

GENESIS

SUMMER 2008 EDITION

~ OPEN HEARTS ~ OPEN MINDS ~ OPEN DOORS ~

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

On Thursday, April 17, 2008, at about 7:15 in the morning, the operator of a large Case excavator raised his grapple over the roof of fellowship hall, plunged it down through the trusses AND then pulled it out through the side wall. Demolition of our old facility was underway to make space for construction of our new, modern, Phase 3 Fellowship Center.



The scene was reminiscent of those on the "Extreme Make-Over Home Edition" television program, where some tired old home is transformed into a beautiful structure with an entirely new look. Although the host of that show, Ty Pennington, was not in Homosassa to yell "Let's do it" into his bull horn, those who gathered to witness the event were more than ready for it. This day has been a long time coming.

Planning for this final phase of our building program has been underway for years. There have been delays in funding, and, more recently, in completing paperwork...but our permits, mortgage closing, notice of commencement, demolition-wait period, and other obstacles were all cleared away during the second and third week of April. Utility poles came down, cables and wiring to the building were moved to safe positions, the security system was disconnected in the areas to be demolished, construction fencing went up, and last minute work prior to demolition were all completed between April 9 and April 16.

All day long, the excavator systematically removed roofing, toppled side walls, and sorted the debris for salvage or disposal. Trucks bearing large refuse containers were constantly coming and going, making trips between the church and a demolition landfill or recycle yard. By the end of the day, the entire fellowship hall, kitchen, youth room, and associated restrooms were not only knocked down, but were removed from the site.

The next day was spent removing more delicate or difficult items, such as small sections of walls that had to be cut away from adjacent walls, floor tile from sections of the slab to be saved, sidewalks, and the fellowship hall and kitchen concrete slab. What had been anticipated as a 5-day demolition project was completed in about half that time.

The following week, a surveyor began marking locations for the new foundations. The site contractor began to level and grade the site and began excavation for footers. Reinforcing rods were delivered on April 27, and the first concrete pours will be made before the end of the month. By the time you read this newsletter, new walls should be going up. So far, everything has been going extremely well. We are grateful for the excellent leadership and management we have been receiving from our architect Cliff Landress and our contractor, Bollenback Builders Inc.

As this is being written, we've had several Sundays of experience with the limited parking and narrow traffic lanes in and out of our west parking lot. We've installed signs at the Yulee entrance, painted one-way arrows on the pavement to institute a one-way traffic pattern, and placed parking attendants on duty before and after each worship service in hopes of avoiding accidents between vehicles or with pedestrians. The builder has installed a fenced walk-way to protect those walking to and from the West parking lot to separate them from the heavy traffic in that area.

Our long-anticipated fellowship center will soon become a reality. We expect it will not only provide wonderful new facilities for our church activities, but that it will allow us to expand our ministries and advance God's Kingdom in this community. This is a time to rejoice. Praise be to God!

Construction pictures can be found on page 14 & 15.

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

Fax: 352-628-9086

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

Parish Visitor

Peggy Benson

Sunday School

Superintendent &

Nursery Supervisor

Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator

Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician

Sharon Cooley

Night Security

Michael Rodgers

Custodian

Dale Evans

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 To Revival" 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.

From Pastor Mark's Desk

Have you ever experienced a "God thing" ?

God happenings are all around, but sometimes we miss what's right in front of us.

A little boy climbed a tall tree. The branches at the top were very thin, and when he went up one branch too many, the limb broke and sent him falling toward the ground. As he fell, hitting branches as he went, he prayed, "Lord, if you'll save me, I'll never disobey my mother again. I'll clean my room and take care of the dog like dad wanted me to." Just as the boy finished his prayer, his belt snagged on the stub of a limb, stopping his fall before he could hit the ground. Jerked to a stop and realizing he was safe, the little boy looked up and said, "Never mind, God, I don't need your help."

A "God thing" may not be God just doing things for us; it may also be God working things out for us and through us. If we are open to seeing this, we will begin to recognize God's hand active in more and more areas of our lives. "God things" are instances when God provides, supplies, touches, empowers in our circumstances. They are not planned on our part and often happen when least expected. When we do recognize them, they cause us to be astounded...amused...amazed...and in awe of the way God brings things about in this world.

For example, several times God has supplied people just when we needed them most.

A few years ago Patience Nave needed to give up her position as our Parish Visitor. We were talking about who would replace her when Sharon Smith called, explaining that she was responding to God's call on her life and wanted to speak with the pastor about the possibility of a Parish Nurse Program.

Several years ago, in a church-planning meeting, the desire for an overseas mission project and a relationship with a foreign church was expressed. Last year the Annual Conference organized a Short Term Volunteer Mission Trip to Haiti. Sharon Smith, now our Parish Nurse, had experienced these types of trips and volunteered to go. This led to her being one of the leaders on the trip, and two other women from our church also joined the team. In Haiti, the women from our church were drawn to a particular church and school, and plans are being made to build a relationship with them.

Kim Bennett, directing our Vacation Bible School, tells of expressing a need for a particular type of worker, and the next day or so someone calls her, offering to fill just that special need.

"God things" may not happen every day, but, if we are looking, we can't miss God at work dealing with the issues affecting us. He may not work on our timetable or in the way we think something ought to be done, but he will provide the answer in a way that all the glory will go to him. We are reminded of God's promise to his redeemed people: "Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear." (Isaiah 65:24 NIV)

So look around. Answers are happening all the time—it's a "God thing"!



Mark



Mentoring at Homosassa Elementary School.

The greatest gift we can give to a child is ourselves - our time and energy, and caring. It is when we interact with children that they learn what love, grace and acceptance are really all about.

During the 2008-2009 school year we are offering an opportunity to be involved with the students at Homosassa Elementary School in Old Homosassa by becoming a teacher's aid.

We are looking for a number of individuals who would be willing to give a morning (9:30 to noon) or an afternoon (1:00 to 3:00) to assist the teachers with personalized help for the children at the school.

You will need to be background checked by the school and approved by the county.

If you are interested in applying to be a school mentor, please call Rev. Whittaker at the church office.

Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

THE HOLY SPIRIT—WHAT HE BRINGS TO THE DISCIPLE

New disciples of Jesus Christ often say, “We’ve heard about the Holy Spirit. Just what is it?”

1) Jesus said: “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.” (John 14:26) What are some of the functions of the Holy Spirit?

Who did Jesus say would send him? _____
 In whose name? _____

2) Again Jesus tells his disciples: “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.” (John 16:7) Jesus does not refer to the Holy Spirit as “it” but as _____. The Holy Spirit is a personality, the third person of what we call the Trinity, and he is just as real in his personhood as the Father and the Son. But just as the Father and the Son each have unique functions, so the Holy Spirit has his role in the lives of believers.

3) Jesus explains that when the Holy Spirit comes “he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.” Then Jesus says, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:8-13)

What is one of the main roles of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?”

4) The Book of Acts tells how, after Jesus’ ascension, the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost to dwell *in* every believer. Before ascending to the Father, Jesus had told the disciples, “...you know him [the Holy Spirit], for he lives *with* you and *will be in you*.” (John 14:17b—italics mine) What was different for the followers of Christ in their relationship with the Holy Spirit after Pentecost?

5) Galatians 5:22-23 tells what the indwelling Spirit brings into each believer. “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” These characteristics, the character traits of the Father

and the Son, are brought into each believer the minute Jesus Christ is accepted as Savior and Lord. Like any physical fruit, each trait needs to be developed (ripened) to become all it is meant to be, but every believer has this fruit deposited within through the indwelling Holy Spirit. How can this knowledge help us when we struggle to be Christ-like in our attitudes and situations?

What can we do to help with the ripening process of this fruit? _____

6) The Holy Spirit gives each believer something else. We call them the “gifts” of the Spirit. Paul writes, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord...Now *in each one* the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1Cor. 12:4-7) Which believers receive a gift of the Spirit?

Paul then lists examples of the gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. (1 Cor. 12:8-11) He closes his list by writing, “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to *each one*, just as he determines.”

Who gets the gifts? _____
 Who determines what gift(s) each believer receives? _____

In verse 7, why are the we given these gifts? _____

7) In Romans 12:6-8, Paul gives examples of other gifts such as serving, teaching, contributing (giving), leadership, and showing mercy. He urges that the gifts be exercised wrapped in the fruit of the Spirit.

Why is it important to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit when we use our gifts for others? _____

THINK ABOUT IT:

- A “gift of the Spirit” is not the same as a natural talent we have at birth. It is a gift from God, given by the Spirit, when we become a Christian. Do you know how the Holy Spirit has gifted you?

- Why is it important for a disciple to have ever-ripening fruit of the Spirit? The manifestation of all the fruit is possible in our lives.

- What are you doing to help ripen the Christ-like fruit within you?

A DISCIPLE WHO USES HIS FRUIT-WRAPPED GIFTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THOSE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST WILL BE CONSTANTLY AMAZED AT HOW GOD MOVES TO WORK WITH HIM.

General Conference Focuses on World

by Rev. Richard Evans

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) set the agenda for the next four years by affirming that “the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶120) and by adding the phrase “for the transformation of the World.” Reminiscent of John Wesley’s historic affirmation that “the whole world is my parish,” the 10-day assembly meeting in Fort Worth TX sought to look beyond ourselves to the needs of a broken world.



Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker (FL Conference) recognizes a delegate while presiding.
Tita Parham photo

An exciting and challenging goal, beyond the budget, is The Global Health Initiative. Agencies and boards of the UMC will join with the United Nations Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other organizations to combat the diseases of poverty around the world: HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. By partnering with other organizations, the UMC will lead the way in this effort. Already the Nothing-But-Nets Campaign has raised over \$20 million to fight malaria in Africa.

From the colorful opening worship service on April 23 - with banners from the Annual Conferences of the 50 US states and the Central Conferences in Europe, Africa, and Asia - to the closing worship service at 11:15 pm on May 2, the focus of the meeting was on a “Future with Hope” for the Church and the World. Choirs and sacred dance groups from all over the world performed during the assembly. The diversity among the 992 delegates was evident in the simultaneous translation of the proceedings into 9 languages.



Liberian President Ellen Johnson, a United Methodist, speaks to the assembly.
Paul Jeffrey photo

General Conference approved a full communion agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Under full communion, the two churches recognize the authenticity of each other’s baptism and eucharist and full interchange of ordained ministers. The ELCA will vote on the agreement at its assembly in August 2009.

One of our struggles in the UMC is moving from a 200-year old “American” church to a 21st century “Global” church. The UMC is growing “by leaps and bounds” in many countries outside the USA - especially on the continent of Africa and in some parts of Europe. We are working toward establishing a more equal “playing field” with the members and delegates in the Central conferences through more equitable representation and fairer distribution of financial and human resources. That will take more than a decade to accomplish, but we are off to a good start.



The Hope For Africa Children’s Choir of Uganda shares song and dance.
Paul Jeffrey photo

Delegates rejected proposed changes to the UM Social Principles and retained the language in the 2004 *Book of Discipline* describing homosexual practice as “incompatible with Christian teaching.” They also voted to retain the language that prohibits UM pastors from conducting ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions. And a new resolution was approved stating that the UMC opposes “all forms of violence or discrimination based on gender, gender identity, sexual practice, or sexual orientation.”

The Conference approved a \$642 million budget for the next 4 years (2009-2012), representing a 4.8% increase (1.2% per year). Annual budget amounts will be apportioned to Annual and Central conferences and then to local churches - in support of missional needs and operational costs of the UMC.



Bishop Gregory Palmer preaches during closing worship of General Conference.
John Goodwin photo

The tone of the Conference was gracious and respectful throughout - even when considering some of the more controversial issues. The General Conference meets every four years to consider revisions to *The Book of Discipline* and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church wide programs for the next four years. The 2012 General Conference will meet in Tampa.

(Ed. Note: Richard Evans is a member of the General Conference committee that tracks new legislation and edits the *Book of Discipline*).

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

"He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."
(I Thessalonians 5:24)

One of the most difficult things in life is to be given a job we know we are not capable of doing. It happens all the time.

In fact, Laurence Peter and Raymond Hull wrote a book called *The Peter Principle*, in which they discuss the fact that in the world of business, men and women are often advanced to a level above their level of competence. The obvious result is chaos - frustration for the poor employee who knows she/he is inept in the job and failure of the project as it is guided by someone who has no idea how to reach a successful conclusion!

How grateful we should be that God does not advance us that way. He never calls us to do something we cannot do because he never calls us to do something that he is not going to work with us to complete. He may ask us to do something that we have never done before. He may put us on a committee that is far removed from any for which we would volunteer. He may ask us to go to someone who is ill, carrying only what we know in our hearts - the knowledge that God loves the person and has prompted us to go.

We may begin by feeling very foolish, even saying something like, "I could never do that." We may not know where to begin. Then a nudge comes from the Holy Spirit, and we begin to ask God if he is sure this is where he wants us, even suggesting that we may have misunderstood the call. But as we pray for guidance, a light dawns here and help comes there. Soon we are immersed in something we would never have dreamed of doing and *loving every minute of it*.

Paul says, *"He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."*

As we get busy with the task, we recognize that God is sharing his knowledge with us, giving us courage and insight, helping us every step of the way, actually *doing* the work in us and through us. There is no partner like him.

Prayer: We are so slow to learn, Father, that you would never ask us to do something we cannot do. You would never set us up for failure. It pleases you for us to learn that without you we can do nothing but with you we can do great things! Call us, please. Help us be willing to say, "I'll go." Then do through us what needs to be done to draw all people to Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Visit to Ireland

By Rev. Richard Evans

"Top o' the mornin' to you" - or the afternoon - or the evenin' - or whenever you're reading this.

Yes, the road did rise up to meet us and the wind was at our backs as we flew from the USA to Ireland on May 24. There the sun shone warm upon our faces, the rains fell soft upon us and, as the old Gaelic blessing suggests, God held us in the palm of his hand.

Of the 48 people in our group, about 30 were United Methodists and the rest were relatives and friends. The custom itinerary through the Republic and Northern Ireland was provided by CIE Tours, with arrangements by J & L Travel.

After arrival in Dublin on Sunday morning, most of us worshiped at the Central Mission - a downtown Methodist Church.

After two days in Dublin, we traveled to Limerick. Day trips from there took us to Cork, Cobh, the Dingle Peninsula, the Cliffs of Moher, and the tiny village of Ballingrane. There we visited a little church that commemorates two Irish Methodists (Philip Embury and Barbara Heck) who emigrated to New York and established the Society that became John Street Methodist Church in lower Manhattan.

Next stop: Galway, where our hotel is right in the center of the city. We will be there about the time many of you read this.

Day trips will take us to the Aran Islands and to the village of Cong (where *The Quiet Man* was filmed). On Sunday, June 1, we will worship at the United Methodist & Presbyterian Church.

On Monday we will cross into Northern Ireland and travel to Armagh, where we will spend 4 nights.

We'll enjoy a day in Belfast with our friend, the Rev. Harold Good, as our guide. A day along the north coast will take us to Giants' Causeway and to Londonderry.

On another day we will walk in the footsteps of St. Patrick in Armagh and DownPatrick.

On Friday we will return to Dublin to prepare for our return flight to Orlando on Saturday.

We look forward to our return on June 7 and to sharing with many of you some of our experiences on the Emerald Isle.



An Invitation To The Congregation

United Methodist Women of Homosassa cordially invite all FUMC Women & Men to our Unit Meeting on June 17, 2008.

9:30 a.m. Gathering & Social Time – Room 114
 10:00 a.m. Program: For the Love of Children
 A Presentation & Tour of our new
 EBADOC Discipleship Academy

Immediately following, 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 become 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

Please make reservations by calling the church office at 628-4083 so we can plan accordingly for seating and refreshments. Due to the current situation with construction this is a very important detail.

WELCOME! New Members April 26, 2007



Bill Strmiska
 8089 Longfellow St
 Homosassa, FL, 34448
 352-257-5239

Stephen & Shannon Conley
 3 Dahlia Court
 Homosassa, FL, 34446
 352-382-7999

Jim & Joyce Wicker
 26 Village Center Dr
 Homosassa, FL, 34446
 1-727-457-2056

Gary & Cindy Allen
 P. O. Box 5035
 Homosassa Springs, FL, 34448
 352-621-3961 or
 352-422-7821

Thank you!

You know who you are...
 God knows...I don't.
 Your gifting is very much appreciated.
 Your Sister in Christ,
 Judith

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The pastors and all delegates to the Florida Annual Conference (May 28 – 31) to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- The building committee and all those working with them to continue to seek the Lord's guidance in all their decisions – for the workers to be kept safe -- for all who use the facilities to let the love of Christ show by putting others first as we park further away to allow visitors and those with physical needs to park closer to the buildings.
- Our pastor and staff daily.
- The people of Petit Goave, Haiti, and for those at Carrenage. May we earnestly seek the Lord's will for each of us and for any future mission trips or partnership. May the Lord touch and bless the hungry hurting people in Haiti.
- Safety for the children of our congregation during their summer vacation.
- Vacation Bible school – all the volunteers and each child.
- The development of prayer groups and for more corporate prayer to undergird the ministries and the people of this church.

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
 Where there is injury, pardon,
 Where there is doubt, faith,
 Where there is despair, hope,
 Where there is darkness, light,
 Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may
 not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
 not so much to be understood as to understand,
 not so much to be loved, as to love;
 for it is in giving that we receive,
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi



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

This program is a celebration of God's love and a chance for children to learn new Beach Be-Attitudes. Each lesson will be supported with Bible stories, science activities, songs, crafts, games, and snacks.

Pre-register and receive a FREE VBS T-shirt!

Call the church office, 628-4083, or stop by to pre-register. You will find a registration form on Page 22 in this publication, or go to: <http://www.lumc.org/> to register online. Scroll down the page and you will see VBS information on the left-side column.

A registration form will need to be completed for each child/teen.

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

Meet us at 8831 W. Bradshaw Blvd. at the intersection of Yulee Drive in Homosassa on June 9th at 8:30 AM to be a part of Beach Party: "Surfin' Through the Scriptures."

Cowabunga Surfing Dudes and Dudettes!



Christian Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

I feel sad that some of you are leaving to go north or have already gone. Our church family becomes more important every day, even though we are all too busy to be still together for very long at a time. To the going and gone, I pray that your summer will be filled with family, fun, rest, and safety. We look forward to your returning.

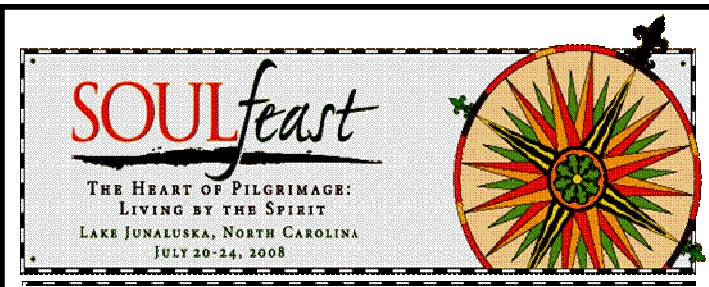
Please Call Me...

- Several new Bible studies are being discussed, as well as some groups who will devote themselves to prayer. I'll keep you posted about developments of each through the bulletins during June, July, and August, so watch for things that interest you, and *please call me* if you would like to lead or attend a new study.
- I am looking for adults who will commit to working with the children for five-or-six week segments in the Academy during the year. The numbers are growing, and we want to be prepared to divide the classes - 1st and 2nd grades and 3rd through 6th grades - very soon. Remember that all workers must be screened, and that takes a little time, so if you are interested, *please call me* soon.
- Several people have talked to me about beginning a new emphasis on corporate prayer, and a committee is now considering how to bring interested people together to pray - to pray for individuals, for the on-going growth of our church, for our nation and the world, for healing for those who may have specific needs. If this is an area that interests you, *please call me*.
- I have a list of people who have expressed interest in going with a work team to Haiti in the fall. Do you want to be included in that list? You don't have to commit to going just yet. We will begin to meet, pray, and plan in June. We want *everyone* who has any interest to come and see if this is what God has planned for you. I can tell you from experience that going on a short-term mission trip will change your life. *Please call me* if you want to see how this works and consider going.
- The cancer support group is no longer meeting, and if you are interested in beginning a new one for this most important ministry, *please call me*.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 9-13, and the team has been working for months to get ready. Interested children should *sign up ahead of time*. Every child who pre-registers gets a T-shirt with the VBS logo.

I am going to be here all summer, with perhaps a quick trip to North Carolina to see family. I am in the office every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 8:30 until 4:30. I come other days and stay later when needed. We are not going to have much time to catch our breath this summer because we have so many plans. If God has put some ministry on your heart, I'm here to help get it started.

God bless us all during the summer months when everything seems a little different.



If we have enough people headed to N.C. from here, we can car pool, take a van, or the bus. We do have people attending. For more details check the April Genesis, the bulletin board near the church office, or www.upperroom.org/soulfeast/2008 (there's even an informational video). You may also contact the church office or Marilyn Watson.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin the summer vacation, whether here or in another state, let us continue to pray for our Pastor, our staff, and our church.

- Pray for the safety of those who travel, or those at home here.
- Pray for the weather to be favorable for the completion of our building addition.
- Pray for new ideas for ways to draw others to Christ.
- Pray for first-fruits support to advance the mission of our church in the community.
- Pray for new members to join us in the Body of Christ.
- Pray for a thirst for Bible Study.
- Pray that many would feel the nudge of the Holy Spirit to join a ministry.
- Pray for our soldiers, their families, and the families of those who lost a loved one in this war.
- Pray for those who are ill of body and soul.
- Lastly, pray for a renewal of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ to spread over this nation.

*In Love,
Jim Roth
Stewardship Chairman*

New Arrangement

When Bill and I retired from chairing New Member Cultivation & Incorporation Committee we lost our mail box.

With Bill being chairman of Memorial/Honorarium Gift Committee and for the materials I need, it is necessary for us to have a place for information to be given to us.

There is now a blue folder marked "Bill & Connie Barton" that is being kept in the staff mail box, No. 9 Christian Education. Bill or I check this regularly and hopefully it will be the answer to the dilemma.

Thanks so much for enabling us to receive pertinent information to carry out our volunteer services for the church.

Connie Barton



Summer Schedule

There will be *NO* choir rehearsals for the month of July, and there will be *NO* Handbell choir rehearsals during the months of June, July, and August.

Handbell rehearsals will resume September 3rd.

Have a blessed summer.

Mary Kay,
Director of Music Ministries

OUR CHOIR

The choir is singing oh so fair
Just like love birds in the air,
With voice so soft and so sweet
As angels of Christ they can't be beat.

With voice so strong and so true
They'll make you smile and not be blue,
The piano guides them over the song
Always singing with love so strong.

It is their way to give him praise
As with love their voices they raise,
So hush my children as God to please
How the choir your hearts they'll ease.

Carl Merritt

WONDERFUL WEEKLY CHORES

Monday, Wash Day: Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday, Ironing Day: Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday, Mending Day: O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday, Cleaning Day: Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday, Shopping Day: O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

Saturday, Cooking Day: Help me, my Savior, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness!

Sunday, The Lord's Day: O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

From Althea Stuckey

Sharon E. Smith ~ Parish Nurse



Welcome To The Staff

Peggy Benson (along with her companion, Shadow) has joined the church staff on a temporary part-time basis to assist with visitation and follow up member tracking.

It has been two years since the Parish Nurse Ministry was begun. Beginning that Ministry was obviously a wise decision, as it has “mushroomed.” Sharon Smith has been finding that the responsibility of both the Visitation and the Parish Nurse program were more than one person working 15 hours per week could handle. Attempts had been made to establish a “tracking committee,” but that endeavor was not a success.

This year with the budget approval for a part time Visitation Pastor, it was agreed that an appropriate person could be hired until a Visitation Pastor is found. She has been “on board” since the end of March when the parish nurse was leaving for Haiti.

“What a blessing it is to have Peggy’s help and assistance. The Visitation Committee does a fantastic job fulfilling their responsibilities, but has found that adding more to their load is not feasible,” says Sharon. Thank you Peggy, for accepting this role in serving our Lord!

EMPOWERING CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA

During the past few months your parish nurse has been attending meetings held by researchers from FSU, whose project is involved with assisting CAREGIVERS of persons with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s Disease or other dementias. At this point the project is almost ready to move forward. The parish nurse group involved, will meet again on June 2. Within a couple months after that, subjects for the study will be assigned. It appears that the assignments will be on a one-to-one basis, but this does not preclude working with other caregivers in our congregation who would like this same information and/or need help at this time. Please be watching for more information on this project, which will probably be in the bulletin during the summer.

Should you have questions at this time or need assistance right now, please call the church office for an appointment with the parish nurse.

Diabetes Support Group CLASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES

Since last November a group of people who live with diabetes have been meeting on a fairly regular basis to learn more about ways to maintain and improve their health status or the health status of a family member. Information has been given and they have received a lot of printed material. They have had an opportunity to ask a lot of questions. Now we are “winding down,” as we will complete the regular class routine on May 14.

However, as time goes along, we feel sure that new information will become available, and new problems will arise among the group members. Therefore, the plan for the future is to establish and continue a “Support Group” according to the needs of those involved. This group, which will convene in September, will be open to all persons who have diabetes, who live with a person with diabetes, who have a strong family history of diabetes, or who are just interested in learning more about this condition.

Please watch for more information about this program.

EXERCISE

In the February “Aging Matters” seminar, a suggestion was made that we have an exercise class here at the church. A committee met and a schedule for exercise was established. On the first day, 12 people joined us in exercising with the assist of a “Chair Dancing” video.



The ‘best made plans’ do not always have the best results. Very few of those first participants reappeared! “The committee” decided a ‘reform-mating’ was necessary. As we go to press the DAY of the exercise class is MONDAY. The TIME of the class is 11 a.m., and the format for the class has been changed to be more participant friendly.

Please join your Parish Nurse on Monday morning so that she is forced to exercise at least once a week. She says, “It is so easy to be busy and not take time to exercise. I do know it is important and I need to do it on a regular basis. It seems that everything I read regarding ANY condition or disease emphasizes the need for EXERCISE. Besides, it is important for me to ‘practice what I preach.’ Please come and join me on Monday morning.”
C U in Room 102!

How to Leave Your Legacy

In the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30), Jesus encourages us to be good stewards of our assets. He encourages us to manage our assets so that they will grow and multiply. The "good and faithful servant" of the parable is the one who makes the most of what he/she has been given. Like the servant of the parable, we can manage the master's gift so that it will grow and prosper.

When we examine our finances, we should consider both income and assets. For most of us, assets make up the bulk of our estate. To be good stewards, we must be stewards of our assets as well as our income. An effective way to do that is through planned giving.

A planned gift is a gift made from one's assets to a church or other qualified charity. In many cases, a planned gift can be made without negatively impacting a donor's current income. It may even create some financial advantages for the donor when viewed within the context of one's overall financial plan. Anyone can make a planned gift. You do not have to be wealthy.

Because these gifts typically require advance planning during one's lifetime, donors should seek the advice of an attorney, financial advisor, or tax advisor before making a gift. The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. also provides free confidential counsel to prospective donors who are planning to make a gift to a church or other United Methodist Charity.

Any gift that can be made to charity can be made to your church. Most planned gifts benefit both your family and your church. Planned gifts provide an opportunity for you to make a difference during your lifetime and beyond. Planned gifts make it possible for you to leave your legacy and to make a powerful statement about a lifetime of comprehensive Christian stewardship.

(Reprinted from a flyer published by the *Florida United Methodist Foundation*. To learn more about their services, visit their website at www.fumf.org or call toll-free at 866-363-9673).

~ DEATH ~

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT..

(Received from Ann Ice)

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."



FUMICH Stephen Ministry

As the song goes, we will soon enter "the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." In sharp contrast to our northern neighbors, many of our outside activities (except dipping in the swimming pool or putting away on the golf course) dwindle a bit in number as we crank up the A/C and sip seasonal favorites of lemonade or iced tea.

Your Stephen Ministry team, however, is gearing up for even more momentum as four trainees continue their initial orientation and training in the months of May through August. A commitment to 50 hours of structured lessons, enhanced by audiovisuals and interesting discussion, is only the beginning of a unique journey for these volunteers, who have stepped forward to prepare to serve our congregation.

By summer's end, these four additional Stephen Ministers will be formally commissioned during Sunday Services. They will then await assignments to walk beside congregation members who are facing many life challenges.

Individuals, family members, or friends who seek more information about this program that provides weekly visits and phone support can call Diane (382-7242), Kay (382-4908), other Stephen Ministers, or the church office.

COMPANIONS *in Christ*

Groups will begin meeting in the fall (or sooner). Please contact the church office or Marilyn Watson for additional information.

Marilyn Watson

"OUR" MEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND October 10 – 12, Leesburg, FL

Detailed information appeared in the May edition of Genesis, is posted on the bulletin board near the church office, and is available online at www.ummflumc.org.

You may contact Jim Stoneman, retreat coordinator, Marilyn Watson, or the church office for further information.



Needling Tid-Bits

“Escape Artist” was the title of an article in McCall’s Needlework & Crafts magazine, April 1988.

It touted,

“HOME DEMANDS,
WORK DEMANDS,
FAMILY DEMANDS.

“At 7:45, she got the kids out. Her husband out. Herself out. At 10:45, she started the proposal. At 12:30, she had a hair appointment and a yogurt. At 4:15

she completed the proposal. At 5:15, she car pooled her son’s soccer team to practice.

“Now for the next hour and twenty minutes she’s an artist. Relaxed. Absorbed. Alone. The quiet, even, regular motion of the needles quiets the nerves and tranquilizes the mind and lets thought flow freely.

“She’s knitting...while she’s waiting.”

In an another article titled, “Political Needling Keeps Us In Stitches,” written by John Gould, an American humorist and columnist who wrote for the Christian Science Monitor, stated, “Women knitting in public. What is it about knitting in public that can be so unsettling? Are we afraid that someone knitting cannot, or worse yet does not wish to, engage with those around them? (Women have long gathered to knit and gossip.) Is it the intrusion of a private activity into public space that unsettles? (Like the laptop user at the local cafe, or the conference backchannel?)

“A woman knitting in public is self-possessed, she almost flaunts her ability to be productive when others can’t, to create when others can only consume. From this emotional politics she can also claim moral righteousness, and in the multi-tasking dimension, she can claim superior skill and challenge the notion that public space is unitary or unified in process and product. Perhaps this is where the public discomfort comes from?

“But women have also knitted *for* public spaces and *for* the public good, and this involves a different kind of public politics. For example, the Red Cross has a long tradition of war-time knitting, from distributing patterns suitable to the WWII environment to today’s afghans for Afghans project, which is also completely fascinating in terms of culture and language.

“The November 24, 1941, cover story of the popular weekly magazine *Life* explained ‘How To Knit.’ Along with basic instructions and a pattern for a simple knitted vest, the article advised, ‘To the great American question ‘What can I do to help the war effort?’ the commonest answer yet found is ‘Knit.’ The article pointed out that hand-knitters were turning out garments for soldiers despite the fact that machine-knitting was more efficient. Knitting gave people at home a way to help.”

Wars do not have to be huge, multi-national/cultural affairs consisting of guns, bombs, maiming and killing. Everyday we all deal with little, personal wars. To gift someone with a hand-knitted mantle containing blessings for strength, healing, and wholeness makes for touches of grace and compassion.

FUMCH Prayer Shawl Ministry has assembled a collection of easy-to-do designs. Join us on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and become a “contagious Christian” in a very crafty way. Contact Ann Morrison or Althea Stuckey for more information.

Judith Huffer

HOW DO YOU PRAY?

- Do you pray corporately (with others)?
- Do you pray silently or aloud...with your eyes open or closed?
- Do you sit in a particular way?
- Are you easily distracted or are you oblivious to everyone and everything around you?

There are many other questions I could ask. I hope these few started you thinking about your prayer life, maybe even in a different way. More importantly, I hope these questions caused you to think about the fact that there is no “right way” to pray. In the *Spiritual Disciplines Index of The Renovare` Spiritual Formation Bible*, the definition of prayer is “Interactive conversation with God about what we and God are thinking and doing together.” I would have probably only said it’s *talking with God*.

Until recently I thought I knew a lot about prayer; then I started attending spiritual formation trainings and events. I’ve discovered a whole new world of prayer. There *are* a lot of methods I’d never experienced.

Have you ever tried contemplative prayer...meditative prayer...prayer-walking? Have you used a prayer labyrinth...or walked one? Do you pray the psalms?

Have you done journaling prayer? I didn’t know journaling was considered a form of prayer. When I began journaling many years ago, it seemed natural to write my conversations with God. After I write the Scripture reference, I jot down anything from the passage which grabs my attention and then reflect on that. From there a conversation with God usually develops naturally. Writing it out not only keeps a record of the conversation, it also keeps me focused. This is my favorite form of individual prayer.

Although my time alone with Him is precious, I do prefer corporate prayer – I think it has to do with the Scripture promise that HE will be there with us wherever two or more are gathered.

In addition to our Sunday evening prayer time in the chapel, we’re starting some prayer groups. These are specifically for prayer and are not meant to replace your small group or Bible studies. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact me or call the church office.

Mother Teresa said, “My secret is very simple: I pray. Through prayer I become one in love with Christ. I realize that prayer to Him is loving Him...”

I’ll yield the final word to John Wesley who said prayer is “the most useful of all pastimes.”

Marilyn Watson

S.H.A.R.E.

SHARE is still adjusting to its new location, Room 114. Everything worked well, and we were out of the room in time for other church activities. The volunteers seemed to take the changes with little or no problems. We do need everyone to park on the south side of the building. The north doors will be completely blocked by construction, and no one will be permitted to enter from that side.

SHARE is a non-profit organization. Except for a few paid workers in Tampa, everyone is doing this as a volunteer. The people you see working the tables on D-Day are all volunteers, doing this out of concern for others. The volunteers you see bringing food back from Ocala are not only volunteering their time but also a truck and gas. They are not reimbursed and a trip to Ocala can cost as much as \$20.00. They know that many families benefit from food they might not be able to afford otherwise.

Our quantity is usually down from now until October. This should change, because with the cost of gas going up and the price of food also rising, people need to start looking for ways to save money. We are about helping one another, and by sharing the savings with your friends and neighbors, you will be helping them and yourself by increasing the size of each order. Better volume gets better prices for everyone.

Check to see what food selections are coming by going to the website: <http://www.shareflorida.org>

No matter what the menu is, you know from experience that is always the best in quality and quantity.

Tom and Nancy Pearo

If you could read what is in our hearts, you would know how much your prayers, cards, telephone calls, Emails and other expressions of sympathy for the loss of two dear family members within three weeks to the day helped us through these recent weeks.

Our family is small and the love and care from our wonderful church family and the Visitation Committee has been a true comfort.

We are thankful that Mildred died instantly and Caroline's suffering from pain was near the end of her life.

God is good.
Love and Blessings to all of you.
Connie and Bill Barton

Dear Church Family,

Thank you, ever so much, for the many cards, emails, telephone calls, visits, and most especially, the prayers during Bill's recent surgery and recovery.

We are pleased to report that he's doing very well, and we feel the Lord has truly blessed us with such a caring church family.

In appreciation,
Bill & Neretta Brobst

SHARE 2008

MONTH	SIGN UP	D-DAY
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



Hugs For Soldiers

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.

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.



Construction fencing is being erected to protect the construction site and maintain safety.

Roger Kirby paints an arrow on the pavement in the West parking lot to establish a one-way traffic pattern at entrances narrowed due to construction.



Chain-link fencing separates pedestrians from narrow traffic lanes at the Bradshaw entrance to the west parking lot.



Cutting The Roof before demolition



Cut to separate the roofs

Church Construction

April 2008

(Continued From Page 1)

~ ENTRANCE COMES DOWN ~



At noon, the Bobcat rested peacefully in the entrance to old fellowship hall (left). After the main roof came down, the entrance provided a frame for the excavator clearing debris (right).



The sequence of seven photos above document removal of the entrance - the final piece of the old structure to be demolished. The roof is peeled off with a single swipe of the grapple, then the wall is pushed over, and finally, the steel posts that supported the roof are lifted down.

DEMOLITION BEGINS



Shortly after 7:30 AM the excavator operator lifted his grapple up over the fellowship hall roof, plunged it down through the roof, then pulled it out through the side wall - and the demolition process was underway (three photos above and right).



The roof was systematically shattered, the debris lifted out and placed in a container. When the roof debris was cleared, the surrounding walls were knocked down and the concrete debris piled for recycling.

MAIN ROOF OF FELLOWSHIP HALL COMES DOWN



RANDOM DEMOLITION SCENES



The Case excavator could not only knock down a building with ease, but it was able to remove huge piles of debris with each movement (left).

In the two photos below the grapple easily penetrates a roof and comes out with rubble in one easy motion.



Together the Case excavator and the Bobcat moved the rubble and loaded it into containers quickly.



Bobcat and Case Excavator work to clear the rubble and load it into containers that will be hauled either to a landfill or to recycle centers. Many items were separated for recycling, i.e. copper, steel, aluminum, sheet metal, even the cement blocks will be crushed and used as construction material.



Large trucks made continuous round trips all day long to haul the debris away.



Site of the old fellowship center after demolition and final clean-up.



Surveyors lay out locations and elevations for the new foundations (left).

Black top being removed to make way for final grading and new foundations (below left).

Site after final grading (below right).



**Aerial Photograph
Of 8831 W Bradshaw,
Homosassa, FL
April 30, 2008**

Dear Praying Friends,

"I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollo watered it, but it was God who made it grow" (1 Cor. 3:5, NLT).

Paul sure had the process right when he explained it to the Corinthians, and we've seen that process working gloriously at Cool Shade of Life Church (CSLC) recently as well (see first "Praise" item). Praise God that He is the one who brings the growth – we've just got to have our bags of seeds and watering cans ready.

Praises

• Praise God that four people – a couple, a single mother, and a teenage girl – accepted Christ as their Savior last month through the witness of several CSLC members.



• Pastor *Ogaat* led a prayer of salvation at church on Sunday, April 6, and they immediately began attending the church's "New Believers" class which started that day with five other church members

Pray for fruit from all the new members' lives as they grow in their faith.

As mentioned, CSLC has begun a new "New Believers" class that has been well-attended and well-received.



• Praise God that *Dtun* has been doing a great job teaching and that the members are so excited to learn about the things of God.

New Believers

We have added a lot of new stories and photos to the CSLC Web site, including a page with pictures of all 14 Thai church families.

Please check it out when you have a chance:

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

During last month's *Songkran* holiday (the Thai New Year), children and



Water-Joe

teens at CSLC showed honor to their elders by pouring scented water on their hands. We were very encouraged by the young peoples' willingness to be a blessing, although we're not too sure whether we're happy about being considered "elders" now.



Water-Elaine

A lot of people wonder how we shop here, but actually our growing metropolitan area of close to 1 million people is quite similar to back home in St. Petersburg, Fla. We have malls, mom-and-pop stores, and the equivalent of Wal-Mart in "Tesco Lotus," a hypermarket that sells basically everything (for better or worse). There are other large chains as well, including the France-based Carrefour. Check out:

<http://www.tescolotus.net/Default.asp?Lang=Thai>

to see how similar things are; there is even an English page you can click, not surprising since Tesco is the world's fourth-largest retail chain based in England.

Prayers

• Please continue to pray for wisdom in future ministry following the dissolution of our PIONEERS church-planting team (the METRO Team).

• Joe will begin teaching the book of Acts at Bible school beginning May 20. Please pray for wisdom in preparing lessons, for clarity in presentation, and for the four students to understand the purpose of the universal church more fully.

We continue to be impressed with how CSLC members have taken ownership of the plan to buy land for a new church facility. While we are a long way away from getting the \$72,000 needed for the land (and the price keeps going up as the dollar drops), everyone continues to pray for the project and devise imaginative ways to raise funds. One way involves the children and teens, who have been selling corn at our community pool during the Thai summer break. In addition, church leaders have sacrificially decided that 10% of each month's offering money should be earmarked for the project.



• Please pray that the Lord would bring glory to Himself by bringing in this large amount of money if He desires. (And if He doesn't desire, pray for wisdom for the leaders as our current one-unit townhouse lease expires October 31, and we're busting out of the place on Sunday mornings.)

• Please pray for Joe as he prepares and teaches and for church members to more fully understand the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The attendance has boomed to about 30 people most weeks, and they are enjoying the interactive style that Joe is using as we discuss what happened when we practiced these traits (love, forgiveness, joy, etc.).

• Pray also for wisdom as to when and how to break up the "small" group into true small groups again.

• Please continue to pray for Elaine's health issues and for wisdom for our missionary doctor.

• Brittany will be taking the SAT on Saturday here in Chiang Mai. Please pray for peace and for her to do her best.

For His glory,

Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie

News from the Woosters in Siberia

As of this writing (May 2), we're sitting in Mongolia waiting for visas. Instead of going to the Russian Embassy here, we decided to mail our invitation and passports back to America via DHL (similar to UPS) and go through the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. It actually works out to be less expensive and less time waiting for our visas. For the next 90 days, if all goes well, we will be in Russia under a "private stay or guest" visa. Once we're back in Russia, we'll begin the process through the Minister of Foreign Affairs to apply for temporary residency permits. If we're allowed to get this status, we'll be able to remain in country for approximately three years without having to leave every few months.

What's happening this summer?

Foremost....the other family we've been working with will be heading back to the U.S. for a well-deserved rest. They have four little ones and will be spending a school year with family and friends. This means that all of our responsibilities plus theirs will be on our shoulders for a while. Please pray that we'll keep our focus on the Lord and His will in *all* we do and just take things one day at a time. Another family will be joining us in late Sept. /Oct. so we won't be too long without another "set of hands" to help.



Kevin and Laura at the County-line going to Horinsk

There is a field-wide conference in June, (workers with our organization across Russia), which provides a time of encouragement and discussions on what's happening across the country. It should be a fun time together with all our team-mates, but again it means travel. We will probably travel by train (2 ½ days) then take a bus the other 4 hours to get there. (Remember we have told you this is a very large country.)

As always, summer brings a multitude of possibilities and projects that need to be completed before winter returns. There is still much work to be done in the *village* so that heat will be in the larger "meeting" hall. We were able to get the front door put on for the "outside" room we mentioned in last month's letter. This will greatly reduce the cold air from coming into the building. It will



The Fellowship gathered in the village

also allow us to have a place for boots and coats so as not to bring in snow and mud. The final touches on the main hall should be complete in a few months....painting the walls and making small repairs to the floors.



New Believer in the Fellowship



Local Leader with his wife

Please pray for the above pictured people. The gentlemen on the left has been struggling with alcoholism; it has been a difficult road. The couple on the right are the local leaders of the fellowship, and with leadership comes great responsibilities and difficulties to solve.

There will be a large conference for the deaf of Siberia on Lake Baikal this summer. Our plan is to also help with the deaf fellowship during their camps. This will be one of the first big gatherings of the deaf and hard of hearing fellowships for the large region of Siberia. The conference will be on inductive study of the Bible. We will be lending *practical* helps during this camp so more of the people in the local fellowship can attend the seminars.

We are so blessed to be here and to be a part of this ministry partnering with each of you. We could never be here without your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support. We look ahead with great expectations and can't wait to see what the Lord will have for us in the coming months. We pray each of you has a wonderful summer filled with the blessings of the Father!



*Serving in Siberia,
Kevin & Laura Wooster
(and Nika, also...)*

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1Thess. 5:16-18

JUNE ~ JULY ~ AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

<u>JUNE</u>	
1	Roland Alberle
2	Emma Christensen
	Jeanne Comfort
3	Dermot Samuda
	Alma Zimmerman
6	Leon Wells
	Helga Squires
7	Mary Cannon
	John Gibbs
	Thomas Ottman
8	William Brobst
	Ray Fisher
	Virginia Szenas
9	Carolyn Custer
	Eleanor Hoeffler
	Virginia Mangels
10	Alicia Weston
12	Jim Love
13	William Parks
14	Wayne Brown
	Linda Gordy
	Phyllis Peters
15	Althea Stuckey
16	Charles Blair
	John Lawrey
	Beulah Seiler
	Stan Zawacki
	Irene Stone
17	Loral Byington
	Patience Nave
	Alex Stevens
18	Catherine Barrett
	Robert Bellcase
	Lucille Meeves
	Regina Parks
19	Lavonne Brennan
	Larry Vainio
	Charles Wade
21	Miriam Currier
22	Dickee Desimone
23	Yvonne Beck
	Gene Harry
	Jimmi Reichard
	Ralph Siegel

25	Maria Briggs
	Ronald Hesketh
	Cranie Koellhoffer
26	Lee Bast
	Jeffrey Post
27	Diane Gibbs
	Jack Holcomb Sr.
	Gordon Lawrence
	Jynetha Montgomery
28	Marguerite Betzer
	June Bish
	Andrea Pirkle
29	Allene Misunas
	Harvey Oltendorf
30	Betty Bennett
	Bob Bunting
	Len Cromer
	Fred Small
<u>JULY</u>	
1	Judith Busby
	Henry Sandlas III
2	Lois Diedrich
	Dick Kern
3	Andy Andrews
	Mel Gordy
	Juliann Harry
	Edwin Jenks
	Janet Magamoll
4	Juanita Sobolak
7	Ann Sandstrom
8	Elizabeth Olson
9	Allen Millikin
	Bev Mulder
10	Dorothy Collister
11	Marion Hamilton
	Helen LaBeau
	Andrew Merson
12	Eileen Brown
14	Norwood Speary
15	Heidi Hilthron
17	Don Snedeker
	Todd Workman
18	Sue Price
	Marie Vainio

19	Joe Crawley
	Joan Spencer
20	Jackie LaMountain
21	Derek Benthussen
	Lee Knerr
	David Lambert
	Florence Sledd
	Joyce Winder
23	Dee Otto
	Nancy Pearo
	Ruby Raymond
	John Yuschak
24	Ryan Selby
	Barbara Sunderland
25	Louise Miller
26	Jesse Knight
	Vernon Tidswell
28	Doris Feldmann
29	Marjorie Heybeck
	Fran Hughes
	Paul Huffstutler
	Lavoy Patton
	Nancy Sheaffer
30	Marylou Fisher
	Frances Graham
	Edie Mingalone
	Ozzie Schmitt
<u>AUGUST</u>	
1	Dorothy Aberle
	Helen Dresback
	Tom Smith
	Barbara Stoneman
2	Carole Deyo-Fahl
	Dan Hurley
3	Ann Eckman
	Marge Frazier
	Jim Green
4	Sheldon LaMountain
5	June Oltendorf
6	Walter Dilling
	Wilbourn Fowler
	Jeannine Love
	Sharon Miller
	Joyce Monigold
7	Ruth Samuda
9	Shirley Hunter
	Myrna Sanford

10	Bernhard Diedrich
11	Howard Watson
12	Albert Carlson Sr.
	Priscilla Frederick
13	Joan Clanfield
	Carroll Phillips
	Hilda Wicks
	Sandi Workman
14	Venia Blankenbeckler
	Joyce Hesketh
	Barbara Kuhl
	Donald Wither
15	Wanda Chapman
	Terry Cornelius
16	Arthur Stuckey
	Elizabeth Vaughn
17	Norma Cole
	Lois Schoch
	Robert Schwebes
	Karl Smith
18	Mert Davis
	Sharon Palmer
19	Walter Briggs
21	Roger Johnson
	Phyllis Nevins
	William Stocker
22	Barbara Neurohr
	Verna Strout
23	Krissy Brown
	Katherine Cornelius
24	Mildred Beechman
	Robert Leaming
25	Joanna Miller
26	Shirley Hart
27	Kari Amundson
28	Lorraine Angus
	Arden Sheaffer
29	Helen Hansen
	Virginia Pazian
	Judy Roberts
30	Shirley Allen
	Deborah Hargis
	Marlene Mullins
	Laci Nunnery
	Clara Speary
31	Shirley Holland

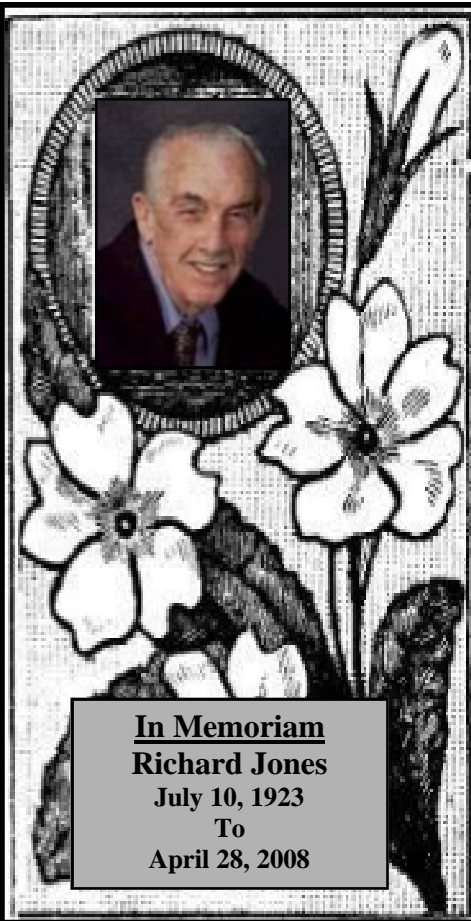
JUNE ~ JULY ~ AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

<u>JUNE</u>	
1	Marie & Ron Witham ~ 12 years ~
2	Juanita & Stan Sobolak ~ 26 years ~
3	Marie & Ted Archambault ~ 58 years ~ Bunny & Charles Wade ~ 59 years ~
4	Joyce & Ronald Hesketh ~ 48 years ~
6	Syble & William Little ~ 60 years ~ Virginia & Henry Mangels ~ 25 years ~
7	Jane & Jimmy Hamilton ~ 11 years ~ Bev & Jack Mulder ~ 50 ~ Phyllis & Charles Peters ~ 22 years ~ Andrea & David Pirkle ~ 45 years ~
8	Sue & Thomas Cloyd ~ 63 years ~ Lou & Elwin Mosier ~ 50 years ~ Joyce & William Smith ~ 56 years ~ Donna & John Yuschak ~ 45 years ~
9	Pat & Merlyn Hoar ~ 52 years ~
12	Shelby & Julian Weingarten ~ 50 years ~
15	Clara & Norwood Speary ~ 63 years ~
16	Annie & Art Carl ~ 57 years ~ Mildred & Robert Mott ~ 52 years ~
17	Gloria & David Marquis ~ 13 years ~ Marian & Henry Sandlas ~ 58 years ~

18	Emily & Robert Russell ~ 42 years ~ Mary Ellen & Frank Wais ~ 48 years ~ Elizabeth & Don Winner ~ 48 years ~
19	Jeanette & John Cole ~ 59 years ~ Rusty & Gene Harry ~ 42 years ~ Marilyn & Leon Wells ~ 44 years ~
20	JoAnn & John Guthrie ~ 49 years ~ Barbara & Richard Hartley ~ 59 years ~
21	Nelva & Raymond Clemans ~ 5 years ~ Marylou & Ray Fisher ~ 6 years ~ Joan & Jack Ness ~ 56 years ~ June & Harvey Oltendorf ~ 50 years ~ Marie & Larry Vainio ~ 50 years ~
22	Marcia & Richard Bader ~ 56 years ~ Beverly & Edward Calkins ~ 23 years ~ Myrna & Richard Evans ~ 51 years ~
24	Charlene & William Murray ~ 12 years ~
25	Charlotte & Glenda Gable ~ 36 years ~
26	Joe Ann & Robert Gidlow ~ 54 years ~ Burnie & Gene McGee ~ 50 years ~
29	Barbara & Dave Shores ~ 45 years ~
<u>JULY</u>	
4	Krissy & Wayne Brown ~ 10 years ~
6	Carolyn & Joe Crawley ~ 38 years ~

8	Dorothy & Jack Graham ~ 41 years ~
10	Lisa & Bob Specht ~ 14 years ~
11	Mary Lee & Allen Millikin ~ 49 years ~
13	Kim & Allen Bennett ~ 17 years ~ Lucille & Delmar Meewes ~ 56 years ~
14	Jenni & Todd Workman ~ 18 years ~
15	Sharon & Rodney Palmer ~ 27 years ~
20	Pamela & Paul Patton ~ 24 years ~
22	Jeanne & Dene Balmer ~ 8 years ~
26	Maureen & William Guthrie ~ 49 years ~
27	Patricia & Mark Cram ~ 49 years ~ Carroll & John Lunceford ~ 51 years ~
28	Doris & Julius Kertesz ~ 52 years ~
31	Nancy & Karl Amundson ~ 26 years ~ Janet & Howard Watson ~ 43 years ~
<u>AUGUST</u>	
2	Barbara & Larry Sunderland ~ 5 years ~ Sandi & Rick Workman ~ 39 years ~
4	Dolores & Walter Briggs ~ 68 years ~
6	Dorothy & Roland Aberle ~ 59 years ~ Mary Kay & Ed Messenger ~ 16 years ~
7	

	Shirley & Allan Hunter ~ 49 years ~
8	Myrna & Richard Sanford ~ 49 years ~
11	Holli & David Benthusen ~ 24 years ~
12	Mary & Robert Severance ~ 53 years ~
14	Vicky & Jeffrey Post ~ 3 years ~
17	Nancy & Arden Sheaffer ~ 51 years ~
18	Andy & Carol Andrews ~ 46 years ~ Abbye Jean & Bill Richner ~ 20 years ~
19	Alice & Bill Williamson ~ 52 years ~
21	Pat & William Schuessler ~ 37 years ~
22	Pat & Harold Layman ~ 40 years ~
24	Sandra & John Dewart ~ 31 years ~ Lois & Ralph Pohlman ~ 51 years ~
27	Judy & James Roberts ~ 24 years ~
28	Carol & Bob MacKenzie ~ 43 years ~
29	Carolyn & Rolland Custer ~ 49 years ~ Iris & Mark Whittaker ~ 38 years ~
30	Pat & Dick Kern ~ 26 years ~ Janet & Fred Small ~ 51 years ~
31	Sue & Jim Price ~ 51 years ~ Barbara & Ben Toole ~ 52 years ~ Ruth & Phillip Rittgers ~ 51 years ~



In Memoriam
Richard Jones
 July 10, 1923
 To
 April 28, 2008




In Memoriam
Harry A. Livermore
 October 22, 1915
 To
 April 27, 2008



In Memoriam
Helen Zack
 September 26, 1921
 To
 April 15, 2008

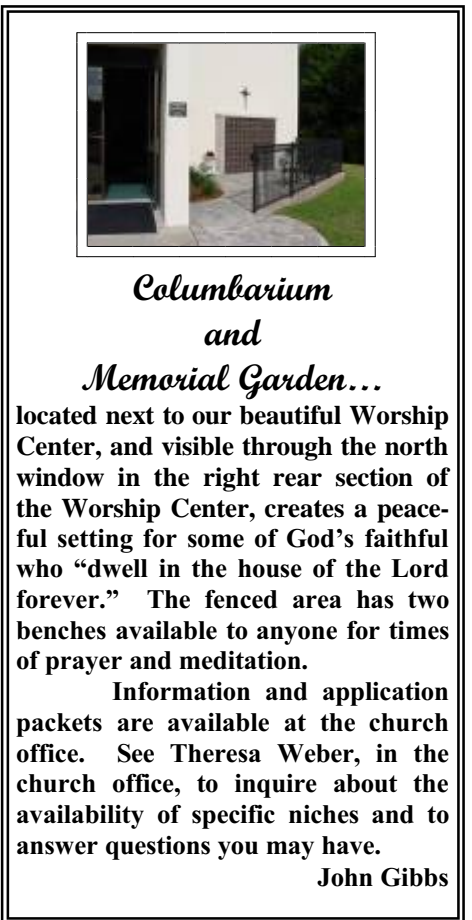


IN MEMORIAM
Loral Byington
 April 8, 2008



**Notice of
 Condolence**

Our prayers and
 sympathy to
 Phil and Ruth
 Rittgers
 on the death of
 their adopted
 Chinese
 daughter,
 Linh Luc
 on
 April 22, 2008



***Columbarium
 and
 Memorial Garden...***

located next to our beautiful Worship Center, and visible through the north window in the right rear section of the Worship Center, creates a peaceful setting for some of God's faithful who "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." 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.

John Gibbs

Deadline Notification

Please don't wait until the last minute (or later) for items to be submitted.

The deadline for the September issue of Genesis will be 10 AM, Friday, August 1, 2008.

Articles can be left at the church office, put into the Newsletter Mailbox (Number 20) located to the left of Staff Break Room in the Administration Building, or emailed to the editor at judithann@tampabay.rr.com.

Emailed submissions not composed in the email's body are best if attached using Microsoft WORD, Microsoft Publisher, or transposed into a PDF program. Photographs need to be submitted in JPG. or GIF. format.

Your Editor,
Judith Huffer

THRIFT SHOP UPDATE

As we look forward to the opening of the new Thrift Shop early in 2009, we will be needing items to stock the shop properly.

We are asking those who would like to help and have the storage space to save us items they would otherwise take some other place. This would be much appreciated by the United Methodist Women.

We are in the process of forming a committee to operate the new Thrift Shop. Marge Davis has agreed to head up this committee. If anyone is interested in being on the committee or working in the shop, please contact the church office or Pat Blake at 628-6602 after 6 PM.

Marge will be gone through the summer months, but we will continue to work on the committee.

You do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Women to work in the Thrift Shop or be on this committee.

Thank you for your interest, and may God bless each of you.

May your summer be full of fun and good health.
Pat Blake,
UMW President



The Yulee Drive
Absolute AA Group
meets every Thursday
at 8 to 9 p.m. in Room 114.

An open meeting for men and women of all ages who want to stop drinking or have stopped drinking. For more information call George at (352) 503-3961.

Al-Anon (Courage Family Group)
Meets every Thursday
at 8 p.m. in Room 102.

This is for spouses, relatives, and friends, whether or not your loved one is still drinking. For more information call Robbi at (352) 270-3827.



Helen Schwebes participated in the American Cancer Society's April "Relay for Life."

Congratulations on raising \$100 *over* your \$1500 goal pledge.

Remember when you heard the words - and your mind went blank - you were in another world -
God heals

Remember in your darkest hours - when all that surrounds you is pain and sorrow -
God heals

Remember friends' prayers - your family's encouragement - glimmers of hope from everyday angels -
God heals

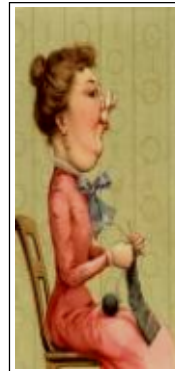
Quiet...you can hear Him now - always there - yet never this close -
God heals

It's just another day - yet everything has changed - and you hear yourself say
God heals

Birds are singing - the sky is a beautiful blue - flowers are blooming -
God heals

Truths that you knew as a child - awakened again with new understanding -
God heals

Remember when others can't - life is a gift - each day to treasure -
God Has Healed



I'm really looking forward to Summer Sabbatical! And, I'm looking forward to all the wonderful things the Holy Spirit will bring to these pages come August.

To HIM goes the glory...
Judith

Members Residing In Long Term Care as of May 5, 2008

NURSING CENTERS
AVANTE
Annie Preston

BARRINGTON
Ken McGuire

BRENTWOOD
Evelyn Bash
Teresa Davis

CEDAR CREEK
Bud Jenks

CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH & REHAB.
Betty Farewell
Robert Smith

CYPRESS COVE
Jean Baker
Elta Whilden

DIAMOND RIDGE
Jean Buzby
Marjorie Cook
Helen Hudson

NATURE COAST LODGE
Betty Duncan

SUGARMILL MANOR
Shirley Hart
Grace Payne
Eleanor Smith
Charlie Walker

HUNT HOME (Williston)
Bill Marquis

Vacation Bible School Registration Form

FREE T-SHIRT FOR PRE-REGISTRATION!

CHILD'S T-SHIRT: SM, MED, LARGE
ADULT T-SHIRT: SM, MED, LARGE, X-LARGE
(Please Circle Size)

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information

Date of birth _____ Age _____

Last school grade completed _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

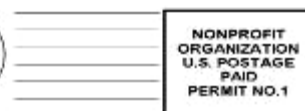
Other Information (church use only)

Surfer Group _____

Are parents helping with Beach Party: Surfin' Through the Scriptures VBS? _____

If yes, where? _____

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

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Judith Huffer, Editor

Jan Wise, Copy Editor

Mary Lee Millikin, Editorial Assistant

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Email: judithann@tampabay.rr.com

Soli Deo Gloria



June, July & August 2008