

G E N E S I S

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

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

NOVEMBER 2005

Volume 9 Issue 8

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Dale Evans



A Time To Count Our Blessings

By Pastor Mark Whittaker



The holidays are upon us! We are already being told how many shopping days until Christmas there are so we won't be caught off guard. Our winter visitors are starting to trickle in. We have the stewardship campaign, the start of Holistic Small Groups, Disciple Bible Study, Stephen Minister Training, and a Fall Festival party.

Christmas of course means bell ringing, Snickers bars and the Angel Tree Program.

This is on top of all the usual things that we do to reach out to our community and share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Things like clowns, S.H.A.R.E., food pantry, thrift shop, Sunday School and beneath it all the building program continues to move toward a new fellowship hall.

All that - and the realization this is only a small part of what we will be about over the next several months. Before it all happens,

before we get overwhelmed with the busyness of fellowship and compassion and celebration, we want to remember that Thanksgiving is coming. We need to take this time to stop and prepare for the onslaught.

Thanksgiving is more than just a day for eating too much and sleeping in front of the TV in the afternoon. Thanksgiving is a day to be thankful to God for all that he has provided, to remember it is God who owns it all, and we are the recipients of his love and generosity.

Thanksgiving is also a great time to charge the batteries, to get our emotional house in order so that we are ready to deal with the real world.


That world is full of pain and sorrow right now. As I am writing this, the northeast is flooded and there are mud slides in South America. The earthquakes in Turkey are overwhelming and all of this is overlaid with Katrina and Rita and the tsunami. So Thanksgiving gives us



a chance to focus on all that we have and all that we can do for others. It takes the focus off ourselves and on to the difference we can make because of all that we have been given.

Take time this fall to count your blessings, to celebrate all the people who are close to you, to remember with love and joy those who have left us this year. And then we can join together to share the love and grace of God with those who need it the most.


May you have a joyful Thanksgiving.



In
Memoriam

Lester
Harry
Feldmann

1921-2005



"Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

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

The purpose of an organization's mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation. It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future. Our mission statement fits that description.

"The Heart of a Church Is Seen Through the Way It Serves People"

Within The Church

- Worship Services
- Music Ministry With Chancel Choir
- Men & Ladies Ensemble
- Children's Choir
- Handbell & Chimes Choir
- Christian Education
- Adult Sunday School
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Ministry
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Fine Arts Program
- Disciple Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- UMW Circles
- Tape Ministry
- Blood Bank
- Visitation Care Group
- Golf Outings
- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Disaster Relief Programs
- Various Bible Study Groups
- United Methodist Men
- United Methodist Women
- Biblical Travel Ministry



Youth Acolyte Service

As Outreach

- Thrift Shop
- Food Pantry
- Holiday Baskets
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Cancer Survivors
- Current Affairs
- Healthy Body & Healthy Spirit
- Volunteers In Missions
- Habitat for Humanity
- PAWS (Pets Are Working Saints)
- Crop Walk
- Salvation Army Kettle Ministry
- Discretionary Giving Committee
- Brownies
- Boy/Girl/Cub Scouts
- Clown Ministries
- Missions Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Children's Home
- Hospice Bereavement
- After-School Tutoring



Thrift Shop



Philly & friends



The Youth Singers led by Marge Dilling sing "This Little Light of Mine".



A few of our Clown Ministry bringing much joy to a Wonderful Wednesday Dinner.



~ Thanksgiving Baskets ~

A message from Pastor Mark

It is always with a sense of joy and gratitude that we are able to share in the bounty of our country with those who are struggling to achieve the American dream. There are so many in the area right around the church who don't think that they have anything to be thankful for as we come to the close of 2005.

But each year the members of this church give generously to make sure that many of our friends and neighbors have a great meal and a reason to celebrate on Thanksgiving.

Because of your response to our Thanksgiving Offering we are able to purchase S.H.A.R.E. Thanksgiving packages for 50 families so they can also have a day to remember. We are also able to put in a gift certificate from the local food store to help the families get the odds and ends that don't come in a package. Because we use S.H.A.R.E. we are able to double the amount of food what we can give to each family.



At Christmas time we are not only able to make sure needy families have a celebration on Christmas day, but, working with the Sugarmill Woods and Southern Woods Ladies Golf Associations, we are able to give presents to all the children who come to the program.

Last year we served over 100 families with \$50 worth of food and presents because of the generosity of our members and friends. Your help again this year will be very much

Respond Now To That Gentle Tug

By Diane Cary



Are you feeling a gentle tug to become more involved in caring for others? It is not too soon to begin thinking about how you may wish to provide additional Christian service beginning in the New Year.

The Stephen Ministry leadership team is seeking applicants for a new 50-hour training class to begin early in 2006. Interested individuals may fill out an application and interview with the team to determine whether this would be an appropriate match, linking your spiritual gifts and the program objectives. Female caregivers are especially needed to expand the Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers complete an initial 50 hours of training, followed by a post-training interview to determine continued interest and ability to serve within the parameters of this ministry. Once assigned to a care receiver, a Stephen Minister visits weekly with a member of the congregation who has requested a layperson to walk beside him/her during challenging times. Supplementary telephone support is provided to the care receiver as needed. Stephen Ministers are also required to attend ongoing peer support and educational sessions.



Currently Stephen Ministers are caring for individuals experiencing health problems, difficulty with transitions to a new community or nursing facility, loss of loved ones, and other issues.

To apply for the class or to request a Stephen Minister, contact Kay (382-4908) or Diane (382-7242).



~ SHARE of Florida ~
By Tom & Nancy Pearo

October begins the sixth year for our site, 153 of Homosassa. In the past five years, we have sold \$69,000 in food in our community.

With a savings of fifty percent on each dollar, that's \$138,000 in good quality food to families needing to stretch their food budget.

Another way everyone could help is to buy a Basic SHARE Package and give it to a family in need to introduce them to the program. They can then become a part of SHARE. It is a "community outreach" sponsored by our church.

Last year, June Bish took over as "Registration Leader". This is the backbone of the SHARE program.

Without someone to take orders, count and deposit the money and fax the order to SHARE, we would be out of business.



She is doing a great job so far but we need people to work with her. If you have any time and are willing to help, please call Tom and Nancy Pearo or June Bish to volunteer.

We need persons on D-day (Delivery Day), and two days a month to work in this area. No experience is needed, we will train you.

Last month June gave a talk at TOPS, (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) about our SHARE program. She was trying to encourage more people to use SHARE.

We need to promote SHARE in the community. Every time we increase our sales, we increase the value of the program. The more we buy, the more we save.

Holidays are coming!!! SHARE will be offering those wonderful Holiday packages again for Thanksgiving and Christmas for \$19.00.

The Thanksgiving package includes a ready to cook turkey, potatoes, rolls, vegetables, and a pumpkin pie.

The Christmas package will be a boneless ham or roast with all the trimmings.

Remember that the dates for these months are a lot earlier than usual. Check the sign up days and don't miss out.

For November, we are going to have ten 5 oz. center cut top sirloin steaks with a strip of bacon in individual packs for \$15.00.

The basic SHARE Package will still be available for these months at the price of \$18.00.

All SHARE food is of the best quality and Frozen to zero degrees or colder so that it is still well frozen when you receive it.

If you can't help by being a SHARE volunteer, help by being a SHARE buyer. You will be helping the program and yourself at the same time.

~ A Healing Place ~

By Penny Phares

www.Isaiahfoundation.org

As a nurse my thinking is ingrained to believe that the way God created us to live in an environment is truly miraculous. As infants grow in a mother's womb there is a physical attachment that is the only thing the developing human knows. The attachment is the thing that keeps the child not only growing but also alive. When an infant comes out of the womb it is often such a drastic change he/or she will be enraged because the need for attachment is so strong. It is when the infant sees his mother's face and she holds him and speaks to him and gazes into his eyes that he calms and nurses and feels safe enough to trust and to sleep.

So what in the world does this have to do with the play therapy that happens 2 days a week in the educational wing? When children experience an *attachment disorder* they need a way to learn to trust, to feel safe and to put their experience into context. Play Therapy helps them to do that. The plan God has to provide a church for play therapy is not that surprising. Having a quiet, non-intrusive, consistent environment for children is what they need for healing. In the old days before high-tech medicine, when humans were sick they needed rest. For children who are worried and fearful or angry and fitful, rest is a foreign concept. A play therapy environment like the one I have been using at First Methodist of Homosassa is a healing, restful place.

It is quiet. No one yells or acts mad. There is very little traffic here on Wednesday and Thursdays. The preschool class has thick doors that hold out noise (and hold in privacy and confidentiality). The small child-size bathroom is an encouragement to 3 year olds who learn to trust their own independence. The posters of happy children in Sunday school are bright and interesting, and the consistent toys and furniture promote trust and ownership of the space.

I love it when children walk down the hall and ask about the pictures of Jesus that grace the walls. In each picture he is in relationship with humans of all ages who are attaching to Him. He is looking at them. He has their hand in His or His arm is embracing them.

Jesus; the friend of sinners.

How good to learn to feel safe in a church.

Thank you from all of the families
that know of this as a healing place.

Penny L. Phares ARNP, RPT
(Child Psychiatric
Nurse Practitioner/
Registered Play
Therapist)





TRUSTEE'S REPORT OCTOBER, 2005

By Bob Bunting,
Trustee

The Monday Morning Group has been hard at work and can always use additional volunteers. A great deal of maintenance work is being done weekly both indoors and out.

If you think the buildings and grounds look good, please tell members of the Monday Morning Group or the Trustees.

The Air Conditioner in the Fellowship Hall/ Kitchen Area has been repaired. A chair rail was installed in the Stephen Ministry room. The sprinkler system problems have been determined. A new pressure tank was installed, and we are still working on the other problem. The Trustee reports required by the Conference have been completed and submitted. A new sofa and two chairs were purchased for the parsonage with the Pastor paying half. We now have a new mowing service. It is Buzz Cuts Lawn Care.

The custodian continues to do an outstanding job in taking care of our buildings. We owe him a very hardy thank you. Thank you Dale.



Giving Thanks For The Razzle-Dazzle!

Clarence Kohler attending to those
white walls of our church



The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program was created in 1987 so that all children may experience the magic of Christmas.

The Angel Tree Program allows individuals to personalize a gift for a child in need by adopting an Angel and purchasing toys or clothing items.

Each year, the Angel Tree Program continues to grow and expand its efforts. Last year's FUMC's campaign was a great success due to our church community's generosity.

~ FUMC Angel Tree ~ Helper Elves Needed !

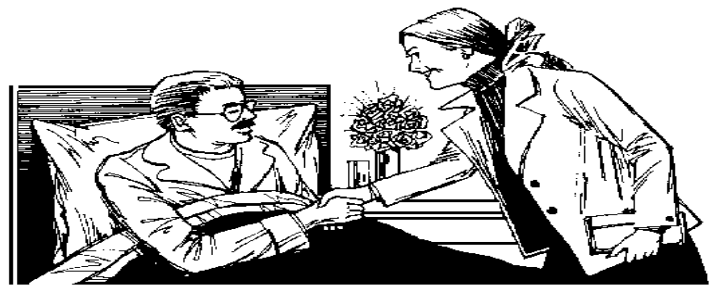


We need helpers to collect Angel Tree donor names at our three Sunday Services in November.

November 6th,
November 13th,
and November 20th.

Please call if you can help:

Betty Gunderson – 382-5715
or
Sharon Deutsch – 621-3668



New Sub-District Clusters to Begin

By Pastor Mark Whittaker

Remember the old days when we would go to sub-district events for training and celebration? Remember when we would meet with missionaries and learn about how the church is reaching out to people all around the world?

Somewhere in our busy lives we have lost all that. We have become so involved in what we are doing that we don't have time to care about what other churches are doing. We have lost the strength we had when we worked together.

But we are going to change all of that. This conference year we are joining with six other United Methodist Churches in the Citrus/Marion county area to form a cluster of churches that will work together to share and celebrate our abilities and talents.

The new cluster - Crystal River UMC, Dunnellon UMC, Floral City UMC, Hernando UMC, Homosassa First UMC, Inverness UMC, Rainbow Lakes UMC, - have met and begun talking about what can happen when we join forces to bring about the Kingdom of God.

Some of the ideas included a Mission Saturation, a musical involving all of the choirs and presented in Citrus Peterson Hall in Lecanto, special speakers, a youth week with all the churches involved, and training for the leaders in the local church.

It is an exciting idea and one that could make a real difference in our church. Watch for events that are coming in the next year and join us as we celebrate - again - the energy and strength we have when we work together.

~ I Will Go, Lord ~

Patience Nave, Visitation Coordinator

On Monday morning of every week (and that includes Labor Day!) a group of people who love you, Church, gathers to consider your needs and to pray for you. We meet, usually in the library, to discover who is sick or hospitalized, and to pray for you. We hear reports of who visited whom the week before, plan who will go where for the coming week, and send cards and bulletins to shut-ins.

How good it is to realize that we are part of a church that puts feet on its love and compassion by going to those who are in need. The Visitation Committee needs your help to be effective. Call us if there are people whom we should see or send a card.

Prayer blankets are in process. We have set November 1 as the date for having the first ones available to the church for prayer and delivery to the sick.

Call me if you would like to know how you can make a blanket available to someone who would be comforted by its warmth and our prayers.

For a gift of \$20 to the ministry, a blanket will be made with your choice of color and verse, including the person's name on the blanket.

It will then be presented to the church for prayer before delivery to the person. We have established the process, and I will be glad to go over it with any who are interested in having a blanket made for someone.

Thanksgiving will soon be here, a time I just love! Enjoy this wonderful holiday, and don't forget to thank God for our great privilege of being a part of His family here at Homosassa United Methodist Church.



~ THANKS ~
FOR CHURCH LIBRARY
 By Helen Lefave



We are blessed to have such a diversified selection of books in our library. Following are some new titles:

"House Calls and Hitching Posts"
 by Dorcas Sharp Hoover.

Share the joys of an Amish country doctor, "Doc" Lehman, who answered Christ's call to serve his fellow men. He doctored the Amish for 36 years. Sensitive to his patients' preference to be treated at home, he created a treatment and birthing center with a home-like atmosphere to complement his house calls.

A popular new author is
 Karen Kingsbury.

We have a 2-in-1 book
 entitled
**"One Tuesday Morning" and
 "Beyond Tuesday Morning".**

Jamie Bryan's husband is pulled from the World Trade Center but the man who comes home is not the man she thinks he is.

The second novel offers a glimpse of Jamie's life three years later as she wonders if she will ever be able to love again.

"Tilting at Windmills"
 by Joseph Pittman.

A lyrical tale of love and loss in the writing manner of Nicholas Sparks, he carries readers on an epic journey -- through the joys and tears of a life renewed -- and chronicles a very special love.

When the main character, Brian, finds a giant windmill situated on a hillside along New York's Hudson River Valley, it is a turning point in his life., The owner, Annie and her little girl, Janey, befriend Brian and he finds comfort in the small town of Linden Corners.

"God's Gift"
 by Dee Henderson.

In this emotional novel, James Graham, a missionary, is passionate about his work in Africa. The challenges he faces are made a little bit easier by care packages from an unknown good samaritan in Chicago.

When doctors send James home in poor health, his world is turned upside down. Returning to Africa is not in his future. James questions God's plan. When he finally meets the woman who sent the gifts, Rachel Ashcroft, he

can tell that she has also lost something - or someone - close to her heart.

You will enjoy finding out if unexpected love can piece together shattered dreams.

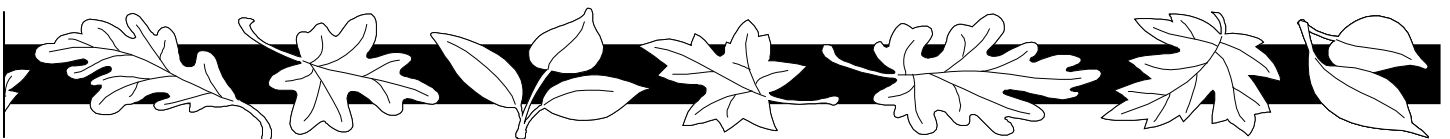
"The Amethyst Heart" by
 Penelope J. Stokes.

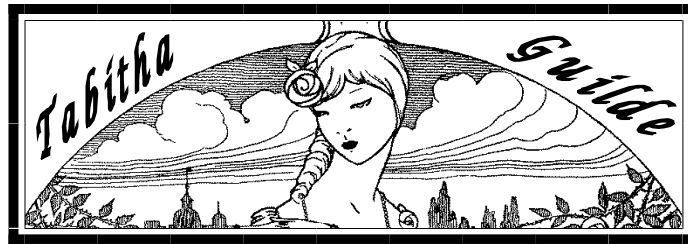
A beloved antique brooch possessed by Miss Amethyst Noble, 93 yrs. old, has an inscription engraved on the back -- Sincerity, Purity, Nobility -- the motto of the Noble family as far back as anyone can remember. The only other possession she loves as much is Noble House - a place of shelter, hope and healing in Cambridge, Mississippi.

When she discovers that her dissolute son has designs to sell the ancestral home, Miss Amethyst, as sharp as ever, will let her great-granddaughter, little Am, a teen-ager, know that the Noble family heritage is worth fighting for.

Happy Thanksgiving from
 your Church Library Staff,

Barbara Jackson
 and
 Helen Lefave





By Myrna Evans

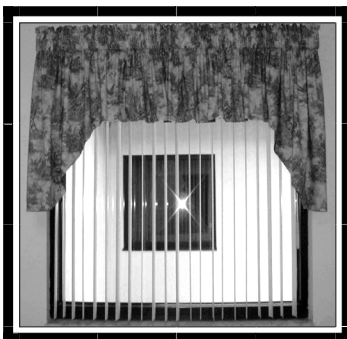


The Tabitha Guild evolved out of a costume committee for the Music Ministries presentation of a Madrigal in 1998.

We had such a good time that we wanted to continue to meet monthly to share our skills and ideas and get involved in projects to serve others in our church and beyond.

We took our name from the biblical Tabitha who sewed for widows and others who were in need.

Over the years the guild has made tablecloths, window treatments, décor items, costumes and many other things requested for our church.



We especially enjoyed creating a unique décor for each of the new and renovated rooms in our church buildings.

A particular challenge was incorporating the needle-point kneeler cushion covers from the old church into the new chapel.

We have also done outrageous things such as concocting adult-size tomato, squash, and cucumber costumes for a summer "Veggie Tales" program.

Beyond our church, Tabitha members have made children's clothing for the Homosassa Elementary School and the Citrus County Family Resource Center. We also made Cancer Caps, school bags, baby blankets, and more.



Left to Right: Ginger West, Ruby Raymond, Myrna Evans.

At the October UMW meeting, The Citrus County Family Resource Center was presented with clothing made by the Tabitha Guild.

*My apologies for the 'fuzzy' photo, ladies.
The Editor*

Money raised made it possible for the guild to purchase fabric for dance costumes, to send a check to the missionary Henry family in Thailand for purchasing school clothes, and to send "Jesus Dolls" to both the missionary families supported by our congregation.

Tabitha Guild is a great place way to learn, to share one's skills, and to make a difference in the lives of many with special needs.

This doll is a visual reminder of Jesus constant Presence.

"Lo, I am with you always....."



We look forward to another exciting year and invite all who are interested to join us on the third Friday of each month, at 9:30am in Room 106.

Join us for our November 18th shopping trip to The Sewing Studio-Fabric Super Store in Maitland, Florida. (near Orlando)

For more information contact

Arlene Stohrer ~ Chairman
382-1259





United Methodist Women

**Executive Committee Meeting:
November 1st**



**Circle Meetings:
Tuesday or Thursday of the
second week of the month.**



**UMW Unit Meeting
November 15th
9:30am
Fellowship Hall
Refreshments &
Fellowship**

~ World Thank Offering ~
~ Yearly Pledge Service ~
Jackie LaMountain, Leader

**Hostesses:
Ruth Circle**



United Methodist Men

There will not be a meeting of the UMM association, Monday, November 14th.

An announcement regarding December's meeting will be published in next month's Genesis.

**Jack Graham,
Acting President**



The United Methodist Women's Annual Bazaar will be held in the Fellowship Hall:

**Saturday,
November 5th
9:00am to 4:00pm**

The Methodist Youth will serve donuts and coffee from 9:00am to 10:00am.

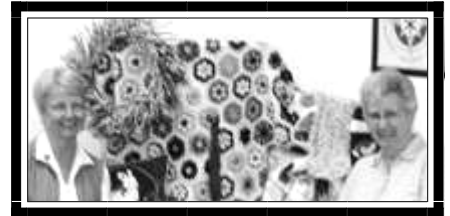
The Mary Martha Circle will serve a luncheon consisting of chicken salad sandwiches, fruit, beverage, and a pumpkin dessert.

Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from all Circle leaders and from UMW members.

Come out and bring a friend. Enjoy lunch and start your Christmas shopping.

Visiting the many booths offering canned pickles and jelly, trash and treasures, special Christmas items including wreaths, a silent auction of hand-made items, knitted sweaters for adults and children, baked good breads, cakes, cookies, pastries. UMW's latest cookbook "Feeding The Flock" will also be available for \$10.50.

**Lee Knerr,
Publicity Chairperson**



**Chairman: Patricia Blake &
Vice Chairman: Peggy Benson**



These are just a few of the items that are offered.



November 2005

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



I would like to thank my church family for the many cards, phone calls, and

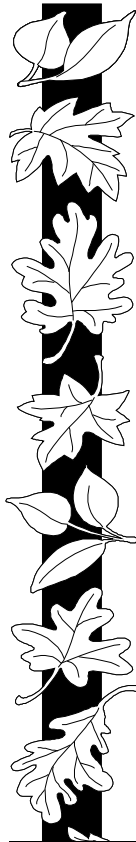
prayers I received during my recent stay in the hospital.

A special thanks to Pastor Mark and Pat Nave for their visits and prayers, also Louise Ozee, and all who took time from their busy schedules to make my day brighter.

The power of prayer from the Prayer Chain comforted me during my stay in the hospital and my recuperation time at home.

God bless all of you.

Dottie Baker

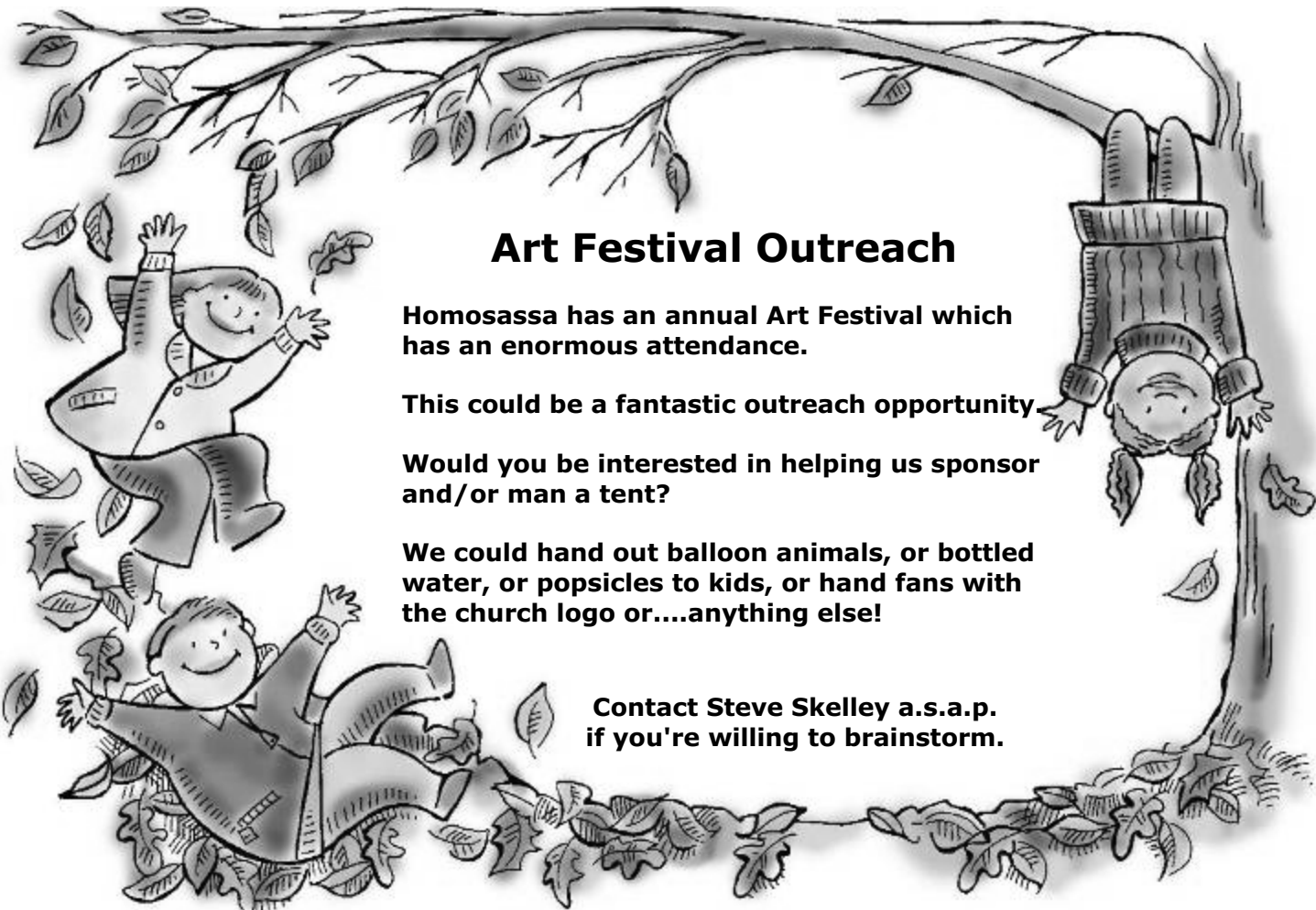


Bob & Margo Blum
6 Moser Ct. S.
Homosassa 34446
382-4916
from Philadelphia, PA

Wallace & Joyce Saxton
7439 S. Ridge Pt.
Homosassa 34446
628-4960
from Sinclairville, NY

Margie Brookshear
7924 W. Crisp St.
Crystal River 34428
795-8789
from Key Largo, FL

Liz Winner
31 Hollyhock Ct.
Homosassa, FL
382-4243
from Medford, NJ



Art Festival Outreach

Homosassa has an annual Art Festival which has an enormous attendance.

This could be a fantastic outreach opportunity

Would you be interested in helping us sponsor and/or man a tent?

We could hand out balloon animals, or bottled water, or popsicles to kids, or hand fans with the church logo or....anything else!

Contact Steve Skelley a.s.a.p. if you're willing to brainstorm.



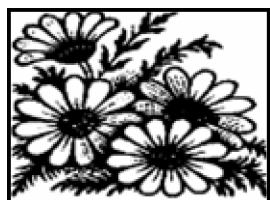
In And About Our Church



November

- 1
Judy Bunting
- 2
Catherine Wisheart
Robert Severance
Dave Shores
- 3
Bob Specht
- 4
Helen Hudson
Fred Wheeler
- 6
Hershel Fogleman
Frank Wais
Tom Pearo
- 8
Letha Sawvell
- 9
Marsella Rutter
Dottie Baker
Jo Ann Ryan
Theresa Harmon
- 11
Jeanne Balmer
Rick Workman
Emily Merson
- 12
Gloria Megos
- 13
John Austin
Adam Will
- 14
Eleanor Smith
Jim Behuniak
- 15
Colleen Powers
Bellville
Ann Mayles
Joan Eyster
Martha Dorrell
- 16
Dan Nygaard
- 17
Joan Ness

- 18
Beverly Calkins
- 19
Margrurite Seely
Geraldine Frenz
- 20
Helen West
Jeri Wrenn
- 22
Angie Watson
Charles McCreery
Lowanda Wells
- 25
Marcia Bader
- 26
Anna Cooley
- 27
Wallace Nave
Lyle Lee
- 28
John Dewart
Samantha
McCallister
- 29
Dorothy Wilkinson
Helen Bachman



(Anniversaries Cont.)

- 27
Sally & Alan Moore
29 years
- Joy & Jim Potts
12 years
- 30
Helen & Marvin West
45 years



November

- 3
Audrey & Gerald
Gregory ~ 60 years
- 4
Ann & Jack Fasnacht
55 years
- 6
Barbara & Gene Lantz
51 years
- Dot & Jack Reed
62 years
- 7
Marge & Walt Dilling
47 years
- 8
Shirley & William
Dunkle ~ 47 years
- 13
Edythe & Richard
Schaffer ~ 51 years
- 19
Joyce Ann & Steve
Skelley ~ 22 years
- 20
Jeanne & Harvey
Comfort ~ 60 years
- 23
Ida & Dick Bradley
22 years
- Mary Joy & Earl
Speicher ~ 37 years
- 24
Elaine & Glenn
Harwood ~ 40 years
- Ann & John Mayles
55 years
- 26
Anna & John Cooley
52 years

Prayer Concerns



- At Home
Ray Bender
(Hospice Care at Home)
- Assisted Living
Avante
Marjorie Mitchell
- Barrington Place
Ken McGuire
- Brentwood
Betty Pettit
Rene Dube
Lois Alger
Evelyn Bash
Frances McGuire
- Crystal River Rehab
Robert Smith
- Cypress Cove
Julia Wilkinson
Ruth E. Smith
Jack Mallet
Willie Smith
- Nature Coast
Bill Marquis
- Life Care
Pat Cram
- Sugarmill Manor
Ray Short
Grace Payne
Mary Ellen Cole
Del Parker
- Surrey Place
Marjorie Cook
Maddie Wallace

Prayer for Strength in Old Age

O Lord our God, under the shadow of Thy wings let us hope.

Thou wilt support us, both when little and even to gray hairs.

When our strength is of Thee, it is strength; but, when our own, it is feebleness.

We return unto Thee, O Lord, that from their weariness our souls may rise towards Thee, leaning on the thing which Thou has created, and passing on to Thyself, who hast wonderfully made them; for with Thee is refreshment and true strength.

Amen.

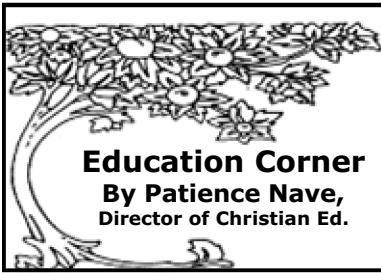
- St. Augustine



The Worship Committee *really* needs your help!
Could you...would you... Usher at 8am, 9:30am, or 11am service?

The Decorating Committee is also in need of volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas & Easter.

No special skills needed....just willing hands and hearts.
Contact:
Dan and Grete Nygaard
At 382-3150



Education Corner

By Patience Nave,
Director of Christian Ed.

The Education Committee has met three times this fall.

An enthusiastic group is already beginning to plan the Bible school program for next summer.

We are pretty ambitious about what we want to do, and we are moving carefully as we determine the theme, the material, and the

format. I hope that *many* of you will want to help as we work with children next summer, helping them become a part of the "Everyone becoming a disciple of Christ" motto we have adopted.

Sunday school classes continue to have good attendance, but we have not yet found a teacher for the very young adults—those who have finished high school, may be in college locally, are working, or are working and going

to a post-high school program.

The class begun for the "in betweens" is doing very well. Martha and Ernie Dorrell lead an enthusiastic group discussion in the computer lab.

This Fall, Tom Slaymaker presented a very informative and well-received message to 48 people regarding elder legal issues. The information he presented was helpful to all of us, as well as comforting.

If this is a seminar

you missed and would have liked to attend, please let me know. If the need is there, we may try to repeat it in the Spring.

By the time you read this, you'll be thinking about where you will eat your Thanksgiving Turkey!

As you approach this wonderful holiday, don't forget to thank God for our incredible church, where so many of us are taking seriously our commitment to "become disciples of Christ."



Wonderful Wednesdays

November 2005

Come join the fun!

~ November 9th ~

Bruce Ide

A Master Gardener from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Citrus County Extension Office.

His topic for the evening will be Orchids.

~ November 30th ~

Rev. Richard Evans

An active member of our church community; Permanent Endowment Committee, Building for Tomorrow Committee, Natural Church Development Committee, Biblical Travel Ministry. Many important issues will be discussed.

Christian fellowship, a great way to meet new friends, and acquaint yourselves with others!

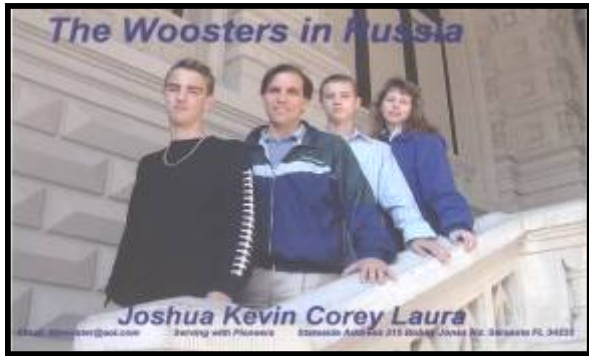
We look forward to seeing you at these suppers....



**WOOSTERS FIND
OCTOBER A
BUSY MONTH**



**FLOODING CREATES
MAJOR PROBLEM
FOR HENRYS IN
CHIANG MAI**



According to their email report, October started out as a busy month for the Kevin Woosters, the missionary family our church helps support in Moscow, Russia.

Four persons involved in mission activities visited the Woosters, who provide counseling and direction prior to newcomers going to the outreaches of Russia. Kevin, the father, has had a demanding travel schedule including a trip to Siberia.

Their weekly Bible-study group is getting back together. Laura, the mother, writes the meetings have been "very good" with "lots of serious questions and great conversations!" She asks that we lift up the group in our prayers.

Laura is busy tutoring English at the Christian school where the two sons, Joshua and Corey, attend. Both have full schedules with school work and winding up the soccer season.

Chiang Mai "experienced another bout of major flooding" in September, according E-Mail reports from the Joe Henry missionary family our church assists in Thailand.

Joe wrote, "Praise God for all our friends who helped us out following flooding in our neighborhood and house... (Pictures can be seen on the Mission Bulletin board in the Narthex)

It took a few days to recover, but that's short compared with others who had fewer helpers and more water! The water was about 4 foot high in the road and driveway, but we only got a few inches in the house."

Caleb and James had "good 7th and 5th birthday celebrations with the family," according to Joe. He added that Elaine's teaching at Grace International School "continues to progress well ...she is enjoying her time with the students."

Their prayer requests: pray for the people of Chiang Mai, "some of whom have had their homes or businesses flooded four times this rainy season;" for God's direction and wisdom for the church planting team; for the family when they attend a two-night camp/retreat with a Thai church on Oct. 22-24; for Brittany and Justin during the week of Oct. 24 when they attend a retreat held by the International Christian camp organization; for Elaine's mother, Sally, who is recovering from a heart attack and who is back in the hospital because of the blockage of another artery.

Mission Reports
By Jack Radabaugh
Chairperson,
Mission Committee





Join Us Saturday evenings with coffee, karaoke and worship!

We start at 6:30 pm with a coffee and dessert fellowship time which includes an open microphone session where you can share a song, poem or testimony.

At 7:00 pm, our worship service begins. We learn some of the best modern praise songs, pray for people's needs, share praise reports, and hear a relevant message in everyday language.

We also celebrate communion together once a month.

Youth Fun Trips!



From L. to R: Jon Crabtree, Sue Crabtree, Jen Crabtree, Steffy Skelley, Leslie Montgomery, Joyce Ann Skelley, Jeff Crabtree

Last month, we attended a Devil Rays baseball game and we all had a blast. Thirteen of us attended.

We are now planning a family-fun trip to The Holy Land Experience, and a youth trip to the Tampa Zoo. Check with Steve for dates and times.

Reports From Rev. Steven Skelley

Our Small Groups, Praise, and Youth Ministries Director Steve Skelley now has a monthly devotional available at the Sugarmill Woods website: www.MySMW.com .

Steve's weekly inspirational column is also available at www.NaplesSunTimes.com in the Faith Forum section.

Youth Puppet Ministry
We are launching a youth puppet ministry!

We have 5 professional puppets and new puppet skit books.

Would you like to be a part of our puppet ministry?

Teens who want to learn and adults who'd like to help are welcome!



Small Groups Ministry News

Our Holistic Small Group Leaders faithfully participated in 5 weeks of specialized ministry training. They are ready to launch their Holistic Small Groups.

Our Holistic Groups include multiple Bible Studies, Men's and Women's Prayer, Healthy Body and Spirit, Current Affairs, and Cancer Survivors.

Check the church calendar to find a holistic small group for you!

If you are interested in starting your own Holistic Small Group, see Steve Skelley at the church office.

Youth Sunday School.

Miss Joyce Ann has been leading the middle schoolers and high schoolers in bible studies that focus on issues teens face.

All middle schoolers and high schoolers are welcome.

We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 in the youth room.

Every teen also receives their own copy of the best selling Bible in the country. The *Revolve Bible* is specifically focused on teens and young adults. Not only does it contain the entire New Testament, but it also contains pictures and teen-oriented question and answer sections that cover just about any issue a teen may face in their life and provides biblical advice to help them make good, informed decisions. We are giving young people the tools they need to make good, Biblical choices for the issues they face every day.



Walking on the Path

By Patience Nave



*"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."
Matthew 6:12*

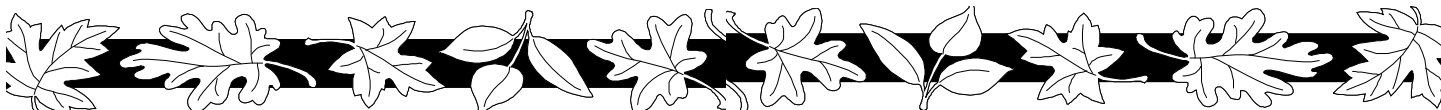
Our seven-year-old granddaughter Elizabeth is a wonderful child, and her visits bring questions and joy and laughter to our house. Just remembering her being there makes us smile. But one incident during a recent visit brought tears to her and to me.

She brought with her a little tea set, hoping she and I could "have tea" together. I recognized that the bottom of the set looked porous, got a small tray, and instructed Elizabeth to remember to always put the pot on the tray. Most of the time she remembered. Once she did not. I found the teapot sitting on an antique dressing table in the guest room, and, to my sorrow, my original evaluation proved true. There on the table top was an ugly white circle. I called Elizabeth to come look, and she immediately burst into tears of remorse. "I am sooo sorry," she wailed! "I didn't mean to."

We tried to get the white spot to go away, but it would not. The tears continued, and she was obviously very sorry. I picked her up and held her, told her that she was forgiven for her mistake, and assured her that she was loved in spite of the remaining white spot. I reminded her of God's forgiveness and explained that He was teaching me to forgive in a similar manner. We talked about grace and that I love her even though she "goofed." All during the day, however, when she saw the white spot and was reminded of what she had done, she cried again.

When I dust that table top, I think of Elizabeth—not of the "sin" of her putting the teapot there but of her genuine remorse at what she had done. I think of the scars on my own life, left there by some sin that I hate but that has long since been forgiven—not by my grandmother but by my Heavenly Father. It's almost as if I can hear Him saying my own words back to me, "It's all right. I know you are sorry. I won't make the scar go away, but I will hold you and love you so you can know for sure you are forgiven."

Prayer: Father, occasionally cause us to look at the "white spots" in our lives, left there by our sin in not being obedient to you. As we are reminded of how gracious you have been in your forgiveness to us, cause us to be generous in our forgiveness to others. Amen.



We Need Your Empty Ink Cartridge Donations!

The First UMC Youth Ministry thanks everyone who brought in their used printer ink cartridges.

We have filled six boxes so far and earned over \$200.

This money is set aside in Youth Missions to pay the monthly fee for our two Children's International "adopted children."

Keep those used printer ink cartridges coming and help us minister around the world!

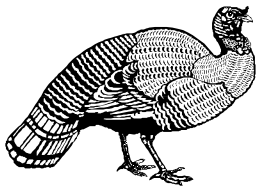


We hope that you all enjoy this edition of Genesis.

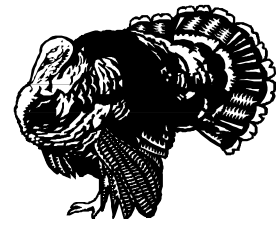
Next Genesis deadline is November 11.

Email: Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com

Your Sisters in Christ,
Judith Huffer, Editor
Jan Wise, Copy Editor



JOIN US THIS THANKSGIVING



~ Share Thanksgiving With Our Church Family ~



Thanksgiving has always been a family time for us. It is a time to gather together with the ones you love and share in the bounty that God has provided to all of us. It is a time for memories and living out family traditions.

Of course, not all of us have families around us this time of the year. My family is scattered (Iris and I being the ones who are among the farthest flung) around the state, and Kimberly and Marshall each have their own relationships to nurture and establish as they set up their own traditions.

There are a lot of people who have families up north or find they are alone right now.

So, we would like to celebrate Thanksgiving with you again this year, sharing together as part of a church family.

We will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner in the fellowship hall on Thursday, November 24th, starting at 1 p.m.

We will provide the turkeys, coffee and tea, and we are asking that you bring two favorite dishes ~ two of your traditional recipes ~ to share with the group (one of my grandmother's favorite recipes was Publix salad).

Every individual and each family is welcome. If you have out-of-town guests, they are also welcome. If you just don't feel like cooking, this is the place for you.

Come and share in the fun, the singing and the games, and, of course, some of the best food that will be served this Thanksgiving.

If you would like to help with the set-up or clean-up or cooking a turkey or decorations, please call Mark or Iris Whittaker.

You Can Count On Us For Thanksgiving At The Church

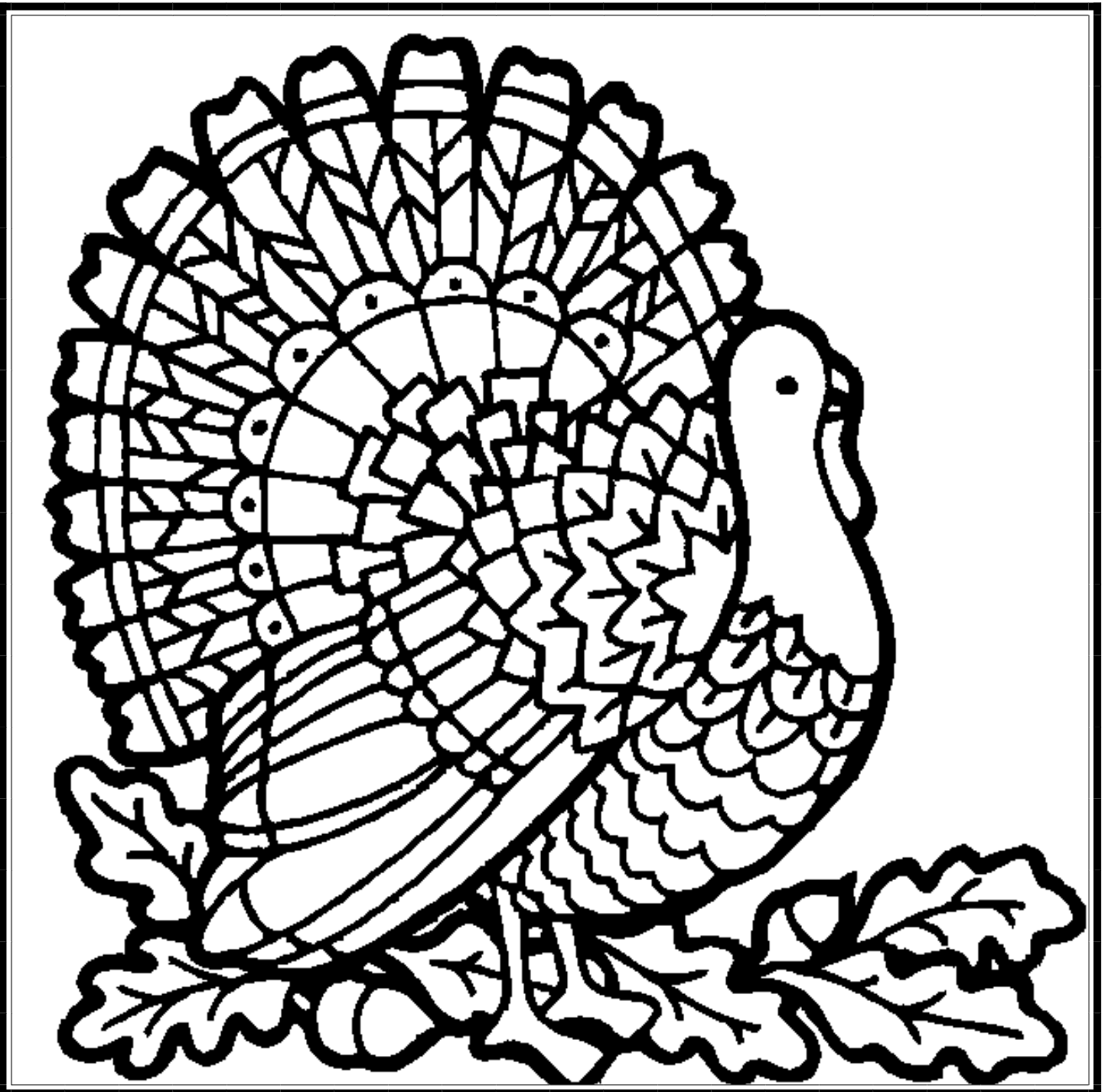
Name: _____

Number In Party: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Two Dishes I Will Bring: _____

Signed: _____

Please Return This Form To The church Office By Friday, November 18th.



Happy
Thanksgiving



 Lil' Fingers

www.lil-fingers.com

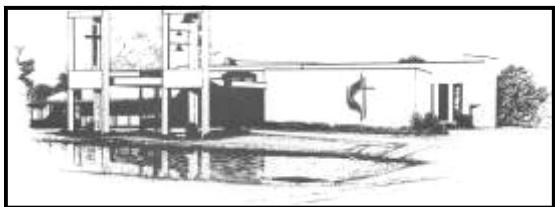
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**Thanksgiving Coloring Pages
For our younger Church Members.**



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF HOMOSASSA**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street
Homosassa, FL, 34448



A Stephen Ministry Church



We are on the web!
www.fumc.org

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

Rev. Mark Whittaker
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11 AM

Nursery at all services

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 AM

Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2 PM



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

E-mail: Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com

~ Saturday Night ~

6:30pm

Pastor Steve Skelley

