

GENESIS

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

Open Hearts—Open Minds—Open Doors

We are a Stephen Ministry Church

April 2011, Volume 15 Issue 4

THE TOMB WAS EMPTY

Early Sunday morning, the women came to the tomb. They came with spices and tears to prepare Jesus' body for burial. But when they arrived, the tomb was empty! This increased the emptiness they were already feeling, an emptiness resulting from their loss of the living, guiding presence of God in human flesh—Jesus.

The tomb was empty, but soon the women would realize that emptiness meant good news. Because the tomb was empty, we have the promise of eternal life. We have reason to hope no matter what we see before us.

Matthew tells how the risen Lord appeared to the women, directing them to tell the disciples he would meet them in Galilee. Galilee was also called Galilee of the Gentiles, a place where people lived who knew nothing of the one true God.

The tomb is empty, and Jesus has gone ahead into the world. He is out where needy, hurting people live who do not know the love of God. Jesus calls us to join him, inviting us to become a part of the solution instead of part of the problem. He is out in the world, ready to give us his directions.

When Jesus met the disciples in Galilee, he said, "... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:16-20)

God is calling you out into the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

The tomb is empty. That's the good news. Now go—Jesus is waiting!

Mark



“Everyone Becoming A Disciple of Christ”

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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Sandra Tam

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Lori DeClue

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Sharon Cooley

Ron Hesketh

NIGHT SECURITY

Michael Rodgers

CUSTODIAN

Dale Evans

The Purpose of Genesis Is To:

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

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

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





CHURCH MINISTRIES

Within the Church

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

Outreach Ministries

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

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Shut-In Visitation
Stephen Ministry
Tuned To Revival Quartet
Thrift Shop
Volunteers in Missions
Vacation Bible School
Welcome Bags

Small Groups

Bereavement Group
Cancer Survivors
Current Affairs
Individual Bible Study Groups
PAWS
Saturday Sisters
Men's Serendipity
Women's Serendipity
Support Groups
Alzheimer's Support
Diabetes Support
Memory Lane Respite
Stroke Support

Discipleship Classes

Companions in Christ
Disciple I & IV

Benevolences

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

Community Outreach

AA
Al-Anon
Blood Bank
Camp-E-Nini-Hassee
Hunger & Homeless Outreach
Kiwanis Breakfast
Our Father's Table.

3/5/11

TENEBRAE
Thursday, APRIL 21
7:00 p.m.

For over a thousand years the church has celebrated a service called Tenebrae on the Thursday before Easter. The service originally lasted all night and included the chanting of the book of Lamentations.

Tenebrae is also called a “Service of Shadows” because it depicts the death of Jesus on the cross. In a graphic way, it recalls the price Christ paid for our salvation.

The service involves the reading of seven scripture lessons and seven brief meditations. After each meditation the reader will remove a symbol of the meaning of our faith from the altar. Then the choir will sing, some of the lights in the sanctuary will go out, and one candle will be extinguished. At the end of the seven readings, the church altar will be bare, all the lights will be out, and the final candle—the symbol of Jesus as the light of the world—will be extinguished.

After 33 tolls of a bell, one for each year of Christ’s life, the congregation will be invited to leave in silence.

A powerful and moving service, Tenebrae has touched people deeply throughout the years. Come and experience this reminder of the sacrifice Christ made for you.

GOOD FRIDAY
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Friday, APRIL 22
12:00 noon

The North Suncoast Ministerial Association will host a Community Good Friday Service here at Homosassa First United Methodist Church.

Churches from the west side of the county will be gathering to remember and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

Rev. Rob Allen of the First Presbyterian Church in Crystal River will present the message, and all the pastors will be involved in sharing scripture and hymns. Each church will bring representatives of their choirs to present special music for the program.

Good Friday is a traditional service in remembrance of Christ’s suffering on the cross. We cannot truly appreciate the height of the wonder and glory of Easter until we have remembered the depth and pain of the crucifixion.

This Good Friday service is our opportunity to watch with Jesus’ disciples, his mother and the others who shared his last moments, experiencing in our remembrance of his final hours a taste of the reality of his death.



PRAYER LABYRINTH

Good Friday & Holy Saturday

The prayer labyrinth will be available in Fellowship Hall on **Good Friday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. and on Holy Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.**

We hope you will take this opportunity to use this ancient way of worship and prayer which we bring to our church. People travel long distances to walk the labyrinth in Leesburg and thousands travel to Chartres Cathedral in France to walk the labyrinth inlaid in the floor as part of their spiritual journey.

For those of you who have not taken this walk or who are unfamiliar with a prayer labyrinth, I'm including some information here. More details are available on the Spiritual Formation bulletin board and in the narthex. When you come to the labyrinth, there will be a brochure with complete details and tips for your journey.

A labyrinth is a prayer tool like a prayer altar, a cross, candles, or a prayer journal. There is evidence that Christian churches used the labyrinth for prayer and meditation as early as 350 C.E. The oldest known labyrinth still in existence is in Algeria and is inscribed in the center with the words "Sancta Ecclesia" meaning holy church. The labyrinth we use is made of canvas and belongs to the

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Florida Conference of the UMC and is called an 11 circuit labyrinth; it is modeled after the one in Chartres Cathedral. Although you walk on the labyrinth, it is not a long walk. Since some of us do occasionally have a need for rest, there will be chairs near the edge of the canvas if you wish to sit.

In an effort to provide more spiritually formative experiences we have added this to our Holy Week traditions. Those who have taken part in the experience have indicated they felt blessed and were glad they came. We hope that you will take this opportunity to join them this year.

No husbands or wives can love each other with unlimited love. There is no human love that is not broken somewhere. When our broken love is the only love we can have, we are easily thrown into despair, but when we can live our broken love as a partial reflection of God's perfect, unconditional love, we can forgive one another our limitations and enjoy together the love we have to offer.

Henri J. M. Nouwen (1932-1996)



The ladies Serendipity Bible study continues to grow. They meet on Thursdays in the Parlor at 1:30. If you are interested in joining call Kim Bennett or just show up! If there are ladies interested in starting an early evening study please let me know.

A Big THANK YOU to Crystal Wiseman for her leadership of the Youth group on Wednesday evenings. We are sorry to see her leave. And we are grateful for Lori DeClue who has agreed to take her place beginning March 1st. Please give her your support as you have supported Crystal.

The Youth will be doing some serious fund raising in the near future as they wish to attend camp at Leesburg this summer. If you are willing to help in any way with the fund raising please let Lori or myself know. We are always looking for good ideas to involve the Youth.

Another **huge** need we have is for help on Wednesday night with a group of 9 and 10 year olds. These children are anxious to be here and will be our future Youth group, so we surely don't want to turn them away. Our recent volunteer finds she cannot spare the time from her business to take this

leadership role so I am asking you please to search your heart and come in to talk about how you can help. Consider: Proverbs: 22-6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Matthew: 19-14 "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Peace and Blessings to you, *Kay*

ASK THE ANIMALS



"But ask....

the animals, and they will teach you;

the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;

And the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Whom among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?"

JOB 12:7-9



Karen
Kline

Colon Rectal Cancer

This is not a subject that most people like to discuss, but being aware of the risks and screenings could save your life. Colon rectal cancer refers to cancer found anywhere in the colon, including the rectum. This cancer usually begins with a clump of tissue in the colon or rectal lining called a polyp. It takes years for polyps to grow and up to 2% of them become cancerous.

Two thousand seven statistics from the CDC indicate that 142,672 were diagnosed with colon cancer and 53,219 died from it. Colon cancer is the 3rd leading cause of cancer in the U.S.

There are certain risk factors for colon cancer. These include: family history, smoking, Chron's disease, ulcerative colitis or being African-American. Your risk can be decreased by regular screenings, increasing activity, eating healthy and smoking cessation

Everyone over the age of 50 is encouraged to be screened regularly. One of the first methods your doctor will use is a simple fecal occult blood test. The American Cancer Society recommends this home test with samples taken over several days. Stool samples are checked for occult or hidden blood. If blood is discovered the doctor will discuss additional screening methods if needed.

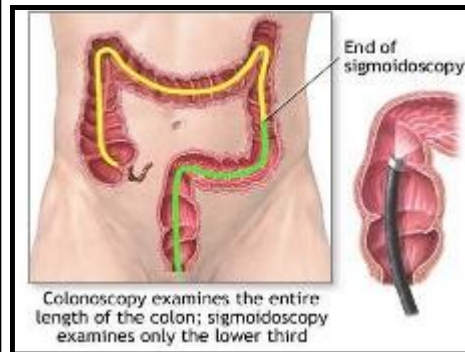
The "Gold Standard" of screening methods is considered to be a

colonoscopy. With this method the lining of the large intestine is visualized and polyps, if found can easily be removed and evaluated. Polyps found during most of the other tests will require a colonoscopy as a second procedure. Additional information on colonoscopies is available by going to: www.ColonoscopyForDummies.com This informative booklet can be download to your computer.

Other screening methods your doctors may recommend are a Virtual or CT colonography It is the newest method of screening. This is a special form of CAT scan that allows the radiologist to reconstruct images of the lining of the colon.

A Barium enema is another method that allows visualization of the colon through X-ray after a liquid contrast is introduced into the colon through the rectum.

A flexible sigmoidoscopy is similar to a colonoscopy but only visualizes the lower portion of the colon.



While no one likes to read about these tests, they can detect colon cancer early. Regular screening saves lives, and it could save yours!

Stay healthy, *Karen*

Dear praying friends,

We want to express our most humble thanks to everyone for their prayers, emails and generosity over the past month as we have struggled through the osteomyelitis (spine infection) that Elaine has had since at least Christmas Eve. We have an update after some disappointing news on the medical front just today (see first prayer item). As always, we covet your prayers for many important matters this month:

Praises

✠ Our team partner, Pastor Moses in Mae Ai near the Burmese border, has recently **received substantial financial gifts** that will allow him to purchase the property for a Bible school, second church and orphanage. Praise God! Now, he needs the final funds to purchase the entryway land and to make repairs to the buildings. A church in Michigan, USA, is expected to decide soon on whether to assist this ministry financially as well. Lastly, a family from New Zealand that visited in October last year (Andrew/Melissa Peterson and four children) are finishing up their Pioneers' application process and hope to join Pastor Moses in ministry via The HOME Team in July. Please pray for all these major developments in this strategic work.

∨ We have been blessed with some **generous financial gifts** over the past month as people have asked

how to help with the large medical bills for Elaine's illness. We don't know who gave most of these gifts, but God does! These gifts have been a real encouragement at a time of physical, emotional and financial stress for our family. We trust the Lord will bless all of these givers abundantly as a sign of our thanks.

✠ Justin was **accepted as an undergrad at Columbia International University** alongside Brittany beginning in August. Praise God! He will major in Bible and music, with an emphasis on leading worship songs. Justin also is about to complete a long varsity basketball season at Grace International School. He and the team got to play in tournaments in Bangkok and Manila (see him blocking a shot (below), and they finish the season with a conference tourney later this week.

✠ We mentioned last month about our teammates, Greg and Chris Small, getting the green light to move into a rural community to begin church-planting work ASAP.



The problem was housing. Well, within a few days, they literally **stumbled on a perfect house** with the help of the only Christian in the village and will be moving in this week. Please pray for this move to be smooth and for them to get settled into the community before they go on Home Assignment from mid-May to mid-August.

✠ This month's **cultural photo** is "*schools*." Did you know that the major Thai school break is in March-April? The reason is simple: That's hot season here in Thailand between the two monsoons, when an area of low pressure socks in the country. The average highs in March and April in our city of Chiang Mai are 95-105 degrees with little cloud relief. The clouds don't come until the next monsoon in May, when rainfall rises from less than 1 inch per month to 6+ inches through October. So, it's with a long sigh that we bid cool (ha!) season goodbye and welcome back the heat and humidity.

Prayers

✠ After two days and 13 hours (mostly) sitting at the hospital L, we finally learned this afternoon that **Elaine still has a spinal infection** and now must have a procedure on March 11 to drain and test an abscess that has grown outside the spine in the area of the infection. We were hoping that the infection would be gone, but that isn't the case. The infection itself is decreased but still there, and now

this abscess not only didn't heal but grew. This means Elaine will most likely need to be on IV meds for four more weeks and will have to continue with a lot of bed rest. She also could need more invasive surgery if the next four weeks of antibiotics don't eradicate the infection. Please continue to pray for wisdom for the doctors and patience and full healing for Elaine. Please also pray for wisdom concerning who in our family can (and can't) go to our mission agency retreat next month (see final prayer item.)

✠ We are still waiting to receive our **Pioneers International Foundation (PIF) visa/work permit** in order for Joe to serve as foundation director and be able to sign paperwork (soon!) for other PI members to come under the foundation and its projects.

Please pray for God to expedite this process and that it can be done locally and not cost a lot.

✠ The **final quarter of school** begins next week for Brittany (sophomore at CIU), Justin (senior at GIS), Caleb (7th) and Jamie (5th). Please pray for them to wrap up the school year well, particularly for Brittany with an 18-credit load and Justin with senioritis J. We parents also have a lot of things to accomplish with the conclusion of Justin's senior year, so please pray for us to complete these things well for him.

see next page

10 † As mentioned last month, our **annual Pioneers SiAM Area retreat** will be held from March 31-April 9 in Cha-Am, a southern Thailand beach city. We as Area Leader were able to help plan out all the activities and sessions last month and now must do our preparations. Please pray for enough time to prepare everything well.

Until all have heard,



*Joe,
Elaine,
Brittany,
Justin,
Caleb, &
Jamie*



**VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST
FILL-INS NEEDED**

The office is in need of volunteers to be trained and ready to fill in for our regular receptionists when they need time off. Some computer experience is helpful but not necessary. For more information, or to schedule a training session, please call Theresa at the church office at 628-4083.

THE QUEEN!
(she's unforgettable)



Someone found this picture of our own Fran Graham in the paper; seems she was the Queen of the Valentine Ball held at Sunflower Springs.

EBADOC

The children of EBADOC Academy (1st - 5th Grades) have started a new unit on:

The Miracles of Jesus

All children are invited to attend. From 9:00 to 9:30 we have **pre-class activities** for the children to enjoy. Class is from 9:30-10:30. Come join us and learn about Jesus! If you have any questions, please feel free to call Laurie Painter at 382-2299, or Kim Bennett at 382-3941.



“Win-Win” With a CGA

by Rev. Richard Evans

In the present economy, with extremely low interest rates for Savings and Money Market accounts and even on Certificates of Deposit, many people have turned to Charitable Gift Annuities to accomplish both their income and their stewardship goals. The CGA is truly a “win-win” situation for individuals and couples who want to add to their income stream and also to make a significant gift to their church and/or charity.

Here’s how it works for United Methodists here in Florida. Individuals or couples give a specific amount of money (minimum of \$5,000) to the Florida United Methodist Foundation to create a Charitable Gift Annuity that will pay an annual rate of interest on the deposit for the rest of their lives. The payment rate depends on their age at the time of the gift. At the end of their lives, their church and/or designated charity will receive the remaining balance.

The donors receive a charitable income tax deduction in the year of the gift. And, for a number of years, a portion of their income from the CGA will be tax free. The interest rates are standardized and are actuarially determined. Here is an example.

Harry is 85 years old and creates a Charitable Gift Annuity with a \$20,000 gift in March of

2011. At his age, the annual payment rate will be 8.1% and he will receive \$1,620 each year for the rest of his life. He receives a charitable income tax deduction of \$11,143 in 2011. And for 6.8 years, \$1,302.48 of his payment will be tax free.

If Harry were married and his wife were also the same age, their payment rate on a \$20,000 gift would be 7.1% and they (or the survivor) would receive \$1,420 annually for the remainder of their lives. The charitable tax deduction in the year of the gift would be \$9,362.40 and, for 9.5 years, \$1,120.38 would be tax free.

For more information about CGAs or to make an appointment with a staff member of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, call the church office (628-4083). On your computer, you may go to www.fumf.org. Click on “Plan Your Gift,” then “Calculate Benefits.” Fill in your own information and you will receive your payment rate and tax information. With a Charitable Gift Annuity naming FUMCH as beneficiary, you will “win” and so will the church!

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Thank you for your responses to the prayer survey. I am honored that you have shared your experiences and I am deeply moved by them.

Marilyn Watson

THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM

By Jan Wise

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. (Matthew 7:1)

There is an “old-time” story about Saturday bath time. After a tub was filled with water, the procession began. First, father bathed. Mother followed, using the same water. Then each of the children washed in the now murky water. Last, mother bathed the baby. Apparently the water had become so dirty that the mother had to keep a firm hold on baby so as not to lose him in the discolored water. Thus we have the saying, “Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.”

What does that have to do with judging? The scriptures show God loves the sinner but hates sin. As his children, we are to do the same. But how? Unless we keep a firm hold on the truth of God’s love for *all* people, we judge a “terrible” sinner lost because of his behavior, and we throw the sinner out with his sins. Other times our human love for the sinner is so great that we refuse to deal with his sin. Then we keep the baby *and* the bath water (the sinner in his sins), refusing to separate the two lest we lose the baby.

Remember Saul (later called Paul) at the stoning of Stephen? Saul stood by, “giving approval to his death.” But Stephen knew how to separate the sin from the sinner and prayed, “Father, do not hold this sin against them.” (Acts 7:59-8:1) If Paul were judged by his sins, thrown out by God because of his persecution of the early church, think what we would have missed—the truths God revealed through Paul, his outreach to the Gentiles and the letters he wrote.

Think about Nicholas Lindsey, the Afro-American lad who shot the policeman, David Crawford. I reacted with “That kid just ruined his whole life.” Then the thought came: “Don’t condemn Nicholas. Ask forgiveness for him. Ask that he be drawn to Jesus.” What looked to me like a life-ruining act could be the beginning of real life for Nicholas—a life that lasts for eternity. My part is not to judge Nicholas but to separate the sinner from the sin and pray for his salvation. Will you join me?

Father, help us to see sinners separate from their sins and to pray for their redemption as someone prayed for ours.



YOU'RE INVITED

MAY 5, 2011

CITRUS COUNTY'S WORLD'S GREATEST BABY SHOWER

Citrus County Fairground Auditorium

**TIME: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., or
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

The event assists in educating expectant and new parents in a fun and friendly atmosphere, and was attended by more than 700 people in 2010. It is presented with the assistance and partnership of the CC Health Department, CC Home and Community Educators, CC Chronicle, CMH system, CC Kiwanis, and numerous other agencies.

Donations of any new baby items are welcomed, such as strollers, high chairs, cribs, toys, gift baskets, hand-made quilts, and blankets.

Donations of money also are welcomed. Checks should be made payable to Citrus County Home and Community Educators (CCHCE.) Donations are tax deductible and 100% of donations go to the event. Donors will be recognized in the newspaper on the event program and/or from the stage.

Donations may be dropped off at the church office or narthex **by April 27, 2011**. Please indicate that your item/s is for the baby shower, and make sure that you or your groups' name and address are on the donation/s.

**Contact Dee & Jim Green at 382-4402
for more information**

WOMEN'S COMEDY NIGHT OUT

APRIL 7, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Multi-Media Room

A weekly DVD featuring Christian comedian

CHONDA PIERCE

<http://www.chonda.org/allaboutme.html>



She just may have been the best kept secret in entertainment for the past decade, a comedian with a firm hold on the heartland of America, but she is quickly gaining acclaim across this country.

"I come straight from the world of wooden pews and hell fire preaching. Some of it probably did a little damage – that's where I get my warped sense of humor - but most of those days gave me solid roots," she says. "You learn a lot from your past – what to weed through and throw out and what to hold onto forever."

BRING A FRIEND!

RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY CALLING 628-4083

“JOHN’S WORD FOR US TODAY!”

(a study of the Books of John)

Leader – Jan Wise

Saturday, April 16th from 10:00 until 3:00

In the Fellowship Hall



Coffee served at 9:30

Lunch provided by the
United Methodist Women



ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

Please register at church office (628-4083) or
Nancy Pearo (382-1034)

APRIL 2011 ANNIVERSARIES

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<p><u>1</u> Sasha & Cody Shuart ~ 5 years ~</p> <p><u>5</u> Catherine & Richard Barrett ~ 64 years ~</p> <p><u>6</u> Dottie & William Baker ~ 32 years ~</p> <p><u>9</u> Helen & Buddy Hansen ~ 66 years ~</p> <p><u>11</u> Sharon & Dale Miller ~ 41 years ~ Judy & Robert Powell ~ 47 years ~</p>	<p><u>12</u> Neretta & Bill Brobst ~ 10 years ~</p> <p><u>13</u> Julie & Louis Garthaus ~ 15 years ~ Dee & Dick Otto ~ 32 years ~</p> <p><u>15</u> Grete & Dan Nygaard ~ 11 years ~ Joan & Jim Veronesi ~ 54 years ~</p> <p><u>16</u> Marge & Mert Davis ~ 51 years ~</p> <p><u>17</u> Loretta & Charles Blair ~ 35 years ~</p>	<p><u>18</u> Mary V. & Donald Wither ~ 52 years ~</p> <p><u>19</u> Dorothy & Roland Aberle ~ 52 years ~ Jerry & George Cole ~ 63 years ~ Shirley & Ron Phillips ~ 52 years ~ Marilyn & Ralph Siegel ~ 20 years ~</p> <p><u>22</u> Ruby & Larry Ramond ~ 51 years ~</p> <p><u>24</u> Judy & Tom Williams ~ 7 years ~.</p>
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IN OUR PRAYERS

AVANTE
Annie Preston

BRENTWOOD
Evelyn Bash
Joyce Minnicks

CYPRESS COVE
George Cole

DIAMOND RIDGE
Betty Duncan

HUNT RESIDENCE
Bill Marquis

LIFE CARE
Gene Harry

SUGARMILL MANOR
Shirley Hart
Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS
Ruth Eaton
Fran Graham
Joanna Miller
Abbye Jean & Bill Richner

WOODLAND TERRACE
Shirley Weber.

**WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**



Dennis & Tamara Boris
5 Primula Court W
Homosassa, FL 34446
382-3729



Sue Norman
1025 S. Brightwood Pt.
Homosassa, FL 34448
461-3235



Grace Sheikh
57 Douglas Street #109
Homosassa, FL 34446
382-1959



Rudy & Esther Stobierski
9068 W Double Tree Ct.
Homosassa, FL 34448
794-3291

Friday 1**GENESIS DEADLINE**

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

Saturday 2

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

Sunday 3*COMMUNION SUNDAY*

8:00 Traditional Worship
 9:30 Bible Questers SS
 9:30 Discovery Bible SS
 9:30 EBADOC SS
 9:30 Fellowship SS
 9:30 Seekers SS
 9:30 Traditional Worship
 9:30 Young@Heart SS
 10:45 New Beginnings SS
 11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 4

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

Tuesday 5

10:00 Staff Meeting
 10:00 UMW Ex. Meeting
 1:30 Stephen Ministries
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministries
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 6

7:00 Mens Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 Oneharvest
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 10:00 LaMountain Bible

3:00 Benson Bible

5:15 Music

5:30 SOUP SUPPER

6:00 Bells

6:30 Youth Group

7:00 Choir

Thursday 7**BUS TRIP**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

1:30 Serendipity Women

2:00 Disciple I

2:00 Green Team

2:00 Quartet Rehearsal

4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

6:00 Lady Comedy

7:00 Creative Worship

7:00 Disciple I

8:00 AA

8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 8

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

9:30 Disciple IV

10:00 Wise Bible

2:00 Cancer Support

Saturday 9**8:00 Serendipity Pancakes**

8:00 Saturday Sisters

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 10*DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY*

8:00 Traditional Worship

9:30 Bible Questers SS

9:30 Discovery Bible SS

9:30 EBADOC SS

9:30 Fellowship SS

9:30 Seekers SS

9:30 Traditional Worship

9:30 Young@Heart SS

10:45 New Beginnings SS

11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 11

8:00 Work Crew

8:30 Tracking Committee

9:30 Visitation Committee

11:00 Exercise Class

1:00 Alzheimer Support

1:00 ML Respite

6:30 Disciple IV

Tuesday 12

9:30 Faith Hope Circle

9:30 Helping Hands Circle

10:00 Staff Meeting

1:00 Dorcas Circle

2:00 Stewardship

3:00 Serendipity Bible

4:30 Kitchen Committee

5:30 Weight Watchers

7:00 Salty Circle

7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 13

7:00 Mens Prayer Group

9:30 Weight Watchers

10:00 Siegel Bible

10:00 LaMountain Bible

1:00 Shawl Ministry

2:00 100th Anniv. Comm.

3:00 Benson Bible

5:15 Music

5:30 SOUP SUPPER

6:00 Bells

6:30 Youth Group

7:00 Choir

Thursday 14

9:00 Back Pack

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

9:15 Ruth Circle

1:30 Serendipity Women

2:00 Disciple I

2:00 Quartet Rehearsal

3:00 Permanent Endowm.

4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

6:00 Lady Comedy

7:00 Disciple I

8:00 AA

8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 15**COUNCIL REPORTS DUE**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

10:00 Wise Bible

11:00 Volunteer Luncheon

Saturday 16

8:00 Saturday Sisters

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

9:00 Lent Retreat

10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 17
PALM SUNDAY

PANTRY SUNDAY

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:30 Bible Questers SS
9:30 Discovery Bible
9:30 EBADOC
9:30 Fellowship
9:30 Seekers
9:30 Traditional Worship
9:30 Young@Heart SS
10:45 New Beginnings SS
11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 18

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
11:00 Exercise Class
1:00 ML Respite
6:00 Stephen Ministers
6:30 Disciple IV

Tuesday 19

10:00 Staff Meeting
1:30 Stephen Ministers
2:00 Finance Committee
3:00 Serendipity Bible
3:00 Stephen Ministers
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 20

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

Thursday 21

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:00 Back Pack
9:00 Mail Fold
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
1:30 Serendipity Women
2:00 Disciple I
2:00 Quartet Rehearsal
3:00 Missions Committee
3:30 Trustees
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal
7:00 Disciple I
7:30 Maundy Thur. Serv.
8:00 AA
8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 22

GOOD FRIDAY
OFFICE CLOSED

8:00 Labyrinth Setup
9:00 - 7:00 Labyrinth
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 Our Father's Table
10:00 Wise Bible
12:00 Good Friday Service

Saturday 23

8:00 Labyrinth Setup
8:00 Saturday Sisters
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 - 4:00 Labyrinth
10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 24

EASTER SUNDAY

New Member Sunday

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:00 Labyrinth Clean Up
9:30 Bible Questers SS
9:30 Discovery Bible SS
9:30 EBADOC SS
9:30 Fellowship SS
9:30 Seekers SS
9:30 Traditional Worship
9:30 Young@Heart SS
10:45 New Beginnings SS
11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 25

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
11:00 Exercise Class
1:00 ML Respite
1:00 Stroke Support
6:30 Disciple IV

Tuesday 26

10:00 Staff Meeting
3:00 Serendipity Bible
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 27

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

Thursday 28


9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
1:30 Serendipity Women
2:00 Disciple I
2:00 Quartet Rehearsal
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal
6:00 Lady Comedy
7:00 COUNCIL
8:00 AA
8:00 Al-Anon

Friday 29

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

Saturday 30

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

<u>1</u> Gerry Graham Dorothy Koehler	<u>12</u> Robert Yusko	<u>21</u> Gloria Elsea Dale Miller Judy Williams
<u>2</u> Ed Carnahan	<u>14</u> Joy Potts	<u>22</u> Dean Moore
<u>3</u> Tom Kirschner Hazel Meyerhoff	<u>15</u> Mary Joy Speicher Laurie Stainton	<u>23</u> Robert Powell George Woodward Jr.
<u>4</u> Mary Casper	<u>16</u> Peggy Benson William Murray Edythe Shaffer	<u>25</u> Alan Burcaw Dolores Moore
<u>6</u> James Earl William Schuessler Frank Zack	<u>17</u> Russell Chapman Molly Norman Janet Small	<u>26</u> Eileen Ferguson Lawrence Maddox
<u>7</u> Richard Bader	<u>18</u> Freda Hale	<u>27</u> Katherine Tidswell Virginia Will
<u>8</u> JoAnn Guthrie Larry Raymond Joshua White	<u>19</u> Grete Nygaard Olive Stevens	<u>29</u> Roger Ferguson
<u>9</u> Stacey Dawson Elaine Harwood Donald Tam	<u>20</u> James Eyster Gloria Schwartz Marjorie Veenstra	<u>30</u> Dene Balmer Carli Benthusen Kim Hamrick
<u>11</u> Theresa McCracken Virginia Rese		

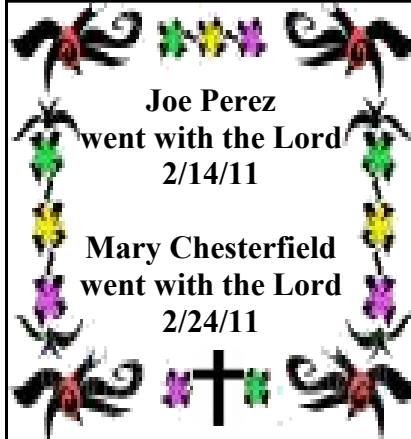
Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

IN MEMORIAM

Joe Perez
went with the Lord
2/14/11

Mary Chesterfield
went with the Lord
2/24/11



**JOIN THE SUGARMILL
WOMEN CANCER
SURVIVOR GROUP**

**Location:
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

We've opened membership to the Homosassa community! Meetings are held on the **2nd Friday of each month** from September to June.

We welcome women cancer survivors, cancer patients, and women who are going through the diagnostic process.

Our next meeting is

**APRIL 8, 2011
in the PARLOR!**

For more information or to make a reservation, call

Pat Schuessler 382-0057

or email

patschue@aol.com

***PLEASE, JOIN US
AND SUPPORT ONE
ANOTHER!***



**THE CROSS
IN MY POCKET**

19

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me.....

That Jesus Christ is Lord
of my life
If only I'll let Him be.

Original author unknown



Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

When I think of Lent, what comes to mind is “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts.” Psalm 139:23 (Reading all of Psalm 139 will provide a more complete context.)

One way to describe Lent is a time of preparation for Christ to rule in our hearts. Just what does that take? How does Christ break through and grow in us so there is less of us and more of Him. He doesn't! He stands at the door and knocks. He woos us. God has been called the “Hound of Heaven” since He pursues us because of His great love for each of us. But He does not “break through” that shell which some of us tend to have around our heart or hiding parts of us we just don't want to look at. We need to invite Him in. Once we invite Him in, He continues to work in us through His sanctifying grace as we become more and more like Jesus. Even in this we have our part to play. If we have a thick exterior (like thinking we are fine the way we are or this is just the way we are), it's like having a stop sign posted at the door of our heart. If we truly want to be open to Christ and all He wants to do in and through

us, then we need to remove the stop sign and invite Him into those places where we have tried to keep Him away. Remember -- there is nothing He doesn't already know!

The stop sign at the door of our heart or the hard exterior remind me of something I learned about plant seeds. I expected some magnolia trees to sprout in my yard since there are so many of those pretty red seeds. I even tried to help them along by planting some, but I got no results. A presentation by an expert gardener, revealed what I didn't know. While I know God in his infinite wisdom creates everything with a purpose – the purpose of the colorful seeds was lost on me! The reason the seeds are that beautiful red color is to attract the birds that eat the seeds thus cracking their hard exterior, eventually they end up on the ground and begin to grow. We can force similar results by filing away the exterior shell, but one way or another that seed has to be broken open and fall to the ground before it can grow. And like the parable of the sower, it does make a difference what kind of soil that seed falls on. Soil that is consistently tilled or stirred up by prayer, worship, silence, Christian fellowship, Bible study or fasting is receptive for that seed to grow and mature.

Whether it's during prayer or silence, at a retreat, or during a traumatic event, something happens to break that shell. For some of us it

may be all of these – it has been for me. I probably had a very thick or multilayered shell. I've learned to invite the Holy Spirit to do His sanctifying work of changing me rather than waiting for something to happen for Him to break in to my world. I wish I would spend more time listening, praying, studying Scripture, and practicing the other spiritual disciplines. But I know I'm a work in progress and He is growing me and I am His beloved child no matter how much or how little time I spend with Him.

Sometimes we don't recognize the opportunities to draw closer to Christ. Mary didn't recognize Jesus when she went to the tomb -- she thought He was the gardener! The men on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus when He walked with them and explained the Scriptures until He revealed Himself in the breaking of the bread. Jesus was encountered and not recognized in ordinary places – a garden, a dusty road, seashore, an upper room – yet they did not recognize Him. Let's spend Lent looking for Christ not just in the extraordinary but in the ordinary.

I pray you will stir up the soil of your heart so it will be receptive and crack open any shell which you may have remaining so you will receive all Christ has for you and so He will rule in your heart. Let us together prepare for the resurrection of our Lord.



The Decorating Committee will be taking orders for Easter flowers on the following Sundays: **April 3, 10, and 17**, which will be used to make the Easter Sunday special.

An envelope will be provided in the narthex, and flowers will remain \$10.00. Please fill out the order form and include cash or a check made out to FUMC and place the envelope in the offering plate.

The flowers may be picked up on Easter Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. service or on Monday, April 25th. The decorating committee appreciates your support.

THE BEST OF ALL

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. 'Today is a gift, that is why it is called The Present.'

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Are You In Need?

Christian love and help is available to you. Is there someone you know – a friend, neighbor, family member, or maybe you, yourself---experiencing a difficult time or having major concerns?

What Concerns?

- Confined to assisted living facility
- Facing terminal illness or longtime disability
- Suffered a major loss such as death of spouse or family member
- Accidental death
- Divorce
- Any Crisis
- Perhaps a physical move from another area, feeling unattached and/or lonely.
- If your concerned about someone emotionally or spiritually. Lonely, sad, discouraged, depressed?

Those who are seeking help need not be alone. Stephen Ministry will be with you in your need. You need only to ask. This “same gender” assistance (man to man, woman to woman) one-on-one, ensures **total confidentiality**.

No one, except your Stephen Minister, knows your concerns, meetings together or your discussions. While working together, God heals.

Contact a Stephen Leader:

Carol 382-8926, or Kay 382-4908, or Karen 382-7263



THANKS
FOR YOUR HELP!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

April 15th, 2011

11:00am in Fellowship Hall

This church functions by the grace of God and through the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. To honor you, our volunteers, the staff will provide a free luncheon on **April 15th** at 11:00am in fellowship Hall. All volunteers, wherever you volunteer your time, gifts and talents, are encouraged to attend. Reservations must be received by April 8th by calling the church office at 628-4083.

The **BOLD & underlined** words are the phrases and words that you will find in this puzzle. There are many additional words in this puzzle that have nothing to do with the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**. For instance, you need to circle the "Burning Bush" not the "Burning House". Jesus and the apostles were not born for another 1500 years. There is no commandment to "Be Happy" and several more, so look out for the tricks.

K	O	B	U	R	N	I	N	G	B	U	S	H	C	O	V	E	T
I	D	I	S	O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E	S	L	D	X	N
L	O	R	D	S	N	A	M	E	I	N	V	A	I	N	E	O	O
L	O	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	H	F	U	N	Y	U	D	G
C	L	O	U	D	J	E	S	U	S	O	A	O	A	L	T	U	R
T	D	N	F	I	R	E	L	O	O	K	L	H	I	Q	E	S	A
S	T	E	A	L	A	F	J	U	P	I	S	O	L	D	R	N	V
T	E	N	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	S	O	O	E
W	S	O	O	B	U	R	N	I	N	G	W	O	W	A	N	O	I
L	T	O	V	H	O	U	S	E	S	T	I	R	O	B	O	T	M
O	A	T	E	G	Y	P	T	Y	F	B	T	P	M	B	M	H	A
V	M	H	N	W	P	G	D	I	S	M	N	A	E	A	Y	E	G
E	E	E	A	D	U	L	T	E	R	Y	E	R	N	T	T	R	E
H	N	R	N	B	E	H	A	P	P	Y	S	E	K	H	L	G	S
I	T	G	T	C	H	U	R	C	H	V	S	N	I	M	E	O	E
M	M	O	S	E	S	X	R	W	E	E	K	T	D	E	S	D	S
G	O	D	G	I	V	E	N	S	A	V	E	S	S	N	S	I	N
T	W	O	T	A	B	L	E	T	S	O	F	S	T	O	N	E	O

Covenant
Ten Commandments
Old Testament
Fire
Burning Bush
No Other God
No Graven Images
 Do not take the Lords
name in vain
 Keep the Sabbath
Honor parents (mother/father)

Do not kill
 Do not commit adultery
 Do not steal
 Do not give a false
witness
 Do not covet
Egypt
Deuteronomy
Exodus
Cloud
Two tablets of stone

Mount Sinai
Moses
Disobedience
Men
Kids
Sin
God Given
Women
 from "applesauce kids.com"



2011 Couple's Retreats
Single persons are also welcome
"As For Me and My House"



April 29 - May 1, 2011

United Methodist Retreat Center in Fruitland

Leadership Team

"The one constant of life is the reality of change. Would you like more insight in dealing with that reality? The Christian experience provides for certainty and for hope. We do not face life's transitions in the same way that others do. If you need help guiding yourself or your family through the adjustments that different generations bring, then this retreat is for you. Everyone from Newly-Weds to Seniors will benefit from each weekend!"



Roger and Judy Watts have been married 47 years and have two children and two grandchildren. Roger has been a Favorite with the men at Leesburg for over 20 years and is currently writing his dissertation, working toward a PhD at the University of South Florida. Judy is a Registered Nurse certified in Medical Surgical Nursing. She has 29 years of experience in cancer units, as well as many other fields. She is also a Certified Lay Speaker, having taught Christian Faith.

Katie Hewett, "Aging and Spiritual Growth" - "Dealing With Sickness and Caregiving" Katie has been a widow since 1994 and retired from Bank of America, so she could spend more time serving Christ. She is also a certified Lay Speaker, and has served on the FL Conference - Beyond 50 Ministry Team - for 10 years.

Johnnie Faye Lane, "Designing an Older Adult Ministry", is Senior Adult Ministries Coordinator at Cocoa Beach UMC. She is a member of the Florida Beyond Fifties Ministries, and is also a member of Brevard Comm. on Aging (BCOA) and Florida Council on Aging (FCOA). She is a native Floridian and hails from Plant City.



Ross Kimura, a native of Hawaii, Ross has lived in New York City, where he studied at Julliard School of Music. He has a Masters in piano and opera orchestrations and has played at the Paris, London, and Milan Conservatories. Ross can bring Life to Traditional Hymns in a way that would make Charles and John Wesley and Cokesbury want to sing along.

Continued - next page

[CONTACT JIM STONEMAN 422-0169 for further information](#)

May 20 - 22, 2011

25

United Methodist Retreat Center in Fruitland Park

Leadership Team



Debbie Nelson “Revvie Debbie” as she has been fondly named, is a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary and is now serving Ridge Manor Community UMC. With a passion for healing and deliverance, Revvie Debbie invites you to join her in uncovering God’s miracle for you this retreat weekend as we savor His amazing Word together.



John Riley 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.

In addition to their General Assembly addresses, John and Debbie will be leading afternoon discussion groups to enhance your Christian Walk., and to help live out the Theme “As For Me And My House.”



Lenee Schroeder returns to provide us with music for the weekend. For 25 years, Lenee and her husband Bob traveled across the United States and the United Kingdom in full-time Christian concert ministry, and is always a favorite at the Leesburg retreat center. Lenee continues to be a popular musician and teacher and also pursues her passion for women’s ministry by combining music and teaching as she leads women’s retreats and seminars.

2011 COUPLE'S RETREATS

Registration Form

Name Last: _____ First (male) _____ First (female) _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Special Needs: First Floor Room Handicap Room
() April 29-May1, 2011 or () May 20-22, 2011

COST: Life Enrichment Center w/meals \$298.00 per Couple

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: UNITED METHODIST MEN, attach to this form, place in envelope marked for Jim Stoneman, Retreat Coordinator, and deliver to him or the church office.

Through Serendipity, the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things.

Spring has arrived officially and the warmth of the past week has made us believe that our cold weather is over. The red bud trees and azaleas are blooming and the grass is slowly turning green – well, some of it!

The Serendipity pancake breakfast in February was one of our most successful. Thanks to all of you who have supported us.

God continues to work in wondrous ways. In March, Serendipity was called to help in an attempt to relocate our youngest member and his family to a new living facility. They had found it impossible to continue to live with their baby in their rented home. This young man has turned his life around and is working hard, full time, to support his young family – they needed help.

As all members joined to support the effort, a new home was found, financing arranged, furniture and appliances procured; they were moved to the new location, and utilities were approved and installed, all within a couple of weeks. What a glorious new beginning for them.

God bless them and their new home.

The Serendipity Men's Bible Study Group is a wonderful study of our Lord's word as it applies to

contemporary living, while learning what God has in store for us. We learn also consideration and compassion, without being judgmental, for fellow human beings in our community and beyond.

Does this opportunity of joining with us to learn and to help others interest you? You can join Serendipity at any time and we will welcome you warmly. We continue to look for growth within ourselves, and ways to show Christian love to those around us. Come and join with us any Tuesday afternoon at 3:00pm.

**For further information, call
Jim Potts at 382-1842.**

Please pray for:

- all those involved in our Music Ministry as they prepare and lead us in worship during Lent and the celebration of Easter,
- those couples who will be participating in the Couples' Retreats April 29 – May 1,
- the special events and services during Lent and Holy Week,
- our pastor and church staff,
- our newest Sunday school class, New Beginnings,
- the new Respite ministry,
- and our Youth and Children's Ministries.

**HISTORY OF THE STAINED
GLASS**

PICTURE ON PAGE 2

One of the most beautiful features of our present day church building is the lovely stained glass window which graces one wall of the sanctuary. The window is made of antiqued, painted and fired glass and depicts Jesus holding a lamb in His arms. Jesus is wearing a brilliant red robe. At the bottom of the window, in old world script, are the words from a version of Ecclesiastes 11:1-- "Cast thy bread upon the waters for it shall return to you in as many ways."

How the window came to our church from Italy, where it was crafted about 200 or more years ago, is an interesting story. The window was brought to this country and placed in the Episcopal church in Cherry Valley, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, we do not know the name of the donor nor the date the window arrived in America. We do know that during the early 1920s the church was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new building. The man who owned the property was of the Jewish faith. Again, we do not know his name. He recognized the beauty and the value of the window and saved it. How grateful we are to him!

The window next appeared in the St Thomas Episcopal Church in Auburn, Massachusetts about 1920. Sometime in the 1970s that church was demolished and the

window was rescued by an unknown person who brought it to New Port Richey, Florida. Dr. Max Rittgers, who was pastor of our local church in 1982, heard about the window and arranged it's purchase on April 5th of that year.

Donors who made the purchase of the window possible were: Dr Jesse and Jane Richardson; Alvah and Marion Belcher; Margaret Belcher; Arlend Everett; J.P. and Sandra Garner; Paul and Betty Huffstutler; Nelson and Ruby MacBroom; Donald and Carol Morris; Paul and Dorothy Wilkinson; Mrs. Peg Smith; Keith and Eleanora Smith; and Dr. Max B. and Rita Rittgers.

The window was dedicated Sunday, November 7th, 1982 when it graced one wall of the Sanctuary in our Church's second building, now known as Shively/Roberts Hall. Dr. Max B. Rittgers, Pastor stated the dedication service was "A covenant with the past, a commitment to the present, and a challenge to the future."

~ THANK YOU ~

The last 12 months have been very trying, but with the strength you all have given me through your prayers, visits, phone calls and cards, I have been able to deal with these issues. While more challenges remain, I am sure I can persevere with Jesus taking my hand, and your support. God bless all of you my family!

Carolyn Roth



Can it really be April????!!!

We are truly enjoying our time here, even though we visit 3-4 home groups a week, have lunch and or dinner out 4-5 times a week, and try to keep up with letters and the everyday stuff! March will have found us on the road again. Laura hadn't seen her family and it was definitely time for the drive to PA. Since we were already 'up north', we will have driven a few more hours into MA and visited good friends from FL that had begun a church there a few years ago. They have also encouraged, prayed and supported the work over the years....a *small* but important part of the *big picture* in Siberia!

"It's New Years...just one toast (drink) for the coming year. We cannot stop this tradition – we're Russians!"

Alcoholism – it's a constant challenge we face in Russia. Drinking in Russia is such a huge part of the culture that even though many know it's a major health

problem, removing that from the culture is quite another matter!

Sam & Julie (not their real names) have one son, Kostya. They're a young couple in their 30's who will do what it takes to have food on the table, wood for the stove, and clothes on their backs. There's nothing unusual about this couple...in Russian thinking. However, this past New Year's Eve, Sam & Julie didn't celebrate with folks from the fellowship. They had decided to stay home and Sam insisted Julie have a drink with him....it would become the scariest January of their lives.

Sam and Julie had been down this road before....they would buy a bottle of beer or vodka and *'that was going to be it!'* It just never worked out that way...one bottle would turn into two...one day would turn into two or three weeks! There seemed to be no possible way to control the urge to drink. After a two week binge, Julie became very sick from withdrawals. She made it to a friend's house and fell to the floor. Her kidneys had begun to shut down and it did not look good! The ambulance came and took her to the hospital where they immediately gave her IV's. We give Him **all** the glory because she recovered and is doing much better!

We are so grateful that our fellow workers were there to

intervene and help get Julie to the hospital. We're even more grateful that Sam has begun counseling with our teammates and searching through the Word for answers of hope and freedom from drinking! Please remember this couple often...this is **not** unusual and something we face often as we 'press on' in Siberia.

Official statistics in Russia show more than 23,000 people die of alcohol poisoning annually, while another 75,000 die of alcohol-related diseases. Russia's Public Chamber put the death toll taken by diseases, crimes and accidents due to alcohol at some 500,000 people last year. (Recent television commercials put this number at 700,000 annually!)

Men in Russia have an average life expectancy of just 60 years; for women approx. 72 years. This is well below that of Western European countries where the lifespan is 77 years. PLEASE... keep this country, our little village, in your thoughts and prayers...only hope in the Lord will change lives enough for this problem to disappear.



PRAISE:

- Safety as we travelled so many miles,
- Ability to see so many family and friends over the past months,
- For His provision.

REQUESTS:

- Travelling safety,
- Wisdom for decisions as we begin the process of packing for our return,
- For our fellow workers as they continue to serve while we're away,
- For the fellowship to grow in their knowledge.



Your *Prayers* and financial gifts for the work in Russia are an investment in the lives of the many villagers like Sam & Julie. **THANK YOU!**

Until They Know,
Kevin & Laura

Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to.

EARTH DAY

Now observed on **April 22** each year by more than 500 million people and several national governments in 175 countries.

Senator Nelson, an environmental activist, took a leading role in organizing the celebration, hoping to demonstrate popular political support for an environmental agenda. He modeled it on the highly effective Vietnam War teach-ins of the time. The proposal for Earth Day was first proposed in a prospectus to JFK written by Fred Dutton. However, Nelson decided against much of Dutton's top-down approach, favoring a decentralized, grassroots effort in which each community shaped their action around local concerns.

Nelson had conceived the idea for Earth Day following a trip he took to Santa Barbara right after the horrific oil spill off the coast in 1969. Outraged by the devastation and Washington political inertia, Nelson proposed a national teach-in on the environment to be observed by every university campus in the U.S. I am convinced that all we need to do to bring an overwhelming insistence of the new generation that we stem the tide of environmental disaster is to present the facts clearly and dramatically. To marshal such an effort, I am proposing a national teach-in on the crisis of the environment to be held next spring on every university campus across the Nation. The crisis is so imminent, in my opinion, that every university should set aside 1 day in the school year-the same day across the Nation -for the teach-in.

One of the organizers of the event said: "We're going to be focusing an enormous amount of public interest on a whole, wide range of environmental events, hopefully in such a manner that it's going to be drawing the interrelationships between

them and, getting people to look at the whole thing as one consistent kind of picture, a picture of a society that's rapidly going in the wrong direction that has to be stopped and turned around.

It's going to be an enormous affair, I think. We have groups operating now in about 12,000 high schools, 2,000 colleges and universities and a couple of thousand other community groups. It's safe to say I think that the number of people who will be participating in one way or another is going to be ranging in the millions."

Nelson announced his idea for a nationwide teach-in day on the environment in a speech to a fledgling conservation group in Seattle on September 20, 1969, and then again six days later in Atlantic City to a meeting of the United Auto Workers. Senator Nelson hoped that a grassroots outcry about environmental issues might prove to Washington, D.C. just how distressed Americans were in every constituency. Senator Nelson invited Republican Representative Paul N "Pete" McCloskey to serve as his co-chair and they incorporated a new non-profit organization, environmental Teach-In, Inc., to stimulate participation across the country. Both continued to give speeches plugging the event.

On September 29, 1969, in a long, front-page New York Times article, Gladwin Hill wrote: "Rising concern about the "environmental crisis" is sweeping the nation's campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam...a national day of observance of environmental problems, analogous to the mass demonstrations on Vietnam, is being planned for next spring, when a nationwide environmental 'teach-in'...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned..."

Denis Hayes, a Harvard graduate student, read the NYT article and traveled to Washington to get involved. He had been student body president and a campus

activist at Stanford University in McCloskey's district and where Teach-In board member Paul Ehrlich was a professor. He thought he might be asked to organize Boston. Instead, Nelson eventually asked Hayes to drop out of Harvard, assemble a staff, and direct the effort to organize the United States. Hayes would go on to become a widely recognized environmental advocate.

Hayes recruited a handful of young college graduates to come to Washington, D.C. and began to plan what would become the first Earth Day.

Nelson's suggestion was difficult to implement, as the Earth Day movement proved to be autonomous with no central governing body. As Senator Nelson attests, it simply grew on its own:

Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself.

On April 22, 1970, Earth Day marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Approximately 20 million Americans participated. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, Freeway and expressway revolts, the loss of wilderness, and air pollution suddenly realized they shared common values.

Media coverage of the first Earth Day included a One-Hour Prime-time CBS News Special Report called "Earth Day: A Question of Survival," with correspondents reporting from a dozen major cities across the country, and narrated by Walter Cronkite (whose backdrop was the Earth Week Committee of Philadelphia's logo.)

~From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia~
2/14/11

The Green Committee was formed in January 7, 2010. The purpose of the committee is to study and recommend ways to make the FUMC's energy/water usage and waste management more environmentally friendly.

To date we have had Withlacoochee Electric and Tom Slagle from Metropolitan Ministries do an energy audit to find out our usage and ways to bring down the consumption. We are also looking into doing a study on installing solar panels on the roof of the sanctuary. If this is done the electric company would give us a credit for energy that we have generated.

We are looking into putting in programmable thermostats throughout the complex to get a handle on the high energy costs.

We have also started a recycling program, which consists of the following items: glass, plastic, corrugated cardboard, tin cans, aluminum cans and mixed paper. Someone from the Monday morning work crew takes the recycling to the recycling center every week.

Since we have started this program we have realized that instead of having a full dumpster of garbage every week, it has been reduced to half or less than half weekly.

Sometime in March we are working on getting someone from FDS Recycling center to come on a Wonderful Wednesday and give us a presentation of why we recycle and what the need for it is. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in Room 106.

Wayne Haynes
Chairman/Green Committee

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
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Homosassa, FL 34448

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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