember and to look past the daily struggles to his promises.

Prayer: Father, it is just wonderful to know that you are with us wherever we go. Thank you for that knowledge. Thank you for all the promises you have made to us. Thank you that you will help us recognize them if we just let you. Thank you, thank you for being our God.

Amen.



**PATRIOTIC CARDS
FOR OUR TROOPS
2008**

Independence Day - what a perfect time to say *THANK YOU* to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan for our freedom. Please, come join us in sending cards filled with messages of gratitude to our American Soldiers.



You can *make or purchase* a card. Feel free to put your name and contact information on the back so that the Soldier knows who took the time to let him or her know that you are thinking of them.

Teachers: Have your students make cards for our troops before school is out. This is a great year-end project. Also great for Sunday School classes.

Donation/Drop boxes will be located in the Church office and Narthex during May and June.

DEADLINE: Sunday, June 8, 2008

You can also send your cards (unsealed for security purposes) to:

*Pamela DuBose
Hugs for Soldiers, Inc.
P. O. Box 547
Lecanto, FL 34461*

Visit www.hugsforsoldiers.org to learn more about how you can help support our troops.

Beach Party

Mark your calendars!
Call your friends!
SURF'S UP!



JOIN US and RIDE THE WAVE OF GOD'S LOVE!

**June 9 - 13th
8:30 - 12:00 Noon
Pre-K-5 through High School**

Children & Youth MUST pre-register to receive a FREE VBS T-Shirt. Call the church office at 628-4083 or stop by to pre-register. A registration form will need to be completed for each child/teen.

Call Kim Bennett at 382-3941 if you have any questions.

Cowabunga, Surfing Dudes and Dudettes!



FREEDOMS' MEMORIAL
by Del "Abe" Jones

This day is set aside to honor those who took the chance to die. But they have died in vain if we ever forget the reason why. Freedom can be like time slipping away before we even know. But we all have more than a choice, we have a duty to battle freedoms' fore. Let us give thanks this day to all those brave who paid the highest cost.



TO FUTURES LOST...
AND FUTURES WON

For The National Day of Prayer May 1

Dear Heavenly Father,

We realize that we are nothing without You.

We ask You to send Your Holy Spirit to move in our hearts, so that You will be number one in our lives.

Help us prioritize our lives in accordance with Your will. May what is important to You be important to us.

Empower us, by Your grace, to accomplish more than we ever could by ourselves.

We love You and thank You for all You do for us.

The Scriptures tell us: *"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."* 2 Corinthians 4:7

Therefore each of us prays to You:

- Open the eyes of my heart so that I can see the display of Your power that is already at work in me.
- Reveal to me the work the Holy Spirit wants to do in my life.
- Draw me into a closer relationship with You.
- Help me to serve joyfully within Your Will.

Amen

Carolyn and I have made this prayer a part of our daily devotions. Have a blessed summer.

Your friend in Christ,
Jim Roth

We had a full house at our 1st Wonderful Wednesday
at the "Remember When Restaurant" at
Homosassa State Park.



...and they were intently listening to "Tuned To Revival."



DRIVERS SAFETY PROGRAM

**Improve Your Driving Skills and
Avoid A "Crash" By Attending An
AARP DRIVERS SAFETY COURSE**

MAY 28-29

9:00 AM

This two day, (4-hours per day), course will give you the opportunity to evaluate your current driving habits and learn new proven techniques that could significantly improve your safety.

If large trucks bother you while driving on the Freeway, learn what a professional truck driver "sees" on the highway and how he recommends ways for you to pass safely and reduce that fear.

Many of the newest vehicle safety features will be discussed and how they can materially assist you when you have to stop quickly or your vehicle goes into a skid.

Most insurance companies provide an insurance discount for completion of this drivers' safety course.

You do not have to be a member of AARP to take this course; however, space is limited due to construction at FUMCH.

For reservations please call:
Frank Tobin at 628-3229

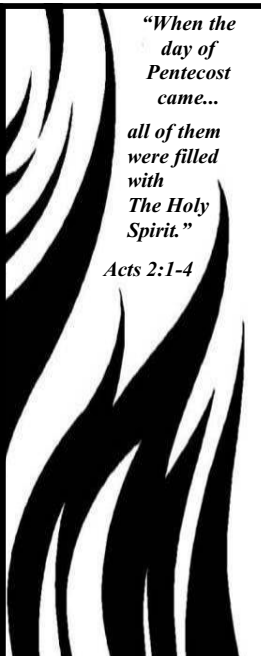
MAY 11, 2008

Pentecost is dedicated to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. This event brought into existence the Church of Christ and gave rise to the Christian faith on earth.

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who has shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. Glory to Thee.

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit"

John 3: 8



CLEAN AND GREEN

So...are you the pint bottle or the gallon jug type? I'm referring to vinegar of course. Some purchase the pint bottle of white vinegar and it lasts for months, if not an entire year; others (myself included,) buy it often by the gallon. Please allow me to tell you what I do with all that vinegar.

Vinegar (which actually means "sour wine") can be made from any number of plants, including berries, fruit, potatoes, grains, and even honey. Among it's many uses are flavoring and preserving foods, dyeing Easter eggs, healing wounds, providing a hair rinse, and cleaning household items. One major advantage - it never needs to be refrigerated.

Since my husband has numerous allergies and is sensitive to many irritants, I have learned to use vinegar as a fabric softener when doing laundry. One-half cup added to the final rinse will neutralize soap, remove soap film, soften the clothes, and remove static cling without the effects of many commercial softeners. (NO, your clothing will not smell like salad dressing.)

If the steam vents in your iron (You DO still have an iron, don't you?) are clogged, empty the water reservoir and fill it with vinegar, then plug it in setting upright. Select the High setting and let it steam away. The vents should clear of any blockages. When they are all spewing steam, turn off and unplug the iron, let it cool, empty any remaining vinegar out of the reservoir, and refill with clean water.

Are there patent leather shoes in your closet? Polish them with a clean cloth dipped in vinegar - dab it on, rub it in, and wipe it off to restore that gleaming shine.

Deodorize drains, garbage disposals, waste receptacles, storage containers, the dishwasher, and cutting boards with white vinegar. If you have rust or other stains on porcelain sinks, dampen paper towels with vinegar and lay them over the stains. When the towels are almost dry, remove them and rub the stained area. Most stains will disappear, or at least be significantly reduced. You can also repel most ants and kill most weeds by spraying them with full-strength white vinegar.

Best of all, none of these uses will seriously impact the environment as so many harsh chemicals would. Vinegar is better for your health (especially the respiratory system) and the earth's health. So go forth....and buy a gallon of white vinegar (the least expensive one works as well as the more expensive brand.)

Neretta Brobst

SHARE 2008

MONTH	SIGN UP	D-DAY
May	14th & 17th	31th
June	11th & 14th	28th
July	9th & 12th	26th
August	6th & 9th	23rd
September	10th & 13th	27th
October	8th & 11th	25th
November	5th & 8th	22nd
December	3th & 6th	20th

Sign up times are from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, and will always fall on a Wednesday and Saturday.

D-Days sign ups will start at 9:00 AM.

Food not picked up by 11:00 AM on D-Day will be donated to the church.

There will be no refunds and No exceptions



S.H.A.R.E.

Due to the Phase III construction of The Fellowship Hall we have been officially moved to Room 114 for food distribution. Orders will be taken in Room 105 (the Computer Lab). Sign up days, Wednesday and Saturday, will now be in Room 114.

Wayne Haynes has taken on the job of "Trucking Captain," whose job it will be to will organize the truckers for SHARE. We are also pleased to announce that we have a few new truckers. This is a truly answered prayer for assistance.

We also have a new "Registration Captain," Vickie Williams, who replaces June. Best wishes for a long and happy service with SHARE, Vickie. Your job is the backbone of SHARE - no orders, no SHARE.

We are getting into the summer months now, and a lot of people will be going north. Others will be planning a vacation so they will not need to stock their freezers. SHARE sales will fall off, but we will still continue to provide the high quality and low prices that we are so well known for offering. We will always have something for you that is a bargain compared to the grocery store. There is always a SHARE newspaper at the office and other places about the church. We would like you to pick one up and compare prices. You will be saving about fifty percent. There are no restrictions on who can buy. When you buy from us, you not only save money but you help this program. The more we sell the better the deal available for everyone.

Here is another way you can help. From time to time, we find a neighbor in need, someone having a short-fall. Buy a SHARE Basic Pack for \$18.00 or give just a small donation of \$5.00, and we will use this to provide food to someone in need. Look over our schedule and find a day when you can come in, look us over and become a part of SHARE.

Tom & Nancy Pearo

From the Desk of Parish Nurse Sharon E. Smith

It is now possible to have the latest health news delivered to your e-mail every month.

You can choose from more than 25 health topics, personalized to your interests with current information.

This service is provided by Morton Plant Mease Health Care of which the Parish Nurse Ministry is a part. Some of the topics from which you can choose include:

- ✓ Arthritis
- ✓ Asthma
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Healthy diet
- ✓ Pain management
- ✓ Senior care giving
- ✓ Women's heart health

Forms for this service are available through the Parish Nurse Office. Inquire today.



FUMCH takes possession of 2 new AED's from Phillips Heartstart.

An automated external defibrillator is used in cases of life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias which have led to cardiac deaths. It is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm.



AEDs are held by trained personnel, but are designed to be simple to use for the layman. The use of AEDs is taught in first aid, first responder, and basic life support (BLS) level CPR classes. Look for more information in the future as to the training and utilization of this life-saving equipment at FUMCH.

FROM HOMOSASSA TO HAITI...WITH LOVE

(And a Few Tears)

Last July when I sent an e-mail to the Conference office, in response to a short article in the Conference Newsletter, I never dreamed of the huge outpouring of love, prayers, moral support and financial support that would ensue. At that point the only thought was that it might be nice to join a medical team going to Haiti, to experience a short term mission in another country, as I had already been to Guatemala ten times. Instead, the Lord took me on a journey for six months, before we left for Haiti. There was planning with the Conference office, trips to the Conference office, team leader training in Leesburg, very frequent e-mails to and from Lakeland, frequent e-mails with 12 team members, gathering supplies, ordering supplies, and leading part of the team orientation at the Methodist Church in Longwood. (One team member even came to orientation from Missouri.)

After the team orientation at the end of January, there was e-mailing to the Volunteers in Mission Coordinators at the Guest House in Port au Prince, to the assistant to the bishop in Petit Goave, and to the Volunteers in Mission Chairperson in Florida, as well as to the team members (who had a million questions), weekly phone calls from the co-team leader, and to Icel Rodriguez (my contact at the Conference office).

The journey was wonderful (and hectic) even before we left Homosassa. To see and feel the caring of our church family, demonstrated in so many ways, was **OVERWHELMING!** "The rest of the story" is told elsewhere in this issue. I just want each of you to know how very grateful I am to be a part of this family of Christians. If you contributed in some way to this endeavor that was not recognized, please know that **EVERYTHING** that was done, or given, or prayed for was **VERY** much appreciated!!!

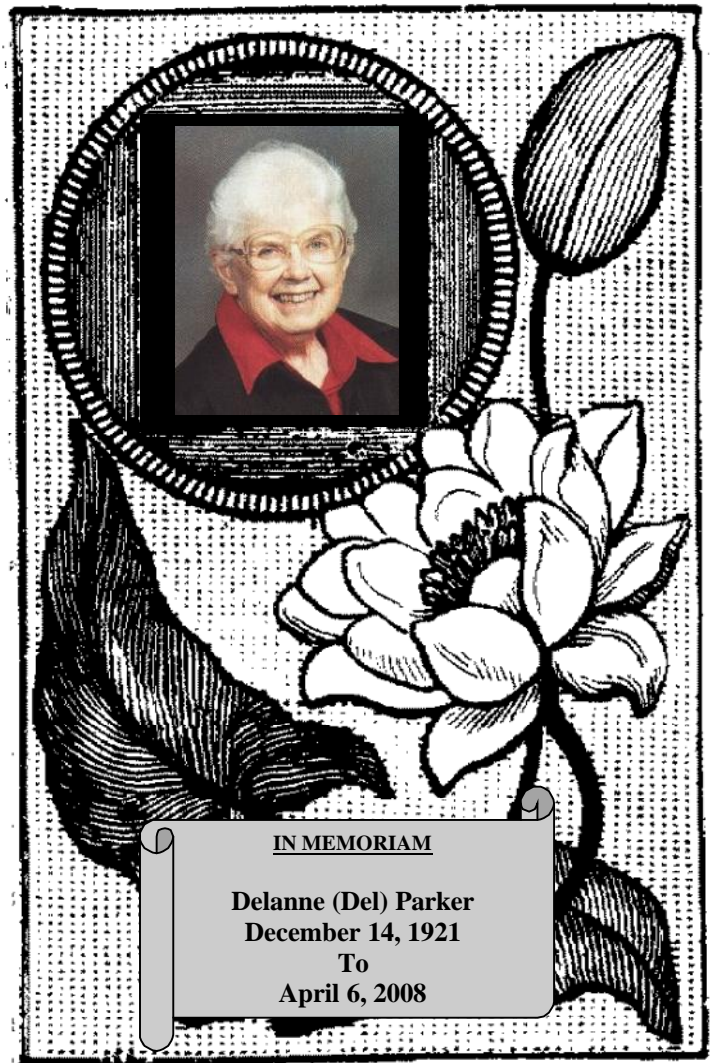
In Christ's enduring love,
Sharon Smith



With deepest appreciation...

Lifesouth Community Blood Center wishes to express its thanks to FUMCH for the 9 pints donated at its Blood Mobile on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008.

November 9, 2008, will be the next Blood Mobile visit at FUMCH.



*Columbarium
and*



Memorial Garden

Have you considered our church Columbarium as a final resting place for your cremated remains?

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden were completed and dedicated in late October, 2006.

Niches in the granite wall-mounted Columbarium are available for \$1,200 - much less than most columbaria, memorial parks, and cemeteries for the interment of ashes.

Each niche will accommodate the remains of one or two persons. The price includes brass urns, brass name plates, opening and closing, and perpetual care.

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden are located next to our beautiful Worship Center and create a peaceful setting for some of God's faithful who "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The garden is visible through the north window in the right rear section of the Worship Center.

The fenced area has two benches available to anyone for times of prayer and meditation.

Information and application packets are available at the church office. See Theresa Weber, in the church office, to inquire about the availability of specific niches and to answer questions you may have.

Thank You

We want to thank all of you for your prayers, calls, cards, food, and concerns. It really means a lot to know we belong to a caring and loving church. You have given us strength which we didn't think we had. We are so blessed.

We would also like to thank the Visitation Care Committee for all their cards and prayers during Bill's stay in the hospital and life care; and my recent eye surgery.

When we thought we couldn't handle much more, our trust in the Lord and our church family was present. God Bless your caring and loving ministry.

Bill & Shirley Dunkle

To My Church Family And Special Friends

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." ~Thornton Wilder

God has blessed me with wonderful treasures in church family and friends.

I would like to thank each and everyone for your prayers, calls, visits, and cards during my two hospital stays and my recuperation at home. Each one meant so much to me.

God's Blessings
Pat Blake

I Have Not Stopped Giving Thanks For You, Remembering You In My Prayers.

It is with deep appreciation that I wish to thank all who were so wonderful to me during my past illness. The cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, food and books were appreciated more than words can say.

An especially big thank you to the Discovery Class and The Prayer Shawl Ministry. You all are so special.

Thank you, and may God bless you,
Barbara Jackson

In Appreciation! The world's a whole lot better place because of people like you.

I would like to personally thank all of our Chancel Choir members, Handbell Choir members, sacred dancers, instrumentalists, accompanists, sound technicians, and the decorating committee members who helped to make our Easter season services such special ones.

We are blessed to have such dedicated members in these ministry groups.

Sincerely,
Mary Kay

2008 Men's Fall Retreats

Would you like an opportunity to get away from your routines?

Spend time in a relaxing environment, in the company of other Christian men?

Be uplifted by the Holy Spirit through music and messages?



Then we promise to offer you a spirit-filled weekend that will have a positive impact on your life at one of these Weekend "Get-A-Ways."

Jesus Is The Lighthouse

LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER
LEESBURG

OCTOBER 10-12, OCTOBER 17-19
OCTOBER 24-26, 2008

Sponsored by Florida Conference United Methodist Men

October 10 - 12, 2008



Rev. Scott Smith is a graduate of The Florida State University, and Duke University. He says his main job is to be a husband to Kris. Second job, Daddy to Caleb (13), Joshua (11), and Jacob (9), which includes but is not limited to being a soccer coach, advice giver, rules maker, and fun guy. The rest of my time is spent being the lead pastor at Community of Faith UMC, started 9 years ago.



Andy Searles was born, raised and educated in the UK. He came to the US in 1996 as a part of the ministry that is now "Celebrate Jesus" and has been on the pastoral staff at Aloma UMC in Winter Park for almost 10 years. Andy loves to use his spiritual gifts of leadership, creativity and shepherding to see God invite people forward on their discipleship journey.



Rev. Donald Taylor will be sharing with us a unique insight into our Jewish roots. Upon graduation from High School, Don was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy and is still active in the Navy Reserves. While working toward a ThM in Hebrew studies, he pursued his interest in Judaism, studying for six years under an Orthodox Rabbi. Don now serves as Director of Chaplain Services for Hospice of the Comforter in Altamonte Springs.



Rev. Larry Bergstrom for 19 years served churches in Florida and Georgia as a Youth Minister. After graduating from Asbury Seminary he was assigned as one of the pastors to FUMC of Coral Springs. Larry shares his ministry with us at the Leesburg Retreats, both as a speaker and as the leader of the popular Worship/Praise Band from Coral Springs.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP TEAM

Higher Ground was formed in 1998 as a praise band for contemporary worship services at the First United Methodist Church of Coral Springs. They are strong Christians who try to serve God not only with their music, but by living Christian

lives that witness through their actions and attitudes. They believe their ministry can usher people into the presence of God, and further the cause for Christ.

October 17 - 19, 2008



John Riley is a challenging, inspirational speaker with the unique God-given ability to communicate great truths in a simple, understandable manner. John has spoken to more than 9,500 audiences in 15 countries and throughout America for 30 years, uplifting and encouraging his listeners to do and be all that is possible through God for His Glory.



Ed Diaz is a co-founder of "Walk Thru," The Bible Ministries and has taught that seminar extensively over the last 30 years. He is Division Director of Search Ministries, which provides training for Christians in Lifestyle Evangelism. He also serves as Spring Training Chapel Coordinator for the Detroit Tigers.



David Adams: While working as an insurance salesman after graduating from college, David received a call to the ministry while attending a 1994 meeting of UMM. Following his graduation from Asbury Seminary in Wilmore Ky., he served as pastor of several Churches in TN. He also served as the president of TN Conf UMM and was elected to the top staff executive position of the GCUMM in 2006. David has also served as treasurer of the National Assoc. of Conf. Presidents and on the General Board of Discipleship.



Music Leader **Ross Kimura** has served as Music Pastor at St. Paul UMC in Largo Florida. A native of Hawaii, he has lived in New York City, where he studied at Juilliard School of Music. He has a masters in piano and opera orchestrations and has played at the Paris, London, and Milan Conservatories. Ross can bring Life to Traditional Hymns in a way that would make Charles and John Wesley and Cokesbury want to sing along.

October 24 - 26, 2008



Dr. Riley Short retired as Senior Pastor of First UMC, Lakeland. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Candler School of Theology and has Doctorates from Bethune Cookman College and Florida Southern College. His story telling ability is his specialty and he is a master at using this ability to teach Biblical truths. Dr. Short is presently serving as a Professor of Preaching at Asbury Theological Seminary at the Orlando campus.



Rev. David McEntire is a 1972 graduate of Florida State University, majoring in Psychology and Religion. He attended seminary at Duke University and has served churches in Plantation, Ocklawaha, Fort Pierce and West Palm Beach, and now as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Lakeland. David describes himself as an evangelical pastor with strong Wesleyan roots and theology. David's greatest joy is knowing that a person has come to know the love of Christ in a personal way.



Rev. Donald Taylor will be sharing with us a unique insight into our Jewish roots. Upon graduation from High School, Don was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy and is still active in the Navy Reserves. While working toward a ThM in Hebrew studies, he pursued his interest in Judaism, studying for six years under an Orthodox Rabbi. Don now serves as Director of Chaplain Services for Hospice of the Comforter in Altamonte Springs.



Reverend Jim Hollis is a General Evangelist of the UMC and Director of Proactive Evangelism Ministries. He was a keynote speaker at Purdue (Congress of UM Men) for two quadrennials; was named a Fellow in the Society of John Wesley by the National Conference Presidents of UM Men; has led ministry training and teaching with more than 850 congregations across 41 states and 8 denominations. He was the recipient of the Denman Evangelism Award for Clergy for the North Georgia Conference in 1994



Music Leaders **John & Margie Anderson** have been sharing their love of Jesus Christ through music for almost a quarter of a century. John is the music Department Coordinator and Professor of Music at Polk Community College in Winter Haven. Margie is a home-school mom and has a private piano and voice studio. They are currently active with the Hew Hope Choir and the "a cappella Praise" ensemble at First UMC, Lakeland.

Additional Opportunities Available All Three Weekends:

Saturday Afternoon Free-Time: Equipment available for Pick-up sports activities such as Volleyball, Flag Football, Soccer, horseshoes, swimming, canoeing, or enjoy concerts/hymn sings and discussion groups.

Football Fans!!! Those of us who would enjoy watching college football during our free time on Saturday Afternoon will have the opportunity to watch a Game on the 6 foot Big Screen in the Gold Room. Hope to see you at the Game!

• Please use the reservation form provided or a reproduction. If you will be registering as a group, we encourage each man to fill in a registration form (completely) and submit it to your retreat coordinator. This will help your coordinator and will aid in accurate housing and name tag preparations during registration.

• Be sure to indicate 1st and 2nd choice of weekends you prefer. If your requested choices of weekends are filled, you will be placed on the shortest waiting list and given the option of selecting a weekend with vacancies.

• SEND AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE TOTAL FEE WITH YOUR REGISTRATION AS A DEPOSIT (FULL PAYMENT IS ENCOURAGED). FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 15, 2008. Reservations will be guaranteed only after full payment is received. Make checks payable to UNITED METHODIST MEN and mail to: P.O. Box 93370 Lakeland FL 33804-3370.

IMPORTANT: Please advise immediately if you are unable to fill your reservations. Qualified refunds will have a \$10.00 administrative charge. NO REFUNDS can be made for cancellations within 15 days of the retreat dates or for no-shows.

COSTS

- ✓ Life Enrichment Center (LEC.) - \$132.00 per person includes program, room and meals.
- ✓ Youth Camp (lodges or cabins) - \$113.00 per person includes program, room and meals.
- ✓ Family Campground - 44.00 per camp site, plus \$30.00 per person program fee.
- ✓ Off Campus - \$35.00 per person program fee (does NOT include meals)
- ✓ Meals are available at the LEC for Family Campground and Off Campus participants for an additional \$41.00 per person.
- ✓ Check-in begins at 3:00 PM on Friday. Dinner begins at 6:00 PM.
- ✓ Linens, blankets, pillows, towels, soap, etc., are furnished to those staying at the LEC.

The telephone number at the LEC. is 352-787-0313.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEB PAGE <http://www.ummflconf.org/> OR CALL TOLL FREE: 877-815-3692.

Weekend Offering: The money that we charge you to attend these retreats is used solely to pay for the weekend. We hope that you come prepared to make an appropriate donation, based on your ability and as you are moved. This has been a tradition enabling many worthwhile projects to be funded. One of the largest of these projects is the scholarship fund for seminary students. To date, we have provided over \$500,000 to seminarians in the Florida Conference! These funds are given with the understanding that the recipients will return to Florida to serve in our churches after ordination, a need that becomes more crucial every year. These Offerings also support the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, The Russo Prison Ministry and the Conference Scouting Ministries. Please prayerfully consider helping us to help the future of these Ministries of the Florida Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM

2008 UNITED METHODIST MEN'S RETREAT

()OCT 10-12, ()OCT 17-19, ()OCT 24-26

Please indicate your first and second choice of weekends

Name of person making reservations:

(All group additions, changes and/or cancellations must be made by the above person)

Email Address:

Home Address:

City:

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Church:

Church City:

District:

Please make reservations for:

_____ Men for the weekend of _____, 2008.

_____ Men will stay and eat at the Life Enrichment Center.

_____ Men will stay and eat at the Youth Camp.

_____ Men will attend on Saturday only.

_____ Men will stay at the Family Campground.

_____ Camper spaces required Hook-up:

_____ Water/Electric () Full Hook up ()

_____ Men will stay off campus.

Option for Off Campus & Family Campground:

_____ Men will eat at the LEC

PAYMENT: Amount \$ _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____ MC _____ Visa _____

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Name on Credit Card:

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:



MAIL TO: United Methodist Men
PO Box 93370
Lakeland FL 33804-3370

Dear Praying Friends,

As Elaine and the children prepare for a two-week break from school starting Saturday, we continue to praise God for the privilege of serving Him here in Chiang Mai.

Praises

We had an encouraging and uplifting Easter season. The Cool Shade of Life Church (CSLC) women's group decorated eggs (for the first time in their lives) to use at an egg hunt at church on Sunday, where we held a joyous sunrise service. After that, our family settled in for delicious treats, thanks to the grandparents and our friends, the Cooks, from Jacksonville, Fla.



We capped the weekend off by watching *The Jesus Film*. It is a great encouragement to see many of our members inviting family, friends and co-workers and sharing the Good News with them. Joe attended the special session of the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand (EFT) for three days late last month as the representative of the "Pioneers International Organization in Thailand" board.

It was a unique chance to consider the challenges and opportunities that face Christians in a country where less than 1% of the people follow Christ. Joe was encouraged by the 300 Thai Christian leaders' commitment and devotion to the Lord. Joe wrapped up his teaching on spiritual disciplines during adult Sunday School on the 30th and will now move on to teach at the Wednesday small group for awhile.

Please don't forget to change our email address in your e-address books. As of this month, our old address is no longer valid. We are now only using this address:

henrysinthailand@gmail.com

Prayers: The PIONEERS team on which we have served for 3½ years is dissolving. Two of the four remaining units (there were seven couples when we started!) are spearheading new efforts while the third unit was not interested in a new venture. Please pray for wisdom and clear direction as we consider whether the Lord wants to expand our ministry in Thailand.

Speaking of PIONEERS, please continue to pray for our mission agency registration papers to be approved by the EFT. EFT committees have now said that Joe cannot be the chairman of the new "Pioneers International Organization in Thailand" board because he does not get his visa through EFT. This will require a shift in duties among the board, so pray for clear direction in that process as well. Please pray for Joe's teaching on Christian character traits on Wednesdays at small group, during which time he will

seek to have church members share their experiences in practicing these traits (love, forgiveness, joy, etc.). Also, pray for *Dtum* as he takes over on Sunday mornings, teaching about "Christianity and Thai customs." He will explain how Thai Christians should respond biblically to the many cultural activities that have strong Buddhist ties.

Thanks to the many people who have asked about Elaine's health. The new medicine she is taking seems to be working on her chronic intestinal illness, however, her body's autoimmune disorder is now causing very painful arthritis. Please continue to pray for full health and for wisdom as the missionary doctor working with Elaine seeks the best solution to what we hope is the last major autoimmune problem.

Please continue to pray for Phadaan Baptist Church, a sister church in Lamphun Province, which borders Chiang Mai. The church was attacked with rocks, fire and gunfire by more than 10 people in late January. To give a bit of background, Phadaan is a village of about 150 households, 11 of which were Christian. Those houses were all in one area, but when a 12th household in a different section accepted the Lord, the village leaders complained that this house was blocking the spirits worshipped by most of the villagers. The leaders have been told that it thus makes sense to worship Christ rather than the spirits who are afraid of Him, but they remain hardened to this fact. Please pray for Pastor Tu and his wife, Nok, along with the other believers to remain strong in their faith as the village elders want all the Christian households removed. Pray for wisdom in whether to rebuild the church and pastor's home and for finances. This church is one of 15 Thai congregations in the Siam Baptist Group, of which CSLC is also a member.

Joe will be one of the teachers at the next term of the Chiang Mai Baptist Church Bible center. Please pray for wisdom in preparing lessons on the book of Acts for the three hours per week of classes.

This month's cultural factoid is about Songkran, a three-day traditional Thai New Year (April 13-15), which people consider to be an auspicious time for returning to their homes to show respect for ancestors and elders, as well as a time of new beginnings and also a time of welcoming the start of the annual monsoon and rice-growing season. The first day is set aside for cleansing the household, the second for religious merit making, and the third for New Year celebrations.

One aspect of the festival requires that people bless images of Buddha along with their parents, grandparents and elders by pouring small amounts of scented water on them as a mark of respect and blessing. Please pray for many Thais to sense dissatisfaction in vain religious rituals and drunkenness during this important holiday.

Please be sure to visit the church Web site:

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

Until all have heard,

Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie

Siberian Greetings!

HE Has Risen! HE Has Risen Indeed!

We realize you have had Easter in the U.S. already; however, they go by a different calendar here, and we just had our Easter the last Sunday of April. It's just as exciting here and filled with wonderful traditions as well. They make small cakes the size of large teacups and decorate them with colorful icing. Interestingly enough, they also have "HE has Risen" stamped on the eggs when you buy them in the markets! Remember this is also a Buddhist region, not just Orthodox. The fellowships also celebrate much as we do, remembering the price He paid for each of us *and* that "HE is not dead, He is ALIVE!" What a wonderful gift to receive when we did not deserve it.

Memorial/Veteran's Day is also celebrated here in Russia, but on the 8th of May. There are parades, music in the streets, people selling food, and veterans telling stories of lost friends. Many wear their "ribbons" and medals on their jackets. To this day, it is a very important day for remembering the sacrifice that was made by so many brave men, young and old. They have seen many more conflicts than we Americans and the large *decrease* in the male population is the result of these sacrifices. (There are approximately 5-6 women for every one man.)

As always, things around here have been quite busy. Kevin was able to attend a seminar in another city last month on how to counsel biblically. It was a tremendous blessing and will be extremely helpful for the fellowship leaders here. He also spent a week in Moscow with other workers from across the country to discuss the visa issues and goals for other regions in the country. We have been able to continue traveling out to the village each weekend and look forward to staying longer now that the weather and roads are a bit better.

In between, we continue to "brush up" on language and are encouraged at how well it's going for both of us. We both still feel that this is one of those languages that take a lifetime to learn. We just continue to pray for great memories and the gift to speak Russian.

One last note...Kevin and I were able to help with an AWANA's club for three days. Awana helps churches and parents worldwide to:

- raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ through fully integrated programs for ages 2 to 18,
- present the best evangelism tools to reach unsaved children, youth and families,
- teach to build enduring biblical faith,
- provide resources that bring churches and parents together to disciple the next generation,
- continue initial and ongoing volunteer training and healthy mentor and peer relationships.

What a lot of fun and a great opportunity to speak into the lives of our younger kids. We had around 35 kids each day ranging from ages 5 to 12 years.

The deaf fellowship has taken the next step in their "growth" and has begun traveling about 30 minutes outside of the city to have a study and discussion group. They are sending a group of about six people to meet with four

families twice a month and spend the day studying His word, followed by a discussion/fellowship time afterwards. These families actually invited the deaf to come and share their knowledge of "the word." We're so excited to see the deaf fellowship's eagerness to obey "the word" and take it outside of their "Jerusalem."

Kevin has been asked to meet with these folks before they go out to the village and encourage and teach them some helpful methods of reaching out into a new community. They are also learning the importance of building relationships. We can see a great opportunity for this to grow and become a new fellowship in the years to come.

As promised, there has been great progress made at the buildings out in the village. The drywall is now completed in the larger meeting hall. Some final electrical work and floor repairs were also completed in April. We've also been able to dig another well on the property for watering the garden area and later to be used for the "sauna" or *banya* as it's called here. You won't find showers or tubs in most village homes; there's no running water. As of this writing, we still have the bigger problem with the heating system to solve. Our hope is to find an honest worker that has experience with the type of system that's been installed. Please keep this in prayer. Winter is only five months away. We are also working on finishing the "first room" or outer room. It's where boots and coats are kept so as not to bring snow and mud into the rest of the "house." We have walls and windows...the door should be on by the time you receive this letter. The ladies have already hung curtains and several of the men will be working on finishing the kitchen area. There is no lack of work to be done; we know it will be finished in His timing.

In closing for this month, I (Laura) love this time of year. The air is fresh and everything is new. It's a time to remember not only the sacrifices so many have made for our country and other countries as well, *but* to also remember the ultimate sacrifice that was made for each one of us, all so that we can have eternal life with our Savior.

We pray this letter finds all of you doing well and walking closely with the Father.

Serving in Siberia,

Kevin & Laura Wooster

Praise:

- Some of our finances being met!
- A warm and safe apartment.
- Progress with the building and projects in the village.
- Opportunities to work in this region.

Prayer:

- The new work the deaf have begun in another village.
- New visas to be issued without any problems.
- Temporary resident cards to be issued so we can stay for longer than 90 days at a time.
- Our hearts remain focused on Him.
- Safety as we travel out and back into Russia



HELEN DRESBACK
 “serves her community well”
 Patience Nave

Helen is a devoted and loyal member of FUMCH. Each event, whether it is a bake sale, Wonderful Wednesday dinner, Fall Bazaar or funeral service, finds her there with her contribution of soup, pickled squash, baked goods, preserves and jam.

Other mornings she comes to the church to fold bulletins for Sunday Services. She has made countless trips to the UMW’s Thrift Shop, having collected unneeded items from all of her friends so that the needy people of Homosassa can put them to good use. Of late she has volunteered to contribute one month into “Linda’s Loaves,” the baking of fresh bread to be delivered each month to newcomers.

Her other contributions are baking cookies and writing letters to servicemen overseas. She is the Sunshine Chairman for the Sugarmill Women’s Club and spends time trying to be sure that each ill or sad member receives some form of greeting.

For her ill friends she has done many chores to keep them smiling through difficult times. Among her host of Sugarmill friends, including many who have exceeded 90 years of age, Helen has helped by retrieving their mail, furnishing meals, taking them to the doctor, or running errands to the drugstore and grocery store.

Helen was born on a farm in Minnesota and grew up in a loving family of seven boys and two girls. Sadly she lost her mother when she was six years old. All nine of her family has earned college degrees – each helping the younger one to secure a good education. Helen and one brother are all that remain from the family.

The family is of Norwegian descent and true survivors of the cold Minnesota climate.

As did many of us, she experienced America’s Great Depression, and, to this day, she is extremely conservative and remarkably adept at making use of available home-grown resources such as lemons, persimmons and kumquats, making her well-known kumquat liquor. If you have something you cannot use, call Helen. She will find a use for it.

If you see her picking up trash on Cypress Boulevard and U.S. 19, honk your horn and wave to show your appreciation to this lady, who epitomizes the definition of graciousness. Helen Dresback is truly defined by her charm and generosity of spirit.

Greenbelt Gazette/March 20, 2008



**MAY 8
2008**



WORLD’S GREATEST

BA BY S H O W E R

Citrus County’s 13th Annual World’s Greatest Baby Shower will be May 8 at the Citrus County Auditorium in Inverness.

The event assists in educating expectant and new parents in a fun and friendly atmosphere and is attended by more than 500 people each year.

Donations of any new baby items are welcomed, such as strollers, high chairs, cribs, toys, gift baskets, handmade quilts, and blankets.

Donations of money also are welcome; checks should be made payable to Citrus County Home & Community Educators (CCHCE). Donations are tax deductible, and 100 percent of the donations go to the event. Donors will be recognized in the newspaper, on the event program and/or from the stage.

Donations of all types may be dropped off at the Church Office by April 27. Please indicate that it is for the “Baby Shower” and make sure you or your group’s name and address are on the donation.

Contact Jim & Dee Green for more information.

Sponsored by: Citrus County Chronicle, Kiwanis Clubs of Citrus County, Citrus County Health Department, Citrus County Home & Community Educators, and many other agencies, groups, churches, and community organizations.

May Birthdays

1
Joan Downs
Tracy Hodges
Gene McGee
Arthur Smith

2
Danielle Christensen
Robert Christensen

4
Elizabeth Evans
Gil Kissinger
Josie Reel
Marilyn Siegel
Sharon Smith
Alice Williamson
Ron Witham

5
Sharon Haskell

6
Loretta Blair
Ryan Blevins
Carolyn Crawley
John Manser

7
Marge Dilling
Patricia Yacco

8
Henry Folsom

9
Gail English
Dolly Schwalbert

10
Evelyn Bash
Debbie Grafton

11
Suzanne Holmes
Ina Ryder
John Sandstrom

14
Caroline Hay

16
Amanda Grafton
Howard Kuntz
Joyce Saxton

17
Patricia Coleman
Dayna Middlebrooks
Carole Weinberger

18
Marge Davis
Richard English
Chuck Hoeffler
Conrad Keniston

19
Rebekah Csont

22
Onlee McEachin
Bill Marquis

24
Jack Graham
Eve Walsh

25
Ruth Bronn
Jack Mulder
Linda Ritter

26
Ernie Dorrell
Jack Fasnacht
William Smith

27
Lillian Gorlitz

28
Dolores Henry
Joe Henry
Elma Mallett
Jack Schoch
Ernie Verge

29
Sandra Tam

30
Ruth Eaton
Lyn Wolf

31
Ann Albere
Arthur Case Jr.
Barbara Lantz
Grace Payne

May Anniversaries

5
Joyce & Allen Stone
~ 62 years ~
Linda & Mel Gordy
~ 41 years ~

7
Joyce & Stan Zawacki
~ 53 years ~
Fern & Charles McWilliams
~ 42 years ~

8
Angie & Swaim Snodgrass
~ 32 years ~

9
Sharon & Ronald Seely
~ 49 years ~

11
Gretta & George Marshall
~ 40 years ~

12
Ruth & Dermot Samuda
~ 19 years ~

15
Jimmi & Barry Reichard
~ 35 years ~

16
Lori & Stan DeClue
~ 10 years ~

17
Emily & L. Archer Walker
~ 61 years ~

22
Joan & Clayton Spencer
~ 3 years ~

24
Ruth & Oliver Bronn
~ 67 years ~
Marilyn & Alan Shimp
~ 51 years ~

25
Angie & Michael Watson
~ 6 years ~

26
Sue & Wes Harris
~ 24 years ~

27
Lillian & Rudolf Gorlitz
~ 59 years ~

28
Brenda & Ed Loper
~ 3 years ~
Melinda & Steven Bassler
~ 28 years ~

Members Residing In
Long Term Care
As of 4/9/2008

NURSING CENTERS

BARRINGTON
Ken McGuire

BRENTWOOD
Evelyn Bash
Teresa Davis

CEDAR CREEK
Bud Jenks

**CRYSTAL RIVER
HEALTH & REHAB.**
Betty Farewell
Robert Smith

CYPRESS COVE
Elta Whilden

DIAMOND RIDGE
Jean Buzby
Marjorie Cook
Helen Hudson

**KINDRED CARE
(Ocala)**
Jean Baker

**NATURE COAST
LODGE**
Betty Duncan

LIFE CARE
Helen Zack

SUGARMILL MANOR
Shirley Hart
Grace Payne
Eleanor Smith
Charlie Walker

**HUNT HOME
(Williston)**
Bill Marquis

May 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Help
Wanted**

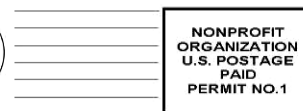
**THRIFT SHOP
POSITIONS AVAILABLE!**

In an effort to prepare an organizational structure for the Thrift Shop that will be opening after the Phase III construction is completed, we are recruiting interested volunteers who will be able to commit to working steady days and hours. Being a UMW member is not a requirement.

Please contact Pat Blake, UMW President, if you are interested or for further information.



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



We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

**Visit our Web Site ~ www.lumc.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

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM

Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM

Office Hours: Weekdays

8:30AM to 4:30PM

Office Telephone: 352-628-4083

Submissions to Genesis:

Judith Huffer, Editor

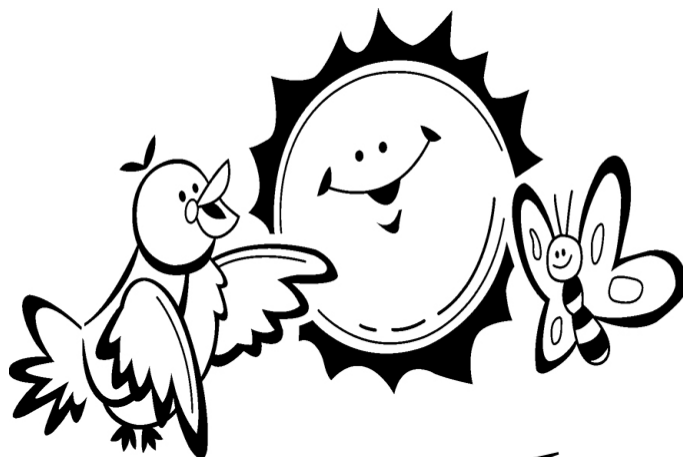
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Soli Deo Gloria



MAY