



GENESIS



JANUARY 2010 ~ VOLUME 14 ~ ISSUE 1

In the second chapter of the book of Matthew, we have the story of the three wise men or three kings who come to Jerusalem to inquire about the newly born "king of the Jews," whose star they have seen in the east.

This sets off a series of events that ends in the death of all the boy babies under the age of two in the small village of Bethlehem. Joseph, having been warned in a dream, has already fled with Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they will live until the danger is past.

But who are these "Wise" men? We don't really know, but the assumption is that they were astrologers or teachers or religious leaders in Persia (modern day Iran) who saw a new star and set out on what had to be a difficult and expensive mission to honor and worship this new king.

Because they came from afar, because they were people who had never professed faith in God or accepted Jesus as their Lord, they are seen as the first foreign converts to Christianity.

Epiphany is the season for missions. It is the time when we emphasize the importance of reaching out to people all over the world and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. It is a time for us to share ourselves with the world and tell them about the one who can make a real and lasting difference in their lives. It is a time when we are reminded of the work our mission families are doing and the sacrifice they are making.

Of course today we don't have to go all that far to find people who know nothing about Jesus Christ. The street where we live is populated with friends and neighbors who think that the best thing they can do on a Sunday morning is sleep in or take their children to soccer practice.

When asked by one of the polling organizations, 80% of the people surveyed said that they came to the church because someone asked them to come. They came because a friend or a neighbor or a family member reached out to them and made the offer of a welcome at a local church. Of course, they had to find that welcome when they got there, but it all started with the invitation.

The world is full of astrologers who are looking to the heavens for a sign. People are searching for something more, wanting to find a sense of peace and purpose in their lives. They can find it in Jesus Christ, but first they have to be invited.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Shouldn't we who have experienced the truth of these words be the ones to carry his invitation to others?



Pastor Mark

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)



*Wishing God's love, peace, hope and joy
to you for the year ahead.*

~ Your Genesis Staff ~

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.lumc.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

Shirley Exley

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

**Commit to the Lord
whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.
~ Proverbs 16:3**

Within The Church

Worship Services

Ushers

Greeters

Music Ministries:

Choirs: Children's Choir

Men & Ladies Ensembles

Handbells & Chimes

Christian Education:

5 Adult Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School

Youth Ministry

Communion Stewards

Lenten Soup Supers

Library

Prayer Ministry

UMW Circles

Tape Ministry

Blood Bank

Visitation Care Group

Parish Nurse Ministry

Wednesday Night Dinners

Disaster Relief Programs

Funeral Receptions

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 & State Travel Groups

Welcome Bags

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



(New Beginning by John Lang)

The Disciple and New Beginnings

In our human nature, there exists a constant conflict. We love the excitement of the “new” - a new product, a new idea, a new sale, a new challenge. But within us we also find a resistance to change - “I like that idea, BUT...,” “That sounds exciting, BUT...,” and the worst challenge to trying the “new” may be our “What if it doesn’t work out; what if I don’t like it.” What is your biggest objection to a new way of thinking or doing?

Before his ascension, Jesus told his disciples that he would not leave them alone but would be sending his Spirit to live in them. However, they weren’t thinking about the new men they would become as a result of receiving his Spirit. They asked, “Lord, are you at this _____ going to _____ the kingdom to _____.”
(Acts 1:6)

The disciples could not imagine the changes that would happen in their lives when they received the Holy Spirit, BUT the thought of Jesus’ promised gift could not deter them from asking the one thing they most desired from him—the restoration to power of their nation and the removal of the Roman occupiers.

Jesus answered their question with what we would call a non-answer, an answer not meeting with our satisfaction. Jesus replied, “It is not for _____ to know the _____ or _____ the Father has set by his own _____.” Then he goes on to tell them what they *can* know: “But you _____ power when the _____ comes on you; and you _____ my witnesses in _____, and in all _____ and _____, and to the _____ of the earth.”
(Acts 1:7-8)

How could these men comprehend the power that would indwell them at the Holy Spirit’s coming - the

boldness to testify, the ability to speak life-changing words, the amazing gift to heal and cast out demons. Carrying on Christ’s ministry as “new” men, empowered from above, the disciples’ interest shifted from the political power of the nation of Israel to the spiritual power of the kingdom of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote amazing words to those of us who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior: “Therefore, if _____ is in Christ Jesus, he is a new _____; the old has _____, the new has _____!”
2 Corinthians 5:17)

The minute we acknowledge our sinful nature and our need of a Savior, the minute we receive Jesus Christ, we are made “new” by the entrance of Jesus’ Holy Spirit into us. He lives in us, just as he lived in the early disciples, to give us the power we need to live the Christ-life today - to witness, to affect lives through the Word of God, to heal, to cast out demons. The Holy Spirit within also empowers us to overcome the “old” habits of our old life - if we are not afraid of the change.

So the start of 2010 can remind us of what Christ offers us in new beginnings. (1) If you have never received Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can become new by considering and accepting the gift of God’s salvation. (2) If you are a Christian and have never realized that through the indwelling Holy Spirit you are a “new” creation, you can begin to study and learn all that belongs to you as one who has been made new. (3) If you have realized that you are really a “new” being but are still living much of your life out of the “old” patterns, this could be the time you begin to draw on the Spirit’s power within to help you overcome old patterns and walk in the new.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- ◆ Having received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, do you still consider yourself a sinner? Paul addresses his letters to Christians as “to the saints...” We are new; as citizens of the kingdom of God, we are called saints. We have become saints through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, not because of *our* saintly behavior. We have become saints who, sadly, sometimes sin.
- Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15) His commands were given to be obeyed by his Holy Spirit indwelling a believer. He commanded, “Do not judge; do not worry, love one another.” *Instead of trying to make yourself a better Christian*, what would happen if you prayed, “Lord, I ask that through the power of your Holy Spirit within me, you change me so I will not judge...or worry...but I will love myself and others as you love.” This would be a new beginning!
- Often Christians say, “I’m afraid to let the Holy Spirit take control of my life. I’m afraid of what he might require of me.” Is your fear keeping you from being all that God created you to be, from receiving all he wants to give you? Consider praying, “Lord, I am afraid, but I will trust you and give you total control of all I am and have.” This would bring a new, love-filled beginning.

**OUR NEW BEGINNINGS ARE TEMPORARY -
THOSE BEGUN THROUGH JESUS LAST FOREVER**

Christian Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

A new year already! 2010! Can this be possible? Seems just yesterday that we were concerned about what would happen when the century indicators changed from the 1900s to 2000, and there was great fear that everything would shut down. And here we are ten whole years later.

I hope your year has begun well, and that you have great hope for 2010. I have a lot of things going round in my head for the coming year. I'll mention some of them here, and you can watch for the specifics in the weeks to come.

- I'm finally getting thoughts and films together to begin our long-promised movie nights—Ladies' Night, a Grown-ups Night, and Saturday films for the children. The theatre is small, so you'll have to reserve seats when there is a film you want to see. If the demand is great for any film, we'll do a couple of showings.
- I'm working on a Paul Giglio concert. He is the man who sang both last year and this year for our Haiti fund raisers. By the time you read this, we'll have planned the occasion. Watch for the date and time.
- The Haiti team is set to return to Carrenage on March 5. We hope to complete the projects begun at the school, as well as give Maude Hippolyte some money to feed the children.
- A Disciple I class will begin in January. Please contact me as soon as possible. (By the way, the man and his wife who wrote that study series traveled on the same cruise we did to the Holy Land, and he lectured three afternoons.)
- The Wednesday-night Bible study will begin again in January; however, we are going to change the time so that it will not interfere with dinners and choir. This is a great opportunity for men and women to study together. Call me if you are interested, and I'll tell you the time and place.
- The ladies' Bible study that meets on Wednesday at 12:30 in the parlor will begin again in January, and we welcome any who would like to join us.
- I've been reading a number of books on prayer. Everything that I have read says we can measure the depth and success of a church by the amount of time it spends in corporate prayer. Please think about spending this important time with us each Sunday evening in the chapel, 6:00, for one hour.
- We have ordered the preparation kit for VBS this year, and I hope some of you are thinking about joining us to work with our wonderful children.
- When the men came home from their retreat this year, they were so enthusiastic about a man whom they had heard speak and about the communion service that he conducted. I am trying to schedule him for a short retreat-type program. You'll hear more when I get him scheduled.

Let's pray that the Lord will continue to bless this church and teach us how to reach out to our community. Let's pray for 2010 to be a wonderful year, filled with much joy—a great year for all of us as we become stronger Disciples of Christ!

The Academy For Spiritual Formation

by Marilyn Watson

Not all ministry in the United Methodist Church is done by clergy. In fact, John Wesley felt very strongly about the importance of lay ministry. The training and ministry of lay people has been a part of the Methodist Church since its inception. Today the Church offers Certification Programs in various areas. One of those is in spiritual formation. And since spiritual formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ for the good of others, it fits our mission statement. A part of that certification can be the Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation. The Academy was begun 26 years ago by The Upper Room, which is a ministry of the United Methodist Church under the General Board of Discipleship. The GBOD just expanded its ministry in the area of spiritual formation by creating a new position for a Director of The Center for Spiritual Formation.

To participate in The Two Year Academy For Spiritual Formation I filled out an extensive application, supplied three recommendations, and wrote a paper detailing my spiritual background, my calling, and my prayer journey. In June, I received word of my acceptance to "Academy 30" (the 30th Academy). Academy 30 gathers in residence for 5 days each quarter at Camp Sumatanga, AL, a Methodist retreat center NE of Birmingham. Between sessions we have reading assignments (a minimum of two books per course), spiritual disciplines to practice, an accountability form to update, and a covenant accountability project for each of the two years. During each week in residence the training includes teaching by topnotch ministers and seminary professors specializing in the areas we are studying. We also participate in covenant groups, silence, reflection, worship, journaling, networking, and filling the leadership roles which make things like worship happen. During Session 2, I was privileged to lead a covenant group and to be part of the healing ministry team.

It is my prayer that by participating in this education and training, I will be better equipped to serve in the area of spiritual formation and wherever else the Lord may choose to use me. If you would like to know more about The Academy, I would be delighted to talk with you about it.

“A Final Gift of Love” A Workshop on End-of-Life Issues

By Rev. Richard Evans

On Saturday morning, Jan. 30, our church will sponsor a Workshop dealing with end-of-life issues that are important for every individual and family.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 8:45 am, and the program will run from 9:00 am until noon. Each participant will receive a workbook with information and suggestions about funerals and memorial services, burial, cremation, Hospice services, Veterans' benefits, Social Security benefits, estate planning, wills and trusts, stewardship of assets, living wills, health-care surrogates, durable power of attorney, organ donation, and much more.

A panel, consisting of our pastor, an estate planner, an attorney, and a funeral director will present helpful information and respond to questions participants may have.

The workbook will include a section for your own personal information (also on CD so that it may easily be updated on a computer). Although the workshop is similar in format to a few of the previous ones we have offered, some of the panelists will be different and new information will be available. Even if you have attended a previous workshop, you should find this one especially helpful.

The workshop is sponsored by the Permanent Endowment Committee in cooperation with the Florida United Methodist Foundation and is offered free of charge to members and friends of the church. Using our new Fellowship Hall, we will have space enough for all who are interested.

We need to know how many to plan for, so it is important to register. Call the church office with your name and phone number, and we will be expecting you.

Planning for the end of your life on earth may be your “final gift of love” to the members of your family. And, of course, the end of our lives on earth will mark the beginning of our eternal life with the Lord.

Serendipity Happenings

Through Serendipity, the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful and beautiful things.

As I sit at breakfast, I am reading a front-page article in the Homosassa *Beacon* titled, "Reaching for help . . . outreach program provides medical care and other needs." The pride that swells within comes not only from the content of this article, but from the magnitude of praise and comments that I have heard since returning from our Holy Land trip. The pride comes from experiencing joy in learning that the hopes and prayers for a successful venture to help those in need have been surpassed far more than could have been envisioned. So I take this opportunity to thank those who worked so tirelessly and diligently to accomplish the outstanding successes.

When the Serendipity group first considered this joint effort with the Homeless Coalition, there was some apprehension. Prayer and discussion changed attitudes to enthusiasm. Preliminary challenges were considered and resolved by FUMC Trustees. Duties were assigned. Joint meetings were held. Obstacles were overcome. Final preparations and the setting up of areas for all phases of the project were done on Friday, and at about 3:30 a.m. on Saturday, for one family and FUMC, the day began. At that same time, I was tracing the steps of St. Paul in Ephesus, and thinking of this day and praying for its success.

Knowing full well that someone might be overlooked, I am challenged to remember all who worked so hard. Certainly deserving of mention are kitchen workers, dining room staff, the trustees, all of the Serendipity group, men's prayer group, Sally's Saturday Sisters, Theresa's blanket project, the Pantry, FUMC administration, and each of the many volunteers. Always, there is a person or persons who directs and keep things moving. To Jim Roth fell this responsibility. What a job! To give everyone my full thanks would take up the entire *Genesis*. Suffice it to say that this was all God directed and blessed. Thank you to all who ventured into uncharted waters to make this such a meaningful and accepted program. We must now look forward to determine how we can use it as the beginning of much more needed aid to our community.

My thanks also for the excellent program on Wonderful Wednesday, directed by Bill Gilbert. I pray that other men within FUMC might learn from the mentioned programs. We want you to be aware of ways in which you can help yourself learn more of God's word through study and discussion and how you can help others through various Serendipity projects.

Won't you join with us? You will be welcomed on any Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:30pm.

Jim Potts

Are You in Need?

Despite some confusion regarding confidentiality, Stephen Ministers in our church wish to be known. Usually, those in need are prompted to contact Kay Bast, Karen Kline or Carol MacKenzie, the Stephen Leaders. However, if you know any one of our members, simply tell him or her that you would like to talk with someone or that you know of someone who might need help, and the easy assignment process will begin at once.



- Kay Bast
- Peggy Benson
- Anna Cooley
- Ernie Dorrell
- Martha Dorrell
- Shirley Dunkle
- Jane Hamilton
- Sue Harris
- Joyce Hesketh
- Mary Jane Houchins
- Karen Kline
- Carol MacKenzie
- Charles Peters
- Jim Potts
- Marilyn Siegel

Would you consider being one of us?

Do you feel as if you would like to share God's love and compassion with those in need and feel the wonder of His work through you?

Our Stephen Ministers are expecting to begin a new class early in 2010. Won't you consider this ministry as a way you can reach those who need someone to listen? If so, talk with any of the above members.

~ STRONG HANDS NEEDED ~

Once a month a team of mail-handlers get together to fold and prepare 525 copies of Genesis for mailing. Please consider joining and assisting with this work-ministry.

2010 Genesis Folding Dates

9 AM ~ Room 114

January ~ Thursday, 21st

February ~ Thursday, 18th

March ~ Thursday, 18th

April ~ Thursday, 22nd

May ~ Thursday, 20

Genesis is not published in June & July.

"Many hands make light work..."

Contact Josie Reel at home or Theresa Weber in the church office for more information...or just show up!

REGISTRATION FORM

26th Annual Florida Conference Women's Retreat "BE A BLESSING" February 19 - 21, 2010

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Preferred Name _____

(as you wish to appear on your name tag)

Mailing address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (_____) _____

Name of Church: _____

City: _____

District: _____

Special Needs (Circle all that apply)

1st Floor Room (specify medical need) _____

Handicapped Room (specify medical need) _____

Dietary Needs _____

CHOOSE YOUR HOUSING OPTION:

Life Enrichment Center (motel style room, double occupancy) + all five meals (\$155.00)

Warren Willis Camp (cabin style room w/bunk beds) + all five meals (\$135.00)

Commuter (making your own arrangements to stay off campus) + all five meals (\$110.00)

Commuter - no meals (\$65.00)

Family Camp Ground (staying in your own RV/camper) + all five meals (\$131.00)

Family Campground - no meals (\$87.00)

(Other campers staying at the same site need to register as Commuters with or without meals)

Payment Information

Check# _____ Check date: ____ / ____ / ____

Check amount \$ _____

Visa MasterCard Discover

Amount to charge \$ _____

Card number: _____

Expiration date ____ / ____ / ____ 3 digit code _____

Cardholder's name _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Your signature confirms that you have read and agree to the policies and consents of the Florida Conference Women's Retreat Program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

More details are available on the bulletin boards and in the bulletins. If you have any questions call Marilyn Watson. To sign up, call the church office.

**2010 COUPLE'S RETREAT
MARCH 12 to 14, 2010
United Methodist Retreat Center Leesburg
"In Jesus Name"**

Leadership Team



John Riley



Sharon Austin



Ed Diaz



**Music Leaders
Gretchen & Reg
The Dunnemans**

Please call Jim Stoneman 352-422-0169 or Marilyn Watson with any questions you may have.

**REGISTRATION FORM
2010 COUPLES' SPIRITUAL RETREAT
MARCH 12 to 14, 2010**

Name. Last: _____

First (male) _____

First (female) _____

E-mail address: _____

MAKE SURE E-MAIL ADDRESS IS PRECISE AND LEDGIBLE)

Mailing address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (_____) _____

Name of Church: _____

City: _____

District: _____

WE WILL STAY AT: L.E.C. () Off-Camp ()

Campground () Water/Elec. only () Full Hook up ()

We will eat meals at the L.E.C. Dining Room ()

We have a DEFINITE need for:

First Floor Room () Handicapped Room ()

Weekend Retreat Costs

Life Enrichment Center (LEC.) - \$289.00 (per Couple) includes room and meals.

Family Campground - \$70.00 (per couple) registration fee plus \$44.00 per camp site. (Does NOT include meals)

Off Camp - \$82.00 (per couple) program fee does NOT include meals.

Meals are available at the LEC for Family Campgrounds and Off Campus participants - \$88.00 (per couple).

All day Saturday only (all Saturday retreat sessions including Lunch and Dinner) - \$120.00 (per couple).

PAYMENT: Amount \$ _____

Cash ___ **Check** ___ **Credit Card MC** ___ **Visa** ___

Card# _____

Expiration Date: _____

Approval #: _____ (For office use only)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

"UNITED METHODIST MEN"

Give this form and payment to Jim Stoneman.

**Sending in all registrations at once
assists in housing our group together.**

**26th Annual Florida
Conference
Women's Retreat
"Be A Blessing"
February 19 - 21, 2010**



SCHEDULE:

Friday

3:00~Registration
5:30 - 7:00 ~ Dinner
7:30~General Session, Music & Keynote

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Terri Hill

Bible Study Leader

Rev. Kim Uchimura

Music

99 for 1

Enrichments

- 99 for 1
- Florida Children's Home Choir
- Sue Sommer
- Connie Steel
- Judy Stevens

Saturday

7:00 - 7:15 ~ Morning Devotions
7:30 - 8:50 ~ Breakfast
9:00~General Session, Music & Keynote
12:00 - 1:45 ~ Lunch
2:00 - 5:30 ~ Enrichments
5:30 - 7:15 ~ Dinner
7:30~General Session

Sunday

7:00 - 7:15 ~ Morning Devotions
7:30 - 8:50 ~ Breakfast
9:00~General Session

Sail the St. Lawrence Sept. 19-27, 2010

By Rev. Richard Evans, Tour Coordinator

Sail the St. Lawrence River with us next September during Fall Foliage Season! We'll fly to Quebec City, board the MV Canadian Empress, and leisurely work our way up river (actually southwest), for the next week, enjoying scenic views and negotiating the lock system of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Ports of call will include Trois Rivieres, Montreal, Upper Canada Village, Brockville, and Rockport. After traveling through the 1000 Islands, we will disembark at Kingston and then travel by motor coach to Toronto for our flight back to Tampa. In addition to the autumn scenery, the cruise will give you the opportunity to experience the linguistic and cultural differences that are an integral part of Canadian heritage.

A special treat—after disembarking in Kingston—will be a garden party at the home of Ralph and Lois Pohlman in Belleville, Ontario. The Pohlmans are Canadian citizens and associate members of FUMCH. They spend winters with us here in Homosassa, and their summer residence is in a beautiful setting overlooking Lake Ontario. They have invited us to their Canadian home while we are on our way home to Homosassa.

The per-person price of \$3,575 (dbl. occ. & in US dollars) includes airfare, the cruise, all shore excursions, hotels, motor coach transportation in Florida and Canada, taxes, fees, and travel insurance. A \$350 deposit will hold your space. Pick up a flyer at the church office. Call me at 563-5833 or Jess Mackey (J & L Travel) at 382-7708 if you have questions. Don't miss out. Register now!

It doesn't seem possible *but..*

Ash Wednesday is February 17. Therefore, the Decorating Committee will have a meeting on January 26 at 1:00 PM to make preparations for the Lent and Easter season.

Please plan to attend and give me your input and ideas for decorating the sanctuary. There are new ideas in the works. Mark your calendars and join me.

Judy Powell,
Chairman, Decorating Committee

WORSHIP AS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

What makes worship passionate?

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SPIRITUALITY

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Are there differences between attending church, worshipping, and worship as a spiritual discipline?

When we first started *attending church*, most of us didn't worship; we filled a space and listened. Hopefully that changed or is changing. *Christian worship* becomes a *spiritual discipline* when worship is regular and intentional.

There are many definitions of *Christian worship*. A combined definition might say it is people assembled to hear God's Word and His mighty acts proclaimed, then responding by expressing in words, music, rituals, praise, and adoration the greatness, beauty, and goodness of God and by these means entering the reality of the glory of God.

There are things we can do to enhance our experience of worship. One is to come to worship expectantly. When we do, we are more likely to have a wonderful experience of worship. After the announcements and time of greeting, Pastor Mark invites us to prepare our hearts and minds as we enter in during the prelude or introit. We can choose to quiet ourselves, give our anxieties and burdens to God, listen to the music, and be carried away leaving distractions behind so we are ready to hear what God has prepared for us.

One thing that affects the entire worshipping congregation is Scripture preparation. Pastor Mark provides the Scriptures he will be using. They are in the worship bulletin where it says **"Study and meditate on God's Word in preparation for next week's worship."** By studying the Scriptures, meditating on them and their meaning and significance in your life, you will be familiar with them when you come to worship. Then when the Scriptures are read, you will already have an understanding of them, including what God has revealed to you. This makes worship deeper and more meaningful for you and the entire congregation. Our personal experience of worship does affect those around us. I pray you will study and meditate on the Scriptures each week in preparation for worship.

I'd love to hear what enhances your experience of worship and what passionate worship means to you. Email me at mwatson48@tampabay.rr.com, call, or talk to me any time.

Marilyn Watson

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

January 2010

All circles are to do their own
PLEDGE AND SERVICE THANKSGIVING.

✠ Monday, January 11: Executive Board Meeting at 10 AM

✠ Tuesday, January 12:
Faith Hope Circle at 9:30 AM
Helping Hand Circle at 9:30 AM
Dorcas Circle at 1 PM
SALTY Circle at 7 PM

✠ Thursday, January 14:
Ruth Circle at 9:15 AM

ALL CHURCH WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ANY OR ALL OF THE CIRCLE MEETINGS.

If you would like a prospectus of the various Circles' membership and activities, you can email Judith Huffer at:

judithann@tampabay.rr.com

for a pdf. of the 2010 Yearbook, or stop by her office, Room 207, and pick up a copy.

Your 2009 gifts to women, children and youth have enhanced the lives of so many of the "least of these." How blessed it is to give. Thanks to all, and wishing you a New Year filled with His blessing and grace.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM BAZAAR CHAIRMAN

As the year comes to a close and the Bazaar and yard sale are over, I imagine I can sit back and relax. But no, I immediately start thinking about what changes we need to make next year as well as what new ideas we might develop.

This has always been a favorite project of mine as I am definitely a craft person. Since I will be Chairperson again next year, PLEASE WATCH THE CHURCH BULLETIN FOR A PLANNING MEETING IN JANUARY 2010.

I would like to thank all of the members of the United Methodist Women who so graciously stepped up and helped me after my co-chair passed away. I appreciated you all very much. Not only do I need to thank the women, but we had some faithful men who helped, too. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL! Without Kay Bast (who was my sounding board when I ran into a problem and is also a special friend in my time of need for ideas, thoughts, and prayers) we would not have had the successful bazaar we did. Many thanks to you, Kay!

I look forward to next year with much vim and vigor since we did such a good job this year, and our monetary reward was exciting in an amount of over \$3,200. Not only was a good job well done, but a wonderful job was done well.

Thanks to each and everyone who helped in any way, and may God's richest blessings be yours throughout the coming year.

Pat Blake, Bazaar Chairman

LIBRARY APOLOGY

An apology is in order to our library readers. We recently processed some books by Carl Hiiasen.

He may be on the New Your Times Bestseller list but the content of his books is not in line with Christian views.

We apologize that we did not research the books more thoroughly, and they are no longer available in the Church library.

Helen LeFave & Barbara Jackson
Church Librarians

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for:

- A new resolve for each of us as we start afresh in the new year.
- The new UMW officers as they make the transition into new areas of responsibility.
- Prayer to be a vital part of all aspects of each and every meeting and group which meets here so that Christ is glorified in all things.
- Each one of us to have a passion to know Jesus more intimately.
- The Finance Committee members, our Financial Secretary, and book-keeper since January is always a very hectic time.
- All of our church leaders and committee members as they begin the new year, that they will seek the leading of the Holy Spirit prior to all decisions, and that they will know His enabling as they do His will.
- That all those who come to visit our church will find not only a warm welcome, but also the risen Christ.
- Each woman the Lord is prompting to attend the Leesburg Women's Retreat in February to respond.



NEW!

GREEN COMMITTEE AT FUMCH
Meets: First Thursday of the Month.
Wayne Haynes, Chairman

“The Methodist Church’s environmental deliberations benefit from a major paper produced in 1991 by the Connexional Team called *Floods & Rainbows - Christian Faith Concerning the Environment*. “It begins with the simple statement that: ‘*This is God’s world. God orders, brings into being, sustains, and will ultimately complete the whole universe.*’ It notes the central role of Christ, quoting Colossians 1: 17: ‘*All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.*’

“*Floods & Rainbows* notes however that this teaching may have been misunderstood. “Humanity has obviously refused to accept the original role intended for it by God. In so doing mankind has become a ‘curse’ to the earth and its inhabitants, rather than the intended blessing:

‘We have become the greatest abusers of the earth, exploiting it with selfish carelessness, and adopting an attitude of ruthless arrogance towards nature. That attitude, at the core of our sinfulness, is closely linked to our fear and envy of each other, to the injustice and hatred which poison human relationships, and thus to our disobedience towards God.’

“*Floods & Rainbows* rebuts the idea that it is Western civilization, motivated by a distorted Christianity, that is solely responsible for the exploitation and destruction of the natural world. It notes that all human cultures have abused and exploited nature. The report also stresses the central role of Jesus Christ in God’s redemptive plan.

“It quotes Hebrews 1:3 that Jesus reflects the glory of God and upholds the universe by his word of power, and also John 1:14 that Jesus is the Word through which all things were made. It states: ‘Jesus in his ministry delighted in the world, in nature, and taught us to see in it the signs of God’s providential care....he represented all creation.’

“*Floods & Rainbows* concludes:

‘With terrible urgency, all human beings are now called upon by God to repent, to renounce all claims to

careless dominion, to be remade in Christ. Most especially this applies to our appalling treatment of nature. God demands of us a radical change of attitude, so that at last we recognize our collective responsibility to become its stewards, custodians, friends, servants, priests....the new covenant holds good. The energizing power of the Holy Spirit is given to us. This should encourage all Christians to help create the new political will which the nations so desperately need, the will to respect nature, heal its wounds, cleanse its pollutions, control the demands made upon it, and develop new appropriate lifestyles.’

“*Floods & Rainbows* was followed in September 1999 by *Caring for the Earth*, an Environmental Policy for the Methodist Church. This referred to the Mission Statement adopted by the Conference in 1996, which affirmed that the Christian mission includes caring for God’s earth. The policy was adopted by the 2000 conference which endorsed its objectives. It states:

1. The Methodist Church affirms that Christian mission includes caring for God’s earth and will endeavor to develop both theology and the practical implications of this on a continuing basis.

2. The Biblical creation stories give human beings privilege and responsibility in relation to the earth and every living creature. We are called to be partners with the rest of creation, and co-creators in the ongoing activity of God. Such partnerships go wrong when human beings act as if the whole world were simply for their present benefit. God’s way, revealed in the Bible and particularly in the life, death and resurrection of Christ, is a generous sharing of the divine love to serve the needs of God’s creation until its fulfillment.

3. Christian mission includes sharing in putting right the relationships within God’s creation that have gone wrong, and growing towards the balance and good stewardship envisaged in the Biblical vision of the world as it is meant to be.

4. The Methodist people are challenged and encouraged to care for the earth by following sustainable practice and taking into account global and local environmental considerations for present and future generations.

- in the conservation and use of resources in the Church and at home
- in helping to develop more sustainable lifestyles
- in active involvement in Local Agenda 21 and other community initiatives
- ♦in concerns for action on global environmental initiatives

“The Policy also urged Methodists to have regard for the opportunities for co-operation, joint initiatives with other Churches or environmental initiatives, and of the potential to contribute Methodist insights.”

<http://www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk/index.html>

Hooked on Charitable Gift Annuities

Back in 2002, Janet Johnson invested in her first charitable gift annuity with the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

She used part of the profit from the sale of her little house in the Poconos to fund the annuity.

After the sale of her house, she moved into the Concord campus of the New England Deaconess Association that is now the beneficiary of the first annuity plus another two annuities purchased in 2004 and 2005.

In the meantime, she reaped, and continues to reap, extraordinary benefits including a huge tax write-off for the year of purchase and quarterly interest payments that are only partially taxed.

Now, thoroughly "hooked on annuities", she has gone on to purchase one in 2006 and another in 2007. The first annuity contributes to the "Together For Tomorrow" campaign of the New England Annual Conference.

The second names the Preachers' Aid Society as beneficiary. Recently she signed up again for another \$5,000.00 annuity for Preachers' Aid.

All the annuities combined total \$50,000, which will give her an annual income of more than \$3300.00 for the rest of her life - only half of which is taxable!!

This extra income has enabled Janet to do considerable traveling, and she is still able to tithe her pension income to her local United Methodist Church.

Janet says, "I am very grateful for this opportunity to donate to the work of the United Methodist Church and still receive such great personal benefit."

Janet's story, above, is reprinted from *The Gift Legacy eNewsletter* of the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

For information on how Charitable Gift Annuities invested through the Florida United Methodist Foundation can benefit you and your church or charity, contact the church office or call Rev. Richard Evans at 563-5833.

Walking on the Path

January 2010

Patience Nave

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap the fruit of unflinching love."

Hosea 10:12

"But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God. My times are in your hands.'"

Psalms 31:14-15a

I have noticed that we are a people preoccupied with time. We begin conversations with statements like, "Does it seem to you that time is just flying?" "I don't know where the time goes." "There are just not enough hours in the day." Old and young alike often seem overwhelmed by the passage of time. Maybe time would not be so pressing an issue if we allowed the above verses to give us some guidance.

In the first Scripture, God is talking to Hosea. The children of Israel have prostituted themselves, serving the false gods of the heathen nations around them. Hosea's life was a mirror image of the nation as his own wife had gone back to a life of prostitution, leaving him for the sinful life of a woman of the street. God tells Hosea that Israel is "planting" wrong and reaping what they have planted—unfaithfulness and grief. Sensuous desire has produced a cruel crop, but God says planting real love will bring forth a good crop of righteousness.

Then, in the passage from Ecclesiastes, Solomon reminds us that God has put us in time for a reason. God has ordered life, and there are seasons in our lives. Our job is to learn to live within the season in which we find ourselves.

David's testimony is very different. In this Psalm, David says he can put his life in God's hands because he trusts God. There may be occurrences all around him that cause him stress, but he quietly reminds us that he does (and we should) trust God—to the point of relaxing and allowing God to be in charge.

"For everything there is a season." At the beginning of a new year, this is good advice for us to remember. Recognize that God has plans for our time and use it wisely, plant well so that God's righteousness can grow in our lives, and trust God so that we can rest with our *"times in [his] hands."*

Prayer: *Father, all around us "times" look threatening. We do trust you. Help us to trust you more. Help us to put ourselves in your hands and rest there. Amen.*



New Year

New Beginnings

Can you believe it's already January 2010?

We can expect to be extra busy this year with the completion of our new facility, and I will need your help in keeping our calendar current.

To make sure everyone is up to date on all the events happening around our church, the weekly calendar is posted in the office and on our website.

This calendar is updated every Wednesday and will only be as current as the information you provide to the office.

This is why **your** help is so important! Please complete a simple information sheet, available in the office, for your meeting or event in the coming year.

Please use one sheet for each different committee/group per year. It is also important to let the office know if there are any cancellations or changes to these events.

This information will be most helpful as I update the calendar each week. To view the calendar, go to www.1umc.org. Click on the calendars tab on the left side. Click and view. It's that easy! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

~Theresa Weber,
FUMCH Church Administrator

GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we enter this new year, let's reflect on the old "how was our health?" What have we learned about our habits? The new year gives us the opportunity to change, to improve our diet, to plan an exercise program, enjoy more leisure time, to study, and to be grateful for all our blessings.

Our riches can provide so many luxuries, but our bodily needs can suffer if we indulge too much in rich foods or fail to eat correctly. The body is a finely turned temple; all the organs are in balance with each other. We can upset this balance by neglecting our nutrition. A good rule of thumb is to have a plate of food which has many colors. This will help to keep every part of the body in balance. The end result of a poor diet can be poor health.

Here's to good health! I hope your blessings are many:

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.

"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'"

~Matthew 25 Verses 34-40 (The Message)

Shirley Exley
Health Administrator



Coffee and Fellowship
In the Hospitality Center
Between Sunday Services



DRIVERS SAFETY PROGRAM

Cars have changed and so have traffic rules, driving conditions and the roads we drive on every day.

Join over thousands of participants who completed the AARP Drivers Safety Program in Citrus County.

You will learn:

- ◆ Defensive driving techniques, new traffic laws and rules of the road.
- ◆ How to deal with aggressive drivers.
- ◆ How to handle problem situations such as left turns, right-of-way, Interstate highway traffic, trucks and blind spots.
- ◆ How to safely use anti-lock brakes, air bags, safety belts and electronic stability control.

The AARP Drivers Safety Program is \$14 dollars for non-AARP members and \$12 for members.

Upon completion of course, each participant will receive a Certificate qualifying them for an automobile insurance discount with most insurance companies.

**Plan on attending the next class:
Friendship Hall at 9 A.M.
January 20-21, 2010.**

**Call Frank Tobin at 352-628-3229
for course registration.**



THE COLUMBARIUM AT FUMCH

As of this November 9, 2009, 46 (42.6%) of the Columbarium's present 108 niches have been purchased.

With the passing of time, both pre-need and at-need Columbarium niche purchases have continued.

Columbarium packets and information are available from Theresa Weber in the church office.

John Gibbs, Chairman
628-0688



Saturday, January 9, 2010

8:00 AM

Pancake Breakfast

**Want to help the homeless and the hungry?
Turn out and support this fund-raiser!**

The Men's Serendipity Bible Study Group uses this breakfast as a means to raise funds for their local outreach mission pledges, assisting the Hunger and Homeless Coalition in Citrus County as well as among other non-profit agencies.



**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2010
7:00 AM
~ BLOOD MOBILE ~**



Each year, nearly five million Americans need a blood transfusion. To meet our responsibility, we need to collect 266,000 blood donations a year. That's 728 donors a day. With over 30 donor centers, 37 blood mobiles and over 1,000 blood drives a month, our LifeSouth team is committed to making sure the blood is there when you or your family member is in need.

The blood donated here will stay in our community for local patient transfusions. The blood that you donate is accounted to FUMCH, and will be available should you need it.

There are no substitutes for blood. Volunteering to give blood is giving the gift of life to patients who need transfusions.

Once Again, We Have A Wonderful Assortment Of New Books!

1. "End of the Spear" is a true story by Steve Saint. When Steve was only 5 years old his father, a missionary, was killed by Waodani warriors, men from the most savage culture ever known. But in a story almost too amazing to be true, Steve eventually comes to know - and even love - the very ones who drove the spears into his father's body. It's an adventure story that is part Indiana Jones, part time-travel, part romance, and part spiritual quest.

2. Gary Chapman continues with his books on Love Languages with "The Five Love Languages for Singles." He believes you have a God-given yearning for complete and unconditional love, but you'll never be able to express it - or receive it - until you learn to speak the right "love" languages. Different personalities express love in different ways.

3. "Tears in a Bottle" by Sylvia Bambola, is a novel that is a gripping story of betrayal, hurt and triumph that accurately portrays the real truth behind the political correctness of a woman's right to choose. Becky didn't want an abortion but she had her whole life ahead of her. She lies in a secluded recovery room of an abortion clinic when she hears a man's angry voice, then gunshots amid cries of terror. Lying still behind the curtain, she holds her breath in fear. The silence that follows reveals the icy truth. She is the only one left alive. The story and characters in the novel are fictitious but the facts concerning abortion and abortion clinics are very real.

4. "The Quilter's Apprentice" by Jennifer Chiaverini - a novel. When Sarah McClure and husband Matt move to Waterford, PA, she takes a temporary position at Elm Creek Manor to help its reclusive owner, Sylvia Compson, prepare her family estate for sale. Sylvia is a master quilter and as part of Sarah's compensation, Sylvia offers to share the secrets of her creative gifts with the younger woman. During their lessons, varied threads of Sylvia's life begin to emerge. This is a timeless tale of family, friendship, and forgiveness as two women weave the disparate pieces of their lives into a bountiful and harmonious whole.

5. "Daily Word" compiled by Colleen Zuck. This brings a devotion or daily word for each day of the year. Love, inspiration, and guidance are here for everyone.

6. "Self Incrimination" by Randy Singer - a legal thriller with a twist. Tara Bannister's abusive stepfather finally pushed her too far. To save herself, she had to kill him, or did she? As Tara's self-defense claim crumbles, attorney Leslie Connors must overcome more than first-trial jitters to mount a credible defense. Leslie must save Tara's life...against her client's will. Can a lawyer save a client from herself? Tara's confession doesn't add up and the reason may be more shocking than the crime itself.

7. "When Christ Comes" by Max Lucado. This is one of Lucado's best books and so well written that it is easy to read and understand. Thoughts of the Second Coming are unsettling. There is much about the end of history that we don't understand. Lucado believes the day Christ comes will

be the "beginning of the very best." Our primary task is to be prepared and peaceful while we wait, and the book will tell us how to be both.

8. "The Rescue" by beloved storyteller Nicholas Sparks, also brought us "The Notebook" and "Message in a Bottle", among others. Volunteer fireman Taylor McAden feels compelled to take terrifying risks to save lives, but he can't let himself fall in love. He leaves as soon as the relationship starts to become truly intimate. Then comes the day that he rescues Denise Holton, unconscious, and bleeding, when her car skids off the road. Denise is a single mother who has sacrificed everything in raising her 4 year old son, Kyle, a boy with severe learning disabilities. Kyle had been with her in the car but when she wakes, she finds that Kyle is gone. As Taylor helps in the search for Kyle, it will require him to open doors to his past that were slammed shut by pain, and to dare him to live life to the fullest by daring to love. This is a story about making the greatest commitment of all - loving someone forever.

9. "Made in the U.S.A." by Billie Letts. This is a novel of Lutie McFee, a 15 year old, and her 11 year old brother named Fate. They live in Spearfish, South Dakota, and are motherless. Faced with becoming wards of the state, or high-tailing it out of town, they choose to leave town in an old Pontiac that once belonged to their dad's girlfriend. They begin to search for a father who has no known address or phone number, and no particular interest in the kids left behind. Alternately heartbreaking and life-affirming, this is a story of two gutsy children who must discover how cruel, unfair, and frightening the world is before they finally find a place where they belong.

10. "Before the Dawn" by Carolyn Aarsen, a first novel in the Guidepost series, "Home to Heather Creek." Charlotte Stevenson's world is turned upside down by the death of her daughter Denise, who had run away from home as a teenager, and Charlotte has never forgiven herself. Now Denise's three children are coming to live on Heather Creek Farm. Is this Charlotte's chance to make things right? What if she makes the same mistakes this time around? Small joys remind Charlotte that God gives grace freely even in trying times.

11. A treasure that has been overlooked by many is "The Family Album" by Arthur & Nancy DeMoss. We acquired the book in 1984 and it is in the 811 category. There are beautiful thoughts in prose and poetry for ever season.

12. Several books with Christmas themes are "Finding Noel" and "The Christmas Box" by Richard Paul Evans; "A Midnight Clear" - a book of family Christmas stories by Katherine Paterson; "Julotta" by Tracie Paterson, a story of faith and love; "Hannah's Hope" by Karen Kingsbury; "The Mitford Snowman" and "Ester's Gift" by Jan Karon; and "Once in the Year", a beloved Christmas classic by Elizabeth Yates.

Happy New Year,
From Barbara Jackson and Helen LeFave
Church Librarians

Laminin, the Important Protein that Resembles a Cross

(Note: This article was adapted for "Genesis." Louie Giglio (born 1958) is a pastor/ evangelist, Passion City Church, Atlanta, speaker and founder of the Passion Movement. Your Editor, Judith)

"While watching a DVD sermon by Louie Giglio, I was "blown away" by the following explanation. I want to share what I learned, hoping that it will amaze you, too.

"Louie talked about how inconceivably BIG our God is -- how He spoke the universe into being, how He breathes stars out of His mouth that are huge raging balls of fire, etc. Then he went on to speak of how this star-breathing, universe-creating God also knit our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. At this point I am fascinated from a medical standpoint, remembering my constant amazement during medical school as I learned more and more about God's handiwork. So many times, I thought, 'How can anyone deny that a Creator did all of this?'

"Louie went on to talk about how we can trust that the God who created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart...how our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

"Then came the most amazing part. Louie started talking about laminin.(1) I knew about laminins. Here is how Wikipedia (2) describes them, 'Laminins are a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue.'

"Laminins are what hold us together...literally. They are cell adhesion molecules. They hold one cell of our bodies to the next cell. Without them, we would literally fall apart. I knew all this already.

But I didn't know what laminin LOOKED LIKE!

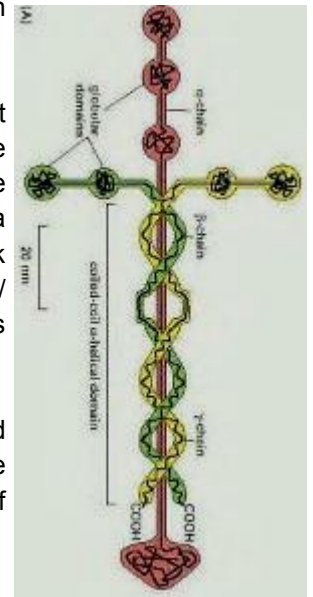
"But now I do, and to me it was an amazing revelation. The picture shows what the structure of laminin looks like (This is not a 'Christian portrayal'; if you look laminin up in any scientific/ medical piece of literature, this is what you will see.)

"Now tell me that our God is not the coolest! Amazing...the glue that holds us together...all of us...is in the shape of the cross.

"Immediately Colossians 1:15-17 comes to mind. 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and *in him all things hold together.*' Colossians 1:15-17 (italics mine)

"I just think that is very, very, very cool. Thousands of years before the world knew anything about laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very literal standpoint, we are held together - one cell to another - by the cross.

"You would never in a quadrillion years convince me that laminin is anything other than the mark of a Creator who knew exactly what laminin "glue" would look like long before Adam even breathed his first breath! Praise the Lord!" (3)



1 Biophys J. 2007 July 1; 93(1): 202–207. Published online 2007 April 6. doi: 10.1529/biophysj.106.102491. Copyright © 2007, Biophysical Society

2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laminin>

3. "Don't Know Much About The Bible" Kenneth C. Davis Eagle Brook, NY 1998



Have you spotted this in the rivers around here? If you saw something like this waving around above the water you might think at first that it was a snake. But a snake doesn't have a beak and it doesn't stand upright in the water. Mina Arnold Young writes an extremely interesting article about the Anhinga bird, which can be found here in Florida.

Why I mention this is because, during the winter months, we are often gifted with the sighting of what is to us relocated Yankees some really strange and delightful birds.

There's a big Anhinga bird under that water. It may be trying to hide from you, or it may just want to cool off. If you watch long enough, it will come out and sit on a rock or a stump. It will spread its wings out to dry its feathers. Most water birds have oil glands on their backs, near their tails, and can spread the oil over their feathers

to make them waterproof.

Flying birds have air sacs in their bodies, connected to their lungs. When these sacs are full of air they make the bird lighter. There is also some air trapped between the feathers. When the anhinga wants to swim under water, with just his head and neck showing, he can let the air out of his air sacs and press his feathers tight against his body to squeeze the air out of them. When he wants to swim on top of the water he can fill his air sacs and raise his feathers to let air get between them. For more about this bird go to: <http://arnet.pair.com/birds/banhinga.htm>



Dear Praying Friends,

As we've been writing an orientation program for our new team recently, the amazing truth of the incarnation has struck us anew.

What is incarnation? It is the incredible truth that God took on human flesh, entered human culture, and lived a human life (without sin, of course).

Missionaries are similarly called to incarnate Christ in a new culture by adjusting to local realities and living out kingdom values. This month, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, let us remember the missional nature of Jesus' task and the responsibility we have to take up that humble mission in praying, giving and/or going.

PRAISES

✝ Praise God that **two ladies – Dukada and Dtüm – received the Lord** at Cool Shade of Life Church recently. These two ladies along with another two new



"Dtüm"

(In the pink praying with Pastor Ogaat and others.)



"Dukada"

(Praying to receive the Lord with Pastor Ogaat .)

church members (*Dtôn* and *Uuy*) are planning to take part in a baptism ceremony Dec. 13th. That makes 15 Thais who have prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord at the church, which celebrated its third anniversary on Nov. 19th. Please also pray for *Dukada*, *Dtüm*, *Dtôn* and *Uuy* to grow in their faith.

✝ We're not sure whether **our financial situation** is a praise or a prayer (or both!) because PIONEERS had to shut down its internal Web site last month due to hackers. We'll get a November financial report soon, but in the meantime we'll consider it a huge praise that (as of Nov. 10) we have received \$505 in additional monthly support (37% of \$1,375 needed) and \$9,115 in one-time gifts (67% of \$13,550 needed). Praise God for the nine couples/individuals and four churches who were led to help so far! Please continue to pray for the additional \$870 in monthly support that is needed to get to 100% and the remaining \$4,435 one-time need that will erase our mission account debt and reimburse us for ministry expenses paid with personal funds.

Prayers

✝ Please pray for our new team (The HOME Team) as we meet with at least two people this month about **possible new partnerships** and as we pray for 4 m's (families or singles) to join in the partnerships we've already made official in Sisaket (near Cambodia) and Mae Ai (near Burma).

✝ Cool Shade of Life Church will take part this month in a **large evangelistic outreach** being led by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association called "My Hope Thailand." The program calls on church members to invite unsaved people in their lives to watch three, 30-minute TV programs the nights of Dec. 17-19. Those hosting the event in their homes are asked to share their testimony and then invite people to church on Sunday, Dec. 20. Please pray for this effort to bear significant fruit in Thailand and for members at Cool Shade of Life Church to be faithful in witnessing (to learn more, visit the program Web site at www.myhopethailand.com).

✝ It's December, so that means Christmas – and visas. Fun! We have to **renew our one-year visas** with the Thai government again this month, so please pray for this process to go smoothly, especially since Joe and Elaine have new passports. These government processes can develop snags for no reason at any time!

✝ Brittany will wrap up her **first semester at Columbia International University** (S.C.) this month. Please pray for a good conclusion to the mass of papers and tests and for her to do well emotionally as she goes through her first Christmas away for us.

✝ Please continue to pray for **Grace International School** as the court team had a big victory last month when its appeals and a request for a change of venue were accepted by the court. In addition, school officials are expected to have an announcement this month concerning where classes likely will be held next school year. As mentioned the last couple months, the school is appealing a court decision that says GIS must abandon the current school facility. School officials also are working to raise US\$10 million to purchase property and build a new, permanent, school-friendly campus. Please pray for wisdom for all those involved in these decisions and for God's generous provision for these needs.

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

~ FROM SIBERIA ~

Greetings Dear Faithful Friends!

In the course of our busy lives we are often asked to lift things up in prayer. We all lead busy lives and do not always know the results of those prayers.

What we would like to do now is highlight some of the things we wrote to you in the previous year and let you all know the answers we received for specific requests. We realize that God can answer prayers with a yes, no, wait, later...etc. Our faith is not shaken when it seems like our prayers go "unanswered" but the opposite is the case, we pray harder and trust in the only One who can answer!

Answered Prayers from 2009:

As we looked back over the year, the request most often asked for was wisdom...Proverbs 3:13-15 says "Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding..."

It also goes onto to say that "wisdom" is more precious than silver or rubies and yields a better return than gold. Without His wisdom in the decisions we are faced with, the work here would be meaningless. We will continue to ask for wisdom so as not to rely on "our" abilities or "our" wisdom.

The requests for the women's meetings and the building of relationships...we have truly seen this answer to prayer over the past couple of months. Although the group meetings are sporadic right now, Laura and "gals" see each other weekly and meet to encourage one another, share food recipes, in short... building relationships and watching the ladies "grow."

The most recent and exciting answer to prayer has been for the men's group. They meet twice a month and although the number attending fluctuates...we see some wonderful changes as they are becoming "men." They are currently working through the issue of forgiveness; my, how the Father is working in their lives. Please continue to lift this group often in prayer.

This past year we were joined by another family that had been on home assignment for a year. As is the case in any work situation, we had to adjust to working together and "being on the same page" when con-

fronted with issues. We are so blessed to have these folks working alongside with the same vision for this area. We can still use more workers and ask this need to be shared with the folks there.

We have often asked for safety as we travel...over the past year, we have driven approximately 10,000 miles to the village and back. Kevin has flown to Moscow three times or 19,800 miles plus a trip to the States...logging about 30,000 miles. We have trained at two other regions over the past year travelling about 12,000 miles. All of these miles have been without incident. We have requested your Prayer Warriors to cover us with prayer on these journeys, and for this we say, THANK YOU!

We have asked for prayer for projects over the year... WOW (Windows of Warmth), the woodshop, reading glasses distribution, and delivering firewood to those without...these are ongoing projects and have been met with wonderful enthusiasm and support.

There are some requests where we don't see the answer "we" desire, but as we stated earlier, He often answers in "His" timing and "His" way.

We still desire for more open opportunities to meet new people in the village.

A larger, more durable vehicle is still needed. We asked for a buyer for ours, and enough finances for another... we have a buyer but we will continue to wait for the additional funds..."His" timing.

Lastly...we have asked specifically for a woman in the village who has struggled with alcoholism for over 20 years. She has tried to quit, has come for help, prayed with us, and lived with us. Once again she has chosen to go back to a way of life that will eventually end her life. We continue to pray for this woman and the thousands who share this problem in the village.

We are not disheartened; we continue to press on. You truly bless us with your prayers and support. Thank you so much for working together with us for so many years. May the coming year be a blessing to many more.

Joyfully,

Kevin and Laura Wooster



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 April Collins John Collins Barbara Hartley Joyce Stone	2 John Cooley Marian Sandias 3 Carol Eriksson Gloria Marquis James Stoneman 5 Isabelle Verge 6 Barbara Bellcasse 7 Dot Reed James Roberts 8 Sue Kuntz Jane Ling 10 Joan Carnevale 11 Edith Amment Mary Kay Messenger Bill Morrison 12 Myrna Evans Joyce Leanning Ed Messenger 13 Louis Garthaus Hilda Seegen Iris Whittaker 14 Annie Carl Evelyn Knight Mary Severance	16 Stan DeClue Marilyn Grime David Marquis Elwin Mosler Ruth Smith 17 Ann Ice Thomas Kimble Harold Swinson Elizabeth Winner 19 Robert Gratton Glen Gunderson 20 Pat Archer Paul Patton Jr. 21 Betsy Blockus Colleen Megan DeClue 22 Agnes Brickmeier Jane Hamilton 23 Nancy Buzby Beverly Wagner 24 Eily Case 25 L. Archer Walker 27 Don LeFave William Waters 28 Stephen Csont Phyllis Konitshek 29 Lois Pohlman 30 Kathy Betsko Len Cromer 31 Earl Speicher
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How to keep warm in church :

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn — and then watch the sparks fly!

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4 Lisa & Rusty Stocker ~ 6 years ~ 10 Danielle & Robert Christensen ~ 7 years ~ Erin & Thomas Kimble ~ 9 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 Joan & Art Carnevale ~ 50 years ~ Gloria & Zane Megos ~ 40 years ~ 21 Marion & Michael Rodgers ~ 3 years ~ 31 Gerry & James Graham ~ 11 years ~

*In Our Thoughts
And
Prayers*

PERSONS RESIDING IN
LONG-TERM CARE
(As of 12/06/09)

AVANTE
Annie Preston

BRENTWOOD
Corrine Barrio
Evelyn Bash

CR HEALTH & REHAB
Betty Farewell
Robert Smith

DIAMOND RIDGE
Jean Buzby
Betty Duncan
Helen Hudson

GREEN ACRES
Bud Jenks

HUNT RESIDENCE
Bill Marquis

SUGARMILL MANOR
Shirley Hart
Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS
Marguerite Betzer
Ruth Eaton
Ruth & Bill Willis

WOODLAND TERRACE
Shirley Weber

Get ready for Epiphany

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6. "Epiphany," which means "showing forth," celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

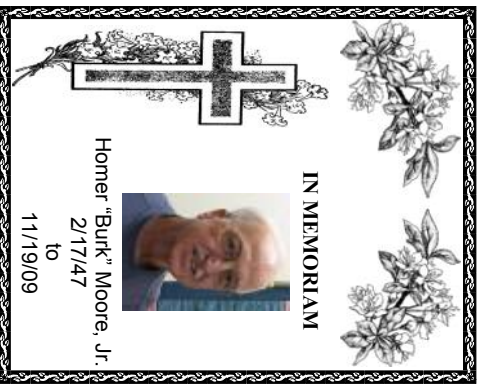
In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn "The Light of the World Is Jesus." The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost
In the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday,
His glory shone in.
The Light of the world is Jesus!

King and The Good Samaritan

Many Christians will observe Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on January 18. (His actual birth date is January 15.) King's comments about the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) are worth remembering:

"The first question that the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But ... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"



January 2010

	FRIDAY 1	SATURDAY 2
	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 Saturday Sisters 8:00 Red Cross CPR 10:30 God's Clods 10:30 Bereavement 10:30 God's Clods
SUNDAY 3	MONDAY 4	TUESDAY 5
COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:00 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministry 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministry
EPIPHANY SUNDAY	7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:00 W Wed. Preparation 10:00 Siegel Bible Study 10:00 La Mountain Bible 2:30 Prayer Discovery 5-15 Music 5:30 Wonderful Wednesday 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	9:00 Fold/Mail Committee 9:15 Ruth Circle 1:00 Fibromyalgia 2:00 Green Committee 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 Creative Worship 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon
SUNDAY 10	MONDAY 11	TUESDAY 12
DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 10:00 UMW Exec Comm. 10:00 UMW Bazaar Meeting 11:00 Exercise 7:00 Sugarmill Meeting	10:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Faith Hope Circle 9:30 Helping Hand Circle 1:00 Dorcas Circle 3:00 Serendipity Bible 7:00 SALT V Circle
1ST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY BAPTISM OF THE LORD	7:00 Men's Prayer Group 10:00 Siegel Bible Study 10:00 La Mountain Bible 1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:30 Prayer Discovery 5-15 Music 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	9:15 Ruth Circle 10:00 Bus Trip - Mission Inn 4:00 Video Rehearsal 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon
SUNDAY 17	MONDAY 18	TUESDAY 19
PANTRY SUNDAY 7:00 BLOOD MOBILE 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 2:00 Friends of Chassahowitzka 6:00 Prayer Meeting	Martin Luther King Day OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:00 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministry 2:00 Finance 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministry
2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY MISSION SUNDAY	7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:00 Safe Driving Course 9:00 W Wednesday Prep 10:00 Siegel Bible Study 10:00 La Mountain Bible 11:00 La Mountain Bible 2:30 Prayer Discovery 3:30 SPRC 5-15 Music 5:30 Wonderful Wednesday 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	9:00 Genesis Fold/Mail 9:00 Safe Driving Course 1:00 Fibromyalgia 3:00 Missions 3:00 Permanent End. Comm. 3:30 Trustee Meeting 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 Creative Worship 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon
SUNDAY 24	MONDAY 25	TUESDAY 26
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Decorating Comm. 3:00 Serendipity Bible
3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ECUMENICAL SUNDAY	7:00 Men's Prayer Group 10:00 Siegel Bible Study 10:00 La Mountain Bible 1:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:30 Prayer Discovery 5-15 Music 5:45 Bells 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Choir	4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 COUNCIL 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon
SUNDAY 31	MONDAY 31	TUESDAY 31
CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting		
4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	<p><i>"Forgetting what is behind," Paul wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14, NIV)</i></p>	
	FRIDAY 15	SATURDAY 16
	9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible Study	8:00 Saturday Sisters 8:00 Red Cross CPR 10:30 Bereavement
	FRIDAY 22	SATURDAY 23
	COUNCIL REPORTS DUE 9:30 Our Father's Table 9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible Study	8:00 Saturday Sisters 10:30 Bereavement
	FRIDAY 29	SATURDAY 30
	9:30 Disciple III 10:00 Wise Bible Study	8:00 Saturday Sisters 8:45 Final Gift of Love (End of Life Issues) 10:30 Bereavement

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.1umc.org

Neil Kline, Webmaster

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

Rev. Mark Whittaker
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM

Nursery at all services

EBADOC Academy &

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM

Office Hours: Weekdays

8:30AM to 4:30PM

Office Telephone: 352-628-4083

Send or Give Submissions For Genesis To:

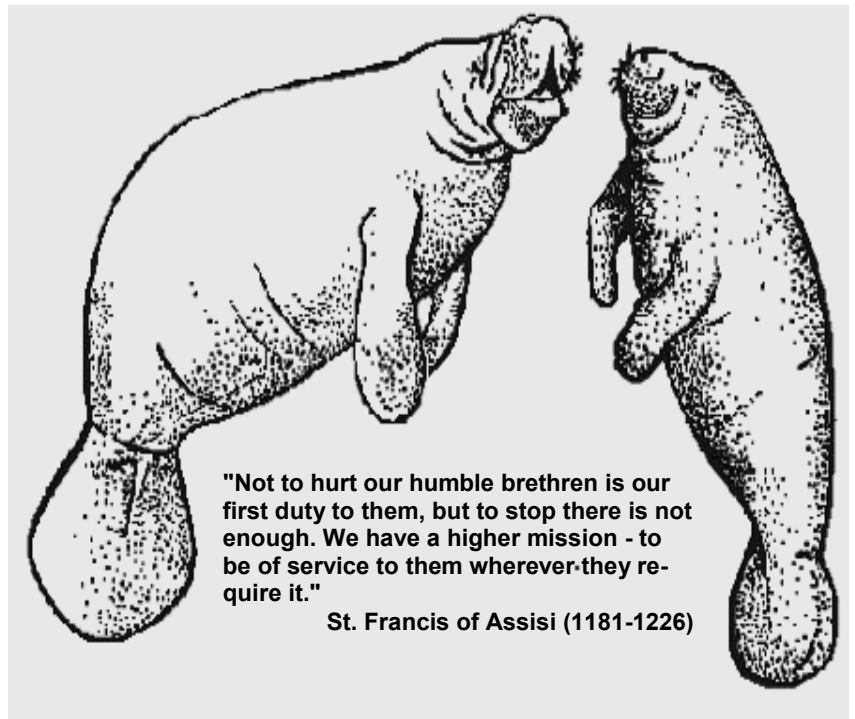
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Soli Deo Gloria



"Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission - to be of service to them wherever they require it."

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

January 2010