

# GENESIS

# FEBRUARY

~ OPEN HEARTS ~ OPEN MINDS ~ OPEN DOORS ~

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



We  
Are  
A  
Stephen  
Ministry  
Church



## Lent begins

Each year in many places around the world they hold Mardi Gras-type celebrations - weeks of celebrations, parades, parties and having fun. These are times of excess in almost any way you can imagine.

Nothing seems to be out of bounds as the revilers try to outdo one another in drinking, eating and orgies. Of course, all this is "good, clean fun," and you will be considered narrow-minded if you don't see it that way.

All this activity leads up to Strove Tuesday when the celebrating reaches its peak. Strove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, and the parties were originally about having one final bash, one last celebration, before going into the penitential time of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

For centuries Lent has been used as the time when those who are working toward membership in the church would prepare themselves emotionally and spiritually for the vows that they would be making on Easter. This

was a time of great introspection and striving (strove) toward being the person that God is calling one to be. People would show their dedication and commitment by giving up something they enjoyed such as chocolate, red meat or riding to church on Sunday. Today people may give up cigarettes or soda or even chocolate.

There are a lot of "things" we could give up for Lent, but they don't necessarily help us get any closer to understanding God - or ourselves.

Paul wrote, "...I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1)

Instead of sacrificing some "thing," perhaps we can sacrifice something of ourselves - a wrong attitude, a complaining spirit, a hoarded free time, a food addiction.

Maybe we can give up an attitude that hurts self and others. What about giving up being angry at someone so you can find peace within yourself?

How about giving up negativism and discover the brightness and joy that abounds in God's world?

Would it be possible to give up some free time and spend it with a child who needs homework help? Maybe you can even give up a bad habit, like too much chocolate (or soda) and live the healthier, fuller and abundant life that Jesus wants you to have.

Lent - a time to see the world in a whole new way, a time to focus not on what we are giving up but on what, with God's help, we can change, and so change our lives as we grow closer to God.



*Mark*

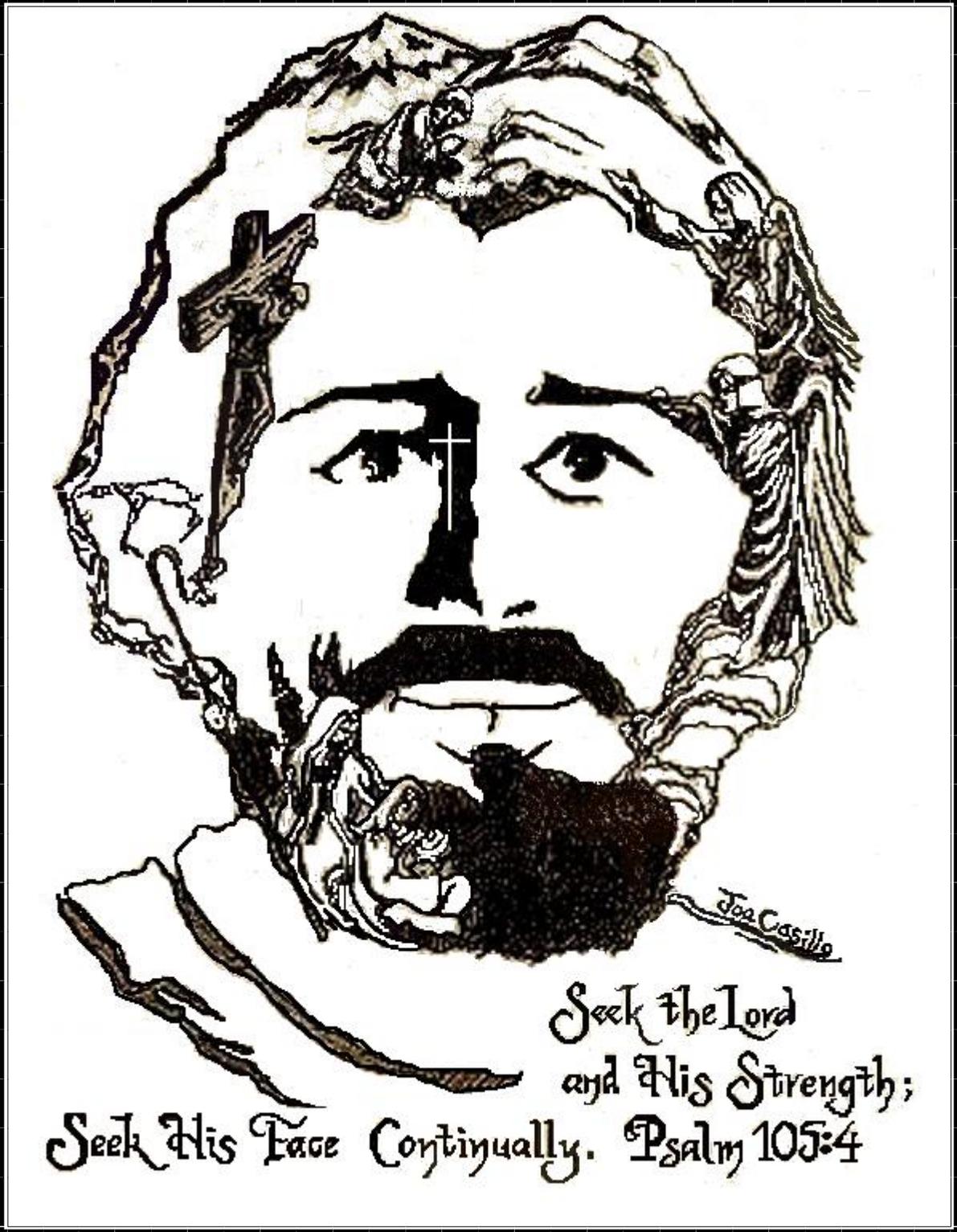
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# "Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

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.

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# Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

## THE DANGERS OF DISCIPLESHIP

The pastor's sermon had a short title - "Dangerous." He spoke about threats that create fear and how, because of them, we give fear power over us. King Herod was threatened at the news of the one "born King of the Jews," and reacted out of fear by ordering the slaughter of all male babies under the age of two. Today men are still threatened by Jesus, often reacting in violent ways to his message and messengers.

When we live as disciples of Jesus, people will often be threatened by our message and by the One we represent. In Matthew 10:22 we read this warning of Jesus: "All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." How do we feel about being hated because of our belonging to Jesus Christ?

Shouldn't we expect to be liked and honored if we obey God? \_\_\_\_\_

What dangers might threaten us when we are hated? \_\_\_\_\_

In Luke 6:22, Jesus says, "Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man." Jesus doesn't say "if" but "when." How do these words of Jesus describe the dangers of being a disciple?

How could hateful treatment because of Jesus bring us blessing?

Jesus tells how we are to respond to such treatment. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven...." (Luke 6:23a)

How do you feel about his instructions?

The Apostle Paul explains how he was able to rejoice in the face of hatred and persecution. He writes, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Phil. 4:13) What does he mean?

In the Book of Acts we read of the apostles being arrested by the religious leaders. After being beaten and threatened with death if they continued to witness, they were released. The scripture describes their reaction. "The

apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day...they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 5:41) How dangerous was it for them to live as followers of Jesus Christ?

What do you think we would do if we had been threatened with death and then beaten for proclaiming that Jesus is Lord?

Jesus reminded his disciples (and us), "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." (John 15:28, 20b) We may think, "We live in the United States. That will never happen here." What are some ways subtle persecution is already happening in our country?

Being persecuted and hated for our relationship to Jesus Christ - this is a part of the danger of being a disciple. But there is another danger, more subtle and more damaging. We will be tempted to react to hatred and persecution from our human emotions rather than from Spirit-led responses.

In an Eastern country, the Christians were attacked by the Hindu believers of their town. The Hindus burned down churches, so the Christians retaliated by burning Hindu homes. But Jesus didn't tell us to respond to persecution this way. He said, "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:43-45a) He added these questions—"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get," and "...if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others." Why is a Christ-like response to those who hate and persecute us our greatest testimony to unbelievers?

## THINK ABOUT IT!

Paul wrote, "In your anger do not sin—do not give the devil a foothold." (Eph. 4:26a, 27)

When you are angry, do you react out of human emotion or respond out of the Christ-life in you?

Jesus said, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much...." (Luke 16:10)

Why is it important to practice responding in a Christ-like way to threats and fears in the little events of our lives?

**WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE REALITY OF THE DANGERS OF DISCIPLESHIP?**

## Jesus' Laws of Life

"Jesus' laws of life are eternally relevant. If we doubt it, we need to read the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12). The kingdom belongs to the 'poor in spirit' because they possess:

*the teachable mind.*

"If our minds are like concrete – all mixed up and permanently set – no new ideas can get in. To be 'born again' is to start as an infant to learn all over again, without preconceived notions or prejudices.

"To be able to 'mourn' means that we possess:

*the reachable heart.*

"How can a hard-hearted pharaoh respond to the cries of the oppressed in any day? A brilliant, open responsive mind is not enough. It must be coupled with, and balanced by, a tender, sensitive, responsive heart. But even that does not suffice.

"The third law, to be 'meek', adds to the other two:

*The trainable will*

"To be meek is to be broken, like a wild horse, and then made subservient to a higher intelligence, harnessed, and used. We are to become God's servants by having our wills broken, harnessed, trained, and then released. This is never a sign of weakness but of strength; never an indication of ignorance but of intelligence.

"The whole, holy Christian has to be a believer in the totality of his being, with a MIND that is teachable, a HEART that is reachable, and a WILL that is trainable. Little wonder, then, that though many are called few are chosen.

"Are we among the called or the chosen?"

~ Ernest K. Emurian (Virginia)

The Upper Room (January – February 1971)

## Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

*"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

I Thessalonians 5:16-18, NAS

Always rejoicing. Always praying. Always giving thanks. Not because I want to but because God says that is His will for me. I don't know about others, but I sometimes find this difficult.

Take the rejoicing part. The day goes badly. I lose my daily planner (without which I panic). I cannot find my glasses. And if that isn't enough, the day is dreary, and I'm cold. But the Lord says to rejoice. So I try to be obedient and pretty soon my spirit lifts. I know that I am blessed and I can rejoice in that - even in the cold, without my glasses and planner. But sometimes I struggle. Rejoicing doesn't always come easily.

Then there's the part about always praying. The first thought is that I cannot do that and work at the same time. But would He have asked me to do it if it were not possible? I don't think so, and I try to pray short, quick prayers for the work I am doing, for the people with whom I work. Suddenly the work and the prayer merge, and it's difficult to tell one from the other. Still, this too is not always easy!

Finally I face the giving thanks part - in everything. The little preposition suddenly is very important. He isn't saying *for* everything but *in* everything. That's a relief. I can be thankful for Him and for His great love and forgiveness, even when things are going poorly. This is often a terrible struggle because I'm like everybody else. I want life to be easy - and I know that isn't realistic.

Knowing that all this is God's will for me causes me to want to do as He says even though it is sometimes difficult. Rejoicing, praying, thanking. These are difficult things on this path that we walk.

Then, as I read a little farther in the chapter, I find a wonderful promise. "*Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.*" (Verse 24) What a wonderful surprise. He has given me a pretty difficult task, and, if I allow it, He will accomplish *in* me what He has asked *of* me. What an incredible Lord we serve.

*Prayer:*

*Father, we know that You would never ask of us anything that is impossible. Thank You that You know how difficult it is to always be faithful to do what You have asked. Thank You that You are working in us to help us be obedient. That knowledge certainly makes our hearts grateful, and rejoicing becomes a little easier.*

*Amen.*

## PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the couples who will be attending the upcoming Couple's Retreat (Feb. 29 – March 2) as they prepare, travel and participate in this time apart.
- those involved in our music ministries as they prepare for the Easter season.
- the Building Committee as they continue to seek the Lord's guidance as they guide us through Phase 3.
- each of us as we journey through Lent, that we will listen for the prompting of our Lord and respond.
- the short-term medical mission team preparing for their mission to Haiti, esp. for Sharon Smith as coordinator for this conference-wide venture.
- our Pastor and Staff – daily, especially through Lent and Easter.





### February 3: Transfiguration of the Lord

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

~ Mark 9: 2-10

## Ash Wednesday Service February 6 Noon



Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a season of penitence and fasting as we ready ourselves for the gift of Christ's death on our behalf. It is a time of recognizing anew who we are and who we are called to be.

The Ash Wednesday service offers us an opportunity to kneel before God and acknowledge that we have fallen far short of what he desires of us. It is an opportunity to renew our commitment to being more Christ-like in everything we say and do.

The service this year will be Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at Noon in the sanctuary.

The Ash Wednesday service is not to be entered into carelessly or indifferently. It is a time for reverence and commitment.

We will celebrate with the imposition of ashes, recognizing ourselves as rebellious and mortal beings standing in the need of God's grace. At the same time, we will receive reassurance that we are not alone as we face the reality of death. God's grace *is* sufficient for us.

Come and share this holy and gracious moment in the life of the Church.

Pastor Mark



# Lent

### RETREATING INTO THE WILDERNESS WITH JESUS

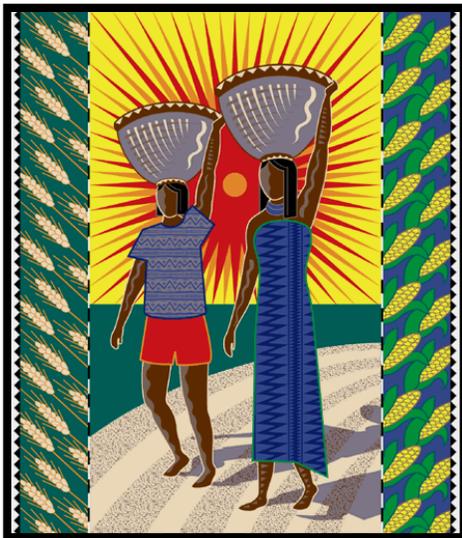
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Someone once said that to recognize the signs of God, pay attention to your stirrings.

Look closely when you feel the swell of joy within, or the tightness as your throat closes up in sorrow.

Live in that moment, poke around in its corners, and feel the texture of its walls.

Sit with it for awhile, long enough to sense the presence of God sitting with you.





# C.R.O.P. WALK

**February 24  
2 pm**

**We walk because they walk.**

**They walk for food, they walk for water.**

**They walk for firewood, they walk to escape violence.**

**They walk to seek shelter; they walk to farm their fields.**

**They walk to find employment, they walk to go to school.**

The facts are plain:

- In 19 developing countries the number of hungry has dropped by 80 million over the last 10 years.
- Latin America and Caribbean are likely to cut hunger in half by 2015.
- Over 852 MILLION people around the world remain hungry. Most of these people are not victims of famine, but suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition that stunts growth, snapping energy and potential.
- Every day more than 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes – about one child every five seconds.
- 1.2 BILLION people in developing countries live on an income of \$1 a day or less.

C.R.O.P. Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty sponsors a walk each year to raise money to fight hunger and poverty around the world.

We are looking for walkers who will solicit sponsors for their walk and for people who will support the walk through their gifts.

75% of the money will go to aid the world wide projects of C.R.O.P. and 25% will stay here in Citrus County divided between the hot-lunch program called "Our Father's Table" and Citrus United Basket.

The walk will be February 24, starting at 2:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Crystal River. If you are interested in being a walker or being a sponsor, please contact Rev. Whittaker or the Church office.

**We walk – because they walk.**



"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." ~ 1 John 3: 18

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling all volunteers from last year and people interested in volunteering this year.

There will be an organizational meeting in Room 111,

February 5, 2008, at 3 PM.

For further information contact Kim Bennett or Patience Nave.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**

**"Be a friend. Be a mentor. Just be there."**

There are openings for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and Big Couples at Homosassa Elementary School.

Bigs and Littles have fun together and create memories that last a lifetime. There is a powerful, positive, impact Bigs have on children's lives. Researchers found that after 18 months of spending time with their Bigs, the Little Brothers and Little Sisters were:

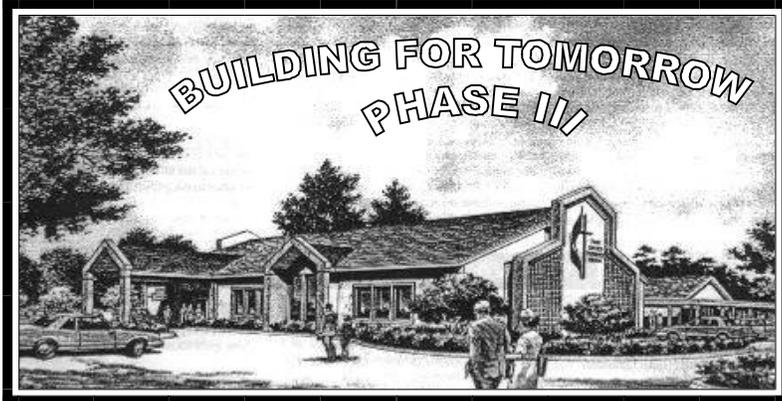
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs.
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol.
- 52% less likely to skip school.
- 37% less likely to skip a class.
- more confident of their performance in school-work.
- one-third less likely to hit someone.
- getting along better with their families.

Experience the magic of Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Call 352-344-0400 or visit

[www.bbbspc.org](http://www.bbbspc.org)

## Two Down, One To Go



On December 10, 2007, the District Committee on Planning and Location approved our plans to build Phase III of the “Building For Tomorrow” program. On January 6, the congregation likewise approved the building and financing plans and authorized us to obtain a mortgage and proceed with construction. There’s just one final approval needed, and that will come from the Florida Methodist Foundation for the mortgage itself. Jack Schrock had the application ready for priority mailing at the Church Conference on January 6, and it was mailed the following morning.

Of these three, by far the most important approval was that of our membership. Plans and a model of the new facilities had been on display all day long on January 6 in fellowship hall, and members of the building committee were there to answer questions. A substantial number of the congregation stopped by between worship services or prior to the 5:00 pm conference to refresh their memories and settle questions about the project prior to voting.

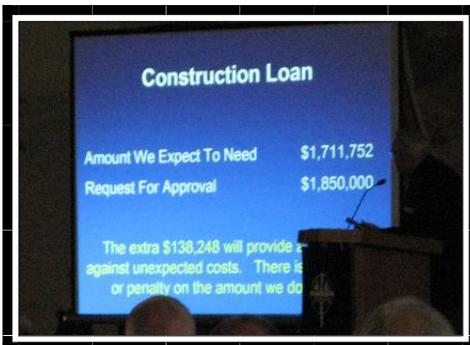


About 140 members attended the Church Conference itself at 5:00 pm to hear and view the presentation by the building committee. The Conference was chaired by our District Superintendent, Rev. E. Wayne Curry, and both he and Pastor Mark expressed support for the project during the question and answer period.



After further discussion and comment from the membership, a resolution to approve the construction and financing plans was presented for vote. Phase III is a very ambitious project, and many members have legitimate concerns about the large commitment of time and money that it will require.

Nevertheless, the resolution was approved by about 88 percent of those in attendance.



We have been advised that mortgage approval will require between 45 and 60 days, due primarily to the title search required. The builder will also require about 10 days to organize and schedule the sub-contractors after they receive our formal notice of commencement. That means it will be early March when actual construction begins. Our contract with the builder provides for a construction period of 305 days, or just over 10 months. So, we should be able to occupy the new facilities sometime in January of 2009.

Dave Marquis



## 2008 Calendar

Have you see the church calendar for 2008? Based on the meetings, events and small groups already scheduled we will have a very interesting year ahead. Our small groups are multiplying, Bible studies for men, women and couples are popping up everywhere and even the Sunday school format is changing. There is so much excitement and activity here at FUMC, but it all must happen within the current buildings. This can make scheduling challenging at best.

When scheduling your meetings and events, please take a moment to review the church calendar. The church calendar is available two months at a time on our website as well as posted throughout the church buildings. These calendars are updated weekly and can change almost daily. Large prints are available in the church office anytime.

If you would like to add any meetings or events to the church calendar, please call the church office as soon as possible. Please keep in mind, with so many meetings and events, the room where you are accustomed to meeting may not be available. Flexibility is crucial in accommodating every meeting and event in the locations we have available.

As always, if you have any questions please call me anytime.  
Theresa Weber,  
Church Administrator

## Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

I continue to be excited about our education and ministries. The "bullet" format is quicker for writing and for your reading, so I continue to use it as a means of telling you about what's happening.

- I hope you heard the squeals of laughter and joy coming from the Sunday school classroom on the day of the beginning of our new Rotation program. We have entitled our program "EBADOC Academy," and it's in full swing! The children love it, and we are looking forward to great success. Let me know if you want to be one of the teachers with these beautiful children. Remember, the commitment is for six-week periods, not for the rest of your life.
- I'll let you know soon exactly when to expect Jennifer LaMountain to present her next concert here. She is in Europe right now, and her last email to me promised to set that date just as soon as she returns. It will be on a Sunday afternoon, and we hope to invite lots of friends in the community to join us.
- The directory has gone to the printer, and I expect to have it proofed by the time you read this. It should be ready for you by the first of March.
- The church council voted to have a retreat for church leaders and staff, and we have asked Dr. Trudy Rankin to lead us in discovering our innate leadership styles, our individual spiritual gifts, and how we can prayerfully put these together as we do the work of the church. By the time you read this, the date will be upon us - Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9. I think this will be an important time for us as we begin this difficult but important year.
- We have four new small groups beginning: a couple's Bible study, a men's Bible study, a women's Bible study, and the Hugs for Troops group. If you have failed to let me know you're interested in any one of these, call soon. It's not too late.
- After considerable thought, I cancelled the plans for Financial Peace University for this spring. I am really enthusiastic about presenting this challenging and life-changing program for our church and the community. I woke in the night this month, however, with a clear realization that this is not the time. Some of you have expressed interest in it, and I hope you won't give up. We'll get it in later this year. Right now we're just too busy to do the program well.

Enjoy February, as we look toward Jerusalem and the most important celebration in the church calendar - Easter and the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection!

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension - Outside the Box!

by Rev. Richard Evans

Most people are familiar with 3 dimensional objects like a box and can visualize their length, width, and height. The idea of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> dimensions “blow the lid off” and get us thinking “outside the box.” There are a number of multi-dimensional theories in physics, mathematics and geometry. Many of us are not able either to understand or explain them.

Here at First United Methodist Church, Homosassa, we hear a lot about the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension. That refers to levels of Christian Stewardship above and beyond the norm. And we have a 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society that recognizes and honors our members whose giving indicates that they have truly been thinking (and giving) “outside the box.” All the dimensions of Christian Stewardship here at FUMCH are easy to define and understand.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Dimension consists of the contributions we all make in direct response to a variety of appeals from both within and beyond the church. Many of us give generously, mostly by cash and check, to such appeals.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Dimension is goal-driven-giving, usually in response to a stated goal such as the amount needed to operate the church in a given year or the amount needed to build new buildings over several years. Many of us “stretch” our giving by pledging specific amounts in response to a goal like the current “Building for Tomorrow” program.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Dimension is proportional giving or setting a personal goal to give a percentage of our income to God’s work through the church. Many have set a percentage of 5% or more and some have worked their way up to the Biblical tithe (10%) and beyond!

Then the 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension of Christian Stewardship moves us “outside the box” and enables us to see our accumu-

lated assets as a source for our giving—not just our annual income. Some members have given real estate, shares of appreciated stock, bonds, life insurance policies, portions of IRA or 401k accounts, often with significant tax advantages.

And the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension takes us one step further—a step that enables us to continue our giving long after our lives are over here on earth. Stewardship in this dimension is Planned Giving and Deferred Giving, or arranging gifts that will last for years, and even for centuries. Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Life Insurance Policies, IRA or 401k accounts and other planned and deferred gifts added to our Permanent Endowment Fund continue to grow and earn dividends year after year, decade after decade, and even century after century.

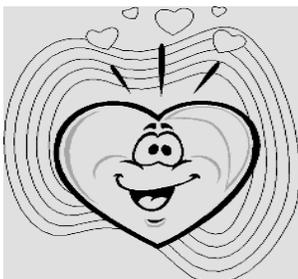
These gifts, added to the Permanent Endowment Fund, may be designated toward specific ministries and needs or they may be left undesignated. In either case, the gift is invested and only the annual dividends are available to be used as needed. The Florida United Methodist Foundation is in partnership with our church (and all the UM churches in the Florida Conference) to assure prudent investment of church funds and sound stewardship options for potential donors who are ready to enter the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension.

Through the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society our church is able to say “thank you” to all those who have been thinking and giving “outside the box” - in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension.

If you would like to talk with someone about a Planned Gift or learn more about various kinds of Deferred Gifts, please call the church office. We’ll be glad to share some materials with you and would be delighted to welcome you into the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society!

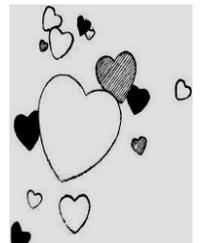
## “KEEP HEART”

It is HEART month. It comes around every year at the same time that hearts appear everywhere, and we celebrate Valentine’s Day. Maybe it is a play on words, but it is a “good play” as the heart and its function mean life to all of us. With that said, I’d like to elaborate a bit on HEART care. According to Keri McHale, as printed in our own Chronicle in October, it pays to “know your numbers like you know your dress size.” Now you might think that men are not included. They sure are! According to the Citrus Memorial Health System Heart Program, the following numbers will help you stay healthy.



**BLOOD PRESSURE**  
Systolic – less than 120  
Diastolic – less than 80  
**TOTAL CHOLESTROL**  
Less than 200  
**LDL (BAD) CHOLESTEROL**  
Less than 100  
**HDL (GOOD CHOLESTEROL)**  
Less than 50

**TRIGLYCERIDES**  
Less than 150  
**FASTING BLOOD SUGAR**  
Less than 100  
**BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)**  
Between 18.5 and 25  
**WAIST SIZE**  
Less than 35 inches



Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse

## Passionate Spirituality

During Lent we ask the Lord to examine our heart and, if we listen, He will usually show us something we need to work on-- or perhaps I should say He'll show us where He is working in us. But we will only hear when we are attentively listening. If we keep too busy (even if it is serving Him) or have too much chatter (even if it is good church fellowship), it will be hard to hear Him when He answers. Like Samuel when Eli told him to respond to the voice he had heard, we also need to respond, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening." (1 Sam. 3:9)

There are many opportunities during Lent to draw closer to our Lord and Savior. I pray you will avail yourself of them. Many of these are what we call means of grace or spiritual disciplines where we have special opportunities to have close encounters with our Savior.

During Lent many people give up something. A few years ago I began "taking up" a new discipline during Lent. It is an opportunity to try out a new spiritual discipline and see how it works in your life.

For instance, we think of fasting as giving up something during Lent. Instead we can think of it as learning about fasting and practicing it. There are many different forms of fasting. We usually think of abstaining from a particular food or habit for a given period of time. It can also be not eating a certain meal on a given day of the week or only drinking liquids for that meal rather than eating. If you do try any form of fasting, be sure it is not contrary to any of your particular health conditions; better yet, check with your doctor. Other forms of fasting may include longer periods of abstaining from eating.

Another spiritual discipline you might try out during Lent is foot washing. Have you ever participated in a foot washing service? It was just before going to the Cross that our Lord demonstrated such servanthood. The most meaningful foot-washing I've taken part in was when I was blessed to wash the feet of someone who had the gift of service and who truly had a servant's heart. To be able to serve her in this way was a very moving experience.

Another possible spiritual discipline to "take up" during Lent might be the discipline of meditating on God's Word. This is nothing like Eastern meditation or the emptying of your mind. It is ruminating (chewing) upon a small portion of Scripture, digesting it and letting the Lord speak to you through it. One way of meditating on God's Word is called Letio Devina. It is described in detail on sheets (which you are welcome to take with you) on the bulletin board in the hallway between the education and administrative halls. On the same bulletin board you will also find a list of other spiritual disciplines you might consider "taking up" during Lent.

Throughout Lent, let's all say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," and then listen, determined to obey.

Have a blessed Lenten journey,

*Marilyn Watson*



### CHURCH BUS ROLLING AGAIN FOR 2008

February 25, 2008 (Monday)

BOK TOWER GARDENS

Lake Wales, FL

Depart church lot at 8:00 AM

Return time approx. 7:00 PM

Price per person: \$35.00 includes:

Admission to gardens, house tour and bus expenses.

Lunch will be at your expense.

Please call soon for reservation and payment information.

Bill & Neretta Brobst

Call: 621-3736

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE EXPRESSES THANKS

The Missions Committee wishes to express it's appreciation for the wonderful support offered by the congregation in the recent program to furnish 1000 Snicker candy bars to the Lancaster Correctional Institution and 780 to the Citrus County facility.

The total for Citrus County was 380 more than previous years. Not only was the 1,780 figure reached, but an additional 125 Snicker bars were given to the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter.

Companies donating Snicker bars included: Wal-Mart, Winn Dixie, and CVS. Besides candy bars, cash donations were provided by the congregation; all of which helped make a very successful campaign.

Chaplain Ron Knowles summed up the effectiveness of the program when he said, "The candy, and the Christmas message, written by Pastor Whittaker, and wrapped around each bar, had a very positive effect on both the inmates and staff at Lancaster Correctional."

Thank you, everyone,  
Jack Radabaugh



**THE WRAPPING CREW**  
**One Snickers Bar...**  
**two Snickers Bars...**  
**1900 Snickers Bars!**



## 2008 - A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

I am very honored to be the Stewardship Chairman for 2008, and look forward to the challenges of this important position.

Sallyann Moore is a tough act to follow with her attention to detail and organization, and we wish her well in her new ministry choices.

The Lord drew Carolyn and me to FUMC through our wonderful neighbors, Bill and Neretta Brobst. We were enthusiastically welcomed by you in the most loving way we have ever experienced.

The Lord has greatly blessed FUMC with willing workers, teachers, and a supportive congregation, and I pray that those who helped with the Stewardship ministry last year will agree to helping this year. Paul encourages us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians to use all of the gifts we have been given to the Glory of the Lord and the Church.

Jim Roth

**S.H.A.R.E.**

As we start the new year of 2008, SHARE will continue to bring you the best quality food at prices that make feeding your family much easier.

We will have the basic package for \$18.00. You can always buy separate items "from the basic or select items," as long as you spend a minimum of \$18.00.

There will always be special items like the "Bacon Wrapped Steaks," "Barbeque Packs," and other packages of meats that would cost twice what the supermarkets charge.

There is no low-income requirement. You do not have to be handicapped or disabled, and we don't care of you come in a limo to pick up your food.

If you eat, you qualify. We depend on your participation to keep SHARE going. The more we sell, the better the deals for everyone.

SHARE will be moving on: We all know that sometime in January, the Fellowship Hall and other parts of that area will be taken down for the new construction. When this happens, SHARE will be doing it's Distribution in room 114 and the Chapel.

We used this room one other time and it was a disaster. We thought we were going to lose half our volunteers. Well, this time we may have to use this room for nine months or longer. Until the new Fellowship Hall and other parts of the new construction are done.

However, this time we will also use the Chapel area and one of the rooms in the hallway for registration. It will all be new to us, but I am sure, with a little patience and planning, we will be able to get through it. Of course, we will take any suggestions for making this change work better.

Volunteers are the backbone of SHARE. Without them, we could not provide the opportunity to the many people who depend on SHARE to be able to meet their food budget. The more people we have, the less work for everyone.

We are also in need of a key position again. We need a "Truck Captain," someone to organize the truckers going to Ocala to pick up the food and return it to the church. It's not a difficult job but it needs to be done. It's one thing to volunteer to work for a group but the real trick is to find someone willing to volunteer for a position of responsibility. This is a job of responsibility.

Please, become a part of SHARE....volunteer your time to take orders, your truck to transport food, your self to unload and distribute food. You could also donate money to buy a SHARE pack for a family in need.

The fellowship and smiles shared with the friends you make are well worth it.

A new schedule is available for the asking; use it to plan your next sign-up time and reminder for D-Day.



Tom And Nancy Pearo

**SHARE 2008**

**MONTH                      SIGN UP                      D-DAY**

|                  |                        |             |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>February</b>  | <b>6th &amp; 9th</b>   | <b>23rd</b> |
| <b>March</b>     | <b>12th &amp; 15th</b> | <b>29th</b> |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>9th &amp; 12th</b>  | <b>26st</b> |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>14nd &amp; 17th</b> | <b>31th</b> |
| <b>June</b>      | <b>11th &amp; 14th</b> | <b>28th</b> |
| <b>July</b>      | <b>9th &amp; 12th</b>  | <b>26th</b> |
| <b>August</b>    | <b>6th &amp; 9th</b>   | <b>23rd</b> |
| <b>September</b> | <b>10th &amp; 13th</b> | <b>27th</b> |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>8th &amp; 11th</b>  | <b>25th</b> |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>5th &amp; 8th</b>   | <b>22nd</b> |
| <b>December</b>  | <b>3th &amp; 6th</b>   | <b>20th</b> |

Sign up times are from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, and will always fall on a Wednesday and Saturday.

D-Days sign ups will start at 9:00 AM.

Food not picked up by 11:00 AM on D-Day will be donated to the church.

There will be no refunds and No exceptions



**Computer Committee**

The Computer Committee would like to start up classes again for anyone needing help in using their computer.

To find out who is interested and when classes should be held, we are asking interested parties to fill out this questionnaire. We have the computers, and we have the people willing to teach. We need people interested in learning.

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

What classes you are interested in:  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_ XP \_\_\_\_ Word \_\_\_\_ Exel \_\_\_\_

Print Shop \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

When is the best time for you to attend?  
\_\_\_\_AM      \_\_\_\_PM

## SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE

Heartfelt thanks goes to each and every person who "rang the bells" for this year's kettle drive. Our station at Publix in Homosassa was covered Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. from the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve.

Our excellent quartet "Tuned to Revival" sang and were a treat to the lucky folks who happened by during their shift. Even some much-loved pets participated and they really attracted attention, putting smiles on many otherwise somber folks, not to mention causing them to open their wallets even more.

The Salvation Army reports a successful year and again have expressed their appreciation for a "job well-done" by our congregation and several friends from other churches.

Our thanks goes to Priscilla Frederick who organized the Angel Tree this year. She reports that there were 65 participants from the congregation who provided Christmas gifts through the Salvation Army to deserving children. This ministry provides great joy to the shoppers also.

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Johnson a player and several CD's were available to the folks ringing bells. The music added to the beauty of the Season.

Dee Green  
Outreach



Betsy Frank



Charles & Bunny Wade



"Tuned To Revival"  
Ernie Dorrell, Joy and Jim Potts  
(minus Ron Hesketh)



Jim Green,  
Julie and Courtney Cox and Yoda



Tom & Nancy Pearo, Dee Green  
& daughter Julie Cox, & Yoda

**Some of this year's Bell Ringers.  
Next year we hope to capture all  
FUMCH participants.**



Fran Graham & Yoda

# Stephen Ministry



February is filled with fancy Valentine cards, lots of chocolate candies, and flowers galore. We express our love for our sweethearts, families or friends.

Another way that we can express concern for others is by encouraging our loved ones to reach out for assistance of many kinds.

So often we hear about people who wait and wait - sometimes until far beyond what is healthy - to avail themselves of resources, which are often available as close as the phone, a neighbor, or a fellow church member.

It is difficult for any of us to make that first call for help, but the results can be nothing short of miraculous.

Perhaps your gift during February, the month of "love," can be to gently introduce the idea of accepting a Stephen Minister, who will provide weekly visits and phone support during times of illness, loneliness, grief or transition.

Contact: Diane (382-7242),  
Kay (382-4908),  
other Stephen Ministers,  
or the church office  
for more details.

"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."  
~ Galatians 6:2



### Mission Statement:

To be a lay ministry connecting our congregation with the steadfast love of Christ with a commitment of care, love, and support for one another.

### Stephen Ministry is...

A CONFIDENTIAL lay-caring ministry in which one person reaches out to another in time of need; no fees are charged.

A short-term, CONFIDENTIAL, ongoing, helping relationship focusing on the unique needs of the individual;

A congregational commitment to caring and supporting one another in response to Christ's command "to love one another as I have loved you;"

A complete system of training and organization used by many denominations and thousands of congregations throughout the world.

### Stephen Ministry will address the needs of...

People who are hospitalized.

People who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

People who are lonely.

People who are depressed.

People who are separated or in the process of a divorce.

People who are shut-in.

People who are experiencing the birth of a child.

People who are dying, as well as the families of those who are terminally ill.

People who are experiencing job loss or financial setbacks.

People who are institutionalized and their families.

People who are new to our congregation.

People who are inactive members of our congregation.

People who are struggling with their faith in God.

People who are in any crisis or situation.

### A Stephen Minister is...

A CARING CHRISTIAN ~ desiring to offer his or her support to others in time of need.

A SHARING CHRISTIAN ~ bringing who he or she is to each caring relationship as partner in another's life experience.

A **TRAINED CHRISTIAN** ~ having developed his or her caregiving skills through Stephen Ministry training.  
 A **DEDICATED CHRISTIAN** ~ commissioned by our congregation to be the living presence of Christ in a **CONFIDENTIAL**, in-depth, caring relationship.

A Stephen Minister is not...

A professional counselor, psychologist, or social worker.  
 A substitute for the pastor, but one who will supplement the ministry of the pastoral staff.  
 A person who 'cures,' but someone who 'cares.'

Becoming a Stephen Minister involves...

A written application.  
 A personal interview and selection.  
 A two-year commitment.  
 Fifty (50) hours of training.  
 Frequent contacts with the care-receiver.  
 Twice-a-month supervision and continuing education.  
 A commitment to **CONFIDENTIALITY**.

How does the Stephen Ministry work at First United Methodist Church of Homosassa?

A Stephen Ministry training program prepares interested men and women to become Stephen Ministers, equipping them to care for the many needs in our church.

Their fifty hours of training includes such topics as: feeling, listening, assertiveness training, confidentiality, telecare, crisis theory and intervention, use of prayer and the Bible, professionalism, topics on grief, divorce, hospitalization, depression, older persons, etc.

Following training, the Stephen Minister is commissioned by our church into active, caring ministry. The Stephen Minister works in continual consultation with the Stephen Leaders and the Pastoral staff and receives ongoing education in the helping ministry.

Members of the church family may make requests on behalf of others for a caregiver or request a caregiver for their own life situation.

- Our entire church benefits from the Stephen Ministry.
- Our entire church family has a lasting commitment to caring.
- Our community as a whole grows in warmth and love.
- People receiving the support and caring experience an increasing closeness to and involvement with our church.

Stephen Ministers themselves experience personal growth and enrichment in their lives.

Our congregation's role is...

- To **PRAY** for the Stephen Ministry;
- To **BE OPEN** to receiving care for ourselves from a Stephen Minister in times of need or crisis;
- To **CONSIDER SERVING** as a Stephen Minister.



Do you like to knit or crochet? There is a ministry here at First United Methodist Church that meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Conference Room filled with ladies just like you.

There are even participants for whom the Wednesday meeting creates a scheduling conflict, but they still involve themselves with this effort by creating shawls at home and bringing them to the church at their convenience.

Perhaps you are willing to knit/crochet but the expense of purchasing yarn poses a problem. We have a few kits that are available if you would like to knit or crochet a shawl for our shawl ministry.

If handiwork is not your "cup of tea" we are also receptive to financial donations for yarn, cards, and gift bags. On your Sunday Envelope Of Giving just specify an amount that you would like to donate.

For more information  
 Call Ann Morrison 382-2923.

**The Yulee Drive  
 Absolute AA Group**  
 meets every Thursday  
 at 8 to 9 p.m. in Room 114.  
 An open meeting for men and women of all ages who want to stop drinking, or have stopped drinking. For more information call George at (352) 503-3961.

**Al-Anon  
 (Courage Family Group)**  
 This is for spouses, relatives, and friends, whether or not your loved one is still drinking, and meets on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in Room 102.

For more information  
 call Robbi at (352) 270-3827.

Whole

*Dear Praying Friends,*

Please pray for this to be a special year of service for the Lord here in Chiang Mai.

Praises:

We were able to easily secure another year's visas through the Thai government. We are now valid non-immigrants through Christmas 2008. Praise God.

Thanks to generous one-time gifts from one of our supporting churches and several individuals, our PIONEERS account is likely out of the red .

We also had two of our churches decide to increase their support by \$100 each month starting this month. This is an exciting answer to prayer and is a great encouragement to us after our account surprisingly fell back into negative territory following what we had hoped was the beginning of permanent financial stability. (Now, if that wilting dollar could just gain back some of the 20% it lost to the Thai *baht* in 2006-07 ... )

Cool Shade of Life Church held its second-annual Christmas outreach party on December 23.



(A lighted scene of Bethlehem and the outreach's slogan, "Christmas: Gift of Love," on the upper wall).

About 60 people were in attendance. Everyone had a great time and heard about the true meaning of Christmas.

Joe finished up his compressed four-week teaching schedule at the Chiang Mai Baptist Church Bible center. His work on Exodus was a joy as he was able to introduce the concepts of the Passover, the Ten Commandments, and the Tabernacle to students *Banjong* and *Kheek*. Please pray for their continued growth in the faith and for wisdom in how they can serve the Lord in the upcoming months and years.

Elaine hosted the first church women's group meetings at our home last month.

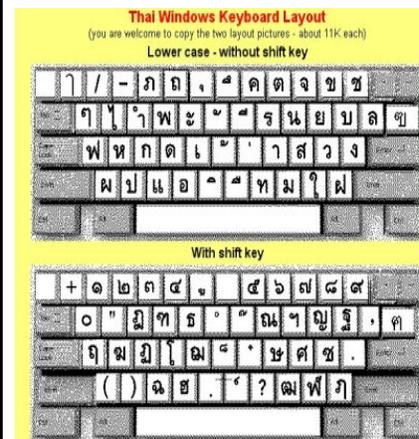
The December 7 meeting involved prayer and making Christmas cards while



the December 21 meeting was a Christmas party with songs, Scripture, lots of food, and "The Nativity Story" movie. The women were greatly encouraged by these times of fellowship.

Brittany and Caleb performed their annual Christmas stuffed-dog musical, "There's No Time Like Christmas-time," while one of our Thai neighbor children popped in to help us decorate gingerbread men. Praise God for the opportunity to enjoy Him and our family over this break time.

One of the more difficult prospects in serving in Thailand is computer work. Joe prepares all his Thai lessons on computer, which has led to his work in Thai typing. It is



an interesting challenge. This month's cultural photo is "keyboard" ... see if you can figure out how they cram 42 working consonants, tone marks, Thai numbers, lots of vowels and other characters on the same keyboard layout. It's a good thing there are no capital letters in Thai.

Prayers:

The church is doing well at building momentum in the discipleship process. Joe finished teaching the purpose of the church and is now working through church history on Sunday mornings, with spiritual disciplines up next. Also, the church leaders adopted the slogan "Love God, Love Fellow Christians, Serve the World" recently to focus all the members on the universal church's three main purposes. Please pray for all the members to understand their unique roles in God's eternal plan.

Our family will attend the Pioneers Asia conference in southern Thailand from January 19-26. Please pray for safe travel and for this to be a time of refreshment and encouragement for us.

The northern chapter of the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand (EFT) approved our mission agency's registration papers at their December meeting. This process will allow PIONEERS to be a recognized religious group in Thailand, to authorize missionary visas, and perhaps to raise up Thai missionaries, as well as other important steps. Joe is serving as chairman of the new "Pioneers International Organization in Thailand" board and will attend the EFT annual meeting in southern Thailand in late March.

Joe will wrap up his latest 15-week English Bible teaching session this Thursday. Pray for wisdom in how to move forward as several other missionaries have expressed interest in teaching English at the church, which could free Joe for other ministry.

*For His glory,*

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

## *The Wooster's in Siberia*

Greetings from the other side of the world! (At least we should be here; as of this writing we're still in the US but on our way.)

Because we are writing this before our departure on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, we wanted to share prayer requests and a few things about the work we will be joining in Siberia. We can't wait to send back pictures and updates as to what God is doing in the region; we know you will be blessed.

Kevin and Laura will be joining old friends and co-workers in Siberia once again to reach out into the communities and help meet their needs both physically and spiritually.

The deaf church in Ulan Ude has asked for help in going the next step and taking the hope they have found into other countries. We are very excited to hear about this desire, knowing that it is also God's desire for them as a church. At this time, there are no definite dates or places; there is a lot of preparation before this step is taken. The pastor and church leaders are anxious to meet with us and share ideas and experiences.

We will also be working alongside a couple that have been in the region for many years. Over the past four plus years, they have been in a small community where there are a few believers. There has been much opposition from the local 'community,' so growth has been extremely difficult and slow.

They have been able to build a small Christian Center and some ladies in the village are using the back portion to run a small business that makes items from wool. They have some equipment needs so we are looking into how those needs can be met. The community also struggles with very high unemployment, (as high as 40% plus) so the needs are great in this area. Our hope is to work with local community leaders and help in anyway we can.



This is the main road to the village where we will be working. No super highways here.....



The Christian Center in the village has had a small but positive impact.



The couple in the front are the leaders of a small group that have been meeting for about four years.

### Prayer requests.....

- The people of Siberia to know the hope of Jesus
- Our hearts to remain focused on doing God's will
- Work visas so we can stay longer than 90 days
- Wisdom in making ministry decisions
- Wisdom with community needs
- Continued peace with being separated from the boys
- For the boys as they will both be in college this semester on different sides of the US
- For our families while we are once again far away
- Finances to increase; we are still short \$700+ monthly

We want again to say **THANK YOU** for all you have done for our family while we were in the US and for your contribution to the work that so urgently needs our attention.

We truly believe *you* are all a huge part of this work, and we could not be in Siberia without you.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day and a very blessed time with the Lord during this season of Lent.

*Serving in Siberia,  
Kevin and Laura Wooster*

## College Scholarships Available

Our church has two scholarships available to high school seniors:

- The Samuel R. and Gladys F. Huey Scholarship may be awarded to an applicant from Chassahowitzka or Homosassa pursuing a college degree and preferably, but not limited to, a teaching career.
- The Kathryn O. Mitchell Scholarship is available to United Methodist students who are enrolled in colleges and universities and who are pursuing their education toward becoming United Methodist Ministers, Christian Education Directors, or Church Music Directors.

Both scholarships are renewable.

Application forms for the Huey Scholarship are available in the guidance offices at Lecanto and Crystal River High Schools.

Application forms for the Mitchell Scholarship are available at the church office.

## TO ALL THE THRIFT SHOP WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS:

As the year came to the end I have been thinking about all the things that I didn't do, so I will try and catch up.

To all those who were faithful to the Thrift Shop I am grateful. Without you we would not have been able to run the shop as well as we did. I feel it was very successful. Since the Thrift Shop closed for some months as of January 12, please remember that we are looking forward to a much larger and more efficient shop. At that time we will also need more help, but there will be more about that later.

If anyone has any suggestions for money-making projects, please let us know as the thrift shop has been our biggest source of funds.

On a personal note please accept my sincere thanks for all the help, cards, and phone calls while I was having my shoulder problem.

I would like to thank all of my United Methodist Women's Club officers for all their help during the year. Sometimes it wasn't easy, but we managed to get through. It has been my pleasure to work with each of you, and am looking forward to the new year. We will have some new officers for the coming year; however, I will continue as President. We have agreed to change the meetings for the unit and for the executive committee to quarterly. This was discussed with the district officers and approved. The meetings will be held March, June, September, and December.

As we look forward to another year as United Methodist Women, my prayer is that we continue in His service as in the past. May we thank God for the blessings He has given us and pray that He will continue to bless each of us through the coming year.

In Christian Love,  
Patricia Blake,  
President - UMW



## Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Have you considered our church Columbarium as a final resting place for your cremated remains?

Niches in the granite wall-mounted Columbarium are available for \$1,200 - much less than most columbaria, memorial parks, and cemeteries for the interment of ashes.

Each niche will accommodate the remains of one or two persons. The price includes brass urns, brass name plates, opening and closing, and perpetual care.

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden are located next to our beautiful Worship Center and create a peaceful setting for some of God's faithful who "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The garden is visible through the north window in the right rear section of the Worship Center. The fenced area has two benches available to anyone for times of prayer and meditation.

Information and application packets are available at the church office.

See Theresa Weber, in the church office, to inquire about the availability of specific niches and to answer questions you may have.

## 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 Homosassa Methodist Church and wherever else He may choose to spread the Word through this publication.

**February Birthdays**

3  
Gini Slusher  
John Hoadley  
Syble Little  
Harold Marvin  
Karen Kline  
4  
Phyllis Grotjahn  
5  
Arlene Stohrer  
Neretta Brobst  
6  
Nell Lent  
Marjorie Ottman  
7  
Frances Erickson  
Allen Stone  
Roberta Little  
8  
Hilda Theriault  
Donna Yuschak  
Marilyn Watson  
9  
Bill Barton  
Wanda Wheeler  
Dylan Patton  
10  
Pam Milat  
11  
Barbara Smith  
Bud Ludwick  
12  
Maddie Wallace  
Audrey Hite  
14  
Hendrik Pouderoyen  
Helen Harris  
Pam Bailey  
Pamela Patton

15  
Harold Slusher  
Bill Jahn  
David Brightman  
16  
Todd Little  
Judy Lipovetz  
Judy O’Gorman  
17  
Delmar Meewes  
Bunny Wade  
Marilyn McKown  
18  
Audrey Gregory  
Alice Hurley  
19  
Marvin West  
20  
Ben Toole  
Patricia Urzen  
Candy McFarland  
21  
Jack Radabaugh  
Pat Layman  
Neil Kline  
25  
Jack Ness  
Richard Harley  
Donna Ludwick  
26  
Marguerite McClain  
Marilyn Kohler  
27  
Maureen Samstag  
28  
Richard Evans



**February Anniversaries**

1  
Olive & Alex Stevens  
~ 57 years ~  
2  
Sharon & James Haskell  
~ 44 years ~  
Ann & John Sandstrom  
~ 43 years ~  
15  
Eve & Thomas Walsh  
~ 5 years ~  
Helen & Frank Zack  
~ 66 years ~  
JoAnn & Edwin White  
~ 16 years ~  
16  
Beulah & Glenn Seiler  
~ 56 years ~  
Diane & John Gibbs  
~ 45 years ~  
17  
Althea & Arthur Stuckey  
~ 44 years ~  
Loretta & Alan Burcaw  
~ 18 years ~  
23  
Dorothea & Waldo  
Shellenberg ~ 51 years ~  
25  
Janet & Jerry Tanner  
~ 31 years ~  
26  
Ina & Joe Ryder  
~ 8 years ~  
27  
Gail & Richard English  
~ 39 years ~  
28  
Alicia & Leonard Weston  
~ 55 years ~



**Members Residing In Long Term Care as of 01/06/2008**

**NURSING CENTERS**

**BARRINGTON**  
Ken McGuire

**BRENTWOOD**  
Evelyn Bash  
Rene Dube  
Del Parker

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

**CYPRESS COVE**  
Charlie Walker - (Poss. Change b/4 printing)  
Elta Whilden

**DIAMOND RIDGE**  
Jean Buzby  
Marjorie Cook  
Maddie Wallace

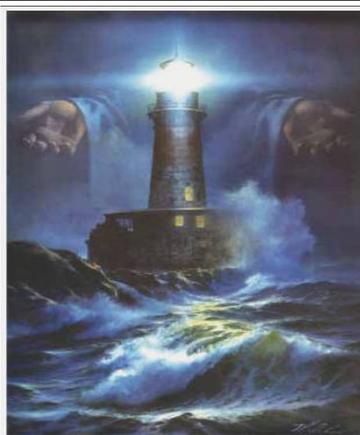
**LIFE CARE**  
Jean Baker

**NATURE COAST LODGE**  
Betty Duncan

**HUNT HOME (Williston)**  
Bill Marquis

**SUGARMILL MANOR**  
Grace Payne  
Shirley Hart

**WOODLAND TERRACE**  
Helen Hudson



“Jesus Is The Lighthouse”

**Our weekend at the 2008 Couples’ Spiritual Retreat is February 29 – March 2**

If you have not yet signed up, please consider doing so. There is an enthusiastic group preparing for the retreat who would love to have you join them.

Please contact Jim Stoneman, our couples’ retreat coordinator.

Information and registration forms are posted on bulletin boards near the administrative offices and near the classrooms. Complete information is also available on the web-site at [www.ummflconf.org](http://www.ummflconf.org).

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



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**We Are A Stephen Ministry Church**

**Visit our Web Site ~ [www.lumc.org](http://www.lumc.org)  
Neil Kline, Webmaster**

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

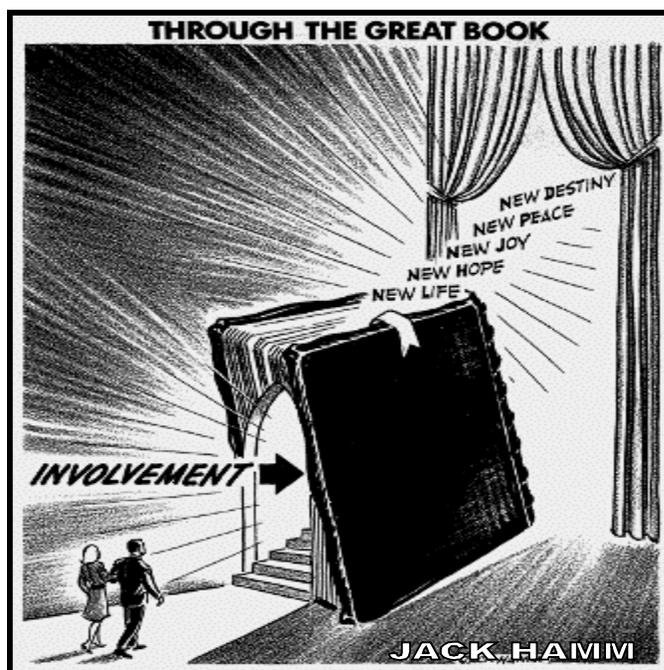
**Rev. Mark Whittaker**  
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

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

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

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