

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

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

October 2005

Volume 9 Issue 7

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Steven Skelley

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**Parish Visitation**

Patience Nave

**Music Department**

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Joy Potts

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**Night Security**

Don Snedeker

**Custodian**

Dale Evans

# What Is Your Point Of Reference?

By Pastor Mark Whittaker

Each morning I start the day by walking on the tread mill. 30 minutes of a fast paced upward climb that helps me to wake up, tone up and stretch out the muscles.

As you walk along, the one thing that you don't want to do is to close your eyes.

It is very difficult (though not impossible if you practice) to walk with your eyes closed.

The problem is that when you close your eyes you loose your point of reference.

You can no longer see where "up" is and so you become disorientated and tend to fall down - or at least have to put the other foot down to regain your balance.

I remembered trying this a while back, and it occurred to me later during my devotional time, that this is typical of our spiritual life as well.

We all need a "point of reference" on which to focus if we are to keep our balance in life.

We need something that we can rely on, count on, depend on, and to be there for us, to keep us going in

the right direction with our head up and facing forward!

There are a lot of people and things in the world who will volunteer for this position.

They want you to follow after their lead.

The world itself is great for offering to show us the way to "real life" where we can really live.

But time and experience has shown us that the world is long on talk and short on results.

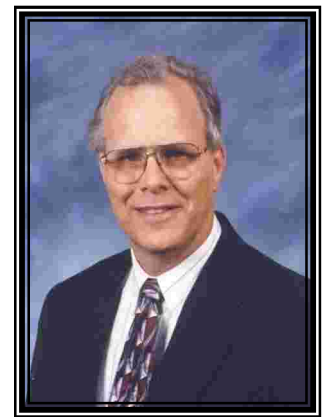
The latest gimmick, brilliant idea, or newest philosophy, burns with a hot flame for a while and then slowly fades into history.

What can we look to in order to find something that will help us keep our emotional, spiritual, and physical balance all through our lives?

What can we count on to keep us from falling into one trap or another?

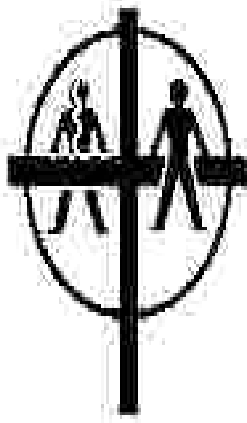
For thousands of years now those who have followed - kept their eye on - God have been able to keep from falling into the traps of fear and pain and sorrow.

They have been able to stand tall and straight as



they walked confidently into the future because they knew that God went before them to lead them into the way of life eternal.

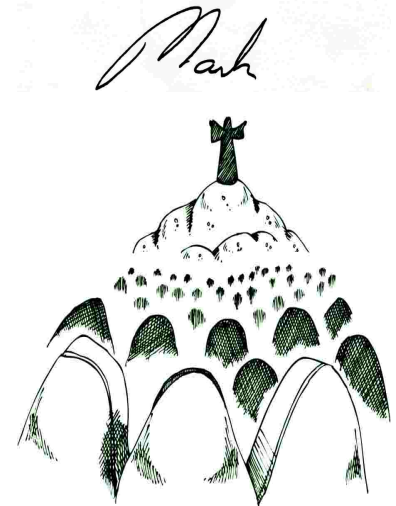
As Paul says, if we keep our eye on the prize, the goal, then we will never fall down and be hurt because we lost our point of reference.



**We are a**

**Stephen**

**Ministry Church**



# "Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

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

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. Ours fits that description.

## Another Look At Stewardship

**"The Heart of a Church Is Seen Through The Way It Serves People"**

### Within The church

- Worship Services
- Music Ministry With Chancel Choir
- Men & Ladies Ensemble
- Children's Choir
- Handbell & Chimes Choir
- Christian Education
- Adult Sunday School
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Ministry
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Fine Arts Program
- Disciple Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- UMW Circles
- Tape Ministry
- Blood Bank
- Visitation Care Group
- Golf Outings
- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Disaster Relief Programs
- Various Bible Study Groups
- United Methodist Men
- United Methodist Women
- Biblical Travel Ministry



### As Outreach

- Thrift Shop
- Food Pantry
- Holiday Baskets
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Cancer Survivors
- Current Affairs
- Healthy Body & Healthy Spirit
- Volunteers In Mission
- Habitat for Humanity
- PAWS (Pets Are Working Saints)
- Crop Walk
- Salvation Army Kettle Ministry
- Discretionary Giving Committee
- Brownies
- Boy / Girl / Cub Scouts
- Clown Ministries
- Missions Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Children's Home
- Hospice Bereavement
- After-School Tutoring
- Mr. Wesley's Vacation Bible School

Think of us in this way,  
as servants of Christ  
and stewards of  
God's mysteries.





## ***Our Financial Status***

*By Walter G. Stroud*

*Finance Chairperson*

### ***A report on the church finances year to date***

Many times it is very difficult to talk about the finances of our church. However, it is always advisable to give the congregation an update on how well we are doing in supporting the mission and outreach programs of the church. For we know that everything we have is given to us by the Lord our God and that all he asks is that we give a little back to Him. It is not about how much we give, but that we make an equal sacrifice to God's mission.

This year we have accepted the challenges before us and have adopted a very aggressive operating budget of \$508,000. We know that through faith and the grace of our Lord we can overcome any obstacle with which we are faced. The budget YTD is \$296,000 (through July) with receipts of \$279,000. This shows a budget shortfall (deficit) of \$17,000. However, we have some good news since we have significantly under spent the budget and have been able to meet all of our financial obligations without affecting our reserves. Our operating income to date is \$279,000 with expenses of \$277,000. As you can see from the current income stream we are just meeting our current expenses and there is little room for us to add to our reserves or to expand our outreach mission.

In this final quarter of the year let us reflect on how fortunate many of us are and help by sharing God's gifts. The target is to meet or exceed our budget by year-end. Let's give a cheer for our success.

<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>
<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Budget Shortfall</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$296,375	\$279,249	\$281,520	(\$17,125)	\$508,000	\$277,000



## ***What Can I Do?***

**By Rev. Richard L. Evans**

*In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that is a question millions of people are asking. Some of the answers are obvious; others may not be so evident. Here are some suggestions.*

**Pray** for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina, for the families of those who died, for the hundreds of thousands of homeless, and for the massive corps of relief workers engaged in rescue, recovery, and relocation efforts.

**Contribute** to disaster relief agencies like the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and The Salvation Army. The recovery effort is massive and will take years. Those who have been spared have much to share. Contributions to UMCOR

may be made through FUMC. (Every dollar goes directly to disaster assistance).

**Donate Blood** if you are able. There is a critical need to replenish a depleted blood supply.

**Provide emergency housing** if you are able. People all over the country are opening their homes to evacuated families. [www.hurricanehousing.org](http://www.hurricanehousing.org) is a website where you may list your availability and where those in need may search for assistance.

**Volunteer** if you are able. Volunteers will be needed for months, possibly years, to assist with clean up, home repairs, medical care, childcare, shelters, and food service. Contact: [volunteers@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:volunteers@gbgm-umc.org) for information about UM volunteers in Mission sites and team coordinators.

**Conserve gasoline**. As gasoline prices soar, plan your trips and combine errands with medical appointments, etc. Offer rides to friends and neighbors. Shop from catalogs or on line. Think

before you drive: "Is this trip necessary?"

**Car Pool**. Share rides to stores and to church. Look around and find others who will attend the same service of worship or the same church meeting. Fill your car with friends and neighbors—rather than driving alone or with just one passenger.

**Conserve electricity**. As fuel costs increase so will the cost of utilities. Turn your thermostat up to 80 degrees (ours is at 82). As soon as the weather moderates, shut off the AC and open the windows. In the winter turn your thermostat down to 68-70 degrees and wear an extra sweater if needed.

***Remember, every little bit helps.***

***And if everyone helps a little, it adds up to a lot!***

## THE OPERATING BUDGET

By Jack Schrock

Many years ago Watty Piper wrote a children's book titled, "The Little Engine That Could", that perhaps some of you read to your children or grandchildren.

It is about a little steam engine pulling a cargo of toys for children.

The problem is a big hill looms ahead and the little engine has serious doubts that it can get the cargo over the hill.

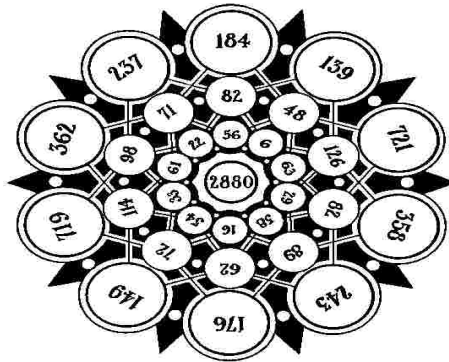
So rather than disappoint the children, the little engine decides to build a big head of steam and go for it!

As the steam builds up pressure, the little engine begins to chug, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can"

The cadence gets faster and faster as the steam pressure gets higher and higher.

The story ends with the successful delivery of toys to the little girls and boys and the little engine chugging, "I knew I could, I knew I could".

Ok, so how does this related to the operating budget? Well, the point is that the little engine



could not have made the delivery without the fuel to build up the head of steam in the boiler – no way!

Our church is like the little engine only the cargo is the good news of Jesus Christ and we are delivering it to the community and in fact to the world (thru our apportionments and missions).

Like the little engine, we cannot deliver our cargo without fuel and, in this case, fuel is the money you contribute to the operating budget.

The operating budget is God's engine that delivers a cargo spreading God's word through Christian education, a meaningful worship service including a wonderful music ministry that adds to the sacredness of the

worship service and special programs and ministries that reach the youth as well as the adults in our church and community.

The operating budget funds the Trustees who are responsible for the well-being of our buildings and parsonage, keeping the grounds neat and clean, making sure the utilities and insurance premiums are paid and provide office supplies and equipment.

The operating budget pays the salaries of our Pastor and his staff including our wonderful custodian who keeps things spic and span and all the other support people who make sure the church operates smoothly.

The operating budget also pays our apportionments or benevolences.

We can all be thankful that our church has always paid 100% of the benevolences.

It is truly an uphill and demanding task to deliver God's cargo, but each year the operating budget goes from, "I think I can, I think I can" to "I knew I could, I knew I could," thanks to all of you and your generous support of your tithes, gifts and offerings that fuel the engine!

### Trustee's Report



The Monday morning group has two new workers and a third has returned from up North. The Air Conditioner in the Fellowship Hall/ Kitchen Area has major problems and repairs are under way. A chair rail has been installed in Room 114 and another is going in in the Stephen Ministry room. The cracked thermo-pane windows in the Education Building were replaced. A leak in the sprinkler system is being corrected. A great deal of maintenance work is being done weekly. Anyone who would like to assist is invited to stop by any Monday morning as we can always use another willing hand.

Bob Bunting, Trustee



Under the direction of Chairman Pat Blake, the United Methodist Women are busy working on the

**~ ~ U. M. W. Annual Bazaar ~ ~**  
**Saturday, November 5th**  
**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Mark This Date On Your Calendar!

Methodist Youth will offer coffee and donuts at 9:00 AM.

Mary Martha Circle will serve luncheon at 11:30 AM.

(This menu to be announced later.)

Have lunch with friends, and shop the bazaar tables for:

~ CRAFT ITEMS ~



~ TEMPTING BAKED GOODS ~

(Cakes, Cookies and Pastries)



~ CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ~



~ TRASH and TREASURES ~



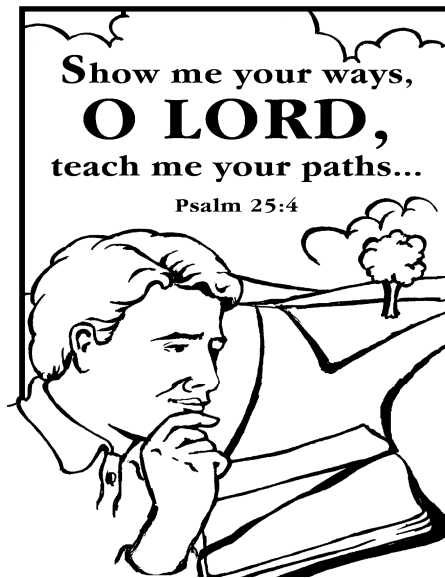
~ KNITTED ITEMS ~



(Hats and Mittens,  
 Scarves and Sweaters to send  
 North for Christmas presents)



~ SILENT AUCTION ~



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

First Meeting Of The Season

**Monday,**  
**October 10th**

5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Speaker to be announced.

Dinner is \$5.

Free for first-time guests and youth.

Come join us for good food  
 and Christian fellowship.

Jack Graham, Acting President

## What is our Contemporary Praise Service?

By Steven Skelley

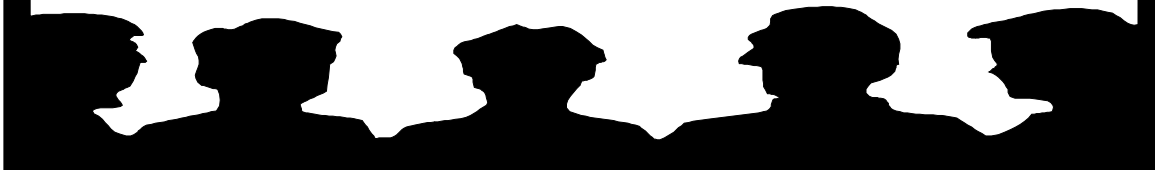
Join us on Saturday evenings for coffee, karaoke and worship!

We start at 6:30 pm with a coffee and dessert fellowship time  
 which includes an open microphone session where you can share a song, poem or testimony.

At 7:00 pm, our worship service begins.

We learn some of the best modern praise songs, pray for people's needs, share praise reports,  
 and hear a relevant message in every-day language.

Communion is celebrated once a month.



## I Will Go, Lord, If You Need Me

Patience Nave, Visitation Coordinator

My involvement in the life of the church continues to get more and more exciting! As you know, Gene Lantz has asked that he no longer be responsible for coordinating the visitation of our sick, and Pastor Parish Committee has asked me to do that. I began in mid-July, trying to learn all I could from Gene before he left for his vacation. He has done a wonderful job and is so loved by those whom he visits every week. I know that we all appreciate how well he represents the Lord and the church to these people who can't be with us on Sunday morning. I will *never* be able to take his place—nor would I want to even try! But I will try to learn how God would have me fit into this important visitation program and to apply myself to do that well.

I have quickly learned one important fact. The visitation group has a strong desire to support Pastor Mark. We thank God that he is so caring and that he goes regularly to hospitals and nursing homes. However, as people begin to improve, we hope our visits will supplement his and encourage those who are ill.

The Visitation Committee meets at the church every Monday morning to plan. My very first meeting with them was extremely heartwarming! I thought of the chorus of one of the hymns that we love to sing:

*Here I am, Lord.*

*It is I, Lord.*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord,*

*If you need me,*



*I will hold your children in my heart.*

And thus, I chose a part of that chorus to entitle my monthly article in Genesis, making you aware of what is going on.

The Visitation committee is extremely well organized. It strives to remember every person whose life has been impacted by illness or death. We pray for all who are hospitalized, in extended care facilities, or recovering at home, and we make plans to personally call on as many as possible during the upcoming week. We send bulletins and cards to let shut-ins and the bereaved know that they are remembered and loved by our church. We call those who may benefit by a telephone visit from a church friend. We keep records so that we can be as sure as possible that we have not overlooked anyone! (Last month the committee and our men's group made approximately 100 visits, and telephoned at least 50!)

Loving and dedicated people are involved in this great ministry. If you think you would like to visit occasionally or to help with the cards and the records, please come and join us. We will always welcome new members to the committee, and as our church grows we'll need more

people to get involved in this ministry.

The most important thing you can do is to help us to keep up with our people. Please tell someone on the committee or me if there's someone we should call, visit, or send a card. We will only be effective if we know who needs to be remembered. Thank you for helping us accomplish this important task.

We are making plans to add to our ministry. Perhaps you saw the lovely prayer blanket that Catherine Wisheart had made for my husband, Wallace. Her church "up north" has these blankets made for their shut-ins. The blanket was then taken to the church, put on the altar, and all who wanted to participate were encouraged to go to the altar and pray for the person who will receive the blanket. The blankets were then given to the shut-ins with a note reminding them that they were being wrapped in both the love and prayers of the church and in the warmth of their very own blanket. Through the Visitation Committee, an *ad hoc* is making plans for these blankets to be made for our church members who are ill. Next month, I will have all the information about how we will do this and how you can have one of these blankets prepared for a friend or family member.

I hope you will watch for this column in Genesis each month. If you are hearing that little chorus in your head, and your heart is responding, "*I will go, Lord, if you need me. I will hold your children in my heart,*" call me and come join our committee.



### Fun Trip!

We will be attending SHARE Day at Devil Rays baseball on Sunday, Oct 2. We'll leave the church in the van at noon and return by 8 pm. Tickets are only \$5. Contact Steve Skelley as soon as possible if you'd be interested in joining us.

### Fellowship Schedule Change

~ Starting October 9th ~

School is back in session and kids need time to finish their homework, have dinner with the family, and get to bed on time so we're going to have our Fall and Winter Youth Fellowship on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 2:30. Lunch will be provided (or will be cooked by the teens as part of the team building effort).

### Youth Puppet Ministry

We are launching a youth puppet ministry.

We have 5 professional puppets and new puppet skit books. Would you like to be a part of our puppet ministry?

### Sunday, October 30

We'll be working with Christian Education's Patience Nave to offer the Homosassa community a special Fall Festival in the church parking lot. We need your time and talents!



## Youth News

By Steve Skelley



### Ink Cartridge Donations

#### Fundraising News.

The First UMC Youth Ministry thanks everyone who brought in their used printer ink cartridges.

We have filled five boxes so far and earned over \$150.

This money is set aside to pay the monthly fee for our two Children's International "adopted children" Ralph and Debora in Honduras and the Philippines.

Keep those used printer ink cartridges coming!

### To the Church Congregation,

Hi, it's James Behuniak Jr. I would like to start off thanking everyone for his or her help on my trip. Now that I am back I would like to send out a special invitation for the Wonderful Wednesday Supper on Oct. 19th, at which I will be the guest speaker.

I am planning on doing a slide show presentation along with sharing what I did and learned on my trip this summer.

Now that I am back home I am once again willing to do any work that you might have for me.

Thanks again for all your help, and God bless.

## Youth Sunday School.

Miss Joyce Ann has been leading the middle schoolers and high schoolers in bible studies that focus on issues that teens face.

All middle schoolers and high schoolers are welcome.

We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 in the youth room.

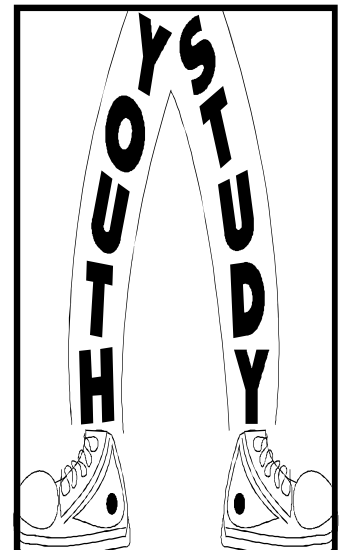
Last month, every teen also received their own copy of the best-selling Bible in the country.

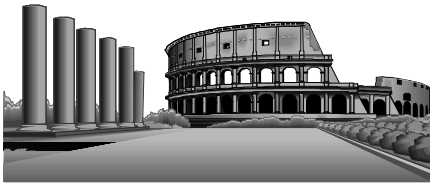
The *Revolve* Bible is specifically focused on teens and young adults.

*Revolve* is the entire Bible's New Testament that looks just like a magazine.

The difference is on the inside. Not only does it contain the entire New Testament, but it also contains pictures and teen-oriented question and answer sections that cover just about any issue a teen may face in life and provides biblical advice to help make good, informed decisions.

The Bible tells us that God's word is meant to enlighten and guide us. It's described as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. In other words, we look to the Bible to get good direction for our lives. We are giving young people the tools they need to make good, Biblical choices for the issues they face every day.





## Mediterranean Cruise Closed



The ship is full—with a waiting list for the March 2006 cruise/tour to Greece and Italy.

No more registrations are being accepted.

But 22 members of FUMC are registered and looking forward to the tour that will follow the 4<sup>th</sup> Journey of the Apostle Paul from Athens to Rome. The MV Astoria is a 540-passenger ship chartered exclusively by Educational Opportunities Tours of Lakeland FL.

Rev. Ernie Dorrell and Rev. Dick Evans will accompany our group.

## Angel Tree

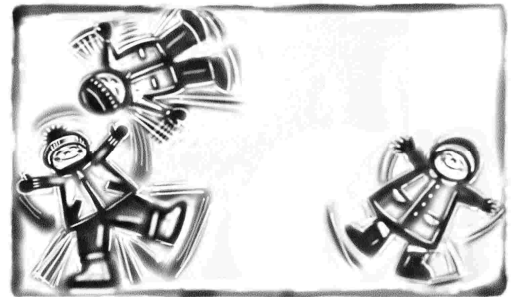
Last year the Angel Tree was a great success for the needy families in our area.

We need helpers at our three Sunday services, November 6th, 13th, & 20th.

Please call if you can help:

Betty Gunderson ~ 382-5715

Sharon Deutsch ~ 621-3668



## Children's Sacred Dance

The Children's Sacred Dance Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:40 to 11:30 following Sunday School in Room 102.

All elementary school-age children are welcome.

Parents will need to sign in children who are in the third grade and under.

The children will be dancing during worship on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Myrna and Ms. Ester are looking forward to seeing you.



## Outreach

Homosassa has an annual Art Festival

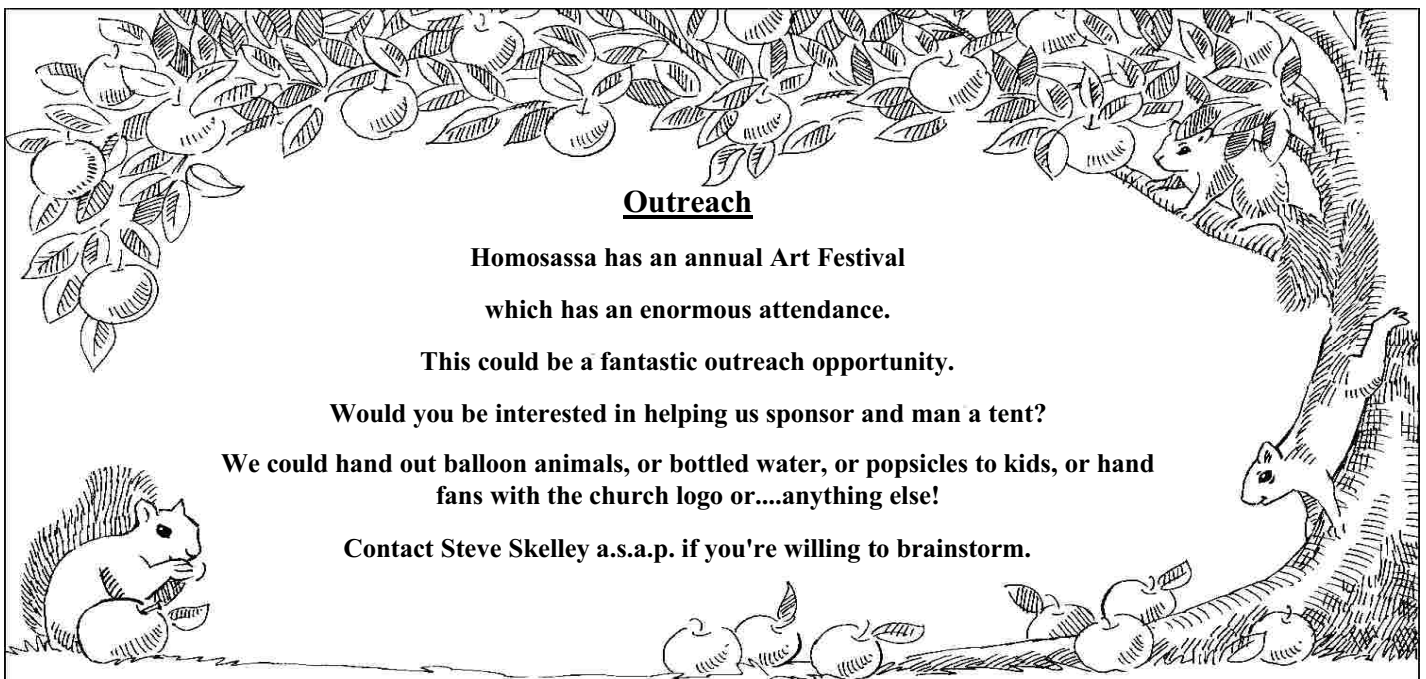
which has an enormous attendance.

This could be a fantastic outreach opportunity.

Would you be interested in helping us sponsor and man a tent?

We could hand out balloon animals, or bottled water, or popsicles to kids, or hand fans with the church logo or....anything else!

Contact Steve Skelley a.s.a.p. if you're willing to brainstorm.





# In And About Our Church



## LOOK WHO WAS BORN THIS MONTH

### October

1

Duane Geiger

2

Eleanor Hittle  
Holli Benthussen

3

Dominick Travers

5

Jack Kadel  
Connie Barton  
John Dean  
Robert Russell

6

Gail Rudolph

7

Carolyn Byington  
Faye Schmitt

8

Elizabeth Ainsworth  
Don Hoes  
Donald Parkinson

9

Loretta Burcaw

10

Peggy Powell  
John Mayles  
Patricia Blake

11

Kenneth Dent

12

Michelle Selby

13

Art Carl

14

William Baker

16

Doris Stine  
Clayton Spencer  
Ann Parkinson

17

George Knerr

18

Bill Richner  
Betty Eldridge

19

Ralph C. Hudson

Lisa Specht

20

Emil Carra  
Norma Geiger

Mary Olson

Jan Winters

21

Jack Reed  
Marjorie Mitchell  
Meri Hoar

Joe Ann Gidlow  
Barbara Deppner

22

Harry Livermore, Jr.

23

Erma Kern  
Louise Brechka  
John Maderia  
Ann Fasnacht  
Kathi Mansfield

24

Thomas Cloyd

Bill Kemp

Sandra Violet DeClue

26

Dee Green

27

Virginia Hoadley  
Joyce Zawacki

28

Betty Maderia  
Ester Waters

29

Eugene McEachin  
Jack Schrock

30

Charlotte Brightman

Henry Kaiser

Helen Lafave

Donna Flack

31

Hettie Nevels  
Walt Becker  
Bob MacKenzie



### October

01

Virginia & John  
Hoadley ~ 50 years  
Betty & Paul  
Huffstutler ~ 55 years

05

Connie & Bill Barton  
65 years

Joanne & Donald  
Holcomb ~ 42 years  
Alma & Jack Kadel  
31 years

11

Susan & John Dean  
18 years

13

Virginia & Kenneth  
Will ~ 26 years

16

Barbara & Hank  
Deppner ~ 46 years

20

Pam & Cameron  
Cleary ~ 2 years  
Alice & Dan Hurley  
37 years

JoAnn & Howard  
Procious ~ 15 years

Wanda & Fred  
Wheeler ~ 57 years

23

Eileen & Roger  
Ferguson ~ 51 years

24

Marjorie & Thomas  
Ottman ~ 52 years

26

Debbie & Robert  
Grafton ~ 25 years

28

Geraldine & George  
Frentz ~ 16 years

29

Nancy & Tom Pearo  
17 years

30

Barbara & James  
Stoneman ~ 51 years  
Jan & Jerry Winters  
29 years

31

Sue & Howard Kuntz  
52 years



## Prayer Concerns

### At Home

Ray Bender

(Hospice Care at Home)

### Assisted Living

#### Avante

Marjorie Mitchell

### Barrington Place

Ken & Frances

McGuire

### Brentwood

Betty Pettit

Rene Dube

Lois Alger

Evelyn Bash

### Crystal River Rehab

Robert Smith

### Cypress Cove

Julia Wilkinson

Ruth E. Smith

Jack Mallet

Willie Smith

### Nature Coast

Bill Marquis

### Life Care

Pat Cram

### Sugarmill Manor

Ray Short

Grace Payne

Mary Ellen Cole

Del Parker

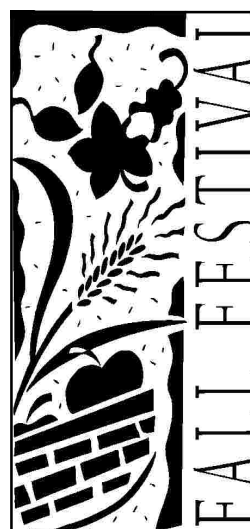
### Surrey Place

Marjorie Cook

Maddie Wallace

### Veteran's Hospital

Lester Feldman



**Sunday  
October 30!**

By FUMC Youth

We need your time  
and talents!

Contact:

Steve Skelley

Or

Patience Nave

**Don't Forget!**

**October 30th**

**Daylight Savings  
Time Ends.**



## Holistic Small Groups Leaders Are Set To Go

By Steve Skelley

Our Holistic Small Group Leaders faithfully participated in 5 weeks of specialized ministry training.

They are ready to launch their Holistic Small Groups.

### What are Holistic Small Groups?

Holistic Small Groups are disciple-making communities whose goal is to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to his or her God-given gifts, raise leaders to sustain the growth of the church and perform a mission.

Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.

Our Holistic Groups include multiple Bible Studies, Men's and Women's Prayer, Healthy Body and Spirit, Current Affairs, and Cancer Survivors.

Check the church calendar to find a holistic small group for you!



## CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION!

Faith Hope Circle will hold their meeting for October in the Computer Room of the church. The date is October 11, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

The program speaker will be Joe Crawley whose topic will be FCAT/ Public Education. One of the United Methodist Women's mission studies for 2005 is Public Education.

Vice-President June Bish attended a mission study class on this subject this year. Members of other Circles are welcome to attend.

Helen Lefave, Secretary  
Faith Hope Circle

## COME JOIN THE FUN!

### WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

OCTOBER 2005

An exciting array of speakers is scheduled for the month of October!

~ October 5<sup>th</sup> ~

Nick Robbins

A historian involved in the Crystal River Archaeological State Park and the Crystal River Preserve State Park will give a talk about the historical side of Crystal River and the surrounding area.

~ October 19<sup>th</sup> ~

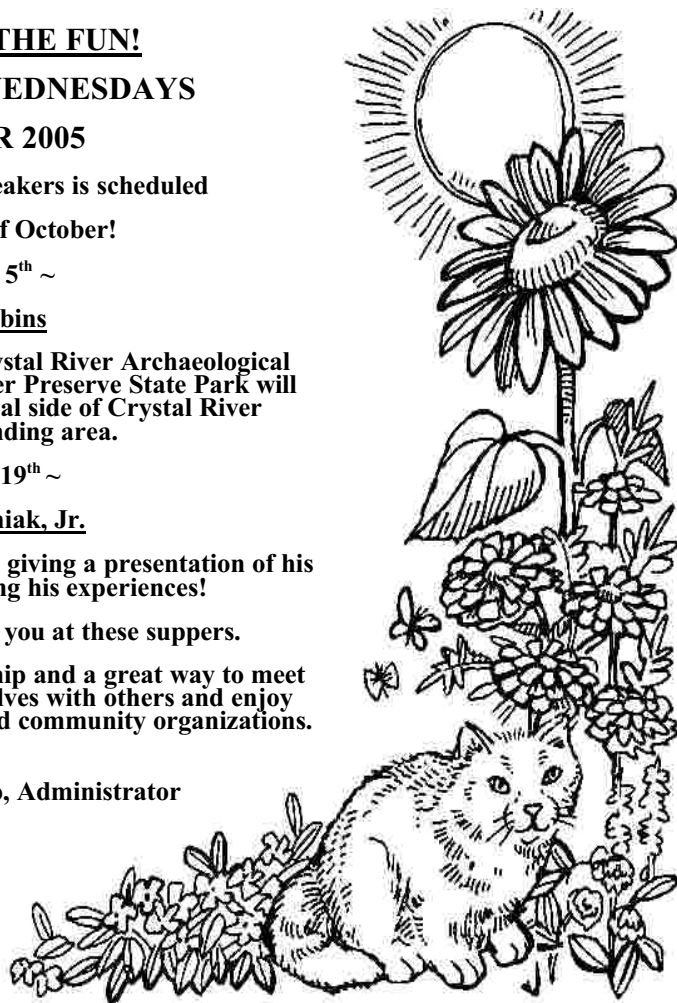
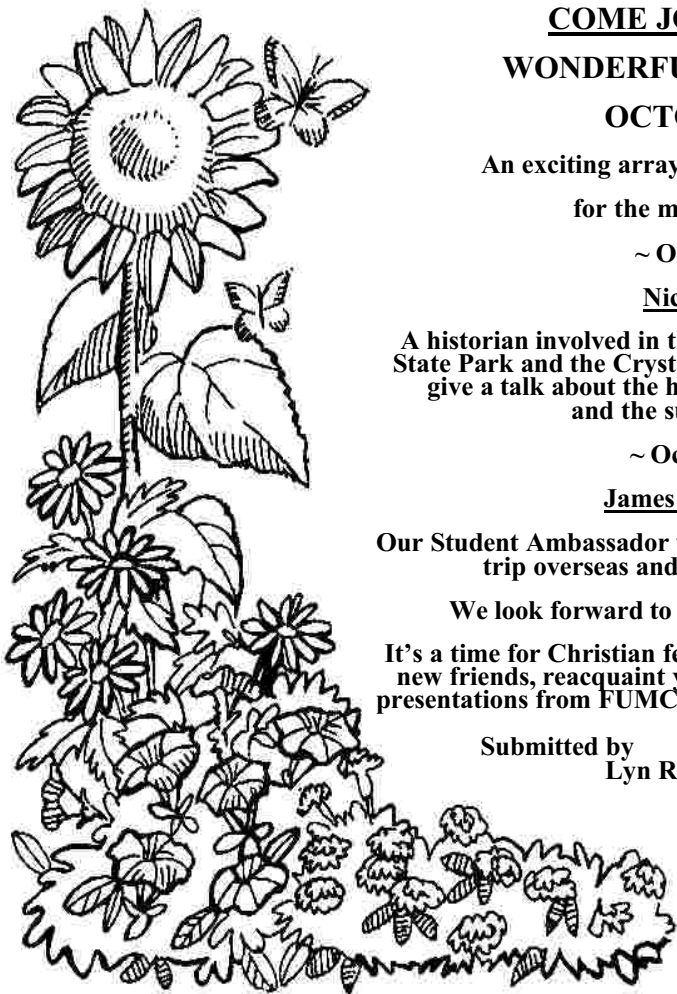
James Behuniak, Jr.

Our Student Ambassador will be giving a presentation of his trip overseas and sharing his experiences!

We look forward to seeing you at these suppers.

It's a time for Christian fellowship and a great way to meet new friends, reacquaint yourselves with others and enjoy presentations from FUMCers and community organizations.

Submitted by  
Lyn Romano, Administrator





## **Cookbooks Are On The Way!**

By Myrna Evans

The cookbooks are a fund raising project of the United Methodist Women.

Profits will be split between our Youth Group and U.M.W. mission projects.

Sales will begin after worship services in October and at the U.M.W. Bazaar on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

This is a quality cookbook with members' and friends' favorite recipes. We already have individual orders for 10 books.

They will make great Christmas gifts or Hostess gifts.

Please support us in this worthy project.

We offer a huge thank-you to all who submitted recipes, to the youth and adult typists, and especially to Joe Crawley and Judith Huffer who enabled us to input the recipes in the software program.

With their help we did it in just 2 days and saved in production costs.



## **Make Money While Giving It Away!**

by Rev. Richard Evans

It sounds contradictory, but it's possible—with a Charitable Gift Annuity arranged through the Florida United Methodist Foundation.

Here's how it works.

You donate an amount of at least \$5,000 and create a CGA, naming First United Methodist Church of Homosassa as the beneficiary. (\$5,000 is the minimum but the amount can be as large as you wish).

In return you receive an annual income of 6 to 11.5% on the amount donated, depending upon your age (60-90 plus).

You get a partial tax deduction (usually about 30%) and a guaranteed monthly check for the rest of your life. The church will receive the remaining principal after your death.

It's a gift to your church that pays you a monthly income you cannot outlive—truly a win-win situation!

Returns are slightly lower for a joint annuity that continues to pay a monthly income until the second person dies. And you can designate more than one church or charity as recipients.

If you are 65 or older, it can be a great alternative to other investments.

For more information contact the church office or the Florida United Methodist Foundation at 866-363-9673 (toll free) or 863-904-2970.



Welcome back to our winter friends! We hope to see you again at our weekly Sunday Worship Services at 8am, 9:30am, or 11:00am.

Remember, we offer Bible study each Sunday morning at 9:30am for all ages.

Or, try our Contemporary Praise Service that takes place each Saturday evening, beginning at 6:30pm, with Christian karaoke and refreshments followed by the Praise Service at 7pm.

We hope to see you back within your 'home-away-from-home church family,' volunteering and attending the wonderful variety of church ministries and dinners we hold throughout the season. Maybe you will even participate in a small group during your stay!

Wonderful Wednesday Suppers begin soon where we will have a variety of speakers and programs for you!

So keep your eye on the bulletin and Genesis for updates!

Please remember to take a minute to telephone the church office receptionist at 628-4083 and let her know that you are back, and be sure to let us know if your address and/or telephone number have changed.

Lyn Romano, Administrator

## READ NEW BOOKS BUT KEEP THE OLD ~ ~ ~

### ONE IS SILVER AND THE OTHER GOLD ~ ~ ~

By Helen Lefave

We have acquired three books written by Stephen R. Lawhead.

Book One: "The Iron Lance"

Book Two: "The Black Rood"

Book Three: "The Mystic Rose"

This is an epic trilogy of a Scottish noble family fighting for its existence and its faith during the age of the Celtic Crusades -- and of a secret society whose ceremonies will shape history for a millennium.

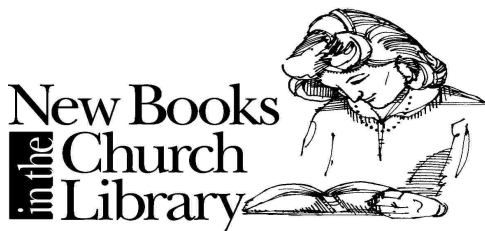
The first book begins in 1095. Murdo Ranulfson has been left to safeguard the family land.

It is confiscated by greedy marauders so that Murdo leaves to find his father and brothers who are part of the Crusades.

His journey leads him to the Mediterranean - the heart of civilization now threatened by barbarian hordes - on to the fabled city of Constantinople and beyond to the Holy Land.

Amidst brutality and ambition, Murdo discovers what he seeks - and obtains a relic that will guide him and his descendants for centuries.

Despite some of the tongue twisting Welsh names, these books are steeped



in heroism, mystery, the lure of lost treasure, action packed adventure, and a sweeping vision of human destiny.

**NEED HELP?** Joyce Meyer has written the following:

"Help Me -- I'm Worried"  
Easy to read with larger print.

Worry is a sin that steals your peace, wears you out physically and can even make you sick.

The author shares how to handle unreasonable fear and worry with the power of God's word.

"Help Me -- I'm Depressed"  
Do you consistently experience hopelessness, despair and boredom for no apparent reason?

Whatever the reason for depression, the author says Satan is ultimately behind it all and she brings powerful insight from the Scriptures and her own experience to help you win over

depression.

In a lighter vein, Patsy Clairmont wrote,

"Sportin' a 'Tude"  
She says there's something cleansing about laughing until you cry.

She calls it emotional aerobics.

We all have attitudes from Aptitude to Gratitude. A book full of serious fun.

"Every Time I Go Home I Break Out in Relatives" by Sylvia Harney  
This author says that laughter is God's aspirin to soothe the headache of reality.

She writes about tender and often hilarious family experiences.

You're welcome to visit your  
Church Library  
Mon. -- Fri.

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
and

Sun. 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Helen Lefave and Barbara Jackson,  
Co-Librarians



#### A Note of Thanks Received August 19, 2005

Dear FUMC Members,

Thank you for your generous donation of school supplies. The students and teachers are extremely grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Your continued support to our school is greatly appreciated.

Caring people like you really make a difference in our school and community.

Sincerely,  
Regina Allegretta, Principal  
Homosassa Elementary School

I hope that you all enjoy this edition of Genesis.

Next Genesis deadline is  
October 14th.

Email: Genesis34448@  
tampabay.rr.com

Your Sister in Christ,  
Judith Huffer

P.s. A special "Thanks"  
to my Copy Editor,  
Jan Wise!

## HENRYS EXPRESS "HUMBLE/DEEP THANKS" FOR OUR CHURCH'S PRAYER SUPPORT

The Joseph Henry missionary family our church helps support in Thailand expressed in the family's September prayer bulletin "a humble and deep thanks" for our prayer support.

They stated, "We have felt those prayers as Elaine began teaching (and continued to study Thai) and as Joe attended an important workshop on culture and church planning (and of course continued to study Thai.)"

Under "Praises" they wrote, "Elaine's work teaching second grade at Grace International School has been very busy and very fulfilling.



She has students from five countries (Korea, Thailand, U.S., NZ and China.)"

During last month's workshop Joe was able to hear from several missionaries to Buddhist countries.

"Jamie is doing very well at his kindergarten preschool....His Thai is improving faster than the rest of us.

Brittany, Justin and Caleb are enjoying this year's school experience.

All of them were able to get into challenging Thai classes, which will help their language study greatly."

In "Prayers" they ask that we pray for Pioneers "church-planting" efforts in Chiang Mai.

And also prayers for Elaine's dual role of teacher/language learner.



The family states language and finances are progressing well, but ask for our prayers on both issues.

"God is working," they conclude.

The Henrys' letter can be seen on the Mission Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

## KEVIN WOOSTERS ENJOY REWARDING RELATIONSHIP WITH DEAF LANDLORD

The Kevin Wooster missionary family in Moscow, Russia continues to have a rewarding relationship with the owner of their condominium.

The woman is deaf, but is particularly responsive to the missionaries because they are able to communicate with her.

The Woosters, to whom we give support, learned Russian sign language when they ministered to a deaf community in Ulan Ude, Siberia, the city to which they were first assigned in Russia.

The family wrote that Laura, the mother, continues to teach English at the Christian School their sons, Joshua and Corey, attend.

The boys are reported to be "doing well" in their classes and again are playing on the high school basketball team.

Besides his mission outreach activities, Kevin administers the contacts with the Russian government and assists church people passing through Moscow.

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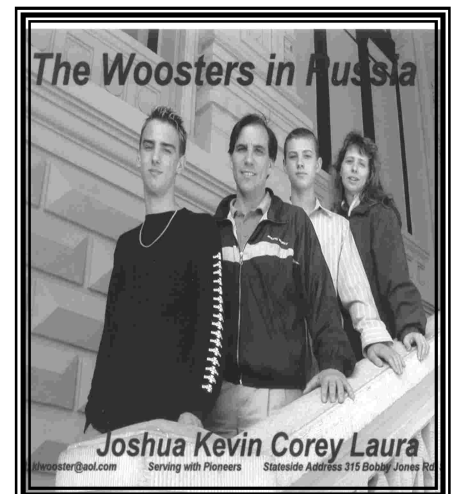
"Serving With Pioneers"

Email: [klwooster@aol.com](mailto:klwooster@aol.com)

Stateside Address:

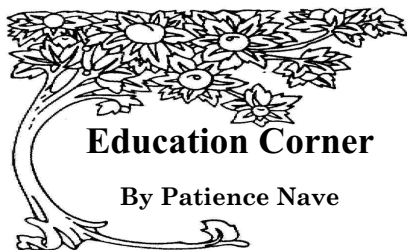
315 Bobby Jones Road

Sarasota FL 34232



Missionary Reports  
By Jack Radabaugh





## Education Corner

By Patience Nave

Many are busy in classes this fall in various Bible studies.

Jan Wise's "short course" for Disciple had to make some changes due to the materials not being available. She wanted to offer the Old Testament course in the fall and the New Testament in the spring, but the Old Testament material has still not come from the publisher.

The group studying with Joan Ryan and Myrna Evans will continue their full-length Disciple course to its conclusion, and Dana Middlebrook's group will also conclude their study.

Steve Skelley and I are planning a Fall Festival on Sunday afternoon, October 30 here at the church.

This will be for all age groups in our church family. We'll have hot dogs, games, relays, music, clowns (I hope), balloons, prizes, and lots of fun. The youth are working with their new puppets, so maybe they will be ready to give us a puppet show! We plan to set up booths for games around the parking circle to the east of the sanctuary, and folks can visit the game booths, eat, and visit with friends. Please put this date on your calendar. Though our primary focus is a fun time for the church family, we would be glad for you to invite a neighbor or friend to join you.

Meanwhile, keep learning! God's Word tells us, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple." (Psalm 19:7)



## Calling All Former Stamp Collectors!

By Roland Aberle



All signs point to a large influx of families to our community during the next ten years.

School authorities anticipate a substantial increase of students.

To meet the challenge of additional youth in our community, I would like to form a stamp club.

Furthermore we can serve the local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops as an adviser and examiner for members seeking a merit badge in philately.

Stamp collecting is a life-long hobby. Many of our world leaders are, or have been, ardent stamp collectors.

During the past year several firms have donated stamp collecting products including a six volume set of the 2005 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue from the Scott Publishing Company.

The only stamp club in Citrus county is located in Hernando. They have encouraged me to pursue this project, and would assist by sending some of their experienced members over to advise and get the ball rolling.

Many of us retirees saved foreign and domestic stamps as a hobby in our early years.

Would you kindly check your possessions, and see if you still have an accumulation of stamps that can be donated to get this project started?

Please call your fellow church member, Roland Aberle, at 382-7002, or leave your donation of foreign or domestic stamps, etc., with our Administrator Lyn Romano at the church office to give our children a start in stamp collecting.

No donation is too small.

## Walking on the Path

by Patience Nave

*"And now may the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*

Pastor Mark gave a sermon from Genesis about Joseph and the apparent catastrophe of his being sold into slavery. I was troubled when he said that God did not speak during the time that Joseph was there in Egypt. So I looked up the account—even while he was speaking—and, of course, found that he was absolutely correct. However, prior to the incident of his being sold and to his subsequent slavery, God had spoken so clearly to Joseph that from that point forward, he apparently never had any question about God's presence in his life!

When the wicked wife of Potiphar, Joseph's master, tried to seduce him, Joseph quickly said, *"How could I commit so great a sin against God?"* When Pharaoh later asked him to interpret his dreams, Joseph replied, *"Not by myself; God will give Pharaoh a favorable response."* Years later, when his brothers came to buy grain, he didn't hold them accountable for their actions. Instead, he gave God credit for everything, saying *"You did not send me here . . . God [did]."*

God had spoken to him so clearly in his youth that he never doubted—even through many years of hardship. God didn't have to keep speaking! He had filled Joseph—prior to his slavery—with *"joy and peace in believing,"* so that he *"abounded in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

*Prayer: Father, we love to hear your voice as you speak to us, and we want you to just keep talking on and on. Make of us a people who will be so firm in our believing that we will "abound in hope" as Paul spoke about and as Joseph experienced—even when you appear to be silent. Amen.*



## Katrina Relief

By Patience Nave

Most of us have sat in front of our TVs, glued to the screen and news of the horror of what has happened to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. We've prayed for those in distress, we have wept in sympathy, and we've longed to be able to do something tangible for people in these devastated areas.

There are now some tangible things that can make a difference to hurting people:

A. Write a check, made out to the church, that will be combined into one check and sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). One hundred percent of what we give goes to relief! Not one cent goes to administrative costs.

B. Prepare a Health Kit to be shipped to the devastated areas. Lyn Romano has a list of the specific items that should be included in each kit. The cost of one kit is about \$12. The items should then be placed in an individual plastic, one-gallon, zip lock bag, and brought to the church, which will assume the responsibility of getting the Kits to the appropriate location.

These are the tangible things for the moment. Perhaps there will be others later. And, of course, don't despair! Remember that Romans tells us that "... in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, NIV) So continue to pray, believing that somehow He is going to do just that ~ bring good from all this pain!



## Hurricane Information

By Bob MacKenzie

Chairman  
Disaster Committee



As Florida residents, we have seen extreme weather conditions involving hurricanes, tornadoes, storm surges and evacuations, etc.. There are still two months until hurricane season ends.

The Citrus County Emergency Management offices say, "mobile homes and all properties west of Hwy 19, 1 1/2 miles east of Hwy 19 and Sugarmill Woods properties between Hwy 19 and the Clubhouse are in the evacuation zone".

Our church facilities cannot be used during emergencies because we lie within the evacuation area. However, listen to your radio for instructions from the county as to the appropriate action to take in the event that such an emergency should occur.

As a result, FUMC has a plan to take care of our church family in the event of a mandatory evacuation. Please fill out the questions below and return it to the church office, or place in the offering plate.

Do you live within the evacuation area: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, have you already made arrangements for housing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If your answer to the above is NO, do you desire help through the church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

In an emergency, would you be willing to offer help in any of the following areas?

1. Provide transportation to a safe area. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Assist in clean up work. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Telephone Relay. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. If your home is outside the evacuation area, can you provide lodging? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

# of people \_\_\_\_\_ # of adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of children \_\_\_\_\_  
Can they bring pets? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify (pet) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

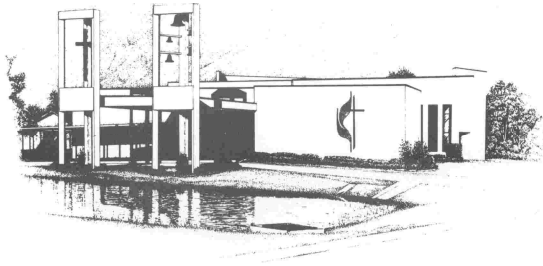
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF HOMOSASSA**

**8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448**

***A Stephen Ministry Church***



**We are on the web!**

**[www.fumc.org](http://www.fumc.org)**

**First United Methodist Church of Homosassa  
“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”**

**Rev. Mark Whittaker  
Pastor**

**Sunday Schedule**

**Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11 AM**

**Nursery at all services**

**Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 AM**

**Methodist Youth Fellowship: 5 to 7 PM**



**Office Hours: Weekdays 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

**Office Telephone: 628- 4083**

**E-mail: [Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com)**

**~ Saturday Night ~**

**6:30pm**

**Pastor Steve Skelley**

