

# GENESIS

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

DECEMBER 2005

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 9 Issue 8

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 Dale Evans



## Waiting Upon Our Lord By Pastor Mark Whittaker



In the scripture from Luke 2, for Christmas, the baby Jesus is brought to the Temple on the child's eighth day to present him to the Lord as was the custom in that time.

There was a very old man in the Temple who had been waiting for the Messiah all of his adult life.

It seems that we do a lot of that, don't we? Wait. And wait.

As children it was almost more than we could bear as we waited for Christmas to finally come.

For many people who served this country in time of war and peace, 'hurry up and wait' was a reality of every day.

And too many of us, too many times, have had to sit in a waiting room, not knowing, fearfully waiting for the doctor to arrive.

We have been wait-

ing for over 2,000 years for the return of the Lord. Each year we say, "maybe next year."

We don't know why the Lord has not come. There is a lot of speculation, but that is all it is....speculation.

We ought to be happy, though, that the time for the end has not come yet, because it could be a little embarrassing to have all our sins laid out before the Lord. We might have to come up with some very creative excuses.

The people of Israel made a covenant with God in the wilderness of Sinai.

Then Moses went up the mountain to get the written commandments.

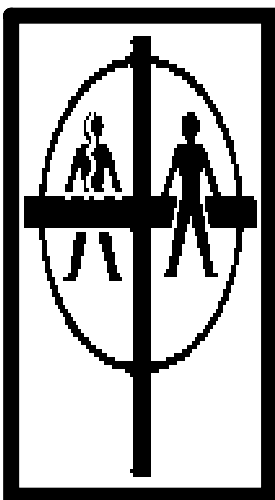
When the people had waited for 40 days, they gave up and turned away from the covenant they had made. They gave up on



themselves, on Moses, and on God. They gave up the promise they couldn't see for the hunk of gold that they could see.

What do we do with ourselves as we wait?

While we are waiting, we need to live as if God were here with us. We need to live as if the Master were coming home tomorrow. We need to live as he has called us to live. Then we can find the joy, satisfaction, and grace that he promises to each one who waits upon the Lord.



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.

Our statement fits that description.



### 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



Tracking committee

## "Living in Christian Community"

By Elizabeth Smith

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a community of believers where members committed themselves to follow the guidelines that Jesus and the New Testament writers laid out? Do we even know what those guidelines are? Will they really work in our casual "do-your-own-thing" society? A small group, using the Bible study/discussion format, will start early in 2006. Dates and times are not established, but, if you are interested, call Elizabeth Smith, 382-0699, and tell her what day and time would work best for you.

## O Holy Night!



What a beautiful time in the life of the church! Christmas eve is filled

with magic and beauty and wonder as we celebrate together the excitement of the coming of the Christ child. We are again planning to have three Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24th, in the sanctuary.

5 p.m. - Family Worship Service

7 p.m. - Cantata and Candlelight

11 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight.

The 5 p.m. service is designed for families and those who enjoy children. We will have some great music and a program that every age group can appreciate.

The 7 p.m. service will feature our incredible choirs as they present the beauty and pageantry of Christmas. This is always the best attended service - filling the sanctuary - and you will see why when you come.

The 11 p.m. service is a service of communion and candle lighting. It is a softer service providing an opportunity to look within and open yourself to God's presence and call on your life. We will have communion and prayer as we kneel at the rail and then go forth in the darkness to await the coming of the light.

We invite you to come and worship; come and share the joy!

## Christmas Day Services

Christmas Day - December 25th - is on Sunday this year and that gives us an opportunity to make this "birthday" of Jesus a special one.

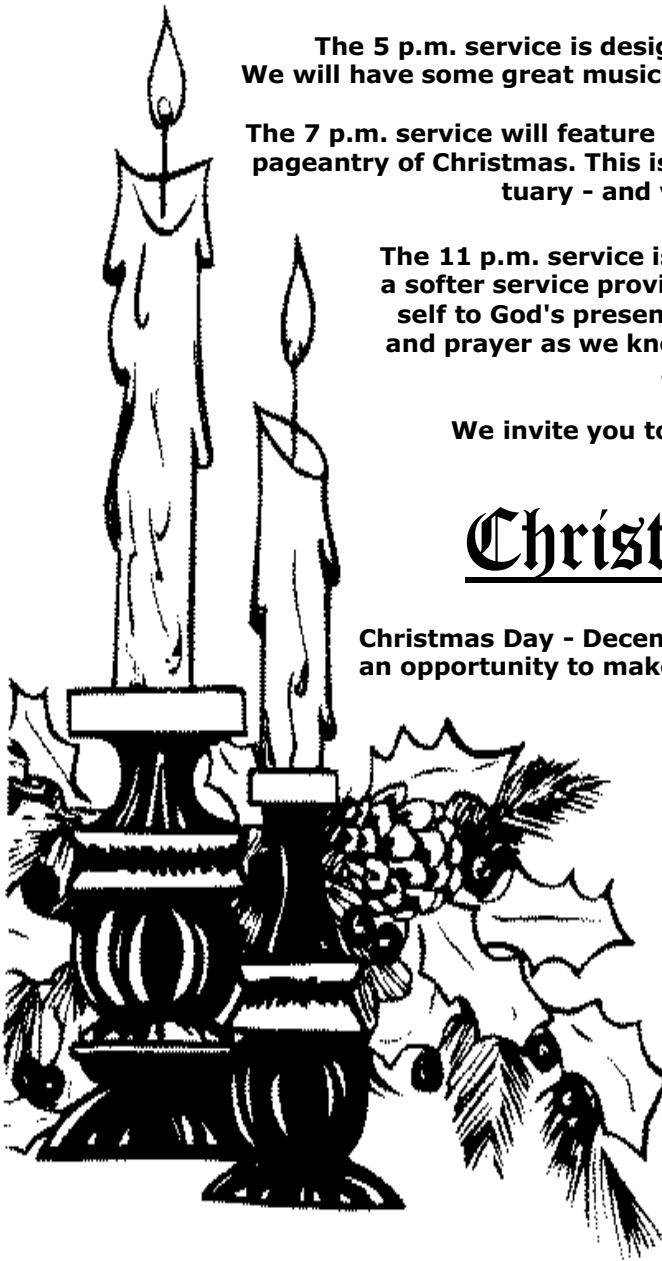
Instead of holding our three regular services on Christmas morning, we are planning to have a single service of fun and celebration for the families of the church.

We plan to sing Christmas hymns, and have special music also. We are inviting the children to come and bring one of their new toys for a

### "Blessing of the Toys".

The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. and we will enjoy the Christmas carols for as long as you want to sing. It will be a celebration of the birth of our Lord and a time for the church family to share together.

Get started early with the presents, then come and celebrate the Good News of Emmanuel, God with us.





SHARE has been an outreach of our church for five years. We have provided high quality food to our community at about half the price of local stores, whether program participants are members of FUMC or not.

As of October, we have reached \$72,262.70 in sales with an average monthly order of \$1,239.60.

Our first order in October of 2000 was only \$763.90 but we have increased this amount.

In November and December, our total sales are better than \$2,000. Almost every year, our church has bought fifty holiday dinners for families in need.

We would like to say a special "Thank You" to each and every person who has worked as a volunteer for SHARE.

Some volunteers have been there for almost every Delivery Day, others are part of the "Registration Team", taking orders, counting money, and coordinating information.

Many have gone to Ocala, using their own trucks and gas to bring the food back to us.

The benefits of SHARE may

never be fully known or appreciated, but we have made a difference in the community.

SHARE's holiday package for Thanksgiving was a great success with thirty-seven orders, not including the fifty our church gave away.

**Orders for "Christmas Dinner"**

at \$19.00 will be over on the third of December, so if you don't get here on time you will miss out on a great deal. It is a four-pound "Pork Roast Dinner" with all the trimmings, including a holiday pie.

**Also for December, a "Scrumptious Spiral Ham"**

for \$20.50 and a two pound bag of "Fully Cooked and Peeled Shrimp" ready to eat for just \$10.60.

**Of course, we still have our "Basic Package" for \$18.00.**

You will need to come in to find out what's in it.

Sign up on November 30th or December 3rd, between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM, and pick up your dinner on De-



**Draw a Paper Doll**

Imagine sketching a simple picture of a person, much like a paper doll. Notice the arms for hugging, two hands to help or hold, legs to stand by you all the way, feet willing to go that extra mile. Add ears ready to listen, eyes looking out for your best interest, and a mouth that maintains confidentiality. The brain thinks about God's will, and the heart is where Christ is the center of care.

Turn the paper doll over and you see a back, always available to lean on. The body is ready to bend over backwards to serve you. There not to push, not to pull, but to be at your side.

You have just drawn the picture of a trained Stephen Minister who is waiting to serve you.

Call Kay (382-4908) or Diane (382-7242) if you would like more information about being assigned a caregiver, who will provide weekly visits plus telephone support, or to schedule a pre-training interview for the 50-hour classes beginning early in 2006.

The Stephen Ministry team wishes everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Diane Cary





## Catch The Spirit of Christmas!

By  
Helen Lefave

The following books with the subject of Christmas are available in the Church Library.

You're welcome to visit,  
Monday through Friday,  
from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
and on Sunday mornings.

1. "Christmas Quilt" by Thomas J. Davis --- a warm story of love, hope and forgiveness. It's about a family living in the mountains of North Georgia whose activities include Sunday dinner at Granny's, black-berry picking, running the train tracks, a revival meeting and swimming in the town river after dropping in the water from a bridge. It's about honest emotion and true-to-life characters.

2. "Shepherds Abiding" by Jan Karon. The author says this story is a consoling refuge from the holiday frenzy. Father Tim of Mitford finds a derelict nativity scene with a flock of sheep. Can he give the small assembly new life? Can he restore the camel's ear, repaint every piece? He's not the artist in the family. Thus begins a small journey of faith that touches everyone around him and seeks to restore the true Christmas spirit.

3. "The Christmas Shoes" by Donna Van Liere. If we're open to it, God can use even the smallest thing to change our lives --- to change us ---

even a pair of shoes. Some people may think of this story as coincidence, a chance encounter. Read and find out if you believe.

4. "The Christmas Blessing" by Donna Van Liere, a sequel to "The Christmas Shoes." Each of us is destined for something, a purpose that seems vague at best. We may not discover our purpose in the way we'd want but we may see tiny sparks of revelation that push us closer and closer to our destiny. An inspiring Christmas story of love, faith and courage.

5. "Christmas Treasury" by Louisa May Alcott. The complete collection of her (19) Christmas short stories and novellas, are gathered into a single exquisite book. It's sure to brighten the holidays for book lovers.

6. "The Christmas Box" by Richard Paul Evans. A touching story of a widow and the young family who moves in with her. Together they discover the first gift of Christmas and learn what Christmas is really all about. This is a little book with a big message.

7. "The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke. Have you ever heard the story of 'the other wise man' who also saw the star in its rising, and set out to follow

it? Of the long way of his seeking, and the strange way of his finding the One whom he sought? And now that his story is told, what does that mean? What does life mean? If the meaning could be put into a sentence, there'd be no need of telling the story. Copyrighted first in 1895, this little book of 77 pages still tells the tale of Artaban in poetic prose.

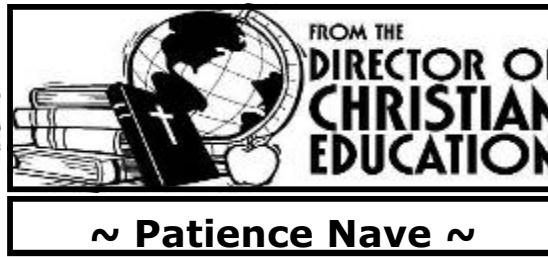
AND --- for kids of all ages, we have the following Videos:

"The Littlest Angel";  
"It's Christmastime Again, Charlie Brown";  
"Mickey's Christmas Carol";  
"Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer";  
"Candy Claus";  
and "White Christmas", the Irving Berlin musical with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye.

Coming soon to the theater is the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia". We have the "Chronicles of Narnia" in our Church Library including "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" (Video).

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
from your Library Staff,  
Barbara Jackson  
and  
Helen Lefave





We had a great time at the Fall Festival picnic!



Balloon Pals

The food was great! The weather was perfect! My thanks to all who came. You were important as we attempted to assure the children that they are important to us.

Our time is now spent getting ready for things to come!

A committee met twice in November to make plans for a two week Bible school next summer.

The date and theme will be announced soon, and

we will need volunteers to make the program a success.

Everyone must complete the screening process prescribed by our Staff Parish Committee and the Conference for those who work with children.

That takes time, so if you would like to work with us this year tell me soon so we can begin the process.



Our church-wide retreat will be February 24, 25, 26, and John Riley from Alabama will be our guest speaker. He is an extremely popular speaker, and we

are very privileged to have him. I hope you will make plans to attend this rich, spiritual-growth weekend!

The committee will complete plans for the weekend soon, and I'll remind you often as the date approaches.

The new Sunday school class - "The Bible Questers" - that began in the summer is going very well!



We have several young people who have graduated from high school, are working or going to college (or both), but whose needs really are different from those of the high school crowd.

I know that God would not have given us these very important young adults had He not prepared someone to teach them.



We also need someone who loves children and would like to teach the K-2 class.

Jesus said, "Let the little ones come to Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Who wants to be the one to encourage these little ones to come to Him?

If you think you are, please call me at the church on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, or you may call me at home.





## Don't Miss This Opportunity!

By Richard L. Evans

Year-end giving can benefit both you and your church! Year-end is a good time to "take stock" and reflect on our many blessings—and to express our gratitude with gifts to our church and other charitable organizations. Year-end is also a time to review our "financial position" and to take advantage of some of the tax benefits available to us. Here are some things to consider as you think about how your giving at year-end may meet your needs even as it provides welcome support for others.

**1) Give Cash.** A cash gift in any amount is a convenient and popular way to show your faithful support for the church and its many ministries. The full amount of your gift qualifies for a 2005 charitable income tax deduction—up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. (Be sure your check is dated in 2005 and received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2005, to receive a deduction this year.)

**2) Give Appreciated Property.** If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them and take a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value and avoid declaring the capital gain of the assets as income. Many people consider this the equivalent of a "double deduction." Your gift may be deductible up to 30% of your AGI. Larger gifts may qualify for a carry-forward of amounts in excess of the 30%.

(Investments that have decreased in value may best be sold, in order to declare a capital loss; then you can give a cash amount to the church as a tax-deductible charitable contribution.)

**3) Give and Retain Income for Life.** Do you know that you can give to the church and/or charity while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life? A Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust enable you to receive income that is either guaranteed or flexible. And there are significant tax advantages. In addition to a good rate of income from the CGA or CRT, a portion of your gift will qualify for a charitable tax deduction this year (with a carry-forward option for up to five years).

**4) Give Unneeded Life Insurance.** Perhaps you own a life insurance policy that you no longer need because the reason for the policy no longer exists (your children are grown or your mortgage is paid off). Consider giving the policy to the church and you may qualify for a charitable income tax deduction for the lesser of your cost basis or the replacement value. This is a good way to support a cause that is dear to your heart without reducing your bank account.

**5) Give a Memorial Gift.** As you think of some special people who have touched your life (a teacher, pastor, relative, or other loved one) you may want to do something to demonstrate that they are remembered. A memorial tribute is a special way to say "thank you" to those who have enriched your life.

**6) Give as Wise Tax Planning.** Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2005 tax year may enable an itemized tax deduction. The standard deduction threshold for 2004 was \$9,700 for joint filers and \$4,800 for singles.

When the figures for 2005 are released, the threshold may be slightly higher. If you have been unable to itemize and have been using the standard deduction, a year-end gift may add enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

**7) Give to our "Building for Tomorrow" Campaign from Accumulated Assets.** Consider fulfilling your 3-year pledge from your accumulated assets (stock, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, IRAs, 401k, etc.) rather than from current income. It will have less impact on your annual budget, and may afford you significant tax advantages (as described above). You might also consider accelerating payment to 2005 in order to receive a larger charitable tax deduction this year.

**8) Give to Express your Faith.** And that's really what it is all about! The Advent/Christmas season is a great time to give in gratitude for God's greatest gift to us—Jesus Christ. Why not make a special effort to honor Him in your giving this Christmas season? It may be the most important gift you give.

This article is adapted from a pamphlet distributed by the Planned Giving Resource Center in Nashville TN. It does not attempt to give specific legal or tax advice. To address your particular situation contact a tax advisor, financial planner, or a staff member of the Florida United Methodist Foundation. For more information on planned giving, especially from accumulated assets, contact our church office.

--Submitted by the Permanent Endowment Committee.



**The Columbarium  
at  
First United Methodist  
Church, Homosassa  
by  
Richard L. Evans**



*The Church Council has approved the establishment of a Columbarium, as a repository for cremated remains of church members and their families.*

*The cabinet-like vault of 108 sealed niches with granite fronts will be erected against the east exterior wall of the Worship Center—facing the new parking area.*

*Each niche will accommodate up to two urns. Future expansion will eventually bring the total to 216 niches (and up to 432 urns).*

The Columbarium will be surrounded by a landscaped and fenced Memorial Garden—an ideal setting for meditation and prayer.

A large bronze cross will be placed on the wall of the church, above the wall cabinet.

The Columbarium will be a modern counterpart to the old church burial ground and is an appropriate final “resting place” for faithful members of Christ’s Church.

Church-installed columbaria are becoming increasingly popular as cremation becomes more acceptable—and even preferable for many—as an alternative to traditional burial.

St. Anne’s Episcopal Church in Crystal River has a beautiful one in the courtyard area of their building.

Many United Methodist Churches in Florida and throughout the USA have installed columbaria for their members.

Members of FUMCH may purchase niche spaces and reserve them until their time of need.

The pre-construction price for each niche is \$1,000. Niches may be purchased by individuals for single inurnment or by couples for double inurnment.

The price is inclusive of either one or two bronze urns (made specifically for these niches) and one or two engraved bronze nameplates that will be attached to the granite front of the niche.

There will be no additional charges beyond the original purchase price. (Of course the purchase price will increase in the future as costs increase).

\$500 of each purchase will cover FUMCH costs at this time.

The additional \$500 will be considered a tax-deductible charitable contribution and will be held in reserve for future expansion and in an endowment fund for perpetual care. FUMCH will agree to “buy back” a niche purchased by a church member who subsequently decides not to use it (due to relocation or some other reason). FUMCH will refund the original purchase amount (currently \$500). The charitable contribution portion, of course, cannot be refunded.

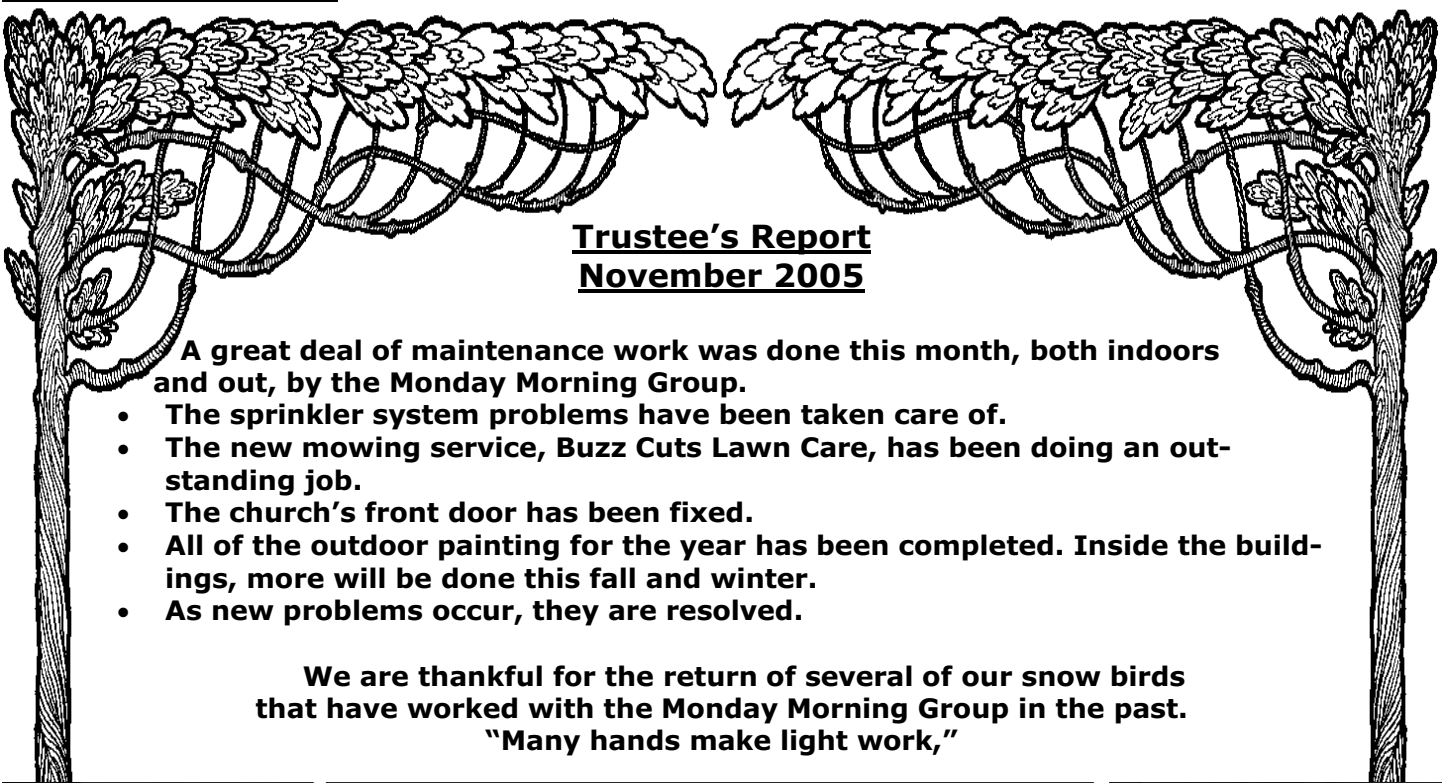
Persons interested in purchasing a niche may obtain an Application Packet from the church office.

You may select your niche and reserve it either with payment in full or with a deposit of \$200 (the balance to be paid within 60 days).

Certificates of the Right of Inurnment will be issued upon completion of the application and receipt of full payment.







**Trustee's Report**  
**November 2005**

A great deal of maintenance work was done this month, both indoors and out, by the Monday Morning Group.

- The sprinkler system problems have been taken care of.
- The new mowing service, Buzz Cuts Lawn Care, has been doing an outstanding job.
- The church's front door has been fixed.
- All of the outdoor painting for the year has been completed. Inside the buildings, more will be done this fall and winter.
- As new problems occur, they are resolved.

We are thankful for the return of several of our snow birds that have worked with the Monday Morning Group in the past.  
"Many hands make light work,"

**We can always use additional volunteers!  
Stop by and join us on Monday Mornings.**



Our Holistic Small Groups ministry continues to grow!

Two new groups are getting ready to launch.

Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise are going to launch a new group that will study *Christian Community*.

Bill and Barbara Gilbert and Pastor Mark are teaming up to launch a *Bible Study* group which just ordered a curriculum called *A Faith For All Seasons of Life*.

Bill Ackerman's enrollment kept growing and had 12 people sign up for his *Current Events* group. He's already at the maximum attendance!

Lyn Romano's *Women's Prayer* group is meeting regularly on Thursday mornings, and I am hearing a lot of positive feedback from it.

# Holistic Small Group News

By  
Rev. Steven Skelley



Diane Gibbs' and Donna Ludwick's *First Place* group meets on Wednesday mornings and is already full and multiplying, launching a 2nd group in the evenings which Diane will lead with Patience Nave as her co-facilitator.

Marilyn Siegel's *Women's Bible Study* group had its first meeting (which went very well) and is currently studying Proverbs, using a curriculum called *12 Steps To A More Organized Woman*.

The Cancer Survivors group has awesome leaders in Anna Cooley and Earl Cadaret and will grow when the time is right and the community becomes more aware of this wonderful support opportunity.

Things are going well and we are seeing growth already. We are blessed with such excellent holistic small

group facilitators and co-facilitators!

After the New Year, we'll be planning to start another set of training sessions for other new groups.

We currently have two that want to start and we just need two more to have our 4-12 attendance so we can model holistic small groups in our training sessions.

Current possibilities include a *Chronic Pain Support* group and a group *For Those Whose Spouses Don't Attend Church With Them*.

Contact Steve Skelley at 628-4083 if you are interested in starting a Holistic Small Group.

Contact the Holistic Small Group leaders if you are interested in their group.



**CHRISTMAS**  
**You Are Invited!**

~ OPEN HOUSE ~  
Joyce Ann & Steve Skelley

December 4th  
3-6 PM

**Directions:**  
Take route 491 (Lecanto Highway) toward Beverly Hills. Pass Winn Dixie. Pass Mustang Road. Turn right on Roosevelt Blvd. at red light. Go 1 mile to Harrison and turn right on Harrison to 80 South Harrison St.  
  
Park in front mulch driveway.



## Youth Ministry News

Steffy Skelley Selling UMW Cookbooks to Raise money for Youth Ministry Projects.



Leslie Montgomery On the Youth Fellowship trip To the Homosassa Wildlife Park.



### WHAT IS YOUTH MINISTRY?

The Youth Ministry at First United Methodist Church is every young person between the ages of 11 and 19 whether they attend the Sunday church services at 8:00, 9:30 or 11 am, Sunday School at 9:30 am, the Saturday night worship service at 7 pm, Youth Fellowship on Sunday afternoons, or if they belong to any family in the church. Our goal is to offer each of them every opportunity for spiritual growth, acceptance and fellowship at their level of personal involvement. We're there for them and each of them is important. Check out the bulletin board in the educational wing for more information and photos from this year's events.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for everyone aged 11-19 meets each Sunday morning in the Youth Room across from the Fellowship Hall. Joyce Ann Skelley leads the class and teaches from the Bible about issues and choices that teens and preteens face. We are seeing a lot of smiling faces in Sunday School. Thank you all for attending and remember to invite a friend.

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP** meets on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 2:30.

We begin in the fellowship hall. We have lunch together every week and then head off for our weekly event.

We have recently spoken with the Citrus County Parks Department about "adopting" Blue Springs Park, just across Bradshaw Street from the church.

As part of outreach and community service, we agree to keep an eye on the park, pick up trash a number of times a year, and alert the Parks Dept of any vandalism so they can fix it.

We are also allowed to offer events of our own at the park.

We could do a children's fun day for Homosassa area children, or whatever we decide is good for our community.

Whether we are doing community service, visiting the Homosassa Wildlife Center, having a picnic or pool party, we always have a great time together at Youth Fellowship.

Every youth is welcome along with their parents.

**CHRISTMAS YOUTH MINISTRY.** We are planning a Christmas Ministry Outreach as part of our Youth Ministry at First UMC.

Youth and parents are planning to visit local nursing homes to sing Christmas carols and hand out Christmas teddy bears to residents. Stay tuned for more details about this youth/parent

# 'tis the SEASON

Saturday  Night

Praise Worship in December

*"Remembering The Reason For The Season."*

We will sing Christmas Favorites!  
Look at Christmas Videos!  
Share Christmas Devotions!

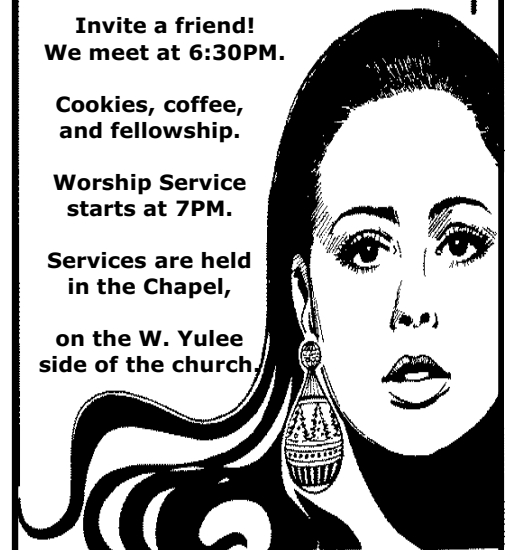
Invite a friend!  
We meet at 6:30PM.

Cookies, coffee,  
and fellowship.

Worship Service  
starts at 7PM.

Services are held  
in the Chapel,

on the W. Yulee  
side of the church.





# In And About Our Church



## December Birthdays

- 1  
Doris Kertesz
- 2  
Martha Formender  
Rusty Harry
- 4  
Shirley Waldrip  
Dorothy Nobles  
Bess Hoes
- 5  
Fred Casper  
Zane Megos  
Patti Smith  
Susan Dean
- 6  
Elizabeth Gaines  
Betty Huffstutler  
Dorothy Jones  
Charles Dixon
- 7  
Marybelle Baker  
Howard Watson, Sr.  
Willy Pouderoyne  
Edwin White
- 8  
Ruth Anderson  
Abbye Richner  
Jeana Stansbury  
Jeremy White
- 9  
David Pirkle
- 10  
Glenn Seiler  
Minnie Watson  
Mary McCrea
- 11  
Dreama Waldrop
- 12  
Budd Hansen  
Carolyn Bright
- 13  
Frank Harris  
Imogene Burnett  
Claire Clewett
- 14  
Delanne Parker  
Richard Shaffer  
William Little  
Barbara Shores
- 15  
Julia Wilkinson  
Jerry Robbins

- 16  
Charlie Walker  
Armin Marvin  
Maureen Guthrie  
Kenneth Will
- 17  
Margaret Ayers  
Betty Davis  
Sandra Dewart
- 18  
Edith Keilt Parker
- 19  
Phylliss Dixon
- 20  
Marilyn Wells
- 21  
Malcomb Whetstone  
Lois Young  
Don Hand  
Mildred Mott  
Jessica Cocking
- 22  
Jim Potts  
Sue Cloyd  
David Kegley
- 23  
Mary Ellen Wais
- 24  
Ted Archambault
- 25  
Carolyn Huggins



- 27  
Bill Gilbert  
Fredee Pooley  
Sasha McCallister  
Natasha Dawson
- 28  
Rene Dube  
Judith Huffer
- 30  
Audrey Johnson  
Charlotte Gable  
Adam Nunnery
- 31  
Dorothy Graham  
Lloyd Pond  
Sally Moore  
Lisa Bentley




- 5  
Alma & Harry Rogers ~ 27 years
- 8  
Michelle & Ryan Selby ~ 3 years
- 12  
Joan & James Eyster  
52 years
- Joyce & Jim Winder  
46 years
- 17  
Judith & William Busby ~ 22 years
- Phylliss & Charles Dixon ~ 17 years
- Isabelle & Ernie Verge ~ 62 years
- 18  
Martha & Ernie Dorrell ~ 45 years
- 19  
Donna & Bud Ludwick ~ 46 years
- Marlene & Lloyd Pond ~ 23 years
- 20  
Laurie & Larry Stainton ~ 46 years
- Wilma & Walter Stroud ~ 20 years
- 21  
Jeannine & Jim Love  
47 years
- 22  
Audrey & Roger Johnson ~ 32 years
- Lee & George Knerr  
50 years
- Marge & Harold Swinson ~ 60 years
- 28  
Kay & Lee Bast  
49 Years
- Judy & Bob Bunting  
45 years
- Dee & Jim Green  
10 years
- 29  
Carolyn & Rolland Custer ~ 46 years



- Life Care  
Dick Bader  
Fran Hughes  
Helen Dresback
- Barrington Place  
Ken McGuire
- Brentwood  
Betty Pettit  
Rene Dube  
Lois Alger
- Crystal River Rehab  
Robert Smith
- Cypress Cove  
Julia Wilkinson  
Ruth E. Smith  
Jack Mallet  
Willie Smith  
Audrey Gregory
- Nature Coast  
Bill Marquis
- Sugarmill Manor  
Ray Short  
Grace Payne  
Mary Ellen Cole  
Del Parker
- Surrey Place  
Maddie Wallace  
Marjorie Cook





- Hospice At Home  
Ray Bender
- Recovering At Home  
Ruth Bronn  
Yvonne Beck  
Paul Warner  
Betty Huffstutler  
Barbara Froedje  
Fran Graham
- Homebound  
Hilma Carlson  
Fran Erikson  
Margaret & Ashton Sawyer  
Doris Smith  
Marge Falk  
Yvonne Beck  
Jaci Boyd  
Charlotte Carlson  
Al Cuko  
Alma Mallet  
Armin Marvin  
Don Oblinger  
Regina & Will Parks  
Etta Whildon  
George Cole  
Paul Glen



In Memoriam


Walter F. Brightman  
1925-2005



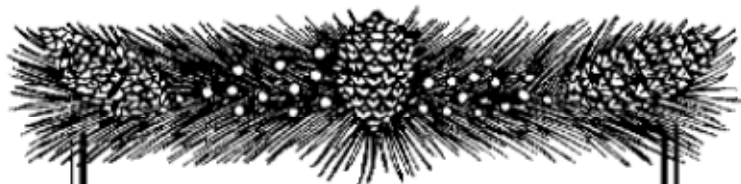


In Memoriam

Gerald Gregory  
1919-2005







There is no New Member Sunday in November. We combine November and December classes, and then pick a Sunday early in December for membership reception. Look for New Member listings in the January 2006 Genesis.



October Joiners



Kathy Betsko  
19 Livingstone Daisy Ct.  
Homosassa, 34446  
382-0032  
From Waldo, OH

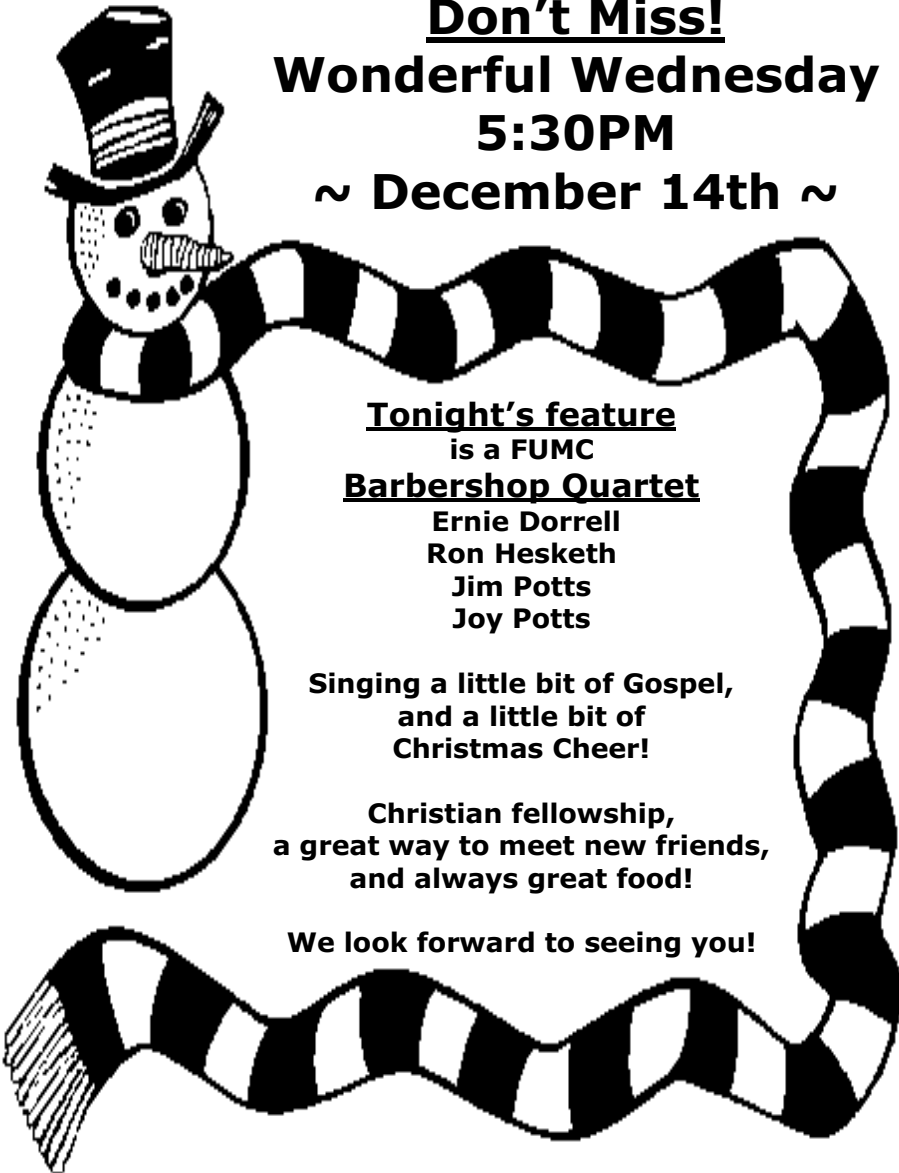
David Kegley  
P.O.Box 662  
Homosassa, 34487  
11689 W. Gregory Ct.  
Homosassa, 34448  
628-9617  
From Tampa, FL

Maureen Guthrie  
4103 Winding Oak Dr.  
Homosassa, 34446  
628-5860  
From Elmira, NY

Todd & Roberta Little  
78 Pine Dr.  
Homosassa, 34446  
From Queens, NY



**Don't Miss!**  
**Wonderful Wednesday**  
**5:30PM**  
**~ December 14th ~**



Tonight's feature  
is a FUMC  
Barbershop Quartet

Ernie Dorrell  
Ron Hesketh  
Jim Potts  
Joy Potts

Singing a little bit of Gospel,  
and a little bit of  
Christmas Cheer!

Christian fellowship,  
a great way to meet new friends,  
and always great food!

We look forward to seeing you!



Poinsettias will be on sale  
after services, starting  
November 27th.

You can also order at the  
Church Office.

The plants will be used to  
decorate for the holidays,  
and will be available for  
pick-up after Christmas.

If you are not here during  
the holidays and cannot pick  
up your plant, we will see  
that a housebound church  
member receives it.

Because of the shortage  
caused by the hurricanes,  
the cost this year will be  
\$10.00.





Wonderful people of First United Methodist Church of Homosassa made last Christmas truly memorable for 99 children in the greater Homosassa area through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree.

This was the result of many couples and individuals providing Christmas gifts for one or more children.

We hope to do the same this year for even more children, from infants to teenagers.

Gifts that you have purchased for your Angel must be delivered, unwrapped, to the church before December 18th, for distribution to each child's family in time for Christmas.

Contact:  
Betty Gunderson  
382-5715  
Or  
Sharon Deutsch  
621-3668

If you have any questions or would like information.



In what has become an annual event, the Lancaster Correctional Institution chaplains have asked for our help to provide 1,000 candy bars for the inmates' modest Christmas packages.

The Missions Committee notes the importance of all candy bars being the same size and asks everyone to bring standard size (2.07 oz.) Snickers candy bars to church services on:

**December 4th & 11th.**

A box for these donations will be in the narthex.

Each candy bar will be wrapped with an appropriate Christmas message written by Pastor Mark Whittaker.

Money donations are welcomed, and local businesses will be asked to assist.

Inmates at Lancaster range in age from 18 to 25 years old, and for most it is a first-time incarceration.

Chaplains have emphasized that a simple donation can be a meaningful gift for each man because it shows people on the outside care. The chaplains report that for many inmates the mail is sparse and there are few visitors.



Come join us on  
**December 15th**  
**at 3PM**  
to wrap Snicker Bars.



Girl Scout Troop #510 meets regularly in our church.

Louis & Julie Garthaus are the troop leaders.

The Scouts wish to thank the church for allowing them to meet in this facility ~ and, they have given Girl Scout Cookies to the Hospitality Committee for our Sunday Hospi-

JoAnn Ryan, Igniting Ministry Chairwoman, in charge of the Hospitality times, wants church members to know of the Scout's generosity. It was an unexpected gift to us.



Stop at our Hospitality Area in the Fellowship Hall between Sunday Church Services to enjoy cookies, lemonade, coffee, and Christian fellowship.

Sincerely,  
JoAnn Ryan



**Buses are leaving FUMC at 3PM,  
on December 9th**

**Be here at least 45 minutes  
to 1 hour early for check-in.**

**94 FUMC members will attend the Annual  
Trip to the First Baptist Church of  
Orlando, and the famous  
*Singing Christmas Tree.***

**Reservations at the Golden Corral in Or-  
lando for supper will begin at 5/5:15PM.  
(Upon arrival, please have ready the exact amount  
of cash for your meal. The cost is \$13 per person,  
which includes buffet, beverage, tax and tip.)  
Plan to reboard the bus by approximately  
6:15PM for the ride to the church (15-20  
minutes) for the 7:30PM performance.**

**Buses will be marked with cards dis-  
played on the dashboard near the door:**

***FUMC Homosassa #1,  
FUMC of Homosassa#2***

**Look on your ticket envelope to be sure  
you board the correct bus.**

*(At the conclusion of the performance, you may  
want to visit the rest rooms before boarding the  
buses for the 2 hour trip back to Homosassa.)*

**Exit through Welcome Center B (to your  
left as you face the stage) where buses  
will be lined up for many groups.**

**Be certain you are boarding one  
of our two buses!**

**Look for the signs!**

**Outside the entrance to Welcome Center  
B there will be leaders holding signs  
FUMC HOMOSASSA**

**We hope you enjoy the evening!  
Blessings and Best Wishes of the Season.**

~ Lyn Romano ~

### **Walking on the Path**

*By Patience Nave*

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wa-  
vering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider  
how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not  
forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of  
some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as  
you see the day drawing near."*

Hebrews 10:23-25 AMS

One of our church members made this passage  
come alive for me this month, and I am grateful for the  
lesson.

Marjorie Mitchell was in Avante, a skilled care fa-  
cility in Inverness. She called late one Saturday night be-  
cause she wanted to go to church "one more time" before  
being moved to Boston to be near her family. I told her  
that I could not possibly get her from Inverness to church  
on Sunday morning and still teach my own class. But  
when I went to bed, I had a very heavy heart. How could I  
*not* go to get her?

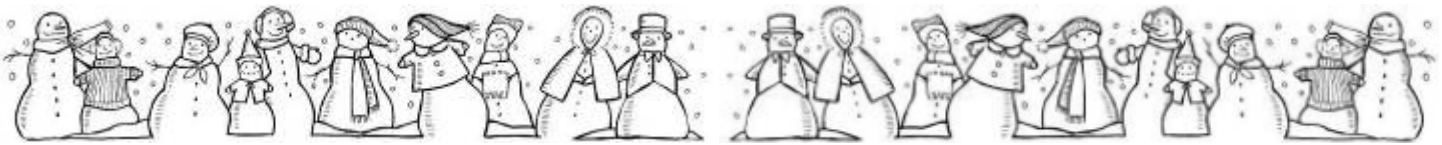
The following morning I got up earlier than usual,  
went over my lesson again, called Avante as soon as the  
day dawned, and went to Inverness. Marjorie and I drove  
back through the countryside—I call it the "back way"—  
and as we traveled she said with such joy, "I'm really go-  
ing to church" or "I can't believe I'm going to Sunday  
school!" Her excitement was real—and contagious.

We had a lovely day. Her class applauded when  
she went in. Church was special. And she had no idea she  
was teaching me all the way as she continued to praise  
God for the church and her friends there!

At first I had felt guilty that I'd said no to her re-  
quest to come for her. It was *inconvenient*, not *impossi-  
ble!* Soon I was asking myself, "How long has it been  
since you came to Sunday school and church with such  
enthusiasm and joy? How long has it been since, like a  
child, you said to God that you just loved being in His  
church? How long has it been since you "stimulated an-  
other to love and good deeds" by your *joy* at just being in  
church?"

Marjorie is now in Boston, but the lesson she left  
for me won't leave. She made this verse mine. I won't  
forget that "assembling of [ourselves] together" is not  
just a challenge of God. It's an important act for our on-  
going good!

Prayer: *Father, we know that you are always with us,  
wherever we go. But please don't let us forget as we  
gather together each Sunday morning that you join us  
there in worship in a special way. Remind us often that  
through each other you do indeed stimulate us for doing  
good while you are "inhabiting the praises of [your] peo-  
ple." Amen.*



**UMW Fall Bazaar  
Successful!**

**UMW Unit Meeting  
December 6  
11:30 AM**

As of November 15th, the Annual Fall Bazaar put on by the United Methodist Women made approximately \$3712 - the best ever!

**Christmas Pot Luck Salad Luncheon**  
**Program: Installation of Officers**  
**Leader: Pat Blake**  
**Hostesses: Mary Martha Circle**

Pat Blake stated, "A special thanks to all the workers for their many hours of preparation, the Herculean task of setting up, and their manning of the booths the day of the sale. Without you this never would have been possible.

Installing new officers will be District President, Jackie Bridges

Also on the program:  
 Recognition of appreciation to the ladies who have knitted hundreds sweaters for the "Knit for Kids" outreach program at FUMC that was started by the late Fonty Shade.

"To Sheldon LaMountain and Lee Bast, a very special thank you! Your help was so much appreciated...You guys are special!



"The group conducted a yard sale at the church on November 12th, coinciding with the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, to sell the remainder of the bazaar merchandise.

As written in the November 2005 "Guideposts":  
 "These sweaters bring joy, comfort and meaning to the kids who receive them. The "Knit for Kids" program got started almost ten years ago with a simple pattern mentioned in a *Daily Guideposts* devotional. Now sweaters knitted by our readers have reached 300,000 kids all over the world.

"A final tally of the proceeds will be reported in the January issue of Genesis.

"It all began when Brigette Weeks, then editor-in-chief of Guideposts Books, saw a picture in the *New York Times* of a young boy in a refugee camp wearing a handknit sweater given to him by the British charity, OXFAM.

"As tired as we were, God gave us the strength to continue. So we give him praise for the result!

"Recalling sweaters she had knit for OXFAM as a girl, she felt such a connection that she felt compelled to write about her experience.

"Again, many thanks to all, and I look forward to doing this again next year.

God Bless each of you....."

"It was March of 1996 when the story she wrote about knitting sweaters for refugee children appeared in our annual *Daily Guideposts*.

Pat Blake, Chairman

(Continued on next page)





**(Knit for Kids Continued)**

"It prompted a slew of letters from readers wanting to know how they could help. Hundreds requested patterns—and those who couldn't knit donated yarn or sent contributions to help fund the project.

"Before long, sweaters started pouring in, boxes stacking up in our Manhattan headquarters.

"Years later, we are still receiving a steady stream of sweaters—nearly 4,000 per month! Each is hand-knit or crocheted by a volunteer who generously donates her time, skill, and the cost of materials and postage.

"While most are sent by sweater-makers in the U.S. and Canada, some come from as far away as Australia and New Guinea.

"Once they arrive at Guideposts, the sweaters are counted and packed into boxes and sent to children's relief agencies—wherever the need is greatest.

"*Guideposts Knit for Kids* sweaters have gone to Mongolia, Haiti, Ecuador and Africa; to Romania, Turkey, Kosovo and Uzbekistan; to Native American reservations; to babies with AIDS; and to homeless children, who lack even the clothes necessary to attend school.

"These gifts of the heart are more than just a source of warmth. The patient work of friends like you carry a message of God's love and caring to His littlest ones.



"It's about spreading love, God's love. From your knitting needles to these children.

"Whenever you give love, it's bound to come back. A hug so big it can knock you to the floor."

For sweater patterns, both crocheting and knitting, see Judith Huffer in Room 207, Education & Ministry Office.

Donations of yarn are most welcome!



**I Will Go, Lord**

by Patience Nave,  
Visitation Coordinator

Monday's are special as I get together with our Visitation Care Committee to remember those who are ill at home, who are in the hospital, and who are recovering somewhere from something.

These wonderful children of God pour themselves into giving comfort and encouragement to those who, for whatever reason, cannot regularly be with us on Sundays. I thank God for each one of them.

Our committee is especially sad that one of our faithful ones will soon be missing. John and Dottie Wolf are moving soon to North Carolina. Dottie is at the church at 9:00 without fail every Monday. Not only her faithfulness to visit and to help the rest of us do our jobs but also her great sense of humor will be sorely missed when they go. (John will be missed by his buddies in the Monday morning men's group.) What a wonderful couple John and Dottie are, and how grateful we are that God allowed us to walk and work together for a season! We know that it's good for them to move closer to their children, but wasn't Shakespeare right when he wrote, "Parting is such sweet sorrow"?

The prayer blankets are being prepared as I write this article. All the details for ordering a blanket are now in place, so if you want a prayer blanket for someone who is ill in our church, or for someone not necessarily *in* our church but for whom we pray, please call me.

The first two blankets should have been on the altar by the time you read this. Others have been ordered and will follow. Our plan is to have no more than two blankets there on any given Sunday. We'll pray for that person, and then someone will deliver the blanket. This will become, we think, an important ministry of our church. Thank Catherine Wisheart for introducing us to this concept, which originated in her church "up north." (Isn't that a great phrase? It literally covers almost everywhere!)

If you want to become involved in a ministry that has great personal rewards, as well as an extraordinary outreach, come visit on Monday morning and decide if you would like to join our Visitation Group.

Help us keep up with all our church family and its needs!





**.HENRYS HUMBLLED BY GOD'S ASSISTANCE DURING FIRST YEAR IN CHIANG MAI**



The Joseph Henry missionary family is grateful for the assistance provided them as they complete their first year in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The family, which our church assists, wrote recently, "We are humbled by what the Lord has done during these first days in our new home.

"We can communicate with Thais...we have made some great friends...the children have adopted very well...we see a lot of opportunity for ministry...Elaine is enjoying teaching again, along with Thai-focused ministry...the Lord has provided financially in exciting ways all year.....

"Thank you for your continuing prayers as we prepare for what God has for us over the next year in Chiang Mai."

"Our three day camping trip with a Thai church was a "real joy."

"Justin and Brittany had good trips to a four-day spiritual retreat with an international Christian camp organization."



Also noted was that Joe "got an A on his Module 5 language test", meaning he has graduated to the second grade! The family has found that "language is a humbling task."

Sons Caleb and James had a "blast" with about 25 friends at their combined birthday party .



For prayers they ask that we pray for God's assistance for the church-planting team's development of its mission and procedures, for Elaine as she takes part in an international education conference, and for the family's language skills.



Joe is working a lot outside of regular class time on vocabulary and comprehension skills, while Elaine continues to attend two classes a week despite a heavy time commitment at school.

**WOOSTERS WORKING TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS JOY FOR ORPHANAGE**



According to Kevin's mother, Mrs. Betty Crosley, the Kevin Wooster missionary family we help support in Moscow, Russia, is busy collecting clothing to give to an orphanage this Christmas.

Sons Joshua and Corey had been working with the orphanage as projects for becoming Eagle Scouts.

Joshua has completed his work and will be honored at a program later this year.

Corey, the youngest son, is very close to obtaining his Eagle Scout award.

The orphanage with whom they work is located 20 miles outside of Moscow.

Mrs. Crosley said Kevin has had a heavy travel schedule and recently returned from Siberia. Kevin's wife, Laura, is busy with her outreach activities and tutoring English at the high school where Joshua and Corey are enrolled.

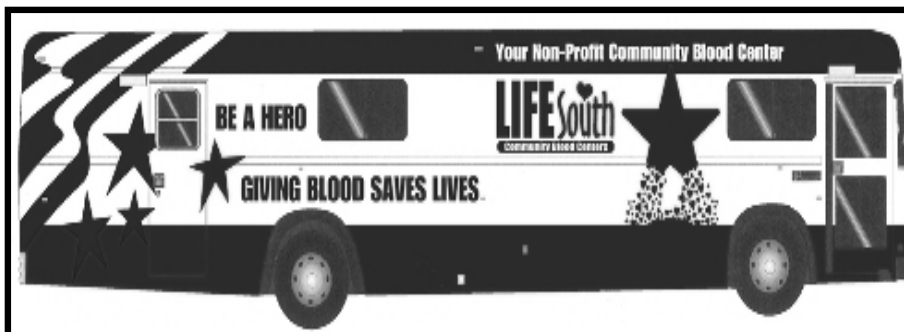
The Wooster family plans to return to the U.S. in June to begin a one-year furlough. Procedures call for the missionaries to return every few years. This will be an important time for the Woosters because while they are home on furlough Joshua will begin college and Corey will finish his senior year in high school.



# Blood DRIVE



## Give The Gift of Life!



We need at least 12 people to donate at each Blood Drive Collection.

The Citrus County Blood Mobile processes donations that are credited to our church, and are available for our medical needs.

When you go to the hospital, be it for either emergency illness or trauma, or planned surgery, you will be eligible to withdraw units of blood from the FUMC's donations.

It takes a whole community to save a life. Blood donors connect our community because each life saved by a blood transfusion is someone's child, family member, friend or coworker. From donation to transfusion, many hands take part in the lives saved by blood donors and thereby touch the very heart of our community. One blood donation can save up to four lives.

A gift of appreciation is given.

The Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot, under the trees facing Bradshaw on:

**January 1, 2006  
at 7:45AM to 1:00PM**

**And**

**March 12, 2006  
at 7:45AM to 1:00PM**

For more information call:  
Barbara Jackson at 382-2705



**You Can Count On Me!**

Fill out this ticket and give to the receptionist in the lobby of the Church's Administration Building.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

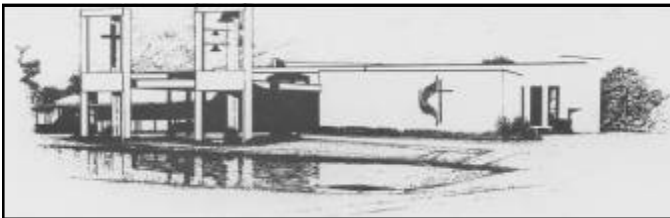
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support and commitment!**

**First United Methodist Church  
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**A Stephen Ministry Church**



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

**Rev. Mark Whittaker**  
Pastor

**Sunday Schedule**

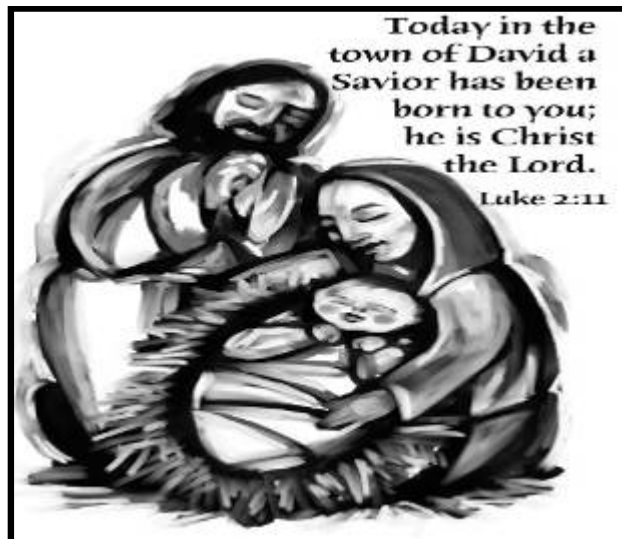
Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM  
Nursery at all services  
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM  
Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM



Office Hours: Weekdays  
8:30AM to 4:30PM  
Office Telephone: 628-4083



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*Merry Christmas  
From your staff.*