



GENESIS



September 2009 - Volume 13 - Issue 7

Summer Time and the Living Is Easy!

This has been an interesting summer. It seems like many people have taken advantage of the lower gas and lodging prices and headed off for some summer fun. The church has been very quiet, and a lot of committees decided there weren't enough workers or work to make getting together productive.

Ah, bliss!

But, now it's September, and the relaxed tempo of summer is starting to pick up. Committees are beginning to meet, people are back in church and things are starting to move again.

What you don't see is that the summer has been a time of preparation. It gave time to do some serious thinking and planning for the coming year. The sermons are lined up through the month, and Bible studies are in the works.

Also a November Homeless Awareness Fair is being planned by the Serendipity Men's Bible Study and the Homeless Coalition, and we are working on a program to provide flu shots here at the church in conjunction with EMS of Citrus County. These last two programs will be in addition to all that we usually have going on in the fall of the year.

Now is also the time when we begin to look at new officers and leaders for the coming year. We are going to need someone in charge of Strategic Development, a new bus driver and new members of the standing committees. Also we will be looking for new participants for the Bible Studies, and we are



*Let everyone who wishes
take the water of life
as a gift.
Revelation 22:17*

always encouraging people to get involved in Sunday School.

Now is also the time when the church begins to look at the budget for the coming year and makes plans for empowering ministry. Your support of the ministry program over the years has enabled us to be directly involved in reaching out to our community and the world.

Here are some of the major events planned for the rest of the year:

- Flu Shots on September 26th.
- Charge Conference is October 11th at 2 pm; our D.S. will be presiding.
- U.M.W. Bazaar on November 7th.
- Homeless Outreach Fair November 21st.
- Thanksgiving Family Dinner at the church on November 26th.
- Snickers, Bell Ringing, Alternative Christmas during the holidays.
- Christmas Eve Services on Thursday this year at 5, 7, and 11 pm.

It has been an enjoyable summer, a time for recharging the batteries and calming the spirit. But now it is time to look forward to what we're called to do in the Kingdom during this season of the year.

The Bible encourages us: "...whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17) I hope you're ready and excited about getting involved. Your involvement will make a difference in the life of the church.



Pastor Mark

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

E.B.A.D.O.C

"Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

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

Church Office

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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 Nurse &

Visitation

Sharon E. Smith

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 in which to serve here in the 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
- Fine Arts Program
- 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
- Thrft 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 Travel Group
- State Travel Group
- 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



MERCY AND GRACE—THE MARK OF A DISCIPLE

A Bible-study member asked, “What’s the difference between mercy and grace?” How would you answer that question—are they different words with the same meaning or does each word have a distinct meaning of its own?

Here is one of the ways to define the two terms: Mercy means not getting what you deserve. Grace means getting what you don’t deserve.

We can use the disciple Peter as an illustration. When the angel at the tomb told the women of Jesus’ resurrection, he said, “But go, tell his disciples and _____, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” (Mark 16:7)

From this invitation Peter would know the Lord was extending mercy rather than the dismissal or condemnation Peter knew he deserved. Peter knew he could no longer trust himself; how could the Lord ever trust him again?

Remember Peter’s denials? (Mark 14:66-71)

#1 The servant girl accused Peter, “You also were with that _____, Jesus. But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about.”

#2 Again the servant girl said to those standing near, “This fellow is one of them.” Again Peter _____ it.

#3 After awhile those standing near said, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a _____.” Peter began to call down _____ on himself and swore, “I _____ this man you are talking about.”

Such a failure on the part of the disciple who had emphatically insisted, “Even if I have to die with you, I will _____ disown you.”

John tells of the later lakeside conversation between Jesus and Peter. (John. 21:15-22)

#1 Jesus asks, “Peter, to you truly love me?” Peter responds, “...you know I love you.” Then Jesus gives him an assignment, “_____ my lambs.”

#2 Jesus again asks, “Peter, do you truly _____ me? Peter responds, “...you know I love you.” Again Jesus gives him an assignment, “Take care of my _____.”

#3 Jesus repeats, “Peter, do you _____ me?” Hurt by the repeated questioning of his love, Peter responds, “Lord, you know all _____; you know that I love you.” Jesus says, “Feed _____ sheep.”

Three denials, three affirmations of love—then grace (which had been there all along) embraces Peter as he receives from the Lord what he doesn’t deserve—a position of responsibility, a directive to feed the Lord’s sheep. Peter, the unfaithful one, the one who broke his pledge of loyalty, is assigned a place that requires both faithfulness and loyalty. Jesus gives him one directive, “You must _____ me.”

Jesus once said of a woman who wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair, “Her _____ sins have been forgiven—for she _____ much. But he who has been forgiven _____ loves _____.” (Luke 7:47)

Peter knew he had been forgiven much; he had received mercy, and his heart responded with love for his Lord. He knew he had been given much—unmerited, unearned, undeserved grace. Can you imagine the wonder in Peter’s heart weeks later, after Pentecost, when he preached the very first sermon in the Age of Grace—and saw some 3,000 people accept his invitation to receive Jesus Christ!

Mercy and grace would continue to mold an undeserving disciple into an unswerving follower of the One who had called him to be a “_____ of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

THINK ABOUT IT:

- Have you (or someone you know) ever felt you had sinned so badly or gotten so far away from God that you were sure, even if he forgave you, that you would never be given a place of responsible service again? What does Peter’s story say to you?

- Have you ever felt that a person who walked away from the Lord, or from a responsible position, or from a committed relationship (been unfaithful and disloyal) didn’t deserve another chance even if repentant?

- After a struggle we may be able to grant forgiveness, but can we extend undeserved grace?

Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

Schedule of Programs for
Wonderful Wednesday, Fall 2009
Theme: Church Ministries

I can hardly believe that the summer has come and gone and that we are back to the routine of "Genesis" news articles every four weeks. I'm glad no one was in the hall this week to hear us groan and complain as we received Judith's editorial warning of the approaching deadline. The summer has been busy, and much is being scheduled for the coming year.

- A new class for Disciple I will begin in mid September. If we are really going to continue to pursue our mission statement, "*Everyone Becoming A Disciple Of Christ*," all of us need to know His Word well so we know we are following what he desires and not just our own "it seems to me" philosophy.

- Wayne and Krissy Brown will offer Disciple III this fall. The ones who have completed Disciple I and II with the Browns will want to continue, I'm sure. However, even if you have not completed I and II, you can enroll in III. Call me if you are interested in either of these classes.

- A new book club will begin in October, organized by Pam Dubose. This sounds like fun for those who like to read and talk about what they have read. Call Pam if you are interested in participating.

- The media has given a lot of attention to C. S. Lewis's "*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*." I saw this movie when I was in Pennsylvania, and it was great! Lewis has a great grasp of the Scriptures, and his "*Narnia Series*" is a wonderful allegory of some great Biblical truth. Very shortly, the second movie will be released. Lisa Marchese, who has studied this series in depth, will lead a class to study the series, their meaning, their application to our lives, and Lewis's final book, "*The Last Battle*," which is an allegory of the Book of the Revelation. If you are interested in this series, please call me to sign up for the course.

- Dinners for Wonderful Wednesday this fall promise to be not only good and fun but informative. We have planned programs based on the many ministries of this church, those serving members within our fellowship as well as those serving the community without. I think you will be surprised at some of the things we are doing and where your church tithe goes.

August 12	Dwayne Sipper The Path
August 26	Kim Hamrick Austria
September 2	Peggy Benson Bereavement and Visitation
September 16	Pam DuBose HUGS
October 7	Ed Loper Food Pantry Ministry
October 21	Karen Kline and Carol MacKenzie Stephen Ministry
November 4	Theresa Weber and Patience Nave Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Gifts
November 18	Claudette Kirby, et al Thrift Shop Ministry
December 2	Jim Potts Serendipity Men's Ministry

- In September, the third mission team to Haiti will begin planning for the work and the travel. We have six who went last year who will definitely go again, and this year we have some interesting additions - a couple of men from Ohio, a couple from the Hernando UMC, and a woman from Kentucky. It's interesting how these people found us, through word of mouth and through the VIM website. We will probably have at least twelve again this year, maybe more. Our plan for the work will not be determined until I meet with Pastor Maude this month. Tedd Weiser has decided that he cannot lead the team, so I will do that again this year. Let me know if you are interested in going or if you have ideas that will help our work there. Of course, I welcome any financial contributions you want to make to the on-going work and the feeding of the children at Carrenage.

- I am going to Port au Prince on August 27 for the inauguration of the new president for the Haiti Methodist Church, whose role is comparable to our bishop. I am very pleased to have been invited, as I have met

(Continued on next page)

(Education and Ministries Continued)

President-elect Gesner Paul, and I find him very enthusiastic about what we are trying to do in Haiti. I'll be gone three days.

- In October, Kim Bennett will host a Fund Raising Dinner for the Haiti project. You'll hear more about this soon, and I hope you can come. We'll have lots to tell you by then about what we will be doing this year.
- We began a new Sunday morning Bible class for the "under thirties" group this summer. Wayne and Krissy Brown lead the class and are enthusiastic about its future. The class meets from 9:30-10:30 AM.
- Bill Baker, Martha Dorrell, Kay Bast, Jan Wise, and I also have classes on Sunday morning for adult Bible study. These classes are open to all and are extremely important to us as we continue to grow as *Disciples of Christ*. The classes are 9:30-10:30 in the Education wing of our facility.
- Watch for the movies that will begin in September: Saturday morning for the children (with a light lunch); one night a month for the ladies, featuring what we are calling "chick flicks" (a new term for me); and one night for grown-ups, featuring some movies that simply entertain and others that inform or challenge. Notice of these will be in the bulletin on Sundays prior to their showing.
- The Wednesday Bible Class will begin meeting the first week in September. We have been meeting in homes for two years, at 7:30 PM every other week. We will probably change the day of the week this fall, but we'll put something in the bulletin about the class—what we are studying, where we will meet, etc. We welcome all who want good fellowship and study to join us.

If you have ideas for other activities here at the church, both for our members and for outreach, please call me. I am in the office all day Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. *"All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them."* (Oswald Chambers)



YOUTH NEWS

Throughout the summer, our small but mighty Youth Group, the God-Squad, has been meeting most Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Youth Center.

We've explored numerous topics and issues, some biblical, others very contemporary, and we've enjoyed a variety of snacks. The kids' favorite meetings fall on the same nights as the Covered Dish Dinners, because they usually are the recipients of the extra desserts. Each meeting ends with a 30 minute recreation period, and the activities seem to be divided among air-hockey, ping pong, and the popular Wii Sports and Wii Games (with which Mrs. B is still struggling). As Autumn approaches, we're planning several outings, such as bowling, miniature golf, and perhaps a week-end retreat in November.

In June, the Youth Group members served as "camp counselors" for Vacation Bible School and their services were invaluable. They worked with the younger students, assisted the teachers with their respective activities, performed a skit each day at the beginning of the session, and helped with set-up and organizational matters. On June 27th, they also operated a carwash, under the direction of Ted and Angie Weiser, to raise money for the Haiti Mission Project. They've been a really busy group.

The new Youth Center was also well utilized during VBS, since all the recreation activities occurred here. Ted and Angie Weiser did a masterful job of planning games which corresponded to the various lessons for the children, and the kids were delighted with the opportunities to be active and "run off steam." The Weisers were so glad to have an air-conditioned space instead of being outside in the heat and humidity, as was the case in 2008.

So, as you can tell, the Lord has provided for us, and we are most grateful. Please keep us in your prayers and maybe make a special request for a few more youth!

Neretta Brobst



"I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT BOOKS" - Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson would love our library with its fine new selection of books. There are really too many to list and tell the plots, so I've grouped some of the "old favorite" authors with their latest titles and have highlighted others that should be of interest to many.

Lynn Austin --"Until We Reach Home." A sister leaves Sweden determined to find a safe haven for her sisters in America. She also wrote "A Proper Pursuit," A story of Violet Hayes who tries to find the mother she barely remembers at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

Lori Copeland --"Twice Loved," set in Texas 1865.

Kim Vogel Sawyer --"Where the Heart Leads." Thomas Olenburger is torn between his Mennonite roots in Kansas and the big city of Boston, and the affection of a woman in each place. She also wrote "My Heart Remembers." A story of 3 orphaned Irish immigrant children sent to Missouri to be adopted, and are separated.

Davis Bunn & Janette Oke --"The Centurion's Wife." This tells of the dramatic events surrounding the birth of Christianity and the personal story of Leah who was compelled into a betrothal she never wanted.

Davis Bunn also wrote "Heartland." A novel about a screenwriter and amateur actor.

Tracie Peterson --wrote the Desert Roses Series, Book 1 "Shadows of the Canyon." Book 2 - "Across the Years," and Book 3 - "Beneath a Harvest Sky," tells of intrigue and romance of the historical Harvey Girls. Each book delves into the life of a different Harvey Girl.

Tracie also wrote "To Dream Anew," a story set in the vast Montana territory, and "A Lady of High Regard," a story of a wealthy socialite with a knack for matchmaking for all except herself.

Jan Karon --"Home to Holly Springs," a new series of The Father Tim novels. Father Tim returns home and confronts a mystery that changes his life forever.

Wanda Brunstetter --"A Sister's Hope," "A Sister's Test," two stories of Amish Life as traditions and dreams are put to the test.

Prolific writer, Gilbert Morris has three new mystery novels with Jacques and Cleo, experienced sleuths that also happen to be cats as the main characters. If you love cats, or just a good mystery -- these thrillers are like catnip to kittens. Titles are "When the Cat's Away," "What the Cat Dragged In," and "The Cat's Pajamas."

"Millie's Book," as dictated to Barbara Bush, tells of Millie the Dog's life and has many photos.

"Jabez," a novel by Thom Lemmons --You know the prayer- now you can know the story of a young man and his mother, two pain-stricken people - in one of the Bible's most turbulent eras.

"The Love Child," by Catherine Cookson, a novel set in northern England in the late 19th century and tells the story of the love between two people who have six children, but they never married, and as a result their children are scorned and treated as outcasts by their fellow townspeople. As Anna, the eldest enters womanhood, she is determined to overcome the legacy of her birth. The story offers a dramatic example of the battle against human cruelty and of the restorative power of love.

"The Shack," by Wm. Paul Young, is an absorbing, thought provoking story where tragedy confronts eternity.

"Walking the Bible," is a photographic journey by Bruce Feiler, who traveled 10,000 miles from Mt. Ararat to desert outposts in Turkey where Moses overlooked the Promised Land.

We have four Audio cassettes of "A Common Life," the wedding story by Jan Karon, and read by Dana Ivey.

If you lean towards Arts and their history, we have an anthology of world-famous pictures, poetry, hymns, and stories. It's in the 700.0 section.

Lara Childs wrote two new Tea Shop Mysteries that include recipes and tea time tips along with a mystery and clever plotting. They are "Oolong Dead," and "Chamomile Mourning."

TAKE A LOOK. TAKE A BOOK!

Helen Lefave, and Barbara Jackson; Librarians

New Ministry ~ "Our Father's Table"



In May our church was approached to help serve a noontime meal on Saturdays at St Ann's Episcopal Church in Crystal River. We met the challenge and formed two teams with Mary Joy Speicher as our head coordinator, to partner with three other churches from Crystal River, to help feed those in need.

On the fourth Saturday of each month, one of the teams prepares and serves a full noontime meal to people that come to eat and fellowship with one another. We serve from 40 to 60 people each time.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting new ministry, call Mary Joy at 382-3360. We need people to help prepare the food as well as servers and greeters. This is a great opportunity to share God's love with others.

EBADOC Academy

Sunday, September 13th, the EBADOC Academy will start a new unit which is divided into three different curriculum series:

"Surviving the Storm" ~ This series deals with the story of Noah and his family as God destroys the earth with a massive flood. Each lesson includes weekly puppet skits, theme games, illustrated sermons, video segments, and review questions.

"Set for Life (\$)" ~ Teaches the value of putting God first in their money and possessions. If we follow God's principles, His blessing will be on our "stuff" and we will be "Set For Life." This lesson will fall into the timeframe of our church's Stewardship Campaign. A timely lesson for both children and adults.

"On the Run" ~ This teaches the story of Jonah. This series includes:

"You Can't Outrun God" - Jonah Runs From God,
"Lessons From The Belly Of A Whale" - Jonah In The Whale,
"What Makes You Mad?" - Jonah Preaches To Nineveh.

Kids! Don't miss these exciting activities!

Powerful Memories

Andy didn't know his visit with his grandparents would be so electrifying. After dinner they all sat together in the living room and watched as a thundering storm rolled across the countryside. It was not long before lightning took out the power.

As the three sat in the dark, interrupted by the occasional flash of lightning, Andy shared his concern about the darkness. It was clear he was scared and needed light - right now! Andy was too young to remember the last power outage so he had no idea what would happen next. After Grandpa broke out the flashlights, Andy was comforted. Andy was so used to electricity, he never imagined a simple flashlight could light the room.

When Andy drifted to sleep on the couch, the grandparents talked about Andy's experience with the darkness. They could easily relate, because they too had a recent unexpected experience. The economy had taken a sudden toll on their savings and they would not be able to make cash gifts to their favorite organizations this year. But that did not mean they were left in the dark.

Just as the flashlight provided a worthy alternative to electricity, Andy's grandparents found a simple new way to give. They chose to include a gift to their favorite charity in their wills. A gift in their will allowed them to make a good-sized gift that they would not have been able to make this year or any other year while both were alive. Just as the storm eventually passed, they knew they would continue giving cash gifts each year. However, they also knew that no matter what, they would someday make a generous gift in their wills.

(Reprinted with permission from *Gift Legacy eNews/letter* of UMNFE/ Copyright by Crescendo Interactive Inc.)

Why not consider including a gift to your church in your Will? It can help to bring the light of Christ to many in this community long after your death.



FUMCH United Methodist Women

President: Kim Bennett
Vice President: Donna Ludwick
Secretary: Carol MacKenzie
Treasurer: Jackie LaMountain
September Agenda

✝ Tuesday, September 1st (because of the Labor Day Holiday): UMW Executive Board Meeting in Room 114 at 10:00.

✝ September 8th at 9:30 a.m.: Faith Hope Circle meets in Room 114. Contact Nancy Pearo at 382-1034 for additional information.

✝ Tuesday, September 8th at 9:30 a.m.: Helping Hand Circle will meet. Contact Kay Bast at 382-4908 for additional information and location of meeting.

✝ Tuesday, September 8th at 1:00 p.m.: Dorcas Circle will meet in Room 114. Contact Ann Ice at 795-3420 for additional information.

✝ Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m.: SALTY Circle will meet in the Parlor. Contact Lori DeClue at 287-1818 for additional information.

✝ Thursday, September 10th at 9:15 a.m.: Ruth Circle will meet. Contact Sharon Haskell at 382-3727 or Pat Rada at 382-0125 for location of meeting and any additional information.

✝ September 11-13th: Women's Weekend Conference Spiritual Retreat in Leesburg at the Life Enrichment Center.

✝ Tuesday, September 15th: UNIT MEETING
(All circles and guests are invited.)
Refreshments and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.
Program will be at 10:00 a.m. by Nancy Pearo:
"Native Americans & The United Methodist Church Today."
UNIT BUSINESS MEETING will follow immediately after the program.
Call Nancy Pearo at 382-1034 for any additional information.

✝ Sunday, September 20th:
United Methodist Women's Sunday - All Services

PURPOSE OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

" . . . All of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured in ever-increasing splendor into his own image, and the transformation comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

II Corinthians 3:18, J.B. Phillips Paraphrase

I have a "make-up" mirror in my bathroom at home that is two-sided. On one side the mirror reflects what I guess my face really looks like. The size, shape, and color are pretty much exactly what the larger mirror on the dressing table reflects. When I flip the mirror over, the other side changes my face significantly. All the features appear to be larger than they are, every pore of the skin looks huge, every wild eye brow is exaggerated! My white hair isn't nearly so clear and white, for here and there a dark one "sticks out," refusing to go where it should. And I won't mention the wrinkles—deep and way too numerous.

Obviously I like the first mirror better. Somehow every flaw does not seem so pronounced, every feature so distorted, and age not nearly so apparent. Two mirrors, two images, one me. How can that be? Which one reflects the real me, the one I like or the one I don't like?

Today's scripture from Corinthians, which talks about reflections that the world sees, reminds me of my mirror. Is the image that the world sees reflecting the real me or Christ? Does it reveal the "splendor" of what Christ has done in my life, or does it reveal my flaws and blemishes that hide the Christ I serve?

If you read the verses just preceding the ones quoted today, you'll see that when Moses first came down from Mt. Sinai, his face reflected God's glory. The longer he stayed away from his encounter with God, the more the glory faded. He didn't want people to see the change.

I wonder if we sometimes reflect God to others but at other times only reflect our blemished selves. Maybe we are tempted, like Moses, to hide our faces so that no one will know we have wandered away from the intimate, life-changing, face-changing presence of the Lord.

Prayer: *Father, we want to reflect your image, your person. Give us courage to uncover our faces, to allow you to change us into your likeness, and to be the visual testimony you would have us be to the world. Amen.*

Additional Information On The Wall Hangings in Fellowship Hall.

(Editor's Note: This information was generated in response to the article in the Summer Edition of Genesis.)

Without some additional clarification, it may appear that these banners are recent acquisitions. Of course, they are not. Dot Wolf wrote this material in late 1982, about the time that the wall hangings were dedicated. They have been part of FUMCH's decor for almost 27 years. They decorated the walls of the nave of the 1974 church for about 10 years. They were removed after the new Worship Center was dedicated in 1992 and renovations were made to create Roberts and Shively Halls (combined as our former Fellowship Hall). They were re-installed in the former Fellowship Hall around 1999 and remained there until they were removed and stored during construction of the new Fellowship Center. Myrna Evans and Arlene Stohrer repaired and cleaned them and they were re-installed on the east wall of the new Fellowship Hall, where they should remain for many years.

In the Summer Edition of Genesis' article a reference is made to the nave of the First United Methodist Church of Orlando and not to our building (stone, glass, columns, etc.). Our banners were replicas of the original ones in Orlando. Evelyn Bash described the preparation etc. on pages 104-105 of *The First One Hundred Years* (2000).

It is our intent to mount a framed description of the Apostle Banners, in the order that they are now hanging in our new Fellowship Hall, so that those who are interested may read about them. The description will include the information about each Apostle and will mention the Rittgers (who donated them) and the Spearys (who made them).

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- All of us to be led by the Holy Spirit as we make decisions regarding which classes to take this fall.
- Our pastor and staff daily.
- Wonderful Wednesdays.
- The children and youth of our congregation as they head off to school.
- The committee members, holistic small group leaders, teachers, facilitators, and choir members as things get back into full swing.
- For all the church leaders to hear and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they make decisions regarding His church.

St. Lawrence River Cruise September 2010

Cruise the St. Lawrence River and the Thousand Islands with Richard and Myrna Evans at the height of the foliage season in 2010.

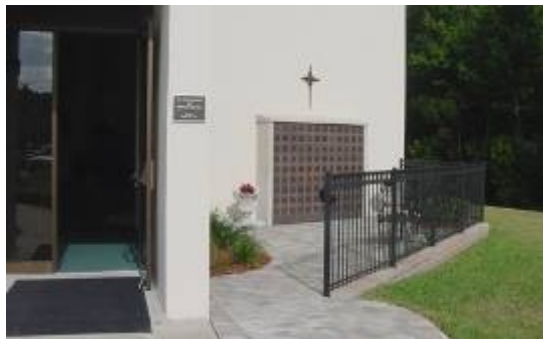
This 9-day, 8-night Cruise Tour will depart FUMCH on Sunday, Sept. 19 and fly to Quebec City.

After a tour of the old city, embark the MV Canadian Empress. Unpack and enjoy the 7-day, 6-night cruise to Kingston, Ontario, with interesting ports of call along the way.

On Sunday, Sept. 26, debark and return to Montreal for overnight. Fly home on Monday, Sept. 27.

Estimated fare (double occupancy) is \$3,575 American. This includes the cruise, shore excursions, taxes, fees, hotels, motor coach transportation in Canada and RT from Homosassa to TIA, and travel insurance. Meals are included on board ship. A \$350 deposit pp. will hold space. Flyers are available at the church office. Call Richard Evans (563-5833) or Jess Mackey at J & L Travel (382-7708) for more information.

The Canadian Empress is a small ship and the company is holding a block of cabins for our group for a limited time. So early registration is important!



Columbarium and Memorial Garden...

Located next to our beautiful Worship Center, and visible through the north window in the right rear section of the Worship Center, the columbarium and garden create a peaceful setting for some of God's faithful who "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." The fenced area has two benches available to anyone for times of prayer and meditation.

Please see Church Administrator, Theresa Weber, in the church office for information, details, and an available packet.

John Gibbs

Serendipity Men's Group

You are invited to join the Men of FUMC family (and their friends).

Tuesday, September 1, will start a new year for "Serendipity," meeting at 3:00 p.m.

The group meets weekly to study and discuss "the Word" from the Serendipity Bible -- a self-study Bible that fosters contemporary thinking. Although featuring a series of 6-week studies, it is not the type which mandates a member's presence at the beginning of a series. New members can join at any time and not feel that they have lost out.

Our group has grown into a dedicated and interesting mix of brothers, those who have known the Bible and those who may have never studied or even read it. Lively and challenging discussions evolve, resulting in everyone's increase in knowledge and acceptance of many points of view.

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 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.

Visitation Committee

The Visitation Committee has been busy this summer sending cards, taking flowers and food, and visiting our members and friends.

We had a BIRTHDAY party for Parish Nurse, Sharon Smith, and Marilyn Siegel at Sharon's home. We enjoyed a potluck lunch attended by 14 members. Marilyn Siegel baked a delicious three-layer cake for the joint celebration.

Hospitalizations or Surgeries

Please remember to call Theresa Weber at 628-4083, at the church office, to report any hospitalizations or surgeries of our members and friends.

Visit by the Pastor

If you would like a visit by the Pastor, call Theresa.

Thank you for the many donations of blank greeting cards and money to the Visitation Committee.

Thank You and God Bless You from
Peggy Benson, Chair, and Members
of the Visitation Care Committee.

A Letter From Your Church Administrator

Summer 2009 came and went so quickly this year, are we sure we had one? None the less, the Lord has important work for us this year, and we better get busy.

As all meetings, committees, and groups resume meeting this fall, please keep in mind that it is imperative the office is aware of all events, on campus or not, for scheduling and announcement purposes. We have many different ministries in and out of the building at various times and, to be sure we have no conflicts, please complete a "Facility Use Request" form for your event if you have not already done so. Forms are available in the church office.

God has blessed us with a beautiful new building, and we need to keep it and the older additions in the best condition possible. When using any of the buildings, please remember to clean up any mess you may have made, return the chairs and tables to their original positions, turn off all lights and lock all doors. If you notice something is in disrepair, please report it to the church office so the issue can be addressed.

Another important thing to remember is your personal safety. Please be careful while on campus, and be aware of your surroundings at all times. It is not advised that you come to the church in the late evening alone or when others are not around. If you have a church-issued key, do not mark it in anyway to distinguish what doors it will open in case your keys are stolen or lost. Also, keep your vehicle locked at all times. Times are hard for many people in this community, and we can not predict what will motivate desperate people to commit crimes.

With so many activities here at the church and people rushing to this class or that meeting, please be extra careful in the parking lot. There have been several "crash & dash" accidents in the parking lot lately. If you are involved in an accident on church property, no matter how small, please contact the office.

As you go about you day, keep in mind that Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors is not just an idea; it is a way of life. Open YOUR heart, Open YOUR mind and OPEN the door to GOD!

In His Service for you,
Theresa Weber
Administrator FUMC



I would like to deviate a little from the usual SHARE newsletter. This month I want to thank Tom and Nancy for their work with SHARE.

It seems as though time passes more quickly than it used to. Is it because we get older and value time a little more than we had previously? Where have the years gone?

If you ask Tom and Nancy Pearo perhaps they may tell you that the past nine years have seemed both long and short. SHARE, a new program to their church, took seed, developed, evolved and grew into an organization which they have served for nine long years..

~ Long, because such a program takes hours 'behind the scenes'. Paperwork, schedules, follow-ups, telephone calls and problem solving all the while espousing the benefits of the program they love.

~ Long because they have given it nine years of their lives.

~ And short because they were always planning for the next month, the next order, the next holiday.

Time flies when you are doing something you love. Now Tom and Nancy have elected to transfer the reins to another volunteer.

But this volunteer wants everyone to know that the Pearos are the ones who have kept this program going. They are the volunteers who have put nine years of their lives into it. Both long and short years. So when you see them in church or at the store or when visiting them, tell them "thanks." And remember, the best thanks anyone can give is to continue to spread the word about SHARE, a program hosted by your church, and telling others about all the great value it offers.

Before we know it, another holiday season will be upon us. Another SHARE year will be over, and another SHARE year will be starting

Thank you, Tom and Nancy, and all the volunteers throughout the years, who have dedicated so much of their time.

Vickie Williams

September Sign-up Dates

Wednesday, September 9

Saturday, September 12

September Delivery/Pick-up Date

September 26

Featured Speakers

John is a challenging, inspirational speaker with the unique God-given ability to communicate great truths in a simple understandable manner. He has been bringing that truth throughout America for 30 years, uplifting and encouraging his listeners to do and be all that is possible through God for His Glory.



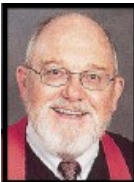
John Riley

Don will be just back from a trip to Israel and will be loaded with inspiration and information for an expanded session, sharing with us a unique insight into our Jewish roots. He pursued his interest in Judaism, studying for six years under Orthodox Rabbi. He now serves as Director of Chaplain Services for Hospice of the Comforter in Altamonte Springs, FL, and attends Community UMC in Casselberry.



Don Taylor

Roger has been a favorite with the men at Leesburg over the years. He retired from the Florida Conference in 2007 after 35 years of ministry. He served St. Mark's Church in St. Pete. And Oak Grove in Tampa before his final two years at First UMC, Coral Springs. After retirement he accepted a position teaching Fine Arts and Humanities at St. Petersburg College, teaching World Religion, Philosophy, Old and New Testament.



Roger Watts

FRIDAY:	
3:00 PM	Registration
6:00 - 6:45	Dinner
7:15	General Session
9:30	Praise Time
SATURDAY:	
7:00 - 7:30 AM	Devotions
7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast
8:45	General Session
10:00 - 10:30	Break
10:30	Enrichments
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM	Free Time
2:00	Special
3:00 - 5:00	Enrichments
5:15	Dinner
7:00	General Session
SUNDAY:	
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:45	Worship

Saturday Afternoon Free-Time Options
 Equipment available for Pick-up Sports' activities: volleyball, football, soccer, horseshoes, swimming, canoeing...
 Or enjoy concerts, hymn sings and discussion groups.

FOOTBALL FANS!
 Those of us who would enjoy watching college football during our free time on Saturday afternoon will have the opportunity to watch a game on the 6-foot Big Screen in the Gold Room.
 Hope to see you at the game!

Calling All Men For a special Walk

"Walking With Jesus"



Chuck Englehardt

Chuck received his MDiv Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, and is in his 15th year as Senior Pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Chuck's personal goal each Sunday is that the worship time would be the most refreshing hour of the week, and he desires that we will be challenged to live our Christian faith in every aspect of our lives at home, work, and in the community.

**2009 MEN'S RETREAT
 OCTOBER 9-11**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Accommodations - Life Enrichment Center

Check amount - \$140.00 per person

Make checks payable to United Methodist Men. Attach check, put form and check in envelope, and deliver to Jim Stoneman or the church office. If you have questions contact Jim Stoneman, 352-422-0169, Men's Retreat Coordinator.

Note: Please enter your room mate selection _____.

All efforts will be made to accommodate you.

FUMC - HOMOSASSA, FL

SATURDAY MORNING BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The loss of a loved one, or friend, is one of the most difficult experiences we will ever have. Becoming a part of a small group of people coping with their own grief is often the best gift you can give yourself.

We meet weekly at the church, and we find healing as we encourage one another through our understanding of our tears, anger, confusion, lethargy, and loneliness. Sharing experiences of taking on care of the home, the car, the yard, grocery shopping, meal planning, cooking for one, and finances can help. Sharing other difficult problems, like those regarding living arrangements when pressured by well-meaning children, may help in making better decisions.

Compassion and understanding allow real healing to take place at the pace right for each person.

Peggy Benson

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Two years ago, while vacationing in New Hampshire, I went to *The Elegant Ewe* in Concord to buy a pattern and some yarn. I planned to make myself a shawl to wear in church during the summer months.

Subsequently, I came across a brochure on the Prayer Shawl Ministry and asked Patience Nave, Director Of Christian Education at FUMCH, if we might start a chapter here at 1UMC. Now, 200 shawls later, we have this wonderful ministry at our church. There is a basket of shawls in the narthex for people to use Sunday mornings; shawls have been given to parishioners who have been going through difficult times, to chemo patients at the Cancer and Blood Disease Center in Lecanto and to patients at Hospice House in Lecanto. Recipients love these shawls, partly because the shawls take them back in time when it was fashionable to wear a shawl.

We have a wonderful core of knitters/crocheters and welcome others to join us. We meet in the conference room the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month from 1-3 pm. If you prefer to work at home, we are most appreciative of your shawls as well.

Ann Morrison

CHANGE WITHIN US

Whether we like it or not – good, bad, or indifferent -- change happens in our lives here on earth. During these past three years, I have walked with many members of our congregation as they have experienced major changes in their lives. It has given joy and purpose to my life in so doing. I was amazed at how each person has been so appreciative of any intervention that made a situation better or more tolerable.

When the Lord called me to initiate the Parish Nurse Ministry (and it was a definite “call,” as some of you will remember) there was no doubt in my mind about accepting the challenge. Everything fell into place so beautifully that I knew the hand of God was working mightily to set the program in motion. Within a short time, it was very apparent that there was a great need for the services of a parish nurse in our congregation. However, much of the success for the growth of the ministry must be attributed to the wonderful teamwork of the Visitation Care Group. They are very special people and a wonderful group with whom to work.

This year has been a time of change for me. It was my intent to proceed with having my back “rebuilt,” and then return to the parish nurse role. It did not happen according to “my plan.” I was surprised to finally realize that it was not my new back preventing me from returning, but the lack of energy and stamina. Did I like this change in my life? Certainly not! I will, however, listen and accept His will.

The initial goal when the Ministry began, was not only to serve, but also to establish the program in such a way that it would continue after my departure. Now it is my prayer that by the time this article is in print, we will have an R.N. to perpetuate the Parish Nurse Ministry – realizing it will happen in “God’s time.”

I would like to sincerely thank each of you who have had a part in making the Parish Nurse Ministry relevant to so many people, and also the congregants who were so open to the services provided.

May we all accept the changes in our lives, knowing that those changes will help us meet the challenges the Lord sets before us. May we all listen to His call and “blossom where He plants us.”

In Christian love,
Sharon Smith, R.N.

Media Ministry - Video Operators

This valued group of volunteers has been having fun running our new video projection system, which just turned one year old this month. Our team of video operators does a great job each Sunday. (Some of them have been long-time audio volunteers, and some are younger "computer wizards.")

It's amazing how quickly the new system has been accepted, and how much it enhances our worship programs.

A new volunteer receives an hour of one-on-one training from Sharon, our A/V Technician. He/she can then operate the slides with an observer until they feel confident enough to work solo.

Each Thursday, those who are scheduled to work on the coming Sunday are invited to stop by the sanctuary to preview the video schedule.

These volunteers also assist Sharon with duplicating the audio CD recordings after the 9:30 service. They work one Sunday every 3-4 weeks, depending on how many operators are available for that service time.

We are presently covering all three worship services each Sunday with only seven 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 sier-racharlie@embarqmail.com.

NATURE COAST EMS FLU SHOTS

1st United Methodist Church
September 26, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

8831 W. Bradshaw Street
Homosassa, FL 34448

REGISTER ONLINE

1. Go to www.vaxcare.com
2. Click on "Patient Sign-Up"
3. Enter Clinic ID 091143

Medicare Part B - NO CHARGE
Cash and/or Check
INFLUENZA - \$30

Questions? Contact Jane Bedford at
352.249.4751

Parish Nurse Position Awaiting One Who Is Called To Serve

FUMCH VISITATION CARE GROUP is a group of volunteers responsible for personal visits, cards, and phone calls to shut-ins, nursing home residents, and people facing surgery or recovering in the hospital from surgery, broken bones, serious breathing problems, or infections. Quite often this includes delivering a meal, flowers, a CD of a recent Sunday worship service (including communion), bulletins, prayer shawls, and/or just a friendly visit.

Until recently, a registered nurse, in the parish nurse position, was an important part of this group; consulting with persons facing surgery and following up with them as they recovered. We are currently looking for a qualified person to fill this paid position.

As disciples of Christ, we consider it a privilege to be His hands and feet to members and friends of this church family.

Peggy Benson
Parish Visitor

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !



May 24, 2009

Cyrynda Walker
8 Jamaica Street
Homosassa, FL 34446



July 26, 2009

William Britland
4916 S. Galzerono Pt.
Homosassa, FL 34446
732-496-1783



July 26, 2009

Alice & Ed Carnahan
2569 Coleman Avenue
Homosassa, FL 34448
352-628-9298

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading and then sharing your thoughts, questions, or ideas about what you have read with others?

In October, we will begin a Women's Book Club. Have you been in a bookclub before? Do you have any favorite books you would like to explore in more depth? If so, we'd like you to join us. We are looking for any input you may have. Please watch for an announcement of our "organizational meeting" and plan to come, bring your ideas and a friend.

GET READY TO JOIN US!

Any questions or thoughts, please contact Pamela Dubose at (352) 225-1453.

We all know that God in his infinite wisdom has a plan for each and everyone's life but I think he truly had something special planned for me when he brought me here almost three years ago.

Thank you for everyone's thoughts, prayers and concerns during the last months regarding all the difficulties in my family. It really means a lot to me that so many people care not only about me but the members of my family whom they do not really know except through me. I think (hope) the worst is behind us, for now, and I sincerely thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart. It is such a good feeling to know there are people here to support me no matter what life throws at me. Thank you all!

~Theresa

Meadowcrest Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study taught by Jan Wise at the home of Jackie La Mountain in Meadowcrest will resume beginning Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, from 10AM to Noon.

If you have any questions please call Jackie 794-0281 or Jan Wise 382-5799. We look forward to seeing you there.

**CITRUS COUNTY
WORLD'S GREATEST BABY SHOWER
2009
~ THANK YOU ~**

The planning committee for the 14th annual Citrus County World's Greatest Baby Shower wishes to express its sincere thanks for your generous donation of door prizes, handmade items, gift certificates, money, time and ideas to make this annual event a big success!

Over 700 expectant and new parents and their families attended the shower on May 7th, and they came away with much more knowledge about caring for themselves and their babies.

We couldn't have presented such a wide variety of information and had such wonderful prizes without your generosity.

We look forward to working with you next year in planning for the Baby Shower of 2010!

Many thanks to Thrift Shop workers - Jane Hamilton, Carol Fahl, Marge Ottman, Barbara Sayers, Pat Blake and Tom Wise (our computer supplier) - for all of their extra time and effort they devote to the thrift shop, even on a moment's notice. It couldn't be done without you and lots of prayer.

Co-Chair, Claudette Kirby

A big Thrift Shop thank you to members of the Monday Morning Work Crew - Bud Ludwick, Sheldon La Mountain, Wayne Haynes and Bob Mackenzie - for all of the help with the new shelving

"The gals at the Thrift Shop"

WANTED: Used or non-working COMPUTERS!

If you have a computer you no longer use, or one you have discarded as non-functional, please contact us. We are looking for computers to refurbish or recycle. Any personal data on your machine will be destroyed. If your computer is able to be "resurrected," it will be given to the Thrift Shop to sell, helping them raise money for local and global missions.

Bring your computer to the church or, if you have questions, call Tom Wise, 382-5799.

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls, care packages and wonderful food!

You lifted my spirits and warmed our hearts.

Bless you in Jesus Name.

Kay & Lee Bast

COMPANIONS *in Christ*

A Small Group Experience in Spiritual Formation Beginning In September

This is a 28-week course that revolves around individual reading, journal keeping, and 30-minute daily exercises designed to move you from information (knowledge about) to experience (knowledge of).

- Provides diverse, imaginative settings for learning spiritual practices that open you to God's presence.
- Draws together personal sharing and small group experiences in a unique and life-changing process.
- Meets once a week with time for reflecting on both personal growth and group experiences.

Classes are currently offered September through May. Participants are encouraged to have completed some Bible study prior to Companions in Christ.

The course is made up of five units:

Embracing the Journey: The Way of Christ (five weeks): A course in Christian spiritual growth as a journey toward holiness and wholeness, individually and in community, by the grace of God.

Feeding on the Word: The Mind of Christ (five weeks): An introduction to several ways of meditating on and praying with Scripture.

Deepening Our Prayer: The Heart of Christ (six weeks): A guided experience of various forms and styles of prayer.

Responding to Our Call: The Work of Christ (five weeks): A presentation of vocation or call; giving ourselves to God in willing obedience and receiving the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ (five weeks): An overview of different ways of giving and receiving spiritual guidance, from one-on-one relationships, to spiritual growth groups, to guidance in congregational life as a whole.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please see posters around the church, as well as booklets and sample lessons (take a "sample" with you if you are interested). More information is also available at www.companionsinchrist.org. Contact the church office or Marilyn Watson to sign up. We will be meeting in the parlor and will be as flexible as possible with the time in order to accommodate the most people.

PHOTOS FROM SIBERIA Laura and Kevin



At home in "The Village"



Laura in the garden. "We have planted almost 300 LBS of potatoes, as well as Broccoli, Cabbage, Green Beans, Carrots, Onion, Dill, Radishes, Beets, and Tomatoes."



"We continue to sow seeds that will lead to eternal decisions and also are helping cultivate the small but growing fellowship."

Editorial Note: Due to Genesis' summer interim, the following information will be a condensation of three months reports from the Henry family's mission work.

Dear Praying Friends,

June PRAISES:

✠ We were able to visit for a day last month with **the leader of a small church in Mae Ai** (pronounced May-Ay) who has asked for help from The HOME Team, the new PIONEERS team we are setting up. The trip was very fruitful as we were introduced to Pastor Moses' vision for at least two churches, a Bible school and an orphanage.

✠ Elaine had a good month **wrapping up the ministry year** with her three Cool Shade of Life Church groups. Praise God for the impact that Elaine has had on these groups ranging in age from 3 to 63, and please pray for their continued growth in the Lord.

June PRAYERS:

✠ Please pray for safe travels as we leave Chiang Mai on Thursday at 11:45 a.m. local time (12:45 a.m. EDT) and arrive in St. Louis on Friday at 10:40 a.m. EDT after four flights. That's 34 hours from start to finish for those counting. Pray especially that we would get good rest during our 21 hours of actual flight time as we have to immediately head down to Texas to visit one of our supporting churches. We don't want to spend the whole visit in a jet-lagged stupor.

✠ This month, we will **visit five of our six supporting churches**: Faith Community Church in Tyler, Texas; First United Methodist Church in Homosassa, Fla.; Crystal Cove Community Church in Palm Harbor, Fla.; Northside Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla.; and First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo, Fla. Please pray for strengthened relationships and for us to be a blessing and to share wisely about what God is doing here in Thailand. We covet your prayers as we speak at six churches, visit family, put Brittany in college and drive approximately 8,000 miles.

July PRAISES:

✠ We had a **good trip from Thailand** to the U.S.

✠ We have had **very good visits** with four of our supporting churches so far. A special thanks to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who have shown hospitality and generosity as we have traveled from St. Louis to Texas and then down to several locations in Florida.

✠ We have enjoyed some **times of relaxation** both at Joe's parents' house and now at D&D Missionary Homes in St. Petersburg, Fla. Praise God for the chance to take a breath or two on this trip!

July PRAYERS:

✠ Please continue to pray for us to **represent the Lord and His work well** as we visit with two more supporting churches this month (First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Largo, Fla., and Hope Community Fellowship in Vermont).

✠ We have been blessed by quite a few generous gifts during our time here. Praise God!

As we prepare to wrap up our trip to the U.S. this month, we are so thankful for the opportunities that we've had to renew relationships and re-energize for the ministry that lies ahead in Thailand. Thanks so much to those with whom we have visited as you have encouraged us with your kind words and deeds!

August PRAISES:

✠ We wrapped up our **six supporting church visits** with a final stop at Hope Community Fellowship in Vermont.

✠ We received numerous **generous one-time gifts** last month that allowed us to meet our budget for this trip to the States. We also received 50% of the funds we need for a better vehicle from one generous supporting couple. Praise God for His timely provision and for the generosity that we have experienced!

✠ We have enjoyed our **tour of the U.S.** as always, taking the opportunity to visit interesting sites up and down the East Coast. We are thankful for this chance our family has had to bond and to share many important experiences.

August PRAYERS:

✠ Please pray for **our travels this month** as Joe and the boys will return to Thailand on Aug. 11-13 and Elaine will return on August 25-27. Pray for needed rest on the long flights, for good connections, and for our luggage to make it to Chiang Mai and through Thai Customs along with us.

✠ **Brittany will begin classes** at Columbia International University in South Carolina on Aug. 25. Please pray for her as she begins the difficult transition of life away from the family and life in college. Pray also for Elaine to be helpful as she stays in the U.S. an extra two weeks to help Brittany get settled.

✠ Please pray for Justin (grade 11), Caleb (6) and Jamie (4) as they **return to Grace International School** on Aug. 17 and for Elaine as she will return to her 2nd grade classroom on Aug. 31.

Until all have heard,

Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie

Greetings from Siberia ~ June 2009

Summer has finally arrived! We have been enjoying warm temperatures for the past week, but this being Siberia we could still have some very cold nights. In the village we have been working on planting the garden and as of this writing we have planted almost 300 LBS of potatoes, as well as Broccoli, Cabbage, Green Beans, Carrots, Onion, Dill, Radishes, Beets, and Tomatoes. We have had some rain and are praying the harvest will be abundant.

In the above paragraph I mentioned our garden. We continue to sow seeds that will lead to eternal decisions and also are helping cultivate the small but growing fellowship.

Laura has been leading a course in the village, "Wisdom for Mothers." She has been really encouraged as she sees some lives being changed and she has even seen a young lady become a "NEW" sister. PTL. Laura spends many hours every week getting ready, studying first in English and then in Russian.

Kevin has been going through some studies on "PUTTING OFF" off the "OLD" self and "PUTTING ON" the "NEW." We are encouraged that we are seeing some changes in the fellowship. We are all in the process of change and praise Him that we can be a part and watch first hand here in Siberia.

Some dear friends, Shasha and Leeza, just got married last weekend; it was such a great time. It was awesome to see our friend Syroon (Deaf Pastor) officiate the ceremony (it was his first), and it was translated into Russian. They are starting their lives together in the right direction. We have known them both for over 12 years and know they will have an exciting future together.

Tonight we leave for another city in Siberia, a 27 hour train ride and then an 8 hour car ride. As we say in Siberia, they live pretty close. Please remember us in prayer as we travel. The purpose of the trip is to encourage a team as they are getting started in this new region. We will return in about 9 days but we will have email contact almost the entire time.

For those who have not heard, our youngest son Corey (20, - we do not feel old enough to have a son that age) will be coming over to work in the "Family" business for the summer. Please keep his travel in prayer; he leaves the 20th of June from Tampa and will arrive "home" with us on the 22nd. There are many projects in which he will be involved. One of them is to help us put a floor in a wood-working shop we are building in the village to teach young men a trade.

For those of you already on "Facebook," it is great to catch up with you all there. For those not on, what are you waiting for? We post pictures there, and it is a great way to stay in touch. Check it out: the address is www.facebook.com. We are easy to find our "Facebook" name is kevinlaurawooster.

Many THANKS to so many of you who faithfully continue to support the work during such difficult financial times and for the multitude of prayers that are lifted daily.

We are abundantly blessed and consider it a privilege to serve and work together for one purpose.

Considering it PURE JOY!
Kevin & Laura

Greetings From Siberia ~ August 8, 2009

It's August here, and projects are still moving along at a normal pace for village life. (Slow but steady.) We were able to complete most of the fence in front of the building and most of the floor in the workshop. It was a bit discouraging not to be able to finish either project by our August. However, we soon realized that we just don't live near a "Home Depot." The boards we ordered were supposed to be the same size. They weren't, with some having as much as a centimeter difference from one end to the other. We had to plane all sides before we began any work. Our new planer/saw is working GREAT! We were also able to purchase a chop saw, a jig saw and other smaller items needed to start a small wood shop. Next we finish the floor, get the tools in their places, begin planning/writing out a lesson plan which will include work safety, wood shop, and business classes. Please keep this all in prayer as we see this not only as a community development project but as an outreach to young boys who will just end up on the streets with no skills and nothing to do but drink (which often leads to jail time.)

Our youngest son, Corey, spent a good portion of the summer with us this year and was a huge help with the work done in the village. At the end of his time here, he was asked if it was all he had expected. His answer, "I thought I was just coming to see my folks and help out in an area I'm familiar with. I was really surprised to find that I felt at "home" for the first time in three years. The people here still have the gift of conversation and building relationships...we have lost that in America. Friends I had made so many years ago here just picked up where we left off, and I was encouraged in so many ways. I also found that I can be successful because I can depend on God in all areas of my life. It has been a GREAT summer, and I'm praying that I can return over Christmas break and see how things are progressing in the village."

Besides noting an offspring's spiritual growth this summer, we have seen spiritual growth among the fellowship in our village. There are such awful stories in so many of their lives; we can't and won't share them. However, we're seeing folks truly grasp the truth that God does care and love his children and will provide their needs according to His riches in glory. They have a desire to reach out into the community but still have many fears of being strongly ridiculed or worse for their faith. Please continue to lift them in prayer.

Laura will continue to work with the ladies this fall as they learn how to grow in their relationships with God, their husbands, children, and in work/ministry. She will also be helping to teach four children of our fellow workers. She will have a helper from the States and also some help from the parents. She's anxious to get started and has been able to find a room that will be turned into a "real" classroom this year.

This summer we also experienced for the first time ever a conference for the local body where we were not the organizers. It was so awesome to see all the people that worked so hard to pull it together. There was also another wedding, baptisms, and lots of work in the garden. We are so blessed to be a part of all of this. THANK YOU for being a part of this work.

We ask prayer for wisdom, Laura's continued progress in language and building relationships with the ladies, and for keeping our focus on the things that are truly important in light of eternity.

Joyfully in Siberia,
Kevin & Laura

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2
Raymond Clemens
Jennifer Hallal | 18
Patricia Cram
Robert Mott |
| 3
Edward Calkins | 19
Carol Mackenzie
Donald Stohrer |
| 4
Sandy Catania
Gene Lantz
Carolyn Marvel | 20
Helen Schwabes |
| 5
Rebecca Austin | 21
Harold Layman
Joyce Smith |
| 6
Barbara Jackson | 22
Ralph Pohman
Walter Rudolph
Carrie Staton
Virginia Tompkins |
| 7
Melinda Bassler
Jo Ann Procius
Cheryl Smith
Angie Snodgrass | 23
Marie Archambault
Oliver Bronn
L.M. Downs
Dorothy Peterson
Jill Wickliffe
Mark Whittaker |
| 8
Carroll Lunceford
Barbara Toole | 24
Jim Archer
Lorraine Tollefson
Kathy Yuhasz |
| 9
Henry Heesemann
Brittany Hornsby
Ruth Oblinger | 25
Kay Bast
Lori DeClue
Annie Preston
Marge Swinson |
| 10
Lisa Stocker | 26
Charlene Murray
Shirley Shrader |
| 11
Rille Csont
Brandon Martin
Jaime Merson | 27
Burnie McGee |
| 12
Sarah Hodges
Alma Kadel
Dustin Will | 28
Christine Akkasian |
| 14
JoAnn Wilson | 29
John Cole
Pat Hoar
Gretta Marshall
Helen McCallister
Jim Wickliffe |
| 15
Sandra Garner
Wayne Haynes
Molly McCreery
Lynn Shuten | 29
Robert Allen
Evelyn MacDonald |
| 16
Kim Bennett
Ruth Healy | 30
Harvey Comfort
Sharon Deutsch
Mary Hand
John Travers Jr. |
| 17
Bill Lent
Dick Otto | |
| 17
Nelva Clemens
Julius Kertesz
Edna Schneider | |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1
Wanda & Russell
Chapman
~ 63 years ~ | 10
Eleanor & Chuck Hoefler
~ 60 years ~ |
| 2
Wendy & Ernest Miles
~ 20 years ~ | 12
Shirley & Len Cromer
~ 57 years ~ |
| 3
Judy & Lyle Lee
~ 53 years ~ | 15
Lois & Bernhard Diedrich
~ 53 years ~ |
| 3
Willy & Hendrik
Pouderoy
~ 56 years ~ | 17
Molly & Charles McCreery
~ 58 years ~ |
| 4
Arlene & Donald Stohrer
~ 61 years ~ | 17
Barbara & Bill Gilbert
~ 44 years ~
Bess & Don Hoess
~ 54 years ~ |
| 6
Gini & Harold Slusher
~ 67 years ~ | 18
Dolores & Joe Henry
~ 61 years ~ |
| 7
Joan & L.M. Downs
~ 45 years ~ | 21
Faye & David Honderich
~ 48 years ~ |
| 8
Linda & Ray Ritter
~ 47 years ~ | 25
Joyce & Jim Wicker
~ 4 years ~ |
| 9
Margo & Robert Blum
~ 42 years ~ | 27
Rebekah & Stephen Csont
~ 5 years ~ |

I am at a lack of words to express my love and gratitude for all the wonderful acts and gestures of kindness showered upon me by the FUMCH family during my recent surgery, rehabilitation and recovery. I would thank you from the bottom of my heart...but for all you dear, special saints my heart has no bottom.

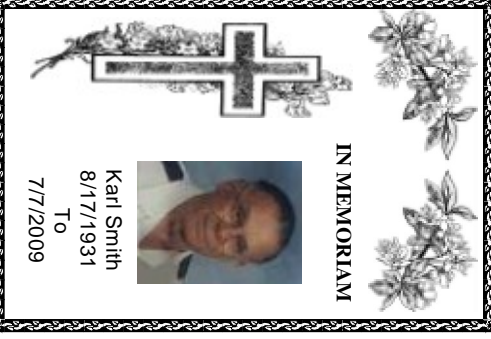
Your Sister in Christ,
Judith Huffer



IN MEMORIAM
Audrey Gregory
2/18/1920
To
7/15/2009



IN MEMORIAM
Maureen Samstag
2/27/1928
To
7/3/2009



IN MEMORIAM
Karl Smith
8/17/1931
To
7/7/2009



PERSONS RESIDING IN
LONG-TERM CARE
(As of Aug 10, 2009)

AVANTE
Annie Preston

EMERITUS at
BARRINGTON PLACE
Mrs. Lou Mosier - Hospice

BRENTWOOD
Evelyn Bash
Corrine Barrito

CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH
& REHAB
Betty Farewell
Robert Smith - Hospice

DIAMOND RIDGE
Jean Buzby
Betty Duncan
Helen Hudson

GREEN ACRES
ASST. LIVING
Bud Jenks

LIFECARE
Virginia (Ginny) Reese
Buck Snyder

SUGARMILL MANOR
Shirley Hart
Grace Payne

HUNT RESIDENCE,
WILLISTON
Bill Marquis

SEPTEMBER 2009		TUESDAY 1	WEDNESDAY 2	THURSDAY 3	FRIDAY 4	SATURDAY 5
SUNDAY 5	MONDAY 7	TUESDAY 8	WEDNESDAY 9	THURSDAY 10	FRIDAY 11	SATURDAY 12
COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting *14 th Sunday after Pentecost	OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:00 Stephen Ministry	9:30 Faith Hope Circle 9:30 Helping Hand Crl. 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Dorcas Circle 2:00 Stewardship 3:00 Serendipity Bible 7:00 Salty Circle	7:00 Men's Prayer Grp. 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 SHARE Sign-up 1:00 Shawi Ministry 5:15 Music 5:45 Bells 7:00 Choir	9:15 Ruth Circle 1:00 Fibromyalgia 4:00 Video Rehearsal 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	10:00 Wise Bible	8:00 Red Cross CPR 8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 Mom's Day Out 10:00 SHARE Sign-up 10:30 Bereavement 1:00 Salty Tea Party
SUNDAY 13	MONDAY 14	TUESDAY 15	WEDNESDAY 16	THURSDAY 17	FRIDAY 18	SATURDAY 19
DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting *15 th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise	10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 UMW Unit Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministries 2:00 Finance Committee 3:00 Stephen Ministries 3:00 Serendipity Bible	7:00 Men's Prayer Grp. 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Meadowcrest Bible 11:00 Diabets 3:30 Staff/Parish Comm. 5:15 Music 5:30 Wonderful Wed. 5:45 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 Wed. Bible Study	3:00 Missions 3:30 Trustees 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 Creative Worship 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	Council Reports Due 10:00 Wise Bible	8:00 Red Cross CPR 8:00 Sat. Sisters 9:00 Mom's Day Out 10:30 Bereavement
SUNDAY 20	MONDAY 21	TUESDAY 22	WEDNESDAY 23	THURSDAY 24	FRIDAY 25	SATURDAY 26
PANTRY SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting *16 th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise 6:00 Stephen Ministry	10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 Serendipity Bible	7:00 Men's Prayer Grp. 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Meadowcrest Bible 1:00 Shawi Ministry 5:15 Music 5:45 Bells 7:00 Choir	9:00 Fold Mail/Genesis 1:00 Fibromyalgia 4:00 Video Rehearsal 7:00 COUNCIL 8:00 AA 8:00 Al-Anon	10:00 Wise Bible 1:00 Father's Table	8:00 Sat. Sisters 8:00 Red Cross CPR 9:00 Mom's Day Out 9:30 SHARE Delivery 10:00 FLU SHOTS 10:30 Bereavement
SUNDAY 27	MONDAY 28	TUESDAY 29	WEDNESDAY 30			
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship 6:00 Prayer Meeting *17 th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 Work Crew 8:30 Tracking Comm. 9:30 Visitation Comm. 11:00 Exercise	10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 Serendipity Bible	7:00 Men's Prayer Grp. 10:00 Siegel Bible 10:00 Meadowcrest Bible 5:15 Music 5:45 Bells 7:00 Choir			

Revised:
8/4/09

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

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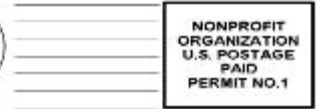


Photo by Carole Crystal, Photo-journalist

We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

Visit our Web Site ~ www.1umc.org

Neil Kline, Webmaster

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

Rev. Mark Whittaker
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM
Nursery at all services
EBADOC Academy &
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM

Office Hours: Weekdays
8:30AM to 4:30PM
Office Telephone: 352-628-4083

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Soli Deo Gloria

