

GENESIS

JANUARY 2009 ~ VOLUME 13 ~ ISSUE 1

"IN THE BEGINNING,"

(Gen 1:1)

...in the real beginning, when only God existed, God said, "Let there be light." God spoke light into the world, and there was a division between the day and the night. The book of John tells us that "In the beginning was the word" (John 1:1) and that word brings the light of God to the earth.

The season of Epiphany starts with Epiphany Day - January 6 - and ends on Ash Wednesday. It is the season of light, the season of dawning, of new beginnings. It is the mission season of the church year, reminiscent of when the light of the star guided the gentile Wise Men to the house where the child Jesus lived. It is a season when the light of understanding and belief illumines our lives and enables us to receive the good news of Jesus Christ.

This is the season of light in the darkness of winter when the earth is slow and gray and cold (even here in Florida), and we suffer from S.A.D. (seasonal affective disorder), feeling the need for more light. It is the time when we bring the light of Christ to those who have not yet seen it. It is this light of Christ that shines into the darkness of the future and reveals the direction in which God is calling us to go. Jesus is the light that illuminates the path so that we will not stumble or fall.

With our baptism, we take on Christ. We become light and direction and salvation to others who do not know. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

He also said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world....let your light shine before men, that they may see

your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt.5:14, 16)

As followers of Christ, we are the light that will open the future to someone who is searching for direction and meaning in his or her life. We offer the light that will change the world, but only if we allow our light to shine into the dark and unhappy places that are all around us.

Epiphany is the season of light and hope and baptism. It is the season of reaching out and making a difference in someone's life, helping another know about Jesus, the one who lived and died so each person may receive eternal life. My prayer for you is that during this Epiphany season you will be one who brings light to our church and community and world.



Mark

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

Simon Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Matthew 16:16

It is so easy for us to read right over this verse. Everything we are taught in the church points us to the intellectual assent that this is truth. Jesus is, indeed, the Christ, the Son of the Living God. However, we need to examine the verse more closely.

Jesus had posed a question to his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of Man is?" In answering, the disciples gave the varied opinions of others, but their answer was obviously not enough. Jesus followed with another question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Their knowledge of others' opinions was okay but more important to

Jesus was the opinion of the twelve. For three years he had been teaching them, preparing them for the huge task before them. He had poured into their heads and lives all the knowledge they would need to establish his church - knowledge that would become the foundation for liturgies in services of the new church, truth that would echo from choir lofts for thousands of years.

This truth would be found in the message to be shared by every child who, without really understanding the meaning, would sing, "Jesus loves me." What Jesus taught his disciples would provide topics for sermons preached on every continent of the world for generations!

But he had to be sure that their knowledge had not just been stored in their heads. It had to be heart knowledge, very personal, very much their own testimony. So he rephrased his question, "Who do you say that I am?" (italics mine)

This is the same question Jesus is asking us today - not about what others think about him but who is he to me? To you? He wants to hear our hearts cry out that he is our Christ, our Lord - not for some future church, not for some theology we have learned from books or even from good preaching. Jesus wants to hear us express who he is to us now! He wants to know if, when we sing "Joy to the World," we are speaking of the wonderful joy in our hearts that comes from knowing him as our very own Lord.

Prayer: Father, thank you for Christ, your Son, our Lord. Thank you for continuing to ask us personally to so identify ourselves with you that we can cry out with Peter, "Thou art the Christ!" We praise you, Father, for the relationship that we enjoy with you, and we thank you for reminding us during this Christmastide of the importance of our personal confession of Christ as Lord. Amen.

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

~ Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors ~

We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

E.B.A.D.O.C**"Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"**

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

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

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

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

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 SchoolSuperintendent &Nursery Supervisor

Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator

Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician

Sharon Cooley

Night Security

Michael Rodgers

Custodian

Dale Evans

That I may know him

Philippians 3:10, KJV

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 Missions

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, Women, and Couples)

Fibromyalgia Support Group

Saturday Sisters

Contemporary Issues

Bereavement Group

P.A.W.S.

**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.

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

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

AI-Anon

After-school Tutoring

Girl Scouts

Hospice

GED Tutoring

Kiwanis Breakfast

Isaiah's Place

FCAT Tutoring

Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

Living As a Disciple, Living as a Friend of Jesus

Today we have all kinds of friends - casual friends, convenient friends, same-interest friends, fair-weather friends, intimate friends - and many of the people we know fit into one of our friendship categories.

We all search for an enduring friendship like the one described in Proverbs: "A friend loves at all times." (17:17a) One young woman, speaking of someone dear to her said, "She knows me, my warts and all, and still loves me."

Moses struggled as he led the children of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Exodus 33: 11a tells us about the friend who encouraged Moses: "The _____ would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend."

James writes about Abraham: "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as _____, and he was called _____ friend." (James 2: 23)

But that was the Old Testament, and those were great men of God. Is such a friendship with God possible for us today?

Jesus told his followers, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have _____ my Father's commands and remain in his _____." (John 15: 9 - 10)

Then he went on to say, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his _____. You are my friends, if you do what I _____." (John 15: 13-14)

These words tell us how we can experience friendship with God by obeying the _____ of Jesus. Remember that Moses and Abraham were both known for their obedience to the God who called them friend.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's _____. Instead, I have called you friends, for _____ that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15)

Jesus told the disciples, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you...." (Matt. 13:11a)

One day a gentleman stopped to chat with a neighbor. His "colorful" language, especially his use of the Lord's name, disturbed her greatly. Finally, unable to listen to his curse-sprinkled language any longer, she said, "Please don't talk like that. You're speaking of my best friend."

"Oh, I'm so sorry," he replied, and for the rest of the half-hour visit he never cursed once!

Matthew tells us of Jesus' response to Judas' betrayal kiss. He said, "_____, do what you came for." (Matt. 26:50)

Judas had heard all of Jesus' teachings, and Jesus willingly left the offer of friendship open even as he knew the intent of Judas' heart. Perhaps his greeting was a reminder to Judas of all he was about to lose in his relationship with Jesus.

After Jesus' resurrection and first appearances to the disciples, he came to them again by the Sea of Tiberias. Peter and several of the other disciples had gone back to fishing. Jesus called from the shore, "_____, haven't you any fish?" (John 21:5) When the disciples said no, Jesus told them where to throw their nets which then filled with fish.

Maybe Jesus was offering them the choice of continuing in his friendship by _____ his _____ or of going back to their old way of life. When Jesus called some of the disciples, he said, "Come, _____, and I will make you fishers of _____." (Matt. 4:19)

Going back to their old ways of life would prove fruitless, for Jesus had taught them, "No one who put his hand to the plow and _____ is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

On the seashore, Jesus drew Peter aside and questioned him: (Note: "Truly love" refers to love in which the complete personality, including the will is involved. "Love" refers to the spontaneous natural affection where emotion plays a stronger role than will.)

"Simon, son of John, do you _____ love me..." Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus gives him a command, "Feed my lambs."

"Simon son of John, do you _____ love me?" Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus gives Peter a command, "Feed my sheep."

"Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter, hurt by Jesus asking a third time, replies, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus repeats his command, "Feed my sheep." (from John 21:15-17)

Remember Jesus had said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command," and "You are my _____, if you do what I _____. Peter was right; Jesus knew. So why would he question Peter with such intensity, following each question with a command? Aside from the obvious equation of Peter's three denials and the opportunity for three affirmations, could Jesus have been calling Peter into a deeper friendship?

How would obedience to "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep" call for more than a human, emotionally-motivated love? What do you think?

THINK ABOUT IT:

How would you respond to the three questions Jesus asked Peter?

Is your answer motivated by will or emotion?

Do you think Jesus wants a deeper friendship with you?
Why or why not?

JESUS WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO BE HIS FRIEND?

Passionate Spirituality

Spiritual Disciplines

We've been exploring the spiritual disciplines, otherwise known as means of grace. We'll continue this month with a few of the ones which aren't as well known and therefore not necessarily widely practiced.

Guidance is, "experiencing an interactive friendship with God that gives direction and purpose to daily life." Some Scriptures which mention or give examples of guidance are: 2 Samuel 5:19, Isaiah 42:16, and Isaiah 58:11. Galatians 5:25 sums up the spiritual discipline of guidance, "If we live by the spirit, let us also be guided by the spirit." Spiritual Directors are people who are trained, supervised, and certified to help you become accustomed to discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life. Some find this helpful while others need no help to know where God is leading them.

Secrecy is "consciously refraining from having our good deeds and qualities generally known, which, in turn, rightly disciplines our longing for recognition." Two Scriptures illustrating this discipline are Matthew 6:18 and 6:4. Would it be hard for you to do something for someone and not tell someone? If so, this would be a very good spiritual discipline for you to practice. You will probably realize what truly motivates you – the opinion of others or being obedient to God.

Sacrifice is "deliberately forsaking the security of satisfying our own needs with our resources in the faith and hope that God will sustain us." Hebrews 13:16, 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9 and Mark 14:3-9 each give examples or mention this spiritual discipline. Have you sacrificed anything or any activity lately for the sake of Christ?

Simplicity/frugality is "the inward reality of single-hearted focus upon God and His kingdom, which results in an outward lifestyle of modesty, openness, and unpretentiousness and which disciplines our hunger for status, glamour, and luxury. Examples can be found in Colossians 3:1-2, Philipians

4:11-13, and Matthew 6:22-24. Can we, like Paul in the Philipians passage, be satisfied with any standard of living?

Although there seems to be a pattern here, it was not by my design! Perhaps there is some guidance here for us; that I'll leave up to you to ask the Lord about individually. I know I will have to!

In the book *How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer*, Mr. Wesley refers to spiritual disciplines as "channels of conveying His grace to the souls of men and women." Obviously spiritual disciplines are not new nor is getting confused about what is most important because Mr. Wesley says, "some began to mistake the means for the end," then cautions that the spiritual disciplines are to be a "means by which Christianity is brought into the heart." Then he issues a stern warning: "If they do not actually lead to the knowledge and love of God, they are not acceptable to His sight. They are rather an abomination before Him..."

As we begin this year, let's use every opportunity to practice the spiritual disciplines remembering our purpose is to become more Christ like. You may find those that seem a little different turn out to be the means of grace which draw you closer to Christ – perhaps because they aren't so familiar. If you would like to talk about any of the spiritual disciplines or have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'll be praying you see Him at work through the spiritual disciplines.

Marilyn Watson

Quotes on spiritual disciplines from *The Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible*, Richard J. Foster and others, eds. (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005), pp # 518 - 519, 525 - 527, and 531.

Quotes from John Wesley: From *How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer*, Published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ✠ Our pastor and staff -- daily.
- ✠ A smooth transition as the new church leadership begins their new tasks.
- ✠ All committee members as they seek the leading of the Holy Spirit and unity in all their decisions.
- ✠ The Holy Spirit to prompt those people He would have attend the couples' retreat in March.
- ✠ The Lord to prepare the hearts and minds of the women who are preparing to attend the Leesburg Women's Retreat in February.
- ✠ Continued guidance for the building committee as their task draws near completion.
- ✠ Everyone involved with the finance ministries of the church including our church bookkeeper at this very busy time of year.
- ✠ Our missionaries and our many mission projects.
- ✠ All of us to listen to and follow the promptings of His Holy Spirit as we endeavor to become better Disciples of Jesus

Winter Workshop on Money Management Saturday, Feb. 14 9 AM until Noon Room 114

Smart Money Management in a Sagging Economy will be the theme of a special Workshop. The program - planned and sponsored by our Permanent Endowment Committee - will feature a panel of "experts" in the fields of personal finance, financial planning, financial management, and estate planning. They will share some good ideas and useful advice on how to live through the current economic recession.

In past years FUMCH has offered workshops on a variety of topics: *Aging Matters*, *The Rest of Your Life*, *Are You Ready? Basic Estate Planning*, and *What Do I Need to Do Before I Die?* All of them have been well-received.

This year's workshop is designed to benefit adults of all ages who are affected by present economic conditions. There will be no cost for the program, although registration is necessary in order to provide an adequate number of materials and enough refreshments.

Please call the church office to register.

Rev. Richard Evans

EBADOC Discipleship Academy 2009:

Children in Grades 1-8 will begin our first unit for 2009 with the program "Deal With It." This series tackles ten BIG issues and problems that kids face every single day. Each week, we take one of those issues and learn how to "Deal With It!" Not just our own way, but the BIBLE WAY.

So meet us in the EBADOC Discipleship Academy, Rooms 111 & 112,
between 9:00 and 9:25 when we kick-off each Sunday.

New for 2009 Grades 1 through 8

Call Kim Bennett at 382-3941 or
Noretta Brobst ("Mrs. B") at 621-3736

WOOSTERS WILL SPEAK AT MISSIONS SUNDAY

Kevin and Laura Wooster, missionaries our church helps support in Siberian Russia, will be the guest speakers for the annual Missions Sunday planned for January 18. The Woosters, who have a decade of service in Russia, will speak at all three services.

Plans also call for a telephone call to be made to the Joe Henry missionary family in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Their schedule permitting, a covered dish dinner is scheduled for the Woosters on Saturday evening. The event would be held in classrooms in the Education Building. More details will be forthcoming as information is received from the couple.

Following their recent assignment in Moscow, Kevin and Laura returned this year to Ulan Ude, Siberia the site of their first missionary effort. They presently are ministering to a village some twenty miles from the city.

Since returning to Ulan Ude the Woosters have been in contact with the deaf community to whom they had first introduced our Christian faith. They also have attended the vibrant church they assisted in starting in the city several years ago.

Jack Radabaugh
Missions Committee

SHARE: The New Year

It's the New Year,
Be of good cheer,
2008 has come and gone.
But SHARE goes on, and on.
Tell everyone you meet,
That SHARE's got Meat,
And...there's more,
Specials and produce galore,
So check your calendar...
For these dates
You'll love the rates!

Tom & Nancy Pearo

HOW IS YOUR BALANCE?

"Do you know where your feet are?" This was the title of a workshop I attended recently, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging and the Pinellas County Fall Prevention Coalition. The goal of the day-long training was to help people improve their balance and strength in order to help prevent falls. For those of you who have had the experience of falling and having an injury, I'm sure you would agree there is a need for such a program. Now that I have been given the tools with which to work, it is my hope that in this New Year we can have some classes to show you how to improve your balance and strength.

During the aging process it is normal to lose muscle strength and to experience difficulty maintaining balance. However, with the tips and practice from this fall-prevention program, we all can maintain and hopefully improve our health status.

Please watch for more information on balance and strength training. It will be fun and most beneficial. You might think this is not important for you, but I encourage you to come and check it out. You might change your mind. Little things can make a big difference!

May you be strengthened in mind and spirit, as well as in body in this New Year the Lord has given to us.

Your Parish Nurse

Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

I think I will begin this new year by telling you some things we are planning.

- Soon after we get into the new building, we will move some Sunday morning classes. Children will begin using 106 and the computer lab, as well as the two rooms they are already in.

- The middle-school class will be well under way as part of the ABADOC Rotation Model, and we pray for continued growth in that program.

- VBS for 2009 is already underway, with planning focusing on a great program - bigger than last year - in June. Jill Wickliffe will be working with Kim Bennett and me as we make the initial plans.

- A middle-school youth program, apart from the Sunday class, is in embryonic stage, and we hope will grow this spring.

- Small groups continue, and new ones are being discussed.

- The Sunday night prayer time is a warm fellowship and a time of growth for those attending. We strongly encourage others to join us.

- Two adult classes will move to the new facility as soon as it is available.

- The young adult women who met for lunch in November will meet again as soon as we get in the new building if not before.

- The last night for Financial Peace University was December 9. The entire class considered the thirteen-week program to be most beneficial. They strongly recommended that we offer the class again in the spring. You'll hear more about this soon.

- A film night for adults - not adult movies in the usual sense - will begin as soon as the room is completed. We plan to see some movies that many enjoy over and over, some new ones you may not have seen, some I've found that have profound messages.

- The Haiti team will leave on February 12 and return February 19.

- I'm working on the Easter-week devotional.

We are very busy doing many things - both in our church family and outside in the community. It is wonderful to be a part of such a vibrant church.

If you have ideas for ministry for the coming year, I'd love to hear about them. Call me, and we'll plan together.

Welcome New Members!



Jim and Rosa Neth
1480 S Colonial Ave
Homosassa FL
34448-1602
352-503-6486

from: St. James Lutheran Church
Gettysburg, PA

2009 SHARE Schedule							
Month	Wed.	Sat.	D-Day	Month	Wed.	Sat.	D-Day
Jan.	7th	10th	24th	July	8th	11th	25th
Feb.	4th	7th	21st	Aug.	5th	8th	22nd
Mar.	11th	14th	28th	Sept.	9th	12th	26th
Apr.	8th	11th	25th	Oct.	7th	10th	24th
May	13th	16th	30th	Nov.	4th	7th	21st
June	10th	13th	27th	Dec.	2nd	5th	19th



United Methodist Women In Action

2009 Schedule



January 2009

- † All circles to do their own Pledge & Service of Thanksgiving.
- † Saturday, January 10: Leadership Training at St. Paul UMC, Largo, FL for all Executive Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders. Mark your calendars and call me at 382-3941 so we can arrange for transportation and/or car-pooling.
- † Monday, January 12: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, January 13: Faith Hope & Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, January 15: Ruth Circle at 9:15.

February 2009

- † Monday, February 9: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, February 10: Faith Hope & Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, February 12: Ruth Circle at 9:15.

March 2009

- † Monday, March 9: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, March 10: Faith Hope & Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, March 12: Ruth Circle at 9:15.
- † Tuesday, March 17: UMW Unit Meeting at 10:00. Program presented by Debbie Tomberlin – Call to Prayer and Self Denial. Hostesses: Faith Hope Circle.
- † Saturday, March 21: President's Luncheon at 1st UMC in Seminole.

April 2009

- † Monday, April 13: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, April 14: Faith Hope & Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, April 16: Ruth Circle at 9:15.

May 2009

- † Monday, May 11: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, May 12: Faith Hope & Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, May 14: Ruth Circle at 9:15.

June 2009

- † No Executive Board Meeting.
- † Tuesday, June 16: UMW Unit Meeting at 10:00. Program presented by Membership Outreach & Nurture – Helen Dresback. Program topic TBA. Hostesses: Ruth Circle.

July 2009

- † No Executive Board Meeting. Circles have the option of meeting if they wish to do so.

August 2009

- † No Executive Board Meeting. Circles have the option of meeting if they wish to do so.

September 2009

- † Monday, September 1 (due to Labor Day Holiday): Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, September 8: Faith Hope and Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, September 10: Ruth Circle at 9:15.
- † Tuesday, September 15: UMW Unit Meeting at 10:00. Program will be from the study book “Giving Our Hearts Away” – “Native Americans and the United Church Today” presented by Nancy Pearo. Hostesses: Helping Hand Circle.
- † Sunday, September 20 (not confirmed yet): UMW Sunday.

October 2009

- † Monday, October 12: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, October 13: Faith Hope and Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, September 15: Ruth Circle at 9:15.

November 2009

- † Friday, November 6: UMW Bazaar and Luncheon. (date not confirmed yet)
- † Monday, November 9: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, November 10: Faith Hope and Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, November 12: Ruth Circle at 9:15.

December 2009 – Note: December circles may be planning special meetings for the holidays, so dates are not confirmed.

- † Monday, December 7: Executive Board Meeting at 10:00 for all Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders.
- † Tuesday, December 8: Faith Hope and Helping Hand Circles at 9:30 and Dorcas Circle at 1:00.
- † Thursday, December 10: Ruth Circle at 9:15.
- † Tuesday, December 15: UMW Unit Meeting at 11:30 – Potluck Luncheon. Installation of Officers for 2010. Hostesses: Dorcas Circle.

The Organized Unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES!

~ IRA Charitable Rollover ~ Another Chance!

By Rev. Richard Evans

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (signed into law by President Bush on Oct. 13) restored the provision enabling IRA owners age 70 ½ and older to make tax free charitable gifts from their accounts directly to churches and charities.

Although the extension was retroactive to the beginning of the year, many people may have missed out on the opportunity in 2008 - since the law was enacted so late in the year.

However, the extension is effective through 2009! Here's how the IRA Rollover works:

Taxpayers 70 ½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their IRAs and to pay tax on them. But the IRA Charitable Rollover permits taxpayers to make donations directly to churches and charitable organizations from their IRAs without counting them as part of their AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on the amounts contributed.

Here's how both you and the church might benefit in 2009:

You could request your IRA Plan Administrator to make your required minimum distribution (or less, or more) to First UMC Homosassa.

The IRA Administrator then will transfer funds directly to FUMCH.

You may designate how you wish your gift to be allocated, e.g. Building For Tomorrow Fund, Permanent Endowment Fund, a particular project, etc. This "qualified charitable distribution" will then be excluded from your adjusted gross income.

The law permits rollovers from both traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs, but not from 403(b) and 401(k) accounts and private pension plans.

If you are interested, talk with your IRA Administrator, and call the church office to arrange a direct transfer to FUMCH. We will acknowledge your gift with deep appreciation.

If you have further questions about the IRA Charitable Rollover provision, please call me at 563-5833.

WOW UPDATE

Greetings from Siberia;

First of all let me thank all of you who responded with your generous gifts to help provide windows for needy families. Your generosity is a testimony to your faithfulness in God and not in man. People in this region cannot believe how, with all the news they hear about the bad economy, people are still willing to donate to help people they have never met. This picture is the new window that is now in place and keeping Sveta and her daughter warm in their home.



I am standing with the Pastor of the local church who personally built the frames for the window. The window itself is what is called a window packet which consists of a 3-pane window with all the right insulation to keep out the Siberian winter.



While we were installing the windows in this home, a local official came by and commented on the job.

We had originally thought the price of the windows was going to be \$250 per window. Because of the local help we have been able to obtain in making the window frames, we were able to do the project at Sveta's house (3 windows) for a total cost of \$290.00. This gives us the ability to help even more people with the money already donated.

Thank you to all who made this first project a success! If you would like to help out with future Windows of Warmth projects, please send your tax deductible donations to the address at the bottom of this letter with WOW written on the memo line of the check. There are many still in need and your gift can truly make a difference for years to come. Again, thank you so much for reading this and prayerfully considering how you can take part in WOW (Windows of Warmth)

Blessings,
Kevin and Laura Wooster

Solbon International
4 Lupine Circle
Albany, NY 12203

All Aboard!

Well, not quite yet. The ship won't sail for a few more months. But folks are "signing on" for the 12-day Lands of the Bible Tour departing on Nov. 11, 2009.

Pastor Mark Whittaker will lead the group from FUMCH and, so far, at least 8 people have registered. Others have expressed interest and soon will be joining them.

After flying to Greece and touring Athens and Corinth, the group will board the mv Cristal for nine exciting days in the eastern Mediterranean.

Ports of call will include Said, Egypt (Cairo); Ashdod, Israel (Jerusalem and Bethlehem); Haifa, Israel (The Galilee); the Island of Rhodes; and Kusadasi, Turkey (Ephesus) - before returning to the port of Pireaus and Athens for the flight home.

All the details are posted on displays in the lobby of the Worship Center and on the Travel Bulletin Board in the Administrative Center.

Brochures are available in the church office. The trip is offered by Educational Opportunities Tours of Lakeland, Florida. They do Bible Lands Tours as well as any travel company and better than most. (I have traveled with EOT many times over more than 20 years).

Estimated costs of the trip (including all of the "fine print") will start at about \$3,500 pp. (dbl. occupancy). That's for just about everything - domestic and international airfare, the cruise, all ground transportation, meals, shore excursions, admissions, guides, etc. Of course, the category of stateroom you choose will determine your "bottom line."

After reading the brochure, call me (563-5833) or Pastor Whittaker if still have questions.

If you decide to go, be sure to invite relatives and friends to join you. We will extend a warm welcome to them.

In early February, we plan to open the trip to members of other churches in Citrus County. So don't be left behind.

A \$400 deposit will hold your reservation, with an additional \$600 due by May 11. The final payment will be due on August 11 - 90 days before departure.

Rev. Richard Evans

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1
Joyce Stone
Barbara Hartley
April Collins
Johns Collins
2
John Cooley
Marian Sandlas
3
Gloria Marquis
James Stoneman
5
Isabelle Verge
6
Barbara Bellcase
7
Dot Reed
James Roberts
8
Sue Kuntz
Jane Ling
10
Joan Carnevale
11
Edith Ament
Mary Kay Messenger
12
Myrna Evans
Joyce Leaming
Ed Messenger
13
Iris Whittaker
Paul Glenn
Hilda Seagren
Louis Garthaus
14
Mary Severance
Annie Carl
Evelyn Knight

16
Marilyn Grime
David Marquis
Ruth Smith
Elwin Mosier
Stan DeClue
17
Harold Swinson
Ann Ice
Elizabeth Winner
19
Glen Gunderson
Robert Grafton
20
Paul Patton Jr.
21
Betty Blockus
Colleen Megan DeClue
22
Agnes Brickmeier
Jane Hamilton
23
Nancy Buzby
24
Elly Case
25
L. Archer Walker
27
William Waters
28
Phyllis Konitshek
Stephen Csont
29
Lois Pohlman
30
Kathy Betsko
31
Earl Speicher

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4
Lisa & Rusty Stocker
~ 6 years ~
10
Danielle & Robert
Christensen ~ 7 years ~
11
Gail & Walter Rudolph
~ 6 years ~
13
Norma & Duane Geiger
~ 58 years ~

15
Karen & Neil Kline
~ 37 years ~
Lois & Jack Schoch
~ 60 years ~
17
Art & Joan
Carnevale
~ 50years ~
Gloria & Zane Megos
~ 40 years ~
31
Gerry & James
Graham ~ 11 years ~

A Special Thank You:

To our church family and friends
for your prayers, cards, and support while
I was in the hospital for hip replacement,
and a special thank you to Pastor Mark for
his visitation and prayers.

Merton Davis

URGENT REQUEST !
BLOODMOBILE
January 11, 2009

The Bloodmobile will be parked in the
FUMCH parking lot from 7:45 to 1:00 PM.
There is an EXTREME shortage of blood, and
your donation is desperately needed.
A "Papa's Pizza-For-One" coupon,
compliments of Papa John's, will be given to
every donor.

Barbara Jackson

**PERSONS RESIDING IN
LONG-TERM CARE**
(As of December 5, 2008)

NURSING CENTERS

AVANTE

Annie Preston
BARRINGTON

Ken McGuire
Dolly Scott

BRENTWOOD

Evelyn Bash
Teresa Davis

Herman Kruhm

CEDAR CREEK

Bud Jenks
Bill Willis
Ruth Willis

CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH

& REHAB

Betty Farewell
Robert Smith

CYPRESS COVE

Elta Whilden
DIAMOND RIDGE
Jean Buzby
Marjorie Cook
(Mary) Betty Duncan

Helen Hudson

LIFE CARE

Richard Elsea
Fran Hughes

SUGARMILL MANOR

Shirley Hart
Grace Payne
Eleanor Smith
Charlie Walker

WILLISTON

Bill Marquis

New prayer groups
will be forming in January.

If you would like to be in-
cluded or
would like more information
contact:
Jim Roth
jroth@tls.net
or
Marilyn Watson.
marilynww@netscape.com

**IN
MEMORIAM**

Tom
Ottman

6/7/1924
To
11/25/2008

**IN
MEMORIAM**

Phyllis
Gosner

**FUMCH
Friend**

The Mission Statement for Strategic
Church Development And Our Church is as
follows: To be a people of faith who glorify
God, who know the Lord Jesus Christ, who
make the Lord known in the community, and
world, by what we do and say.

It is our intent to find ways to promote
evangelism, better communication and new
loving ways in ministry to support our wonder-
ful, God given church. We must all look to-
ward the future that we provide a legacy of
prayer, leadership and love for those who fol-
low.

Jim Roth & Roger Kirby



Construction of New Fellowship Center Now in Final Stages

The pace of construction activity has increased dramatically over the past few weeks, and will undoubtedly continue at a high level until the project is complete sometime in mid-to late January. At almost all times there are six to eight sub-contractors busy at work on interior or exterior building details. The photos below illustrate a few of the activities underway on a typical day in early December.

In fellowship hall, a worker is busy applying the final coat of joint compound to the ceiling soffits. These soffits are not only functional – the air conditioning ducts are inside – they also create an exceptionally attractive ceiling.



Nearby, a worker for another sub-contractor is installing mesh cloth over the ceiling insulation to hold it in place and keep it from drooping down onto the suspended ceiling to be installed below.

Most ceilings will be acoustic tile suspended below a gypsum fire barrier. The grid for the suspended ceiling is in place in some rooms, with others to follow shortly. Tiles that contain lights, AC vents, sprinklers, and other fixtures are installed first, then remaining tiles will go in quickly.



Outside, sprinkler systems are being installed to provide irrigation for the trees and shrubs that will create a visual barrier around the perimeter of the west parking lot, and provide an attractive setting for the fellowship hall, especially at the new drive-through entrance.

Ed Messenger is busy setting a large palm tree, one of eleven that are being planted around the perimeter of the property. Several species of broad-leaved trees will also be included in the landscaping, along with a wide variety of shrubs.



Dave Marquis,
Chairman,
Building For Tomorrow Committee

Greetings,

We hope this finds you doing well and enjoying the change of seasons here on the Nature Coast. It has been about five months since we finished our extremely successful Vacation Bible School, and it has taken just about the same amount of time to be able to hum any tunes other than the Beach Be-Attitudes! VBS was a wonderful experience for both Angie and I, and we are excited to once again have an opportunity to bring more young people to the church.

The 7th of March will be the official Celebration of the completion of our new building. This celebration will include many events - one of which is a "carnival". Iris has already secured five bounce houses, such as the Human Fly and the Bungee Run. We will also have a Kettle Korn vendor and be serving hotdogs and sodas. Our hope is that as people in the surrounding communities pass by they will stop with their children to play and have some free snacks.

It's going to be a busy day. We will have our carnival beginning that morning, as well as a Craft Fair inside the new building. It will be capped off by a dinner, complete with entertainment in the new building, showcasing all of its wonderful amenities. We will need volunteers to distribute tickets, take tickets at each ride, to help serve the hot dogs and sodas, and to basically be the adults in charge. We will start set-up Saturday morning at 8 AM. The carnival portion of our celebration will begin at 10 AM and end at 2 PM, leaving plenty of time to get ready for the evening if you are planning on going.

We had such a good team chemistry during VBS, we wanted to invite you to be a part of this fun event as we continue to bring more children to our church and hopefully increase next year's VBS attendance. I know - be careful what you ask for, you just might get it! But just think of the older kids and the parents who may join the church after this introduction.

If you are interested in helping us in this endeavor, please call us at home, 352-503-6222 or email me at thewize-man@hotmail.com and let us know if you are interested. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

So on behalf of our carnival committee, Iris Whittaker, Jim Stoneman, and Angie and Fred Weiser, we thank you for your consideration in being part of another wonderful celebration of God's love for us all.

*Sincerely,
Tedd/Fred & Angie*

NEW GENESIS FORMAT

During these economically challenging times, we are taking measures to slim down the production costs of the once chubby edition of our church newsletter. For now I will cut back on the photographic collages, articles from outside our church family, and mainly stick to the basic tenets of Genesis' mission statement.

If you wish to volunteer to receive the Genesis Newsletter via email and help save trees and postage, please email the church office at: theresa@1umc.org and put "Sign-Me Up" in the subject line. We will send the Newsletter to you in PDF. file format. A URL to download a free Adobe Reader, to process a PDF. file, will be provided if needed.

Your Editor,
Judith Huffer

Dear Praying Friends,

*"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have aid"
(Luke 1:38)*

PRAISES

✠ Two families that had stopped attending Cool Shade of Life Church (CSLC) for several months returned recently, saying the warm relationships at the church drew them back. Praise God! Pray for these families to re-adjust to life in the church body and for them to invite others to share in that fellowship.

✠ We received a very generous financial gift from friends of ours here in Chiang Mai that will help us tremendously with numerous upcoming extra expenses. Praise God for their generosity and for His provision!

✠ Our computer refused to boot up Sunday, the day before this prayer bulletin was to be mailed. Praise God that there is an excellent Christian IT company in Chiang Mai that serves the missionary community – they were able to dissect the problem and do two days' worth of repairs, all for US\$28. That is why this newsletter is in your inbox now. (Yes, that was a HUGE sigh of relief you just heard from halfway around the world!)

✠ The PIONEERS leadership meeting that we attended last month was very fruitful as we were challenged to be the leaders that God desires us to be. As new leaders, we were encouraged to meet with other leaders and consider practical ways to lead and serve. The Southeast Asia group within PIONEERS of which we are a part now totals 16 teams with 100 people. Praise God!

✠ Elaine organized a children's Sunday School Christmas party on Dec. 13; a Christmas party for her church women's group on Dec. 19; and a children's Christmas play for a church outreach program on Dec. 21, all in addition to her work teaching 2nd grade at Grace International School. Praise these efforts for Christ to be exalted amidst all the songs and fun.

PRAYERS

✠ CSLC has four, possibly five, candidates preparing for baptism on Dec. 28. Praise God for their willingness to step out and publicly identify with Christ. Pray for their preparations and spiritual growth. (FYI, the church has had five baptisms in two years of existence, so this service will double that number.)

✠ Thailand remains mired in political chaos, as some of you may have seen in news reports recently. Please pray for peace and a solution to this protracted problem that is not over by any means.

✠ Plans for our new mission team are going well as Joe is making excellent progress on a team handbook, reading schedule, etc. Please continue to pray for wisdom in this process.

✠ PIONEERS USA will host its first mission conference this month (Dec. 28-31) in Orlando, Fla. If you're interested, you can still get more information and register at www.story08.com. Please pray for this event to help many people discover their role in God's global plan.



*For His glory in Thailand,
Joe, Elaine,
Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie*

News From Siberia

Dear Faithful Friends,

We rejoice in the coming of yet another year where we are privileged to serve and work in Siberia. It is because of your faithful prayers and support that we can remain for this 'season' in our lives. We are eager to begin the year with more projects and as the weather will eventually permit, we'll once again give windows to those who are in the greatest need. Our home study groups will begin again in February...everyone is anxious to get back into the Word!

We wanted to close with this message from Oswald Chambers. It was a clear and loud reminder as to why we have traveled so far from family and friends. We pray you will also find encouragement in his words.

"...my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." (Philippians 1:20)

We will all feel very much ashamed if we do not yield to Jesus the areas of our lives He has asked us to yield to Him. It's as if Paul were saying, "My determined purpose is to be my utmost for His highest - my best for His glory."

To reach that level of determination is a matter of the will, not of debate or of reasoning. It is absolute and irrevocable surrender of the will at that point. An undue amount of thought and consideration for ourselves is what keeps us from making that decision, although we cover it up with the pretense that it is others we are considering.

When we think seriously about what it will cost others if we obey the call of Jesus, we tell God He doesn't know what our obedience will mean. Keep to the point - He does know. Shut out every other thought and keep yourself before God in this one thing only - my utmost for His highest. I am determined to be absolutely and entirely for Him and Him alone.



Blessed!
*Kevin & Laura Wooster
and Nika*

WANTED:

R.N.s to assist the parish nurse with a variety of tasks. You are welcome to choose your assignment, which might vary from making phone calls, to making home visits, or even giving a class on a particular topic, or leading a class or support group. You can do as much or as little as you choose.

Please contact the church office or Sharon Smith at 382-0915. The Parish Nurse Ministry needs you! Matt. 5:15.

**The deadline for the
February 2009 issue of Genesis
is 10 AM, Friday, January 9, 2009
due to the "First Friday of the Month"**

Christ's Bell

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are!?

Keep this bell ringing.

“The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine upon you

And be gracious to you;

The LORD turn His face toward you

And give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

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

Forwarding Service Requested

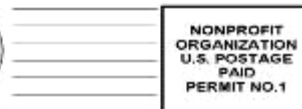


Photo by Carole Crystal, Photo-journalist

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
Jan Wise, Copy Editor**

**Mary Lee Millikin, Editorial Assistant
Photography: Neil Kline, Dave Marquis, Judith Huffer
Email: judithann@tampabay.rr.com
*Soli Deo Gloria***



January 2009