



# GENESIS



OCTOBER 2009 ~ VOLUME 13 ~ ISSUE 8



## ***Stewardship Covenant 2010*** ***"Extending His Kingdom"*** ***...one person at a time...***



A political cartoon in the paper showed two people sitting in wing-back chairs, facing each other. They were both reading the newspaper. The headline on one section of the paper proclaimed, "World going to hell in a hand basket." The other section headlined, "Church attendance down." The woman is saying to the man, "Don't jump to any conclusions!"

But it is hard not to follow that line of thought. We see the trouble and sorrow in our world, and we cannot help but recognize how the lack of faith and the rule of self-interests have eaten away our moral foundation.

Our Stewardship program this fall is called "Extending The Kingdom." Through it, we want to show you all the different ways that our church is involved in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with people around us. We want you to see the multitude of ways your support enables us to reach out and touch the lives of others. We cannot reach the entire world, we cannot solve the homeless problem or care for all who are hungry or lonely. We cannot touch everyone with the love and care of our Lord, BUT we can reach out right here and touch those God has placed in our sphere of influence. We can't do it all, but we can extend the kingdom of God by just one more person this day. It may not seem like much, but if we touch one life, day after day, we can make a real difference in our community. When we have made a difference in our community, we have made a difference in the world.

Your support of the church over the years has enabled us to reach out and do our part in this little corner of Citrus County. Through your love and grace we have been able to be a caring part of the lives of those who are hurting and alone. Because of you, we have exemplified what it means to be a disciple of Christ. As we have helped others to become stronger disciples, they, in turn, reach out to disciple others.

We pray that you will continue to be a part of reaching out and making a difference to the people who need your caring. When Jesus sent his disciples to minister in his name, he said, "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8b) This is our call, and this is our mission as disciples of a loving and gracious Lord who has called us to follow him.

Please help us continue to extend the kingdom, one person at a time, by freely giving of the gifts God has given you.



*Pastor Mark*



As faithful stewards of the abundant blessings given to each of us by God, we are called to share those wonderful gifts of time, talents and treasures with others.

The Stewardship Committee of The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa is responsible for providing members with opportunities to experience the joys of giving and of using their special gifts to support our church.

As chairman of the Stewardship Committee, I am truly thankful for the wonderful response from our loving congregation in their financial support for the Lord's work.

While, unfortunately, many churches are suffering during these troubled times, FUMC continues to gather gifts to meet our needs.

"Extending His Kingdom" is the title for the 2010 Covenant with the Lord, which we will celebrate during October and conclude on Sunday, October 25th, with the presentation of the contribution cards.

Once again, thank you and God Bless you all!

*Prayer: We praise you, Father, for the blessings you have showered on this church. Help us to know you are involved with us in all these things. In love for you, we are your children.*

Jim Roth  
Stewardship Chairman

**Serving Members and Friends of The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa**  
**~ Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors ~**  
**We Are A Stephen Ministry Church**

## E.B.A.D.O.C

### "Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

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

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

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

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

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Website  
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Senior Pastor  
Rev. Mark Whittaker

Administrator  
Theresa Weber

Bookkeeper  
Sandy Dewart

Christian Education  
Patience Nave

Music Department  
Mary Kay Messenger  
Joy Potts  
Dayna Middlebrooks

Parish Visitor  
Peggy Benson

Sunday School  
Superintendent &  
Nursery Supervisor  
Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator  
Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician  
Sharon Cooley

Night Security  
Michael Rodgers

Custodian  
Dale Evans



There are many positions available for serving in our church.

Can you find a personal interest in the following menu of church activities and ministries?

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27

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.

Within The Church

- Worship Services
- Ushers
- Greeters
- Music Ministries:
- Choirs: Children's Choir
- Men & Ladies Ensembles
- Handbells & Chimes
- Christian Education:
- 5 Adult Sunday School Classes
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Ministry
- Communion Stewards
- Lenten Soup Supers
- Library
- Prayer Ministry
- UMW Circles
- Tape Ministry
- Blood Bank
- Visitation Care Group
- Parish Nurse Ministry
- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Disaster Relief Programs
- Funeral Receptions
- United Methodist Women
- Stewardship
- Biblical Travel Ministry
- Counters
- Folding & Mailing
- Attendance Tracking

Outreach Ministries

- Parish Nurse
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Shut-in Visitation
- God's Clods (Clown Ministry)

- "Tuned To Revival" Quartet
- Disaster Relief & Response Team
- Thrift Shop
- Linda's Loaves
- Volunteers in Missions
- Prison Ministry
- Stephen Ministry
- Prayer Blanket Ministry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Knit For Kids Ministry
- Health Related Workshops (Diabetes, High Blood Pressure)
- Annual Seminar for Elder Needs
- Men's Monday Morning "Work Detail"
- Men's Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast
- Hugs for Soldiers
- Vacation Bible School
- World & State Travel Groups
- Welcome Bags
- Bus Ministry
- Missionaries to Siberia
- Missionaries to Thailand
- Missionaries to Haiti

Small Groups

- Cancer Survivor
- Current Affairs
- Individual Bible Study Groups (Men, Women, and Couples)
- Fibromyalgia Support Group
- Saturday Sisters
- Contemporary Issues
- Bereavement Group
- P.A.W.S.

Discipleship Classes

- Disciple I
- Disciple IV
- Companions in Christ

Benevolences

- Habitat for Humanity
- St. Andrews Mission (Feeding the hungry)
- The Heifer Project
- S.H.A.R.E. (Economical food for the church and community)
- Food Pantry
- Holiday Food Baskets
- Toys for Children (at Christmas)
- Salvation Army
- The Path (Help for local homeless)
- Methodist Children's Home
- C.R.O.P. Walk
- Equipment for Handicapped (Wheel chairs, walkers, etc.)

Community Outreach  
(Use of our facilities)

- AA
- AI-Anon
- After-school Tutoring
- Girl Scouts
- Hospice
- GED Tutoring
- Kiwanis Breakfast
- Isaiah's Place
- FCAT Tutoring

# Wise Discipleship

by Jan Wise

## Mercy and Grace—the Mark of a Disciple

True mercy and grace are not the products of human effort or reasoning. They are expressions of the heart of God and can only be exhibited by those who have chosen to become disciples of Christ.

A disciple is not a casual follower of Jesus. The Scriptures tell us of those who set out to join the ranks of Jesus' disciples and, because they did not understand his words, turned back from following him.

When Jesus spoke of eating his flesh and drinking his blood, many were offended. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no \_\_\_\_\_ in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has \_\_\_\_\_ life, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ him up at the last day....\_\_\_\_\_ eats my flesh and drinks my blood \_\_\_\_\_ in me, and I in him. Just as I live because of the \_\_\_\_\_, so the one who feeds on me will live \_\_\_\_\_ of me." (John 6:53-58)

Instead of staying close to the One who spoke these words to learn what he meant, the Scripture records, "From this time many of his disciples \_\_\_\_\_ and no longer followed him." (John 6:66)

Jesus had other strong, defining words for those who would desire to be his disciples: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own \_\_\_\_\_—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not \_\_\_\_\_ his cross and \_\_\_\_\_ me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:25-27) Then he summarized the cost of discipleship this way: "...any of you who does not give up \_\_\_\_\_ he has cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33)

Jesus did not mean a disciple was not to love his family and appreciate his life. BUT Jesus planned to put his very own Spirit in each person who chose to be his disciple. Then the interest of that person would have only one focus. As Jesus sought only to do his Father's will, regardless of the influences of family, friends or circumstances, so one who chose to be a disciple would have the same single focus.

Jesus summarized the priority of a disciple in Matthew 6:33: "But seek \_\_\_\_\_ his [God's] kingdom and his \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ these things will be given to you as well."

Before his death and resurrection, Jesus told the disciples, "The world cannot accept him [the Holy Spirit],

because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives \_\_\_\_\_ you and will be \_\_\_\_\_ you." (John 14:17) They saw grace and truth lived out in Jesus Christ. But until they received his Spirit within themselves at Pentecost, they could not understand and so judged situations with human reasoning.

Remember the disciples' indignation at the woman who "wasted" the expensive perfume on Jesus? "Why this \_\_\_\_\_? This perfume could have been \_\_\_\_\_ at a high price and the money given to the \_\_\_\_\_." (Matthew 26:6-13) Then Jesus asked them what they had been arguing about on the road. The disciples kept quiet because they had argued about \_\_\_\_\_ . (Mark 9:33)

When Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem, the people in a \_\_\_\_\_ village did not welcome him. James and John asked, "Lord, do you want us to call \_\_\_\_\_ down from \_\_\_\_\_ to destroy them?" They did not comprehend undeserved mercy and grace, and Jesus rebuked them. (Luke 9:51-56)

Paul explains, "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor. 2:14)

So after Pentecost, after the stumbling, self-centered disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit of the one they called Lord, they remembered the new command they had been given: "Love \_\_\_\_\_ . As I have loved you, so you \_\_\_\_\_ love one another. \_\_\_\_\_ all men will know that you are my \_\_\_\_\_, if you \_\_\_\_\_ one another." (John 13:34-35) The mercy, the grace, they had seen in Jesus now lived in them, and they were enabled to love each other as he had loved them. By this love, all would know they were disciples of the one who had come to bring salvation.

The woman looked up at the young man before her and asked, "Can I listen to my daughter's heart?" At his assenting nod, she laid her ear against his chest where she could hear the transplanted heart of her daughter giving life to one who would have died, and she smiled through her tears.

### THINK ABOUT IT:

- When God listens to my heart, does he hear the heart-beat of his Son giving life to one who was once dead in sin?
- Is the Spirit of God having his way with me, teaching me to think as God thinks and to love as God loves—or am I still trying to be kind and nice in my human effort, my actions determined by human reasoning?

## Stewardship Lessons from Passing Generations

By David S. Bell

Have you ever heard a person say one of these comments? "I paid good money for that . . ." "You never know how much you will need." "Save it for a rainy day."

Statements like these often remind us of people from the Interbellum Generation (people born between 1900-1913) or the Greatest Generation (people born between 1914 – 1924.) These generations are disappearing rapidly from our culture. Younger generations have observed them and concluded, "They were so frugal that they could make a penny squeak!"

However, frugality was just one aspect of their lifestyle. Their practicality was mixed with generosity and created the code of living for these generations that both experienced the Great Depression. They lived frugally so they could care for one another and support the Church and other societal causes. They gave with respect for previous generations and with expectant vision toward future generations. Their generosity grew out of faithful duty, human obligation, and Christian responsibility. They internalized and lived the stewardship message of the Gospel.

First, these generations understood that we do not actually gain power or prestige by accumulating more. Most of them had a comfortable, small home appointed with durable goods and personal items. In later years, many of them could have easily bought a larger home or more lavish cars, but they understood Paul's message in II Corinthians 8:13-15. In this passage, Paul shares with the Corinthians that he needs their help to raise money for a poor church in Jerusalem. These generations grasped the balance between having enough for themselves and having enough to share with others. They were able to support charitable causes and share their faith because they found contentment by living well within their means.

Second, these generations understood the difference between a want and a need. Extravagant consumption – not extravagant generosity – has become the standard lifestyle for so many in our culture. The line between want and need is blurred. We can all think of examples of this blurry delineation between want and need - the high-definition television, the resort-style vacation, the designer-label clothing and accessories, the upscale appliances, the larger cable/satellite channel line-up, the latest technology gadget. We often have mixed emotions when deciding a need from a want. Our hyper consumer lifestyle has led to a perception that we need everything we both can and cannot afford. This lifestyle is now being challenged more and more with the economic recession. People are reviewing their lifestyle choices and re-

flecting on the advice freely offered by the depression era generations: 1) monitor your expenditures, 2) spend significantly less than you earn, 3) save with a patient and purposeful will, 4) determine if your spending leads to deep, abiding contentment in Jesus Christ or temporary joy from the accumulation of possessions, and 5) discover the freedom inherent in generosity. True contentment comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ! In Luke 12:13-21, Jesus illustrates this concept with the Parable of the Rich Fool.

Third, a prevalent truth for these generations and, in fact, for all generations is that God loves us. God's love for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most significant stewardship message of the Gospel. God loves us. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:4-10 that the sacrifice of Jesus dying on the cross is God's living example of stewardship and extravagant generosity. God frees all who believe in God's redemptive love to be Christian stewards on Earth.

Reflect on some people whom you recall from the Interbellum or Greatest Generation. What example of giving and generosity did they model for you? I remember my grandparents. They understood that their generosity provided short-term outcomes with long-term consequences. Their giving offered an immediate boost to a person's life or a charity's income. However, their giving provided a lasting impact. Their focus remained steadfast on these long-term outcomes. For example, a contribution to a seminar student's education provides immediate relief to the seminarian, but the seminary education offered the student a foundation for a lifetime of pastoral service. The small contribution to the local church endowment fund was an immediate gesture of remembrance in memory of a close friend, but the growth of the endowment fund over the years strengthens the church's ministry. My grandparents, like many of these generations, were inspired by their faith to be generous with their church, their family, and their community. They gave beyond tithing because of the experiential joy they received sharing God's blessings.

I invite you to reflect on some of the lessons expressed by these generations. Adapt these lessons to your own discipleship today. Reflect with a sense of respect for their witness and with an expectant vision toward future generations. In so doing, I pray that you will find the freedom offered to those who choose to be extravagantly generous.

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*Written by David S. Bell, former Director of Stewardship with GBOD. He currently serves as Vice-President of Stewardship with the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.*

*You may contact him by visiting [www.DavidSBell.org](http://www.DavidSBell.org)*

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<http://www.gbod.org/stewardship/article.asp?id=47734>*

## The Bride: A Reflection on Giving

I don't know anyone who doesn't think a bride is beautiful. I know mine is. Brides are glowing, joyous, beautifully dressed. And the gifts are hers. Who buys gifts for the groom? Most guys are just amazed they have a bride.

Jesus has a bride. I'm talking, of course, about the church. Not the buildings, although that is where the church finds itself on Sunday morning. We, as one body, are the church, and we have been given a great many gifts to do all the things expected of Christ's bride. The greatest of these gifts is Christ himself.

Sharing this gift is the first, most joyous, duty of the bride. We as individuals have many important gifts which we share among ourselves and in the world. These are gifts to the bride.

When I was a boy, I always had trouble buying Christmas gifts. I never had enough money to go around among my brother, sisters and parents. To make things worse, my mother's birthday was on December 24th. That meant a double present. My dad always made sure I had enough to buy Mom birthday and Christmas presents. He would not let his bride be disappointed.

Our Father does the same thing. He always gives us plenty so that "the bride" will receive everything she could possibly use.

In the next few months, we will discern what gifts we will give to this beautiful bride for her use and for her house.

Please don't wait until the "campaign" to sit down with calendar and calculator in hand. We mustn't give just the leftovers of our busy schedule and tight budget. We give the finest, first fruits.

I hope that in the coming weeks you will pray for the Holy Spirit to help you recognize just what you can give. Then live out what He puts in your heart.

One of my favorite hymns is Number 15, from the Oremus Hymnal. It starts, "How lovely is thy dwelling place..." This place where we worship in wonder, love, and praise was built with, and is sustained by many gifts.

The hope I find for the life of this church... this bride of Christ... is in the words of the last line of the last verse. "For thou shalt surely bless all those who live the words they pray."

*Printed with permission: Harlan Anderson writing for the Oklahoma Episcopal Diocesan Stewardship Committee*

## Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

*"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God." (Psalm 43:5, RSV)*

Almost every month, I think of a verse way ahead of the time to write. But occasionally, as I begin to write, God changes my verse by reminding me of another. This is one of those months.

Someone sent me an email today, and she challenged me not to postpone looking at it. I was so busy, and I really didn't have time, but I value this woman's opinion, so I took the time to watch. My, oh, my! How God put everything in my life in perspective as I watched.

The video is of two Chinese dancers. He has only one leg. She has only one arm. Their dance is beautiful and graceful, moving, magnificent, filled with emotion, joyful. Kleenex in hand, I watched to its dramatic conclusion. Then I sat and contemplated the verse above that God had just brought to my mind for our monthly "On the Path" devotion.

How often I allow the events of life to crowd out my joy of living. How often I allow myself to be too busy to really contemplate how fortunate I am. How often I forget how incredibly blessed my life is and has been. How often do I take for granted a healthy—though aging—body, with two good legs and two working arms? Why do I allow myself to be "cast down," to allow depression to steal my peace and joy when I have so much to be grateful for?

My hope is and *must continue to be*, in my God who constantly ministers to my every need if I just allow him to do so!

**Prayer:** *Father, we confess to you that we often allow circumstances to alter our state of mind.*

*We complain when we should rejoice.*

*We are depressed when we don't get our own way in events, when we should be asking you what we should be learning. We fail to recognize the joy that is ours in having you, the very God of the entire universe, as our constant companion.*

*Forgive us and help us to praise you for all you are and all you have done in and for us. Help us to focus our attention on our Savior and the tremendous price he paid for our original and our ongoing salvation. As these two young dancers have done, help us to let you take what we have and who we are and make something beautiful, challenging, and encouraging for ourselves and others. Amen.*

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**Editorial note:** *The video that Patience refers to can be found on a web site titled, "Triumph Of The Spirit" at:*

**<http://bolstablog.wordpress.com/2009/03/31/ballet/>**  
**"One Arm, One Leg, Two Big Hearts"**

**By Phil Bolsta**

or at:

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK29iPaQDbg>**



## United Methodist Women In Action



### October 2009

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

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
ALL MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES!**

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Bazaar Set-up: Nov. 5 & 6  
Dorcas Circle: Luncheon  
Faith Hope Circle: Crafts  
Helping Hands Circle: Bakery & Candy  
Ruth Circle: Trash & Treasures  
Salty Circle: Kitchen & Bakery  
Christmas Room in the parlor  
By: Peggy Benson  
Kim Bennett  
Carol MacKenzie



**ANNUAL BAZAAR  
NOVEMBER 7, 2009**

The Women's Division provides and supports leadership development of its members to give women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society. The Division offers a reading program with thought-provoking books for reflection and discussion.

#### UMW READING PROGRAM

"The Reading Program is one of the many opportunities available for United Methodist Women. The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage women through reading to become: informed, understanding, and active as they are led by the Holy Spirit to take part in God's missions. Sensitive to needs, interests, and concerns of all human beings and to organized groups of social needs. Alert to, and knowledgeable about, issues facing all people today."

Books in the 4 missions emphasis of the UMW are available on the WMW book shelf in the church library. YOU are to keep your own reading record on sheets provided on the shelf near the WMW books. It is strongly urged that each member of the UMW take part in one of the FOUR Reading Programs.

**PROGRAM 1:** Read one book from each emphases, plus two extra (4 total), and regular reading of Response Magazine.

**PROGRAM 2:** Read two books from each emphases, plus two extra (10 total), and regular reading of the Response Magazine.

**PROGRAM 3:** Read two books from each emphases, and others on the list (15 books total), and regular reading of Response Magazine.

**PROGRAM 4:** Read two books from each emphases, and any others on the list (20 books total), and regular reading of Response Magazine.

Some of the books from previous years are also on the shelf for those who have missed them. UMW Secretary of Program Resources, Helen Lefave at 628-1380, will answer any questions you may have about the Reading Program.

The entire program of United Methodist Women and the Women's Division focuses on mission. The program includes individual growth, spiritual enrichment, education for mission, social issues awareness, leadership development, schools and workshops, and financial support for mission programs and projects throughout the U.S. and around the world.

**Social Action/Advocacy:** The Women's Division interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

**Finance and Resource Development:** Division-supported mission programs and projects are possible because of individual women's gifts to missions through "undesigned giving," now called "Mission Giving." Close to \$20 million comes from United Methodist Women annually to the Women's Division for use around the world.

Undesignated giving (or Mission Giving) allows United Methodist Women to respond where the need is the greatest and to work in partnership with organizations doing similar work. Other mission funding includes the program of United Methodist Women: retirement benefits and pensions of mission workers, volunteer opportunities of United Methodist Women to empower them in mission work, advocacy in alignment with the denomination's stances on behalf of women and children, and international and national mission with women, children and youth.

#### RAINBOW GIVERS

A Rainbow Giver is a United Methodist Woman who gives undesignated in all five financial channels;

1. She makes and remits a Pledge to Mission;
2. She gives a Special Mission Recognition. She may honor any person, male or female. That person may be a relative, friend, or a special someone she wishes to recognize for contributions made to local missions, unit successes, and support; \$40.00
3. She sends a Gift To Mission card to honor someone. Cards are available for birthdays, congratulations, thank you, baby, special day, in the service of Christ, thinking of you, and Christmas. The minimum gift for a card is \$5.00.
4. She honors the memory of a friend or relative with a Gift in Memory Card in any amount (suggested minimum of \$5.00);
5. She contributes to the World Thank Offering in any amount.

The unit treasurer records these gifts and remits them to the district treasurer. The unit treasurer forwards the completed Rainbow Giver form to the district treasurer at year end.

THROUGH OUR UNDESIGNATED GIVING,  
WE SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE GLOBALLY.

### United Methodist Women's GREEN TEAM

The United Methodist Women's Green Team is about caring for all of God's creation - because it is all connected. Members working for environmental justice are following God's commandment to care for other people.

We are God's stewards of our environment, and for all God's creation. UMW Green Team members are exploring the connections between racial justice, poverty and environmental issues here in the United States. God created the Earth, and humans' relationship with the environment deeply affects their relationship with each other and with God.

As good stewards we make changes in our own families to decrease our negative impact on our environment - air, water and land pollution. We offer aid to our family, neighbors and friends in need - another way of acting as good stewards.

In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

World leaders will gather in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009 to finalize a new agreement to stabilize carbon emissions triggering global climate change.

The last agreement on this issue, the Kyoto Protocol, expires in 2012. The Copenhagen meeting must strengthen that effort. Many in impoverished countries are already suffering from the effects of climate change.

If you would like to participate in the UMW's Green Team Ecumenical Countdown to Copenhagen Campaign, please contact Nancy Pearo for further information.

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### World Thank Offering

Each year UMW Circles across the United States celebrate with a World Thank Offering in November. The emphasis this year is to remind us that we are Sustainers. God is the sustainer of life, and we are to be supporters/sustainers of life for others and thankful for whatever part we play in that sustenance, "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians. 5:20).

Our focus will be to honor the Spirit of God as shown to us by our Native American sisters and brothers. To the people of the Iroquois Confederacy corn, beans, and squash (The Three Sisters) are the physical and spiritual sustainers of life. The three vegetables composed the main food supply of the great Iroquois Nation. Corn is tall, graceful, and strong. Beans twine around and lean upon corn for strength - and the bean converts nitrogen from the air into food for the growing corn. Squash rambles at the feet of her sisters and protects them from prowling enemies. Squash spreads as ground cover, its broad leaves shading the soil to preserve moisture and protect the roots of the taller plants while preventing weeds from taking hold.

While each vegetable can stand alone, working together they are stronger and provide sustenance for all. As Christians we are stronger working together. As we dedicate our World Thank Offering this year we remember that we are also sustainers of life and that through our offering we reach out to other women, children and youth to sustain them in their life struggles.

### Helping Hands Circle

Leader, Kay Bast, Co-Leader, Donna Ludwig

Our Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the new Church Parlor at 9:30 am for a lesson and refreshments. New members and visitors are always welcome.

One of our outreach projects is baking birthday cakes and delivering them each month to the young women who reside at Camp E-Nini-Hassee (formerly Eckerd Youth Camp) in Floral City. This is an 6-9 month wilderness program for emotionally disturbed female offenders ages 10 to 18. The offenders must be able to participate in an active wilderness program. The program stresses education, recreation, home and community relationships, including community service experience, and group living.

We bake as many as 8-10 cakes per month and enclose a birthday card with each cake. Our mission is to make these girls who live at the camp feel loved on their special day.

In addition to supporting the Thrift Shop and the Annual Bazaar, we have "adopted" Brittany Henry, daughter of missionaries Joe and Elaine Henry and granddaughter of members Joe and Delores Henry. Brittany is a freshman attending Capitol University in Columbia, South Carolina, while her parents and three brothers reside in Thailand.

The girls from Camp E-Nini-Hassee and the children in Elaine Henry's class in Thailand are also recipients of Christmas gifts from our Circle.

Call Kay at 382-4908 for more information or plan to join us on October 12, 2009 at 9:30 am.

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### Spaghetti Dinner at Camp E-Nini-Hassee THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15th

7027 E Stage Coach Trail, Floral City, FL  
(Just west of US 41 in Floral City).

Come one, come all! A homemade spaghetti dinner with salad, rolls, and dessert will be served for \$ 6.00 at Camp E-Nini-Hassee (formerly Eckerd Youth Camp for Girls) in Floral City to benefit their educational programs.

This dinner is open to the public and includes your choice of three sauces for your pasta. The staff cooks the dinner, and the girls in residence serve it indoors at the Main Dining Lodge.

**This is their one major fundraiser of the year.**

Contact Linda Gordy at 382-0683 for more information.

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### More Than Groceries

One of our volunteers who serves at the administration office's reception desk tells this story.

A weary-looking woman came to the window to request a bag of groceries. As we talked, she shared about her ongoing cancer treatments. So, instead of handing the woman her groceries, I carried them out to her car. As I placed the bag in the back seat, I said, "There—will you be alright now?" Hesitantly the woman responded, "There's one more thing." Curious as to what she might need, I asked, "What else can I do for you?" The woman replied, "I need a hug."

Groceries carried out—an act of kindness. A hug given—an act of love.

**2009 UMC FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENT  
June 10 to 13, 2009 - Daytona Beach, Florida**

**Attendees: Rev. Mark A. Whittaker & Bernard E. Diedrich, Lay Member  
First United Methodist Church of Homosassa, Gulf Central District  
(The 40th Anniversary of Florida United Methodism)**

LAY MEMBER REPORT

The attendance at Bethune-Cookman University was more than 1,700 clergy, lay members, guests, and 120 youth, all doing the Lord's work, enjoying camaraderie and inspiring music.

THEME: "Transforming the World by Cherishing the Creation"

This is the first theme of four themes set by Florida Conference Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker for the next four years. Each theme begins with "Transforming the World by...", and concludes with different action. This year's theme "Cherishing the Creation" considers environmental issues from both the theological and practical perspective. The address was by Dr. Laurel Kearns, Associate Professor of Sociology of Religion & Environmental Studies at Drew University. Biblically speaking, we are called by God to care for his creation, and "Going Green" should be very much a part of our "Christian Mission."

June 10th, Pastor Mark and I attended a 1-1/2 hour seminar regarding "Child/Youth Protection Policy," given by Melinda Trotti, Director of Justice and Spiritual Formation Ministries. The responsibility of having clear knowledge about this subject is crucial in the church today.

June 11th, I attended the Annual Conference Laity Session conducted by Conference Lay Leader Sharon Luther, who was newly appointed at last year's conference. This is an informative session that prepares us (lay delegates) for this conference. Conference Treasurer, Mickey Wilson, presented his current report and projections for the future. Our Florida Conference is doing reasonably well considering the current financial situation in America.

June 11th continued with a "Memorial Service" remembering those who faithfully served our conference, and a sermon preached by Dr. Richard W. Neal. Later on, there was a session on "Organizing our Conference," and, in the evening, a sermon by Dr. Denise Honeycutt from the UMC Virginia Conference, along with an Annual Conference Offering, and the Service of Holy Communion.

We started at 8:30 a.m. on June 12th with a Bible Study given by Rev. Pat Watkins, followed by a discussion on "Making Disciples," and continuing with "Celebrating the Worldwide Church." In the afternoon we discussed "Ad Ministry: Enabling our Churches," and finished the afternoon with "Voting on Constitutional Amendments." Prior to voting, Pastor Mark & I spent a lot of time studying and discussing these 32 Amendments, which affect both the worldwide and regional conferences. In the evening we attended the "Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination." This is an extraordinary event that included a great sermon by Bishop Timothy Whitaker, wonderful music, and the welcoming of 39 individuals into the ministry of serving our Lord and His people.

Saturday, June 13th, we attended a Bible study, followed by "Leaving a Legacy" (retiring clergy, anniversary churches and Bishop's Capital Campaign), "Sending forth Leaders" (preparing, appointing, electing lay and clergy leaders), and the conclusion of the conference about noon time.

There were many exhibitors at the Ministry Expo, including the Cokesbury Book Store. They also had a Health and Wellness Fair, where we could elect to have blood-work screening, which included our blood pressure, cholesterol evaluation, and the opportunity to meet later with a health consultant.

The Annual Conference was a wonderful event, and it was most enjoyable to share this time with Pastor Mark.

Respectfully submitted in His Name,  
Bernhard E. Diedrich, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference



## Education Corner

Patience Nave

I want to take a good portion of the space I have this month in Genesis to tell you about my most recent trip to Haiti. Some of you may not know that during this year I was asked to serve on the Florida/Haiti Covenant Committee. At a recent meeting I was asked to serve as Secretary to that Committee, and through that position I was invited to go to Port au Prince to attend the installation of the new bishop of the Haiti Methodist Church, Gesner Paul. (They call him "president," but I will continue to call him bishop so that you won't think I am talking about the president of the country.)

I expected this to be a special affair, but it was much more than I expected. I drove to Miami and then flew to Port au Prince on Friday, August 25. On Friday night, the bishop, his wife, and several friends had dinner in a lovely home. I appreciated hearing Pastor Paul speak of his vision for the church's role in Haiti's future. He challenged us that evening, as he did the following day in his speech, to assume the rightful role of the church in meeting the needs of God's people in Haiti, rather than expecting the government to fulfill that task.

On Sunday, we went to a very large church where approximately 1000 people gathered to celebrate, while about 1000-1500 listened outside because they could not get into the building. People from Britain, Canada, Jamaica, as well as many cities in the United States—New York, Milwaukee, Tampa, Baltimore, Boston, and Homosassa—had traveled many miles for the occasion. I was pleased to represent First United Methodist Church of Homosassa that day. Approximately 1000 people took communion together, and it was a moving moment for me to join such a diverse group to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, knowing that all of them love the Lord and want to do what he'd have us do to alleviate the suffering of the Haitians.

I sincerely thank you for allowing me to go and represent you. You have been so generous in your support of this project, and I am grateful for your continued generosity.

While I was in Haiti, I went to Petit Goave to see Pastor Maude Hippolyte. She and I planned work for the next team which is now forming and plans to return to Haiti in March. We're calling ourselves Team Carrenage III. We will continue to fund work to improve the conditions of the school, to feed the children, and to help pay the seven teachers who give so sacrificially to the education of these 160 children. Kim Hamrick, one of last year's team members, is working on a very exciting fund-raising dinner. You will hear more about this dinner, planned for October 30 in our Fellowship Hall. She's planning a delicious meal and a great evening of entertainment. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 30, for good food and an opportunity to support the on-going work in Haiti.

Though I have devoted the entire column this month to Haiti, I must not stop without mentioning that we have Bible studies beginning this fall on several days of the week. Also, the movies that have long been promised will begin soon. Watch the bulletins and the screens in the sanctuary for more information about these times and places. Call me if you have specific questions. I am in the office all day, every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.



**Friday, October 30, 2009**

Fund-raising dinner for a 2010 Mission by FUMCH to help continue the on-going work and feeding of the children at Carrenage, Haiti.

The dinner will be catered by Cody's.

There will be a silent auction and entertainment.

Tickets will be available for \$25.

Look for further information in Genesis and the Sunday Bulletins.

### Seeking Assistance!

**Items are needed** to be donated for the auction.

Please bring to Patience Nave's office.

We are also **looking for volunteers** to decorate tables, and bake cakes.

Please contact Kim Hamrick at 503-6248.



### **YOUTH MINISTRY - Hearts On Fire**

The Youth Group continues to collect used printer cartridges and empty aluminum cans as fund raising activities. The money from the cartridge recycling provides funds for activities and possible camp fees. The returns from the recycling of the cans help to fund the mission projects, supporting two children in the Philippines.

Keep on bringing in the cartridges and the cans for us. And many thanks to those of you who have been doing so regularly - we appreciate your help.



Your Church Library has a variety of books, and the ones listed in Genesis are on display on shelves to the left of the library door.

1. There is a trilogy on "The Courtship of Nellie Fisher" by Beverly Lewis. Book I is "The Parting." Book II is "The Forbidden," and Book III is "The Longing." The review of "The Forbidden" relates that even a split in their church hasn't extinguished Caleb and Nellie's love for each other, but the demands of one man - Caleb's unyielding father - stands in their way and threatens to destroy their plans for the future.

2. "Mistaken Identity" by Don & Susie Van Ryn and Newell, Colleen & Whitney Cerak. Two families - One survivor - Unwavering hope. The shocking case of mistaken identity that stunned the country and made national news. The story of two traumatized families who describe their ordeal and explore the bond sustaining and uniting them as they deal with their bizarre reversal of life lost, and life found.

3. "Touching the Face of God" by Robert Vaughn, a World War II novel. The year is 1943. The story is a sweeping saga of romance and passion interwoven with heroism and courage as Lt. Mark White, WWII B-17 bomber pilot, and his comrades struggle to stay alive amid the enemy's fire. Mark fights not only for freedom but also for the woman he loves. This dramatic story tells of men and women striving together to triumph in an epic battle and through it all discover hope in a power much greater than men's.

4. "Mount Vernon Love Story" by Mary Higgins Clark. A novel of George and Martha Washington, a story of a rare marriage bringing to life the human side of the man who became the "father of his country."

5. Another trilogy is "The Galway Chronicles" by Bodie & Brock Thoene. Book I is "Of Men and Of Angels," set in a place and time in Ireland's history which affects the age in which we now live. It shows the roots of the troubles that brought so many Irish to America's shores and still continue to plague England and Ireland today. Follow the

story of Kate Donovan Garrity, Joseph Burke, and the beloved characters of the village of Ballynockanot. Book II is "Ashes of Remembrance," and Book III is "All Rivers to the Sea."

6. For John Grisham fans, we have "The Broker," a story of Joel Backman, a notorious Washington power broker who, having spent the last 6 years in a federal prison, is granted a controversial last-minute pardon. It seems that in his heyday, he may have obtained secrets that compromise the world's most sophisticated satellite surveillance system, so he is smuggled out of the country and given a new identity and home in Italy. Eventually the CIA will leak his whereabouts to the Israelis, the Russians, the Chinese, and the Saudis. The question is not whether Beckman will survive - there is no chance of that - but the question the CIA needs answered is, "who will kill him"?

7. Another Grisham suspense novel is "The Summons." Ray Atlee is a 43-year-old professor of law at the University of Virginia, newly single, and has a younger brother Forrest, the family's black sheep. Their father, retired Judge Atlee, a recluse and very sick old man, lives in the ancestral home in Clanton, Mississippi. He issues a summons, typed on his old stationery, for both sons to return home to discuss the details of his estate. However, the meeting never takes place as the Judge dies and leaves behind a shocking secret known only to son Ray - and perhaps someone else.

8. Local author Nancy Kennedy has written "Praying with Women of the Bible." The book takes you inside the lives of ten women whose prayers will instruct and encourage you to pray with confidence.

9. "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn. "This is the best book on Heaven I've ever read" says Rich Warren. The author invites you to picture Heaven the way Scripture describes it.

10. "The Next World War" by Grant R. Jeffrey - what prophecy reveals about extreme Islam and the West. This book explores the Bible's prophecies relating to the greatest challenge in many centuries, a challenge that now confronts western civilization. Extremist Muslims are determined to destroy our civilization and our political and religious freedoms. The Bible's prophecies have much to tell us about this challenge and what the future holds.

HAPPY READING!

Helen Lefave, and Barbara Jackson, your Church Librarians

### IRA Charitable Rollover—Last Chance

by Rev. Richard Evans

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 restored the provision enabling IRA owners age 70 ½ and older to make tax free charitable gifts directly to churches and charities—through 2009. Here’s how the IRA Rollover works.

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

Here is how both you and the church might benefit in 2009. You could request your IRA Plan Administrator to make your required minimum withdrawal (or less, or more) a charitable contribution to First UMC Homosassa. The IRA Administrator then will transfer funds directly to FUMCH. You may designate how you wish your gift to be allocated, e.g. Permanent Endowment Fund, Building Fund, General Fund, a particular mission project, etc.

This qualified charitable distribution will then be excluded from your adjusted gross income. The law permits rollovers from both traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs, but not from 403(b) and 401(k) accounts and private pension plans.

If you are interested, talk with your IRA Administrator, and call the church office to arrange a direct transfer to FUMCH. But remember, the transaction must be made before the end of 2009. We will acknowledge your gift with deep appreciation. And if you have questions about the IRA Charitable Rollover, please call me at 563-5833.

### St. Lawrence River Cruise

Sept. 19-27, 2010

by Rev. Richard Evans

The St. Lawrence River begins at the foot of Lake Ontario, opposite the city of Kingston, and flows in a northeasterly direction for almost 800 miles until its waters mingle with those of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Beyond the gulf is the vast Atlantic Ocean.

Sir J. M. LaMoine called the St. Lawrence “the noblest, the purist, the most enchanting river on God’s beautiful earth.” And this river, for miles upon miles, serves as a natural boundary between the USA and Canada.

Our 9 day/8 night cruise tour will explore many of those miles in a leisurely journey up-river from Quebec City, through Montreal and the Thousand Islands to Kingston, Ontario. We will visit many interesting ports-of-call along the way.

The MV Canadian Empress is a 66 passenger replica steamboat built in 1981 to reflect the classic style of North American riverboats. We expect that our FUMCH group will constitute more than half of the passengers on this spectacular fall foliage cruise.

After boarding the ship in Quebec City, unpack just once and enjoy a relaxing week with congenial friends, delicious meals, luxurious accommodations, beautiful autumn scenery, and interesting shore excursions. We will fly to Quebec City and return from Montreal. The estimated pp. price is \$3,575 (dbl. occ.) is based on a group of 30 people and includes the cruise, airfare, all ground transportation, shore excursions, fees, taxes, and travel insurance.

Pick up a flyer at the church office, and register with J & L Travel of Homosassa. The cruise company is holding 16 staterooms (half of the total) for us, so it is important to register early. \$350 will do it, with the balance to be paid next spring.

Call me at 563-5833 or Jess Mackey (J & L Travel) at 382-7708 if you have questions. I look forward to traveling with you.



### SHOPPING LIST

*For Pantry Sunday:*

- Soups
- Beef Stews
- Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Saltine Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti
- Noodles
- Rice
- Jell-O or pudding mixes
- Vegetable Oil



October Sign-up Dates

Wednesday, October 7

Saturday, October 10

October Delivery/Pick-up Date

Saturday, October 24

## PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

So just how does spiritual transformation happen?

It's a mystery and we know there are some things in our Christian walk that can't be totally, logically explained. Scripture does tell us that our ways are not His ways so it should not come as a total shock when we can't explain something as complicated as how God transforms us into His image.

I can define spiritual formation. It's the "process initiated by God of transforming us into the image of God for the good of the world." I can tell you about spiritual disciplines and other ways that will make us more likely to have an encounter with our Creator. I can tell you a lot about the ways He has changed me – I think they call that witnessing! But I can not tell you *how* it happens other than to tell you that it is something the Holy Spirit works in us. I believe we need to be open and willing to be changed, and it probably helps to *really want* to be changed into His image.

We do know that God uses the practice of spiritual disciplines to transform us. Pastor Mark has preached on the spiritual disciplines and I've written about them. Just as a reminder, here are a few examples: worship, fasting, study, meditation, guidance, silence, solitude, service, and fellowship.

In a class taught by Rev. Dr. Loyd Allen of Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, he pointed out that as Christians we *do* study scripture and we *know* we are supposed to obey scripture, but few Christians have been taught to *pray* scripture. Praying scripture is one of the ways we are formed by the Word of God.

### There will be "Prayer Discovery" beginning Wednesday, October 7th.

How do you pray? I hope you'll take a moment to reflect upon the answer to that question and then read further. The question itself is pretty open-ended. It could mean many different things. It could refer to your posture, your attitude, how often, the time of day, whether you're alone, if you move or sit quietly, or even how you address the one to whom you pray.

Prayer can be more than interceding and petition. Do you pray scripture? Psalms is considered the prayer book of the Bible; it's a great place to start praying the Word of God. Have you tried contemplative prayer? You may not have heard of it, but it's not something strange.

I invite you to come join us as we explore prayer together. *NO, you will not need to pray aloud.* And we will start with the basics unless everyone who comes is an advanced "pray-er." We'll talk about prayer, we'll read about it, we'll study, we'll share, and we'll have fun – it'll be your study so we'll make it what the exploration needs to be. So please come and let's take this prayer journey together.

**Marilyn Watson**

## Academy for Spiritual Formation

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is an educational program of Upper Room Ministries which is a Division of the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. It combines academic learning and experience including spiritual disciplines in a two-year covenant environment.

Each Academy is two years in length with participants meeting in residence for five days each calendar quarter. Participants come from across the country with diverse backgrounds and are selected through an application and screening process. Between residence periods participants typically engage in such activities as journaling, reading of assigned texts, and doing a project for ministry in spiritual formation.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is currently in its twenty-sixth year. It is designed to provide a setting where a spiritually disciplined community of lay and clergy can return to the Source of their call. This returning is designed to bring fresh energy and new life to a world that needs these passionate, persistent, authentic, well-grounded spiritual leaders.

A typical daily schedule for each residence period includes two prayer services and communion; 12 hours of silence; Covenant Group Meetings (1 ½ hours); morning and afternoon curriculum sessions (2 hours); plenary sessions with faculty (2 hours); and spiritual reading.

During each two-year academy, a total of sixteen courses are offered (two courses per residence session). These courses, taught by outstanding scholars, seminary professors, and leaders in today's church, offer insights into the history and development of Christian Spirituality.

Faculty also preside over feedback sessions and are present throughout the week. Courses include "The Spirituality of the Psalms," "Early Christian Spirituality," "Healing and Wholeness," "New Testament Spirituality," "The Place of Scripture in Spiritual Formation," "Liturgy and Spirituality," "Christian Spirituality & Cultural Spiritualities IV," "Spiritual Formation In the Local Church," "Bearing Witness to the Kingdom of God in The World," "Discernment and Ways of Prayer," "Spirituality and Depth Psychology," and many more.

**Marilyn Watson**

**26th Annual Florida Conference  
Women's Retreat  
"Be A Blessing"**



*God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.*

**2 Corinthians 9:8  
(The Message)**

**February 19 - 21, 2010**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I would like to welcome each of you to this year's Women's Retreat. We have been praying for you. Our hope is that you come to this weekend, ready to leave your troubles and burdens at home, to be able to spend some relaxing and enjoyable time with other ladies that have come, and spend quiet, meditative time with God.

We believe that this place is a Holy Place and we trust that you will experience this as you fellowship with each other and spend time singing, reading God's word, praying, and listening to the wonderful speakers that are here. We also hope that you not only receive a blessing by being here, but also realize ways that you can be a blessing to others all because of God's love for you.

In God's love,

Phyllis Wolfe, 2010 Design Team Chairperson

**Keynote:**

Rev. Terri Hill

**Bible Study Leader**

Rev. Kim Uchimura

**Music Leader**

99 for 1

**Devotions**

Diane Shepard

Dixie Nesland

**Enrichments**

99 for 1

Florida Children's

Home Choir

Sue Sommer

Connie Steel

Judy Stevens

Margie Anderson—

Hymn Sing

**Schedule**

**Friday**

3:00 Registration

5:30 ~ 7:00 Dinner

7:30 Welcome & General  
Session

**Saturday**

7:00 Morning Devotion

7:30 ~ 8:50 Breakfast

9:00 General Session

12:00 ~ 1:45 Lunch

2:00 ~ 5:15 Enrichments

5:30 ~ 7:00 Dinner

7:30 General Session

**Sunday**

7:00 Morning Devotion

7:30 ~ 8:50 Breakfast

9:00 General Session

10:00 Worship Service

There will be more information about this retreat in the future. Check the Church Bulletin Board in the Administration Building, or get in contact with Marilyn Watson.



**Display Wall Completed**

A display wall in the corridor outside the new Fellowship Hall, and across from the kitchen, now has pictures of former pastors of the church along with a great picture of our present pastor. The following are named, along with their years of service, to the right of the new display case. Rev. Damiano Rossi (1958-69), Rev. Marguerite Hill (1969-71), Rev. Bertril W. Berryman (1971-73), Rev. Joe Hughes (1973-74), Rev. Roger B. Shively (1974-81), Dr. Max Rittgers (1981-84), Rev. Osborn C. Belyeu (1984-86), Rev. John E. Denmark (1986-91), Dr. Alan L. Beaver (1991-2000), Rev. Mark A. Whittaker (2000-present).

To the left of the display case are framed drawings of our present church sanctuary (1991) and the first building on our Bradshaw St. site (1974), both created by Charlene Smyser. Soon a third drawing will join them—of the first Methodist Church building in old Homosassa (1914.) Track lighting provides additional illumination to the pictures on the wall.

The locking display case currently contains a display about our Methodist "roots," featuring John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, and early American circuit riders who brought the gospel message to nearly every part of our country. Displays in the case will be changed at approximately 3-month intervals.

Many thanks to Merl Hoar who copied, matted, framed, and hung the pictures of the pastors (some from very small snapshots of limited image quality).

Richard Evans

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- ✝ The men attending the Men's Retreat in Leesburg the weekend of October 9 –11 as they prepare and as they spend time apart. They are following the example of Jesus and His disciples. Many times Jesus called the disciples away from the crowds for a time apart to be renewed. May this be what our men experience while they are on retreat.
- ✝ Our pastor and staff daily.
- ✝ The stewardship campaign to bring glory to God as it gives us the opportunity to fund ministries, programs, and operations of Christ's church.
- ✝ Committee members, holistic small group leaders, teachers, facilitators, and choir members as things get back into full swing.
- ✝ For all the church leaders to seek and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they make decisions regarding His church.
- ✝ For all the new groups and classes and for each person to feel at ease and to bond with others quickly.
- ✝ For the church staff as they prepare for the Charge Conference on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ✝ For the ministries of the church which we've been hearing about on Wednesday evenings. This month let's pray esp. for the Visitation Care Committee, the Shawl Ministry, and the Bereavement Group.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



**August 23, 2009**

Entered into the Covenant of Baptism:  
 Charles Gordon ~ Father  
 Angela Gordon ~ Mother  
 Kayleigh Lynn Gordon ~ 7 yr. old  
 Ashleigh Ruth Gordon ~ 14 yr old  
 Marleigh Anne Gordon ~ 12 yr old

## Get Involved!

*"The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:8-9)*

### "WHERE ARE YOU?"

Thursday mornings, 10-12, beginning October 8 and going through November 12 (6 weeks), Jan Wise will be teaching a Bible study that asks the question, "Where are you?" God knew where Adam was, yet he asked him, "Where are you." Why does God ask us where we are, why does he care, and how will we answer? To register for the class, call the church (628-4083) or Jan Wise (382-5799).

### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Please watch for an announcement of our organizational meeting and plan to come, bring your ideas and a friend. Any questions or thoughts, please contact Pamela Dubose at (352) 225-1453.

### Media Ministry - Video Operators

More volunteers are needed, especially for the 8:00 service. Please talk to Sharon at the sound booth if you'd like to be involved in this exciting new ministry!

You can also call 352-382-0706,  
 or email [sierracharlie@embarqmail.com](mailto:sierracharlie@embarqmail.com).

## Christmas For Our Soldiers



Please help us send Christmas stockings to our deployed troops who are away from their loved ones during the upcoming 2009 holiday season.

You can either make your own stocking or purchase one at a store. Fill it with some of the suggested items listed below and then put into the Hugs for Our Soldiers box in the Narthex.

Be sure to put a card in your stocking so the soldiers know who is wishing them good cheer!



### Suggested Items:

Pair of white socks (calf or boot height)

Chap stick

Beef Jerky

Ramen Noodles

Trail Mix or Dried Fruit

Candy Canes

Apple Cider and Hot Chocolate drink packets

Garland (home or store bought) or other small decorations (non-breakable)

Holiday or other DVD (new or used)



You may also mail us a check for \$10.00 and we will do the shopping and make the stocking for you.

Please include a signed Christmas card so the soldiers know who took the time to send them good cheer. Make the check out to Hugs for Our Soldiers and mail to:

Pamela DuBose

Hugs for Our Soldiers

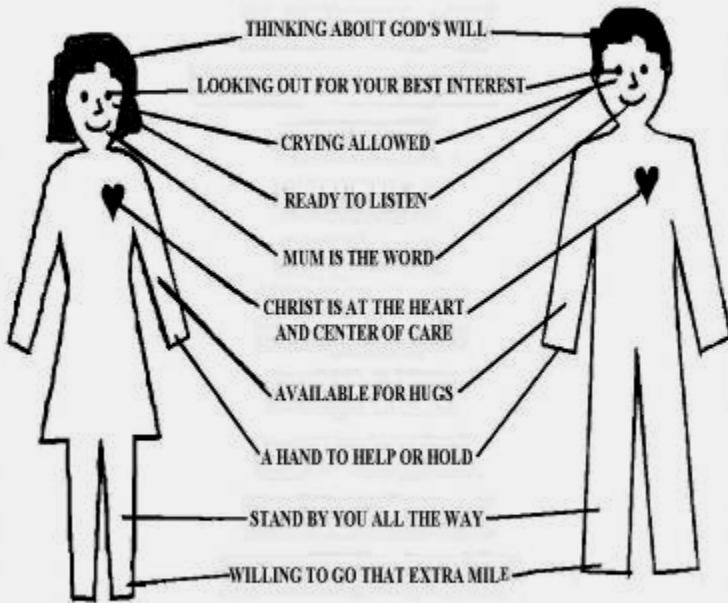
P O Box 547, Lecanto, FL 34461

**DEADLINE IS: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

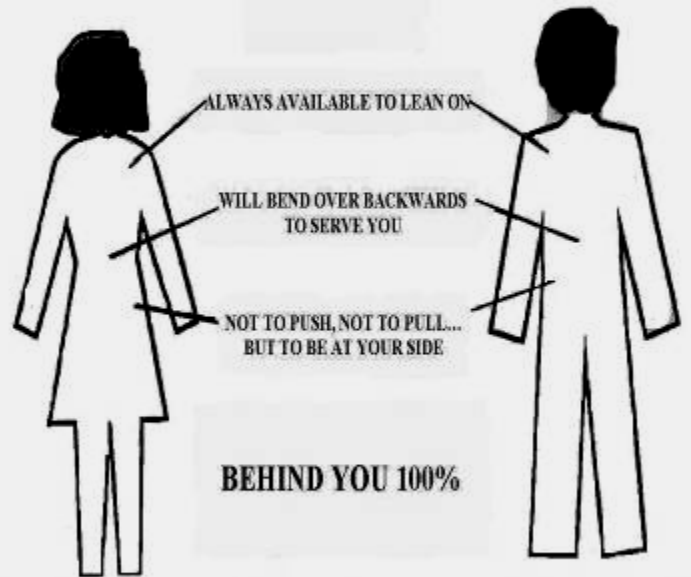


# What Stephen Ministers Are Equipped To Do

## FRONT



## BACK



Call Stephen Leaders: Kay Bast, 382-4908; Carol MacKenzie 382-8926; Karen Kline 382-7263

## Singing Christmas Trees 2009 The First Baptist Church Orlando



*Saturday,  
December 5*

**\$40.00 per person will include bus transportation, show ticket and driver gratuity.**

**Dinner will be at The Golden Corral, not far from the Baptist Church, at 6 pm. Senior price is \$10.49 plus tax and includes the drink.**

**The bus holds 55 people, so get your reservations as soon as possible to reserve a seat.**

**Call Bill Brobst  
352-621-3736.**

### All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast \$4.00



**Saturday, Oct. 17  
Serving 7 AM to 10 AM**

The Serendipity Men's Group meets weekly, on Wednesdays at 3 PM, to study and discuss "the Word" from the Serendipity Bible.

Additionally, Serendipity has begun assisting programs for those in need, i.e., added funding for the pantry, monthly pancake breakfasts to raise funds, and an expected joint "Fair Day" with county agencies in November.

You are invited to join the Men of FUMC family (and their friends). You can help and you will benefit yourselves by joining this growing men's group. Come and share the fun and fellowship with a great group of men.

For information, call Jim Potts at 382-1842.

## Dear Praying Friends,

Well, we are all back in Chiang Mai and back into life and ministry after almost three months in the States. A special thanks again to all our supporting churches and to those who hosted us and made this summer a special one to remember. We feel renewed and ready for the ministry that God has for us to accomplish in the next two years.

It's official: We totaled **7,825 miles of driving** this summer, starting at the St. Louis airport, then heading to Texas, Florida (Homosassa and St. Petersburg), Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, South Carolina (Charleston and Columbia), and then back to St. Louis. Thanks to all those who made this trip a great one both in terms of ministry and personal time.



Joe and the boys had an uneventful trip back to Thailand, August 11-13. Elaine stayed in the U.S. an extra two weeks to help Brittany get settled. **Elaine's return journey**, August 25-27, was a lot more harrowing. The problems began when China Airlines moved her Taiwan-to-Chiang Mai flight back a day, forcing a last-minute scramble to re-arrange her tickets. That left her with a dicey 2-hour layover in San Francisco instead of the comfortable 6-hour layover of the original itinerary. As a result, when a thunderstorm hit Atlanta, her South Carolina and Atlanta flights were delayed and caused her to get to SF just as the 1:35 AM PDT flight to Taiwan was taking off. That meant Elaine had to sit in SF for 24 hours, including the rest of that night in the airport terminal with other stranded passengers. She got out the next day, but China Airlines had to re-route her to Chiang Mai via Bangkok because the Chiang Mai flight from Taiwan is only twice a week. Finally, on Saturday at 2 PM, she arrived at the airport 56 hours after leaving Columbia, S.C. (instead of what should have been 29). Praise God she finally made it and that we don't have to fly around the world again for a couple years.

Upon our return to Cool Shade of Life Church the first Sunday (August 16), **another Thai entered God's kingdom**. *Dukada*, the friend of a church member named *Noy*, received Jesus as her Savior and Lord. Praise God! Since opening almost three years ago, the church has seen 13 Thais led to the Lord and 10 baptized. In addition, *Dtum*, who serves in a capacity like that of associate pastor in the States, has recently completed the church's first new believers' class with six regular members and started a new class two weeks ago with several more attendees. We are so thankful to see God's hand upon this growing ministry.

While Elaine was gone, Joe and the boys watched **our house's fuse box nearly melt down** one night! One day, our power was surging and dimming all day. We assumed the neighborhood power was acting up as usual, so, when sparks started shooting out of the wire clips on the wall at about 8 p.m., we decided that was enough and shut things down to go to bed for the night. The next day, our landlord's repairman found the melted wires and fuses and had to spend six hours over two days completely re-wiring everything in the box. Praise God the house didn't burn down and that none of our appliances, computer, etc., were damaged. (By the way, this is at least the fifth major electrical incident we've had in our five years in Thailand. Asian wiring techniques are, ummmm, creative. Yeah, that's it, creative.)

Joe is getting back into **work with our new church-planting team** in earnest this month. In addition to Joe formulating a formal team orientation program for new members and doing other important paperwork, The HOME (Help Open Multiplying *Ekklesia*) Team's biography has been sent to PIONEERS bases around the world in order to recruit members. Please pray for the right missionaries to join our effort as we seek to partner with Thai pastors to open new churches.

**Brittany has begun matriculating** at Columbia International University in South Carolina. She has a challenging 17 credits of classes that will allow her to begin to see how the Lord is leading her in terms of a second major (Bible being the first.)

In addition, she has a job in the university cafeteria that will allow her to gain job experience and earn some extra spending money as she works up to five hours a week. Please pray for Brittany's adjustment to continue to go well; for her to continue to make good friends, particularly with her roommate, another MK (missionary kid) from Turkey named Becca; and for her to clearly see how God is leading her in life.



After her late return from the U.S., **Elaine had to scramble to make it back into her GIS classroom** Monday morning. While she wasn't nearly as prepared as she would have been if she had returned two days earlier as expected, she was still thankful to meet her new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and begin planning lessons and activities for this term. Please pray for this small group of 10 students to be a blessing and for Elaine to teach well.

We continue to have **two important financial needs**. The first is additional one-time donations in order to purchase a \$12,000 used vehicle for reliable ministry and family use. The second is our regular personal/ministry support account, which has a deficit of \$1,400 as of today. Please pray for these needs to be met in God's timing. (If you are willing to consider a one-time financial donation to help with either of these needs, please fill out a check to: PIONEERS, 10123 William Carey Drive, Orlando, FL 32832. Attach a note saying it is for Joe & Elaine Henry (vehicle account #110798V or regular account #110798) but don't write anything in the memo line.)

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



## Greetings Dear Faithful Friends!

Summer has vanished and the cooler weather has set in, winter won't be far away. Each year the fellowship celebrates harvest time by giving thanks and gathering together for a harvest meal. What a wonderful way to remember how perfectly our Father always provides our needs.



From the looks of things, we should have more than enough potatoes to get us through the winter months and well into spring. The cabbage, onions, tomatoes, and beets will last a few months - but not much after January. Just the same, we'll enjoy each bite while we can and prepare for the next planting in May or June.

With the cooler weather also comes the need for wood to heat and cook with in the village. We have some wood and coal already but will continue to buy and cut wood for the next couple of months while the price is still reasonable. We also continue to work on the major projects that were started this past summer as well as the "everyday" needs of village life. There's ALWAYS something needing to be built, fixed, or chopped.

Laura began teaching two American and two Russian/American girls in September. Their parents are co-workers and asked for help in home-schooling again this year. She's always eager to help in this area if it means keeping workers here instead of going back to the US for schooling. They're having lots of fun and learning to adjust to being in one room with four different grades. They have a third grader, a fifth, eighth, and a ninth grader. (Perhaps many of you had one-room schoolhouse experiences; my mother has often shared her stories of little boys dipping little girls' pigtails in the inkwells.)

Kevin will be travelling to Moscow the middle of this month for a week of meetings. Several men from

across Russia meet twice a year to discuss strategies, visa issues, and any other problems that may have arisen among their areas of work. There are also plans to travel to the northern region of Siberia to meet with a team sometime before the extreme cold weather sets in.

Finally dear friends, I (Laura) would like to share a recent "life experience." One of our dear friends lost her father because of alcoholism; he was 52 years old only a year older than me. Over the past few years, he had come to the fellowship a few times, but never made any commitment. He was clearly presented the truth of the gospel and saw it lived out through the life of his daughter. However, we never saw a change, or desire to change, his lifestyle. He just could not walk away from drinking with "friends" and neighbors. It's difficult to understand how so many can live so long in a state of drunkenness.

The average age for men in this country decreases each year. (In some areas it's as low as 45 years.) We see it first-hand, especially in the village. Their lives are void of joy, hope, love. Our Father freely offers all of these to any who will just "come." But He also allows us free will. There are no strings attached, it's "our" choice.

Kevin once shared a statistic with me that was staggering. "Every day enough people that can fill the football stadium in Tampa, die around the world and enter an eternity without accepting Jesus into their lives." Such an emptiness and void I cannot imagine. Please continue to pray for this area, for these people.

Our requests this month are for wisdom, continued love for the people and many opportunities to share His love. We are also looking for a way to sell our car and get a bigger vehicle - something with a truck chassis so we aren't "beating up" our car on the road we drive each week to the village. He continues to meet our needs and amazes us in how and from where the finances come...we are so very grateful.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness as we work together in Siberia.

**Joyfully Blessed!**  
**Kevin and Laura**



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Duane Geiger	18 Bill Richner
2 Holl Benthusen	19 Lisa Specht
3 Dominick Travers	20 Norma Geiger
5 Connie Barton	20 Mary Olson
John Dean	Jan Winters
Robert Russell	21 Barbara Deppner
6 Larry Healy	Joe Ann Gidlow
Charles Gordon	Merlyn Hoar
Gail Rudolph	Jack Reed
7 Carolyn Byington	23 Louise Brechka
Sue Harris	Ann Fasnacht
Faye Schmitt	Erma Kern
8 Elizabeth Ainsworth	Kathi Mansfield
Don Hoes	Anna Rivells
9 Loretta Burcaw	24 Thomas Cloyd
10 Steven Bassler	Sandra Violet DeClue
Patricia Blake	Kayleigh Gordon
John Mayles	Bill Kemp
Peggy Powell	Patricia Lawrence
11 Kenneth Dent	25 David Honerich
Jerry Tanner	Mary Valeria Wither
12 Michelle Selby	26 Dee Green
13 Art Carl	27 Virginia Hoadley
14 William Baker	Joyce Zawacki
15 Cynthia Allen	28 Terry Adams
Alice Carnahan	29 George Marshall
Tom Wise	Jack Schrock
Alice Yusko	30 Charlotte Brightman
16 Clayton Spencer	Donna Flack
Doris Stine	Helen Lefave
17 George Knerr	31 Hettie Nevels
Betty McGraw	Bob Mackenzie
Pat Schuessler	


**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

1 Virginia & John Hoadley ~ 54 years ~	23 Eileen & Roger Ferguson ~ 55 years ~
5 Connie & Bill Barton ~ 69 years ~	24 Cecelia & George Woodward ~ 31 years ~
11 Susan & John Dean ~ 22 years ~	26 Debbie & Robert Grafton ~ 29 years ~
13 Virginia & Kenneth Will ~ 30 years ~	28 Geraldine & George Frenz ~ 20 years ~
16 Barbara & Hank Deppner ~ 50 years ~	29 Nancy & Tom Pearo ~ 21 years ~
~ 45 years ~ Katherine & Terry Cornelius	30 Barbara & James Stoneman ~ 55 years ~
20 Pam & Cameron Cleary ~ 6 years ~	31 Sue & Howard Kuntz ~ 56 years ~
~ 41 years ~ Alice & Dan Hurley	
~ 61 years ~ Wanda & Fred Wheeler	



DEAR FIRST UMC FRIENDS -  
I'd like to send my many thanks to all for the prayers and concerns during my surgery, and my recovery to come. And Mary, Mary thanks to my Pastor Mark.  
God Bless you all,  
Glória Eisea

IN MEMORIAM




Lou Mosler  
4/15/1938  
To  
8/27/2009

IN MEMORIAM



Delores "Doll" Scott  
4/4/1914  
To  
8/15/2009

IN MEMORIAM



William Smith  
5/26/1926  
To  
8/14/2009

**In Our Thoughts And Prayers**

PERSONS RESIDING IN LONG-TERM CARE (As of 9/14/2009)

**AVANTE**  
Annie Preston

**BRENTWOOD**  
Corrine Barrito  
Evelyn Bash

**CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH & REHAB**  
Betty Farewell  
Robert Smith

**DIAMOND RIDGE**  
Jean Buzby  
Betty Duncan

Betty Gunderson  
Helen Hudson

**GREEN ACRES**  
Bud Jenks

**HUNT RESIDENCE**  
Bill Marquis

**LIFE CARE**  
Ginny Reese  
Buck Snyder  
Jean Hilger

**SUGARMILL MANOR**  
Shirley Hart  
Grace Payne

**SUNFLOWER SPRINGS**  
Marguerite Betzer  
Ruth Eaton  
Ruth & Bill Willis



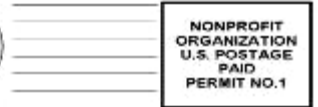
# OCTOBER 2009



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

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**We Are A Stephen Ministry Church**

Visit our Web Site: [www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.org)

Neil Kline, Webmaster

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

**Rev. Mark Whittaker**  
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM

Nursery at all services

EBADOC Academy &

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM

Office Hours: Weekdays

8:30AM to 4:30PM

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*Soli Deo Gloria*



**OCTOBER 2009**