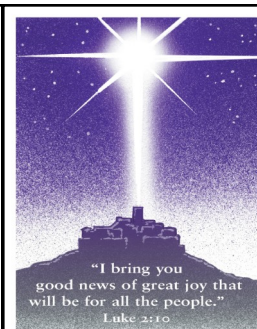


# GENESIS

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

Open Hearts—Open Minds—Open Doors  
We are a Stephen Ministry Church

January 2011, Volume 15, Issue 1



Do you know who Marion Morrison, Frances Gumm, Norma Jean Baker, Roy Fitzgerald and Betty Pepske are? They are all famous people you know very well if you are at least 30 or so. They have touched most of our lives and cost us a great deal of time and money. They are in the same order John Wayne, Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, Rock Hudson and Lauren Bacall. All of these movie stars changed their names in order to create a new image for themselves.

Names are important. Your name on a document says you will do it, and connecting your name to your work says you are proud of what you have done. Parents usually are very concerned about what they name their children; although some think it's funny to name their children Cherry Pie, Christmas Eve or Ima Baker, most try to find a name that reflects their family heritage and beliefs. Our son, Marshall, was named after his grandparents. Biblical names are still very popular especially in America. Our name is important to us. If someone forgets us we are forgotten, if they mispronounce our name, make fun of it we are the one who is being made fun of.

In the Bible names are also important, Abraham and Sarah and Peter and Paul all had their names changed by the events they experienced. Frequently the names of places that proved to be significant were changed, like Jabbock became Bethel after Jacob met God there. You have a new name also. When you accept Jesus Christ as Lord, you receive a new name ☐ Christian, We become Christian Mary Jones or John Smith, Christian. It is part of your identity, part of how people see you in the world. It makes you a unique individual, a child of God; loved, forgiven, saved.

Having the name of a famous person is a very heavy burden. But we can pull it off if we are willing to be disciples of the one we have been names after ☐ Jesus Christ.

Go forth into the world in the name of Christ.

*Mark*



**“Everyone Becoming A Disciple of Christ”**

The purpose of an organization’s mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation. It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future. The mission statement of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was adopted on January 27, 2005. All of us need to memorize the mission statement and do all that we can to make it a reality in our lives.

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Phone: (352) 628-4083

Fax: (352) 628-9086

**WEBSITE**

www.1umc.org

**OUR AWESOME STAFF**

**PASTOR**

Rev. Mark Whittaker

**ADMINISTRATOR**

Theresa Weber

**BOOKKEEPER**

Sandy Dewart

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Patience Nave

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

Dixie Lay

Joy Potts

Dayna Middlebrooks

**PARISH NURSE**

Karen Kline

**PARISH VISITOR**

Peggy Benson

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-  
DENT**

**& NURSERY SUPERVISOR**

Sandra Tam

**YOUTH COORDINATOR**

Crystal Wiseman

**SOUND TECHNICIAN**

Sharon Cooley

**NIGHT SECURITY**

Michael Rodgers

**CUSTODIAN**

Dale Evans

**The Purpose of Genesis Is To:**

**NOTIFY** its readers of what has happened, what is happening and what is scheduled to happen.

**EDIFY** believers by printing material that encourages and strengthens their Christian walk.

**GLORIFY** God by being one of His instruments of communication at FUMCH and wherever else he may choose to spread the Word through this publication.

**TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS**

**TWO-TAILS ELEPHANT RANCH**

**Tuesday, January 18, 9:45 a.m.**

After lunch at the Ivy House in Williston and a short visit to area antique shops, we will tour the ranch and learn all about elephants from one of the world’s greatest experts. Cost: \$20 (lunch on your own). Checks, payable to FUMC and given to Ann Morrison, on or before January 10, 2011.

Future trips:

**Historic Bok Tower and Gardens**

**March 2011, Date to be announced**

Walk through the beautiful gardens with azaleas and rhododendrons in bloom, along with many other spring flowers. Throughout the sanctuary the 60-bell carillon can be heard.

**SHOW PALACE AND DINNER**

**THEATRE IN HUDSON**

**April 2011, Date to be announced**



\*Don't skip meals. Hunger and low blood sugar lead to overeating.

Most of all celebrate and focus on what the holidays are really about; a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and spending time with family and friends.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

What is your eating plan for the holidays?

Here is a scary thought: It is not unusual to gain five pounds during the holiday season. This happens because during this season we consume an average of 200 calories per day more than we need! These calories come from high-fat, high-calorie foods low in nutrients. Add to this is the fact that we seem to have more responsibilities during this season and it easy to make excuses to neglect exercise.

OK, how do we prevent this weight gain? If we could remember that the actual holidays are only two days (Christmas and New Year's) and we blow our healthily eating habits on only those days we won't do much damage, and there would not be a problem.

For most of us that is not a realistic approach. We need to have a plan. Here are a few suggestions:

- \*Eat a light healthy snack or a salad before holiday parties.
- \*Limit alcohol. If you want, enjoy one alcoholic beverage and then switch another beverage.
- \*Keep minimal holiday goodies on hand. If you love to bake, only bake what you plan to give away or serve for a special event.
- \*Bring a healthy holiday dish to a party
- \*Try to include some exercise into your daily routine. Start by trying to include a 15 minute walk daily.

JOHN 6:27

**WORK**  
FOR...  
FOOD THAT ENDURES TO  
ETERNAL LIFE,  
WHICH THE SON OF MAN  
WILL GIVE YOU.



### Within the Church

Greeters  
 Ushers  
 Music Ministries  
 Attendance Tracking  
 Biblical Travel Ministry  
 Blood Bank  
 Christian Education  
 Communion Stewards  
 Counters  
 Disaster Relief Programs  
 Flower Arranging Ministry  
 Folding & Mailing  
 Funeral Receptions  
 Genesis Newsletter  
 Library  
 Lenten Soup Suppers  
 Online Picture Directory  
 Parish Nurse Ministry  
 Prayer Ministry  
 Singles Ministry  
 Stewardship  
 Audio-Video Ministry  
 UMW Circles  
 United Methodist Women  
 Visitation Care Group  
 Wednesday Night Dinners  
 Youth Ministry

### Outreach Ministries

Annual Seminar for Elder Needs  
 Bus Ministry  
 Disaster Relief & Response Team  
 God's Clods (Clown Ministry)  
 Health Related Workshops  
 Hugs for Soldiers  
 Knit for Kids Ministry  
 Linda's Loaves  
 Men's Monday Morning Work Group  
 Men's Wed Morning Prayer Breakfast  
 Missionaries to Haiti, Siberia, and Thailand  
 Nursing Home Ministries

Parish Nurse  
 Prayer Shawl Ministry  
 Prison Ministry  
 Shut-In Visitation  
 Stephen Ministry  
 Tuned To Revival Quartet  
 Thrift Shop  
 Volunteers in Missions  
 Vacation Bible School  
 Welcome Bags World  
 State Travel Groups

### Small Groups

Bereavement Group  
 Cancer Survivor  
 Contemporary Issues  
 Individual Bible Study Groups  
 Fibromyalgia Support Group  
 PAWS  
 Saturday Sisters  
 Serendipity

### Discipleship Classes

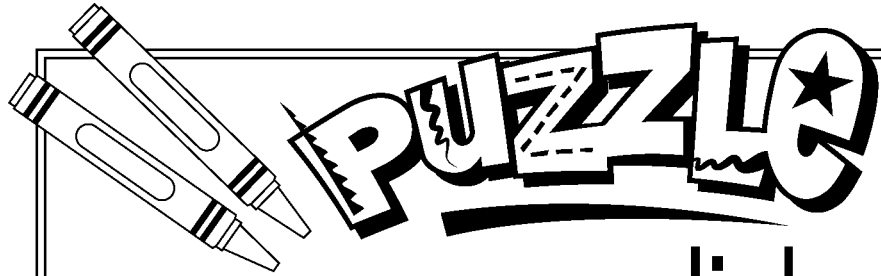
Companions in Christ  
 Disciple I & IV

### Benevolences

CROP Walk  
 Equipment for Handicapped  
 Food Pantry  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Holiday Food Baskets  
 Methodist Children's Home  
 Salvation Army  
 SHARE  
 St. Andrew's Mission  
 The Heifer Project  
 The Path  
 Toys for Children

### Community Outreach

AA  
 Al-Anon  
 After school tutoring  
 Camp-E-Nini-Hassee  
 FCAT tutoring  
 Hospice  
 Isaiah's Place  
 Kiwanis Breakfast  
 Our Father's Table



# From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good   | Righteousness |
| 2. Death  | Children      |
| 3. Go     | Life          |
| 4. Evil   | Come          |
| 5. Adults | Bad           |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"  
2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

*Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



## THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM January 2011

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declared the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*  
*“ (Isaiah 55:8-9)*

When we experience a change of culture, we are challenged with ways and thoughts unfamiliar to us.

When I moved to Florida, it took me awhile to realize “hey, there” wasn’t someone flagging me down but just a southern way of saying “hello.” Another challenge came with determining just how many were meant by “yo’all come”—did that mean me and my family and friends or just me?

A friend going on a missionary trip to Kenya needed to learn Kenyan cultural habits so as not to offend. For example, hand gestures that are automatic here could be offensive in that country. It was important that my friend learn and practice behavior acceptable in Kenya’s culture.

When God the Father offered a way of escape from the kingdom of darkness into his kingdom of light, those who accepted his offer experienced a dramatic cultural shock. The practices of God’s kingdom differ sharply with those of the world. *Un-*  
*deserved love, unearned grace and unmer-*

*ited favor* create the atmosphere in which kingdom-of-light believers live.

In Bethlehem, on the night the angels sang of Messiah’s birth, we see the contrast. In the darkness, we hear “no room in the inn,” with a stable being the only available shelter for an anxious husband and his ready-to-give-birth wife. But, in a manger setting, the ways and thoughts of the kingdom of light radiate. Heaven offers its “show and tell”—an extravagant gift of undeserved love. Light triumphed over darkness as God became a baby, and his parents named him Jesus.

How well do we know this One who was sent to both show and tell us the ways of God’s kingdom? How much do we really want to know him?

*Prayer: Father, please teach us your ways and thoughts so we can experience the promised abundant life of your kingdom.*  
*In Jesus’ name, Amen*



### ANNOUNCING A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

#### A CHALLENGE TO CHANGE!

On January 9, 2011, Jan Wise will be offering a new Sunday School class from 10:45 to 11:45 in room 114.

Take this opportunity to challenge yourself to change your usual routine and start the New Year in a Sunday School class with inspiration, education and good fellowship. Jan will be doing a study on the Book of Galatians.

#### **SHARE FLORIDA**

SHARE Florida is a non-profit organization that rewards personal community involvement with a substantial savings on delicious food and groceries. SHARE encourages its members to donate their time to a worthy cause within our community.

**SHARE has no income requirements.** and they reach across Florida through community locations like ours. We do not share our personal information with anyone.

*SHARE's volume power-buying allows them to buy direct with national food distributors. Their non-profit status and the staff of volunteers keep them heading in the right direction, heads and shoulders above the discount buying clubs and grocery stores. SHARE has been helping people save money on their food cost since 1990.*

Their food is very good and the produce is always fresh. There is no minimum to buy - you may buy however much you would like.

The starting point is **\$20.00** for the basic which includes a basic fruit and veggie pack. You can also order online if that would make it easier for you, and then pick it up with us at the church on D-Day which is Saturday, December 18, 2010.

[www.shareflorida.org](http://www.shareflorida.org)

**Order days are 12/1 and 12/4 for December**

At this time I would like to thank everyone for the great welcome and all the support you have given me as I take this over. Please know I really appreciate it, and hope to keep going strong.



### THANK YOU!

Well it's this time of year again. The Bazaar is over as well as the yard sale. The reports are not in yet but we didn't do as well as last year. However we just thank God that we did as well as we did. It was work, but we had fun, too. The workshops went very well. Thanks to all the wonderful workers that I had. They were certainly wonderful and so talented. The wreaths were just beautiful, the greeting cards, posters, gift items, were just wonderful. I'm not putting in names because I'm always afraid I'll leave someone out. But to all I express my heartfelt THANKS for a job well done. I look forward to next year and we will be making some changes next year.

The meeting to finalize 2010 and start planning for 2011 will be January 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 106. This is for all circle leaders or representatives and any one else interested in helping with the planning for next year. This is for all circle leaders or representatives and any one else interested in helping with the planning for next year. I'd like for the workshop workers to plan to attend, too.

Again, I would like to thank all those who helped with the workshops, provided items, baked goods, worked in the kitchen

and provided assistance in any way. Without you it would have been impossible.

Thanks again and May God Bless each of you in a special way. Look forward to seeing you in January!

Pat Blake, Bazaar Chairman



### HOLIDAY BAZAAR



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Submitted by Helen Lefave, President

### LOOKING BACK:

U.M.W. Circles collected a World Thank Offering at their November meetings and this money was forwarded to the District Treasurer for Undesignated Missions.

The U.M.W. Holiday Bazaar and subsequent clearance sale netted a profit close to \$3,000.00. As a result, we will be able to donate to several local charities as well as our Vacation Church School and the church's Youth Group. Members of the Youth Group were a great help at the Bazaar luncheon.

Seven members attended the 37<sup>th</sup> U.M.W. Florida Conference Annual Meeting in Lakeland on November 13. A total of 600 women were in attendance.

U.M.W. members conducted a sale of assorted Christmas cookies between services on December 19.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

Our United Methodist Women Unit will carry on its Purpose of knowing God, experiencing freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, developing a creative, supportive fellowship and expanding concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church through the commitment of the following officers who have been installed and will lead us in 2011:

President – LORI DECLUE  
Vice-President – NANCY PEARO  
Secretary – HELEN LEFAVE  
Treasurer – JACKIE LA MOUNTAIN  
Secretary of Program Resources – BARBARA JACKSON

9

Spiritual Growth Coordinator –  
MYRNA EVANS

Membership, Outreach & Nurture  
Coordinator – RUTH OBLINGER

Education & Interpretation Coordinator –  
SHARON RAPP

Social Action Coordinator – LIB GAINES  
Committee on Nominations:

SHARON DEUTSCH, Chairman

KAY BAST

JO ANN RYAN

CAROL MAC KENZIE

SHARON RAPP

Publicity Director – KIM BENNETT

### MOVING RIGHT ALONG:

A NEW YEAR of Circle meetings and activities has begun with much anticipation for continuing fellowship, mission studies and mission outreach.

THRIFT SHOP MINISTRY will continue to be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 am to Noon. Chairman is MARGE DAVIS

BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING will be held January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Chairman is PAT BLAKE. A representative from each Circle should attend.

A list of books included in the U.M.W..  
READING PROGRAM has been posted in the Church Library.

THANK YOU to all U.M.W. members for your help and cooperation during my administration in 2010. HELEN LEFAVE,  
PRESIDENT

**Through Serendipity, the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things.**

Due in part to the efforts of our Serendipity Men's Group, I have become more attuned to the influences that weather has upon some of those efforts. Outside temperature this morning is 30 degrees. Where are the homeless today? Volunteers work hard to extend the simple necessity of warmth to many in our community. Our church opens its doors to house homeless women on cold nights. Likewise, some of our people supervise homeless men at the Salvation Army facility. A warm meal is afforded before returning to "the woods". Perhaps this doesn't seem like much, but to those who are fortunate enough to be in a warm building for a night, it's a welcomed blessing. We sometimes become hardened or calloused when hearing, reading, and seeing so much mention of homeless conditions. "But for the grace of God", it could be you or me in a similar position. The numbers and needs are growing.

As you read this, the mad rush of holidays is behind us, the rebirth of the Christ child in all of its glory has been experienced again, and a new year is upon us. It is time when we begin to think about making resolutions; changes in how we do things in our personal lives. Many, we don't keep very long or not at all! Perhaps, hopefully, something during Advent happened that might lead us to real changes. I think, to myself, perhaps I can do a bit more to help my neighbor. Perhaps, I can be a bit more thoughtful towards others. Perhaps, I can devote an hour or two to learn more about helping others.

As you ponder a resolution for next year, consider one of joining a Bible discussion group. For you men, consider joining with Serendipity on Tuesday afternoons. We want to do much more to help those

around us who have many needs but we need more men: men who wish to learn more of God's word and work in our everyday lives. We have wonderfully informative and lively discussions and we learn how we can give more help to those in need. Your resolution to join us could lead to a life change for you and/or others. A new experience. A new source for close friends...becoming friends of other men of like mind. You are encouraged to join with us. Our meetings are from 3:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. each Tuesday, in the Chapel.

Reminder: Our next Serendipity pancake breakfast is Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011. Join us for a tasty and friendly breakfast and bring a friend or neighbor with you. All you can eat for \$4.00 and \$2.00 for children. Call Jim Potts for information. 382-1842



Marilyn Watson

## BEING INTENTIONAL

Here we are beginning another year! No, I'm not going to talk about new year's resolutions. Perhaps fresh starts would be a good idea. But that brings to mind again what spiritual formation is: "...the process initiated by God of transforming us into the image of Christ for the good of others." God guides us from wherever we are right now to change us into the image of Christ for the good of others. It's a process not a destination. Since it is a *process*, we have no reason to feel badly about where we perceive that we are on our journey – we're all making the same journey. Another reason to not condemn ourselves is that the process is initiated by God. None of us – no, not anyone of us has arrived. So let's all start by saying "yes" and by giving God our time to be molded and shaped into the image of Christ for the good of others.

We can encounter God anywhere. Moses heard God speak from a burning bush! But Moses had to listen and obey. If you think of his journey or that of the Israelites, you realize there was a lot God taught them during their wanderings. There was also Jonah who apparently knew just what God wanted him to do "for the sake of others", but he didn't want to do it so he ran away. Most of us know that didn't work too well and in the end Jonah was used for the good of the people of Ninevah; certainly Jonah was shaped and molded during that experience! Frankly I'd rather not have to learn the way Jonah did although I'm sure there are times when that's exactly how I learned – the hard way.

This being formed into the image of Christ is certainly hard work, but thankfully it's the work of the Holy Spirit in each of us. It's not something we are capable of doing ourselves as hard as we might try and as hard as that is to admit. It is, however, up to us to cooperate in the process. One of the ways of cooperating in the process is through obedience. Another way is by practicing the means of grace (spiritual disciplines). Since many of these are things we already do, being intentional will add to our experience of God and adding other means of grace will put us in a position to experience His grace in different ways.

Many of us go to church every Sunday. Not

all of us go to worship every Sunday. Make your experience on Sunday morning one of intentionality. When you go to worship, I challenge you to go with an intention to worship, to give your burdens to God, to leave the world outside the doors of the sanctuary (it is a sanctuary), to ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear what He has for you that day, and to respond accordingly.

Many of us pray, but few of us listen. Try taking time to quiet yourself before the Lord before you begin, perhaps lighting a candle as a symbol of His presence. You may want to begin by praising Him for who He is and be sure to take some time to listen. In prayer we nurture our relationship with our Loving God, that's hard to do if it's a one-sided conversation. After the conversation is over, try just basking in His presence...it's a very good place to be.

Something else many of you do is serve. It can be more meaningful by being aware of doing this service in the name of Christ -- to honor and glorify Him. Serving is a spiritual discipline.

Another of the spiritual disciplines we do very well is Christian fellowship! A way of making that more intentional is to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and to make one of the topics of conversation what the Lord is doing in your life. It will uplift your spirit as well as encourage those around you.

So I urge you as we begin this new year to make the means of grace you practice more intentional and to venture out and try some different spiritual practices (disciplines). Take more time for yourself; make it a time to be with God basking in His presence growing to be more like Christ.

*Marilyn Watson*

### A Workshop for Seniors! Richard Evans

FUMCH will host a special Workshop for our senior members and friends (and their families) on Saturday morning, February 5, from 9:00 am until noon. Titled "The Years Ahead," the workshop will address four areas of interest.

**"Where Will You Live in the Years Ahead?"** Pat Coles, Supervisor of Senior Programs in Citrus County, will present information about a variety of resources available to residents who continue to live in their own homes. He will also identify other living options (for those no longer able to live at home)—and more!

**"What Legal Issues Will You Face in the Years Ahead?"** Attorney Tom Slaymaker will cover Last Will and Testament or Revocable Living Trust, Durable Power of Attorney, Advance Care Directives, Medicaid regulations—and more!

**"Financial Planning for the Years Ahead."** Rev. John Peterson will address such issues as getting the financial advice you may need, leveraging assets to maximize your income, charitable giving from accumulated assets—and more!

**"Spiritual Resources for the Years Ahead."** Pastor Mark Whittaker and Karen Kline, our Parish Nurse, will describe how the church can become your "extended family." And they will share how the Pastor and Staff, the Parish Nurse, the Visitation Committee, and the Stephen Ministry are there for you in every time of need.

Display tables full of additional resources on each area will be available for browsing and pick up by workshop participants. A question and answer period will complete the program prior to adjournment promptly at noon. Refreshments will be served beginning at 8:45 am and the program will begin at 9:00 am.

The workshop is being planned by the Permanent Endowment Committee and is offered at no charge as a service to all church members and their families. Please call the church office to register so that we may know how many to expect.



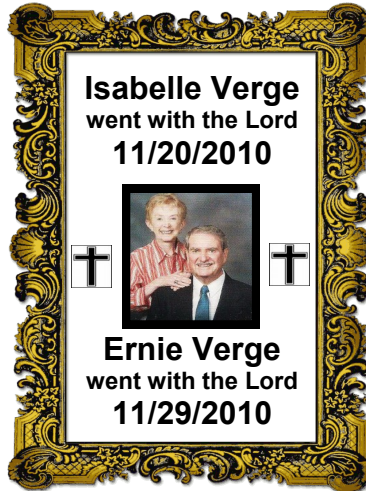
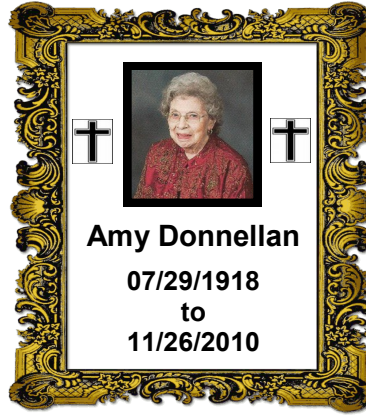
# Senior Adult Event

**JAN. 2011 ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4  
Lisa & Rusty Stocker  
~ 8 years ~
- 10  
Danielle & Robert Christensen  
~ 9 years ~
- Erin & Thomas Kimble  
~ 11 years ~
- 11  
Gail & Walter Rudolph  
~ 8 years ~
- 13  
Norma & Duane Geiger  
~ 60 years ~
- 15  
Karen & Neil Kline  
~ 39 years ~
- Lois & Jack Schoch  
~ 62 years ~
- 17  
Gloria & Zane Megos  
~ 42 years ~
- 21  
Marion & Michael Rodgers  
~ 5 years ~
- 31  
Gerry & James Graham  
~ 13 years ~



**IN MEMORIAM 13**



**Saturday 1****NEW YEARS DAY**

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

**Sunday 2****COMMUNION SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship  
 9:30 Sunday School  
 9:30 Traditional Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Worship

**Monday 3**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Committee  
 9:30 Visitation Committee  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Diabestes Support  
 6:00 Stephen Ministries  
 6:30 Disciple IV

**Tuesday 4**

9:00 WW PREP.  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 UMW Ex. Meeting  
 1:00 PICTURES  
 1:30 Stephen Ministries  
 3:00 Decorate  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 3:00 Stephen Ministers  
 5:30 Weight Watchers

**Wednesday 5**

7:00 Men's Prayer  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 10:00 PICTURES  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 5:15 Music  
 5:30 WW DINNER  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 6**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 PICTURES  
 2:00 Disciple I  
 2:00 Green Team  
 3:00 Quartet Rehearsal  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal  
 7:00 Disciple I  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 7****GENESIS DEADLINE**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:30 Disciple IV  
 10:00 PICTURES  
 10:00 Wise Bible

**Saturday 8****8:00 Serendipity Panc.**

8:00 Saturday Sisters  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 PICTURES  
 10:30 Bereavement  
 11:00 Donnellan Memorial

**Sunday 9****DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship  
 9:30 Sunday School  
 9:30 Traditional Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Worship

**Monday 10**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Committee  
 9:30 Visitation Committee  
 10:00 DIRECTORY deadline  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Alzheimer Support  
 6:30 Disciple IV  
 7:00 SMW Annual Mtg.

**Tuesday 11**

9:30 Faith Hope Circle  
 9:30 Helping Hands  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 1:00 Dorcas Circle  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 4:00 Kitchen Committee  
 5:30 Weight Watchers  
 7:00 Salty Circle

**Wednesday 12**

7:00 Mens Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 1:00 Shawl Ministry  
 2:00 100th Anniversary  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 5:15 Music  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 13**

9:00 Back Pack  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:15 Ruth Circle  
 2:00 Disciple I  
 3:00 Quartet Rehearsal  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal  
 7:00 Disciple I  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 14**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:30 Disciple IV  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
 2:00 Cancer Support

**Saturday 15**

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

**Sunday 16**

**PANTRY SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship  
 9:30 Sunday School  
 9:30 Traditional Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Worship

**Monday 17**

**OFFICE CLOSED  
 MLK DAY**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 PEO  
 8:30 Tracking Committee  
 9:30 Visitation Committee  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Fibromyalgia Support  
 6:00 Isaiah Foundation  
 6:00 Stephen Ministers  
 7:00 Disciple IV

**Tuesday 18**

9:00 WW PREP.  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 1:30 Stephen Ministers  
 2:00 Finance  
 3:00 Serendipidity Bible  
 3:00 Stephen Ministers  
 5:30 Weight Watchers

**Wednesday 19**

7:00 Mens Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 3:30 Staff/Parish Relations  
 5:15 Music  
**5:30 WW DINNER**  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 20**

9:00 Back Pack  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 2:00 Disciple I  
 3:00 Missions  
 3:00 Quartet Rehearsal  
 3:30 Trustees  
 4:00 Video Rehearsal  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 21**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:30 Disciple IV  
 10:00 Wise Bible

**Saturday 22**

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

**Sunday 23**

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship  
 9:30 Sunday School  
 9:30 Traditional Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Worship

**Monday 24**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Committee  
 9:30 Visitation Committee  
 10:00 Bazaar Committee  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Stroke Support  
 7:00 Disciple IV

**Tuesday 25**

10:00 Staff Meeting  
 3:00 Serendipidity Bible  
 5:30 Weight Watchers

**Wednesday 26**

7:00 Mens Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 1:00 Shawl Ministry  
 2:00 100th Anniversary  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 5:15 Music  
**5:30 WW DINNER**  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 27**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 2:00 Disciple I  
 3:00 Quartet Rehearsal  
 4:00 Video Rehearsal  
 7:00 COUNCIL  
 7:00 Disciple I  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 28**

7:00 Our Fathers Table  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:30 Disciple IV  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
 1:00 Our Father's Table

**Saturday 29**

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

**Sunday 30**

**CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship  
 9:30 Sunday School  
 9:30 Traditional Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Worship  
 2:00 Friends of Chaz.

**Monday 31**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Committee  
 9:30 Visitation Committee  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 7:00 Disciple IV.

1

April Collins  
John Collins  
Barbara Hartley  
Joyce Stone

2

John Cooley  
Marian Sandlas

3

Carol Eriksson  
Gloria Marquis  
James Stoneman

6

Barbara Bellcase

7

Dot Reed  
James Roberts

8

Sue Kuntz  
Jane Ling

11

Edith Ament  
Carolee Gettings  
Mary Kay Messenger  
Bill Morrison

12

Myrna Evans  
Joyce Leaming  
Ed Messenger

13

Louis Garthaus  
Hilda Seagren  
Iris Whittaker

14

Annie Carl  
Evelyn Knight  
Mary Severance

16

Stan DeClue  
Marilyn Grime  
David Marquis  
Elwin Mosier  
Ruth Smith

17

Ann Ice  
Thomas Kimble  
Harold Swinson

19

Robert Grafton  
Glen Gunderson

20

Pat Archer  
Paul Patton Jr.

21

Betty Blockus  
Colleen DeClue

22

Agnes Brickmeier  
Jane Hamilton

23

Nancy Buzby  
Beatrice Davis  
Bruce Stull  
Beverly Wagner

24

Elly Case  
Randy Weber

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



## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

(as of 12/2/2010)

### AVANTE

Annie Preston

### BRENTWOOD

Evelyn Bash

### CYPRESS COVE

George Cole

### DIAMOND RIDGE

Betty Duncan

### HUNT RESIDENCE

Bill Marquis

### LIFE CARE

Alma Kadel

### SUGARMILL MANOR

Shirley Hart

Grace Payne

### SUNFLOWER SPRINGS

Ruth Eaton

Fran Graham

Joanna Miller

Abbye Jean & Bill Richner

### WOODLAND TERRACE

Shirley Weber



Bless us, O Lord, and bless  
the time and seasons yet to  
come.

Teach us to number our days  
aright,  
That we may gain wisdom of  
heart.

And fill this new year with  
your kindness,  
That we may be glad and  
rejoice all the days of our  
life. Amen





# VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Having the ability to read is one of the greatest treasure you can own. Ponder learning how to share that treasure in January with those who have asked to learn. The Citrus County Library System will be offering a **free** Adult literacy Tutor Training workshop on January 27-28. If 5 or more people from this church register as a group, we would receive extra start-up materials. Regardless, each registered tutor attendee will receive a new LitStart textbook (valued at \$25.00).

I have been an adult literacy tutor since 1986 and can testify to its value and rewards. I will be attending the training--you can never know enough!  
Seating is limited. Please call as soon as possible if this event fits in your plans. We can work out car pooling, etc. later.

Please call Cherie or Susan to register at 352-628-5626. Call me-- Sue Norman (352-461-3235) if you think I could help clarify things further.

Dear praying friends,  
It's always such a joy to enter this time of year, isn't it? Despite the commercial trappings, there is still much to cherish as we move from a time of warm thanksgiving into a time of celebration for the greatest Gift of all. We trust you will have a glorious Christmas season as you focus on the One from whom "every good and perfect gift" comes (James 1:17). May the Lord richly bless your remembrance of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ this year!

Praises

✝..... Our agency's new foundation in Thailand – **Pioneers International Foundation** – held its first post-approval board meeting last month and approved four of our teams as "projects" under the foundation. That means those teams, including our HOME Team, can begin inviting "volunteers" (team members) to serve in those projects. Praise God! We've already sent out two invitation letters, and our family will be among the first holders of a foundation visa/work permit as Joe is the foundation director. Next up: Please pray for us to set up a smooth and viable legal process to handle all the paperwork.

✝..... Praise God that a number of supporters have shown their generosity yet again in helping us out of the financial hole created by the falling U.S. dollar. As mentioned a couple months ago, we've lost \$1,000 a month in spending ability here in Thailand because the dollar has fallen so far. Please pray for our support as we need to raise another \$1,000 a month. (If you would like to help financially, please send a tax-deductible check

filled out to "Pioneers" to PIONEERS, 10123 William Carey Dr., Orlando, FL 32832 USA and attach a note saying it's for the Henrys, account #110798.)

✝..... Elaine led the Cool Shade of



Life Church **women's group** on an outing to Burma last month (see "women" photo). The group had an enjoyable time crossing the border to shop, eating along the way and visiting a hot spring and an elaborately decorated temple. Praise God for this group of women that is growing in the Lord and in their relationships as sisters in Christ!

✝..... This month's **cultural photo** is "snake." We ran across this

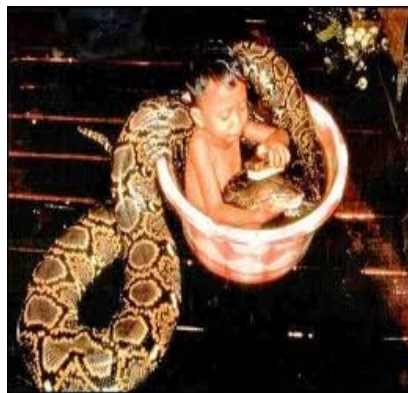


photo on the Internet and couldn't resist sharing it as one of those things that can only happen in Thailand! The boy having a bath with his python is a bit unusual as pythons typically are too busy eating things about the size of this child!

Prayers

✝..... We have a number of **Christmas events** planned this month. Elaine will be hosting Christmas parties for the Cool Shade of Life Church women's and youth groups. Also, we will be helping to organize our PIONEERS area's Christmas party this year, our first one as Area Leader. It looks like about 80 people will attend that gathering on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for these parties to be honoring to God and planned well.

✝..... Speaking of Area Leader, our **first six months in field leadership** over Thailand and Burma have been encouraging and busy as we get up to speed on all that is happening. It has been a real blessing to work alongside the 11 teams in our area and to see how the Lord is moving. Please pray for us to be wise servants and to lead this area in humility and prayerful reliance on the Lord.

✝..... Our family has to **go to immigration** again later this month to "extend" our family education-type visa as Thailand makes foreigners pay again after 3 months to extend their one-year visa the additional 9 months the first time you get it (no comment on "money-making scheme" or any such thoughts ☹). So, following this extension, we will then go through the process of getting a foundation visa/work permit in February in Bangkok and do this "extension" thing all over again in May in *Chiang Mai* for the new volunteer-type visa. Sigh. Please pray for all this government paperwork

to go smoothly and for God to provide the necessary funds.

✝..... A family from New Zealand is seeking to join PIONEERS in order to **work with our team partner, Pastor Moses, in Mae Ai**. Praise God! They hope to come by mid-2011 and will live there immediately in order to inculturate in that location. Please pray for the Peterson family as they move through the application process and then raise financial support.

✝..... While the Petersons are planning to join our team's partnership in *Mae Ai*, there are still partnerships in *Sisaket* (near Cambodia), *Mae Jaem* (the mountains of western *Chiang Mai*) and ABS/CEC schools in *Chiang Mai* that need help. Please continue to pray for **the Lord of the harvest to send workers** to these sites and even to three other Thai pastors who desire to partner with our team if He desires.

✝..... **Elaine returns to Chiang Mai** on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> following a three-week visit with her family in the U.S. She will be traveling for 34 hours and then has to hit the ground running with numerous Christmas events later that week. Pray for good travels, good health, and stamina.

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

Did You Know...

... that the three most disturbing words on American TV these days are "Move that bus"? That's the provocative suggestion of Pastor Mike Cospers, who writes on the arts for The Gospel Coalition. He says *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* may seem benign but really is hazardous – not because of overt sin like many shows but because it can lead people to .

Dear Faithful Friends of FUMCH!

“This is the day that the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice in it.”

2011....and a New Year has begun; a new year to serve and be ready for opportunities to share the hope, joy, and love that comes only from the Lord! Rejoice and be glad in this day and every day after; 'showing' others what He has given so freely!

**A new year and new beginnings...** our prayer is that this year will bring growth. That we will see decisions made to change lives and make a difference in the community for an eternity! We also hope this coming year will open doors for bigger projects in the community. We have come against some opposition because we are foreigners. We believe it's just fear of the unknown at this point. We have been able to do a small project for one of the local schools. Their shop program was in serious need of hearing protection for the students and we thought this would be an



opening to help in a practical way in hopes of something else in the future. However, we are encouraged in that we have several weekly studies at this time and a study on foundational understanding of the word on Sundays. We continue to press on in the hope that we have, knowing that His word will be heard and not return void!

**Christmas In the village** will be wonderful this year...we're just sorry we aren't there to take part in the celebration with our friends and 'family'. In the weeks leading up to New Years/ Christmas, there will be much preparation....they will have a 'flea market' on several weekends where the folks who have made some items to show and/or sell can bring them to the building. They exchange gifts on New Year's here and thought this would be a great way to help folks find something special to give as gifts **and** help those selling, earn a little money at the same time. Of course there will be **lots** of food, games, skits, more food, and fireworks at midnight! Christmas is still celebrated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Jan. so the fellowship will hold a special service and invite friends and family to hear the true meaning of Christmas. (Hopefully we'll have pictures and more to share in next month's newsletter on this celebration.)

**Youth group...**of the five girls attending our weekly studies, only one has a father at home. She's blessed to have a father who cares for and provides love in the home. The others have fathers, but they're either in jail, have left the family, or moved on to another family altogether. They don't have heroes or role models....they're at home alone most times and basically are raising themselves/and or their siblings. The oldest girl is 14! This is the age where we can lose them or bring them to an understanding of a 'father' that truly does love them and cares about their future in every way. We've been going through a booklet that discusses the importance of vows or promises and characteristics that show a heart for the Lord. Please remember these young ladies ....that they would seek Him and not the ways of the world. Peer pressure is just as great here as anywhere else and teen pregnancy is quite common.

**Several men** were able to complete some major projects before the cold hit! We have a barn for the cow and an area for it to roam as well. Much of the fire wood was cut; however this winter appears to be hitting hard and cold so much more wood will be needed before long. The porch to the building is complete, only without a handrail at this time. Dry wood is next to



impossible to find...it all goes south of f here...and what we had purchased just wasn't enough. It will just have to wait for spring. The men working on the saddles are back in the shop, hard at work. Since this is all new, it's taking a little more time than they'd like, but it will, most definitely be worth the wait! Their work is beautiful and quite different from what is sold here.

**Training.....** spending four weeks in the Midwest for continued education/training. Even though we've been working in the area for almost 14 years, we know there is always something new we can learn to help take the work to the next level. This will be an intensive time of training so please remember us during this time.

**Finally...**we are so grateful for the time we have in the States this year. Although it's only been a little over two years since our last visit, we feel like it's been much longer. We believe it's most likely because we've had some health issues lately

and the transition to life in the village has been more of a challenge than we thought. But there is still much work to be done and we feel this village is where we need to be 'for a season. 'We're excited about the time we will have with our boys, (young men now) and the time with family! We miss out on so much when we're away and treasure the time we're given to try and catch up on things and get lots of hugs! J

We are also VERY grateful for each one of you! You're faithfulness to the work is immeasurable and we could never be here without your prayers and words of encouragement throughout the year! THANK YOU!!

We would ask you keep us in your thoughts and prayers over the next several months as we will be on the road for much of the time. We have many folks to visit and share with and even though we'll be in the States for over five months, the time will fly by!!

Joyfully,  
Kevin & Laura

## Religious Ed



If you are not already aware, Patience Nave has taken a new position in North Carolina as of December 1, 2010. She will be missed by all of us and we wish her much happiness in her new home.

I was offered the position and am excited about the opportunity to work with all the dedicated people who provide Christian Education in our church.

Our first opportunity for change in the New Year is a Sunday school class offered by Jan Wise beginning January 9th. Jan will be meeting with her new class from 10:45 to 11:45 each Sunday. This especially gives those who attend the second service a Sunday school class to attend. Jan will be using her book *Walk out of Worry* for the first sessions. I hope many of you will prayerfully consider joining this new class.

If you have considered volunteering in any capacity here at the church please give me a call and we can explore all the opportunities to serve. It is very enjoyable and a wonderful opportunity to meet new Christian friends.

My door is always open and you are welcome to stop by anytime. I plan to be in my office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and any other time at your request.

Kay Bast

## Reason for Cheer

A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, "Blue Monday" falls on January 24.

Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year's resolutions and the end of the holiday break.

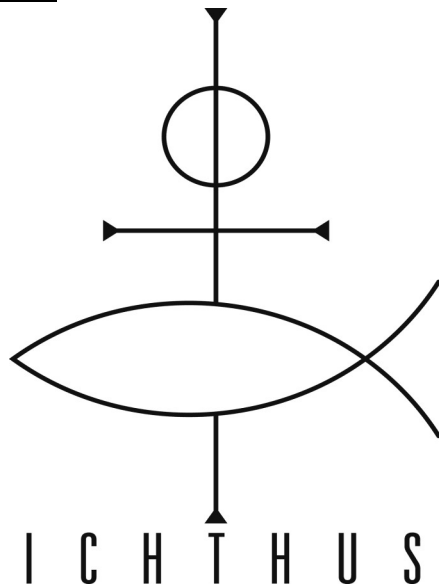
But no matter how bleak things seem -- regardless of the time of year -- Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."





*“I have set before you  
LIFE and DEATH ....  
CHOOSE LIFE so that  
you and your descendants may live.”*

*Deuteronomy 30:19, NRSV*



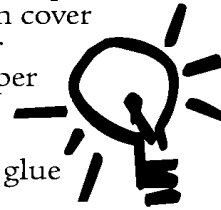
The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian Faith.

## LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



### What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out “Live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they’ll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.





A lot of people who do not regularly read the Bible have forwarded the notion that the Bible minimizes or discounts women. It is true there are places here and there where women were not named (such as the wife of Noah) but there are plenty of places where men are also nameless (the Good Samaritan, for instance, never is named).

Not only do women in the Bible get positions of prominence, even title roles sometimes, the way the Bible talks about women is actually progressive and rather out of step with the patriarchal times in which the stories were written.

Take Esther. It would be hard to find a more heroic figure, male or female. Up-rooted as a young woman and carted off to a harem, Esther rose to become queen of a world power. Through no fault of her own, Esther quickly got involved in court politics at one of the most dangerous royal families in the world, namely the court of King Xerxes. (King Xerxes was allegedly so paranoid that only seven men could come into his presence without express permission. It turns out he was not so paranoid, after all; he actually did get murdered by one of the people at his own court.) A genocidal plot against the Jews of that era was foiled by the adept strategies of a young woman.

Another Biblical book about an unlikely heroine is Ruth. This is a quick-read (it is just four chapters) that will impress you like a short story. Ruth refuses to abandon the care of her widowed mother-in-law, even when her mother-in-law gives her a gracious out. Ruth follows her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem where she works among the gleaners. This was a rough, rowdy group of mostly men who did backbreaking labor in the hopes of scraping up enough to feed their family. Through her many ordeals, Ruth remains a quiet, hard-working, dignified young woman who eventually catches the eye of a prominent man. Biblical authorities sometimes wrangle a bit with the manner in which Ruth was able to get Boaz

to marry her. Some say she was quite forward, even daring, yet a study of the culture of her time reveals that she was only doing what she had to do to allow the man who admired her to know she was amenable to marriage.

Other Biblical women include Sarah (who followed her husband into the Promised Land and had a baby at the ripe old age of 100 which, the Bible points out, is old for that sort of thing!) and Miriam (the sister of Moses and herself a prophetess) and Abigail, one of the eight wives of King David.

More emphasis is placed on the so-called bad girls of the Bible, including Queen Jezebel (a murderous pagan woman who pushed her husband around, and he was a pretty rough character) and sometimes Bathsheba, another of the many wives of King David.

Bathsheba may be getting a bad rap. King David committed [adultery](#) with Bathsheba, that is certain; in fact, Bathsheba got pregnant by David while she was married to another man and he was not married to her. Yet it is unclear how much coercion the king exerted on this woman. We do know that David spied on her, peeking at her while she bathed, and that he then spent some time with her. It is not known if and to what extent she might have protested. The Bible is strangely silent on that point.

In the [New Testament](#), the Bible says that there were women among the disciples of Jesus. Two prominent ones are Mary (a friend of Jesus, not his mother or the woman with the surname Magdalene) and Martha. When this Mary decided one day to sit among the men and listen to [Jesus](#) teach rather than work in the kitchen with her sister Martha, Jesus said that Mary had chosen the better part. This was no social faux-pas, but rather a revolutionary move, since women in that era were not considered worthy of educating and certainly never would be educated among a group of men.

When Jesus was tried, beaten, and sent to die on the cross, He had been long deserted by most of His followers and even His inner circle of apostles, but a few females, including his [mother Mary](#), faithfully stayed with Him as He died. The early church was advanced in large part by women like Lydia, who helped fund Paul's missionary journeys and who, according to legend but not the Bible, may have helped support Luke as he wrote his gospel.

Priscilla is named as a daikonos of a church in Greece; the term can mean anything from a deacon or pastor to a helper and Paul credits her in Romans with having taught him a lot. Women in the Bible range from the mysterious Queen of Sheba to the plain-spoken Leah, from Dinah and Tamar, daughter of King David (both Dinah and Tamar were abused) to Esther and Jezebel who ruled with greater and lesser degrees of godliness.

The Bible includes a warrior woman (Deborah led troops into battle) and working women (Ruth and the Proverbs 31 woman, who goes nameless), powerful women (Esther, Miriam) and simple women (the widow who befriended Elijah or the prophetess Anna who lived at the Temple in Jerusalem).

The Bible presents such a diversity of women in usual and not-so-very-usual situations that it creates for readers the notion that females throughout history have been involved in politics, war, religion, and greater and lesser causes. The fact that not every woman in the Bible is depicted as godly and honorable lends authenticity to the many women who appear in its pages. Just like in real life, women of the Bible come in all shapes, colors, sizes, and with a wide variety of abilities and intentions.

Read more: <http://www.articlesbase.com/religion-articles/women-of-the-bible-940053.html#ixzz19VW3jHmJ>

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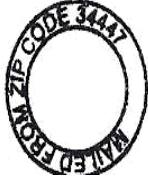


*“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”*

*Proverbs 31:29, NIV*

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# JANUARY 2011

