

# GENESIS

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

April 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 10 Issue 4

## Church Office

Phone: 352-628-4083

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## Website

www.lumc.org

## Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Whittaker

## Youth Pastor

Rev. Steven Skelley

## Administrator

Lyn Romano

## Bookkeeper

Sandy Dewart

## Christian Education &

## Parish Visitation

Patience Nave

## Music Department

Mary Kay Messenger

Joy Potts

Dayna Middlebrooks

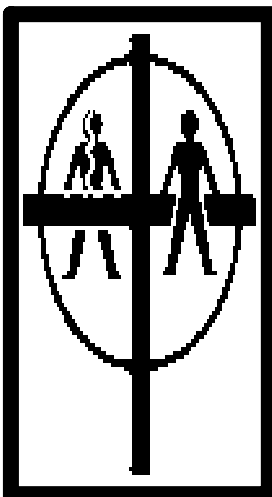
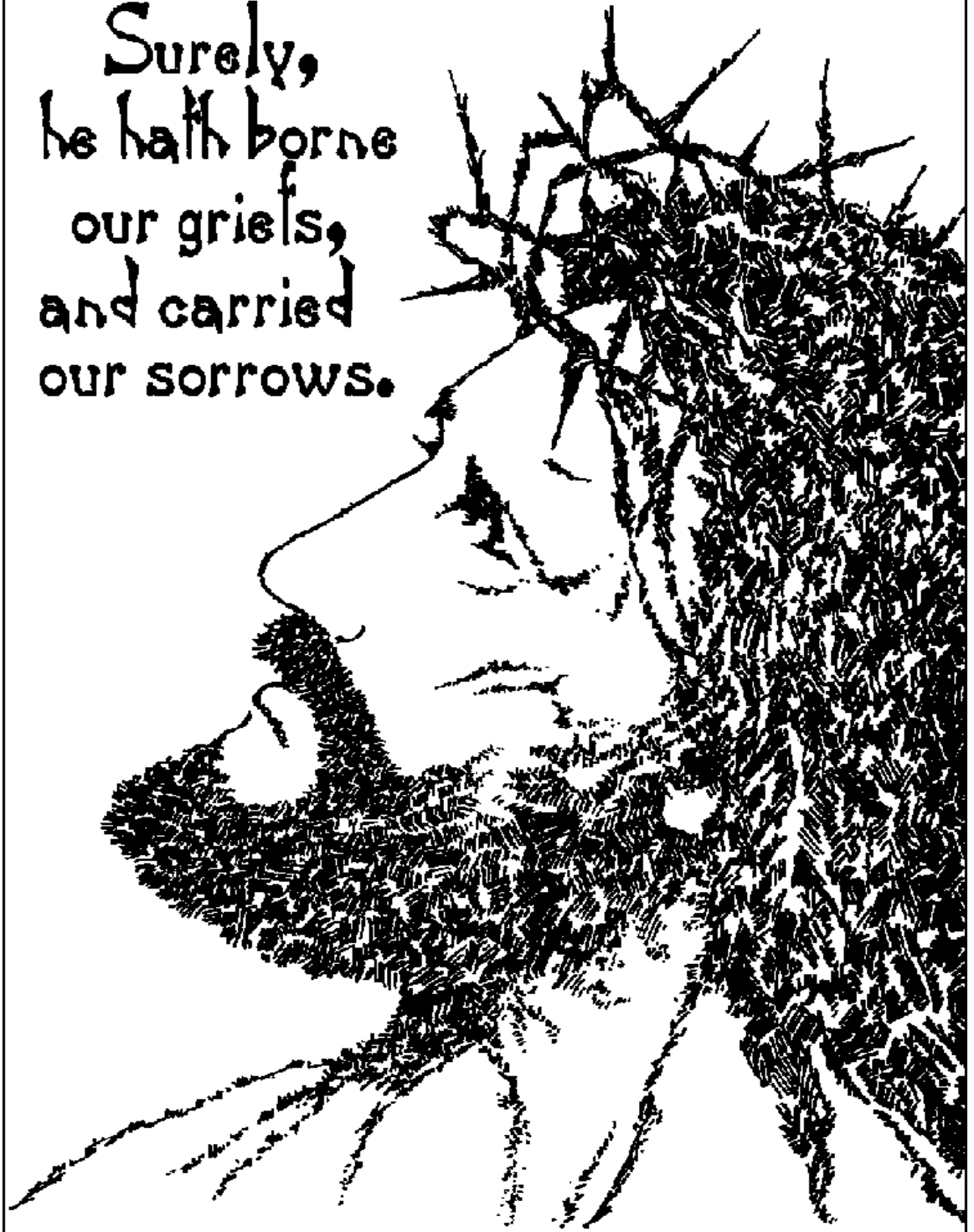
## Night Security

Don Snedeker

## Custodian

Dale Evans

Surely,  
he hath borne  
our griefs,  
and carried  
our sorrows.



We are a  
Stephen  
Ministry  
Church

## "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.

### Within The Church

- Worship Services
- Music Ministries
- 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
- Counters
- Attendance Tracking

### As Outreach

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

## C.R.O.P. Walk a BIG Success!

**STEWARDSHIP  
IN  
ACTION!**



**WALKIN' AND  
TALKIN'!**

Once again we were blessed with a beautiful day for walking during the 2006 CROP Walk. Over 75 people showed up from 6 different churches and groups to walk together to do their part to stop hunger both here and around the world.

We had 20 members of the church walking this year, and you sponsored them by giving over \$1725 dollars. There were also 10 youth participating and one young adult in a wheel chair.

Thank you for your support for the walkers and for taking the time to walk. It may seem like a small thing, but together with so many other churches across the country, we can really make a difference.

~ Jack Schoch.



**April 9-15, 2006**

**April 9 ~ Palm Sunday**  
**Traditional Services**

**April 13 ~ Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service**  
**7:30 pm in the Sanctuary**

On "Good" Friday, God's plan of salvation for all people came to a climax with the cruel crucifixion of Jesus on the garbage dump of Jerusalem. It was a time filled with fear, hate and vengeance, with sorrows and tears, but also with triumphant victory.

On that day Jesus paid the highest price so our sins might be forgiven, and we could receive the gift of eternal life. Our Maundy Thursday Service will capture some of the sorrow and pain of that dark day.

**A Maundy Thursday Service ~ The Service of Shadows ~**  
**Come and experience the gift of the cross.**

This moving service will invite you to a thoughtful silence and maybe even to tears. It is a service that can convict you of sin and remind you of how Jesus paid the price so your sins might be forgiven.

This is one way we can share the darkness of Friday in anticipation of the joy and light of Easter Sunday Morning. The choir will minister to us with special music, and we will have seven meditations to move us through the Passion Story.

**April 14 ~ Good Friday**  
**No Services planned**

**April 16 ~ Easter Services**  
**8 am, 9:30 am, and 11 am.**  
**Sunday School at 9:30 am**

# "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth."

by Pastor Mark Whittaker

Easter begins with "Vivit, vivit!"  
"He lives, He lives!"

"Why, yes," she stammered, "I think I do."



We stand transfixed at the mystery of the resurrection; he who was once dead is alive - walking, speaking, eating with his disciples.

"You think you do? Don't you know it? If you do, sing it as though you were sure of it, and so that everyone who hears you will know it."

And we celebrate what it all means -- death no longer has the last word, hope has a future bigger than three score years and ten - or twenty - or thirty.

So she sang it again with her whole soul, in an ecstasy of heavenly bliss.

We shout and sing and breath, "He lives," but it doesn't really impact our lives.

The people around you - do they know that your redeemer lives?

Reichel, the famous conductor, was rehearsing the great Berlin Symphonic Orchestra and Choir, performing Handel's "Messiah."

Beautiful beyond the singing of birds, lovelier than the spring time was the soloist's song as her heart and voice were lifted in sheer joy.

The lady soloist had just finished the aria, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth."

Hushed were the vast choir and orchestra, and Reichel, with tears in his eyes, said, "My dear, thank you. You do know that your redeemer lives."

Her tones were clear, the enunciation distinct. Technically she was flawless.

Christ lives. We tell the world that he lives in us as we live out the day-to-day grind, as we allow him to make an impact, to change our lives so what we do shows that we know - "He lives!"

But the conductor was dissatisfied. Something was lacking.

He asked, "My dear, do you really know that your redeemer lives?"

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## ~ History's darkest day and brightest day ~

A professor once asked a young man studying for the ministry what the cross of Christ meant to him. The student said, "Well, the cruel death of God's Son, Jesus, was the most soul-shocking event imaginable. What could have been more heartless and evil than the crucifixion of Christ, the most holy person who ever lived? That had to be the darkest day in human history.

"On the other hand, one has to consider what happened on the Sunday after his death on Friday. It is quite clear from eye-witness accounts that he arose from the dead and was recognized by his friends as the one they had called Lord. The Resurrection was such a soul-stirring and momentous event that the first Easter Sunday had to be the brightest and most joyous day in the history of the world."

When he had finished, the professor said to him, "That is an excellent interpretation of the meaning of the cross. It was indeed a dark and hideous day when Christ was crucified. Yet that cross took on the symbol of salvation and hope when God raised Christ from the dead. Yes, Christians could say it was the brightest day in history."

**From Pastor Mark's Desk**

## Fifth Annual Holy Hilarity Sunday By Pastor Mark Whittaker

It is not very nice to crow about your victory. It is not very sportsmanlike to stand over your opponents and taunt them - in fact, you'll get a penalty in football if you do it.

But it's Christians - saved! The devil has lost! I think we have a right to celebrate!

The Sunday after Easter Sunday - the Sunday after we celebrate the resurrection - is going to be Holy Hilarity Sunday again this year, and we are going to have some fun at the devil's expense.

Holy Hilarity Sunday is a day when we can celebrate with jokes and laughter and joy as we shout to the world that Jesus Christ has won our salvation for us.

It will be a service of jokes, music and a message about the joy of the Lord. We hope that you will come prepared with (clean) jokes or stories that you can share with the rest of the congregation. It is also a great time to invite some of your friends to join you for church so they can see for themselves that Christians are not a bunch of sourpusses.

**"Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord."**  
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*(Holy Hilarity Sunday seems to have a lot of controversy about it's 'appropriateness' in the church. The following is an article that I think should be considered....Editor)*

**John 1: 43-51**

"Let's try reading the story of Jesus' encounter with Nathaniel as though Jesus is laughing. Initially it isn't hard to do, because the story starts with a joke, or a jibe from Nathaniel: 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' We're not sure what the joke is, but perhaps Nazareth was the butt of humor in Jesus' day.

"So there is already some humor in the story of Jesus and Nathaniel, in Nathaniel's quip about Nazareth. Possibly Jesus was responding in kind when he said: 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' - a bit of irony on Jesus' part. After



all, it simply can't be true that there is no deceit in Nathaniel, for none of us are that perfect, and anyway Nathaniel has just made a snide joke at Jesus' expense that he'd probably prefer to keep hidden.

"No one knows the origin of this picture, but it is thought to come from Latin America, and is popular amongst poor communities there. They see in it the laughter of hope. After all, Jesus brought hope to poor and outcast people, and he was mischievous in the ways he did this: eating with sinners, feasting when others were fasting, enjoying life in ways that upset the religious authorities. But despite all this it's unusual to see Jesus depicted as jovial (unless you count some paintings of him as a playful infant).

"Laughter is extremely important to us as human beings, and yet when we emphasize Jesus' humanity we tend to talk about His vulnerable and sad aspects rather than his happy ones.

"This is all the more strange given that laughter is so important to us and has the power to connect us to one another and to transform us. If I take Ben (who is 16 months old) on a train and he starts laughing, the whole carriage laughs - even when people are tired and irritable because the train is running 50 minutes late. Laughter is infectious. I've seen young children burst out laughing when shown this picture of the laughing Jesus, simply because it is a picture of laughter.

"And so we know that Jesus got tired and hungry and thirsty and weepy. But when have you ever heard someone say, 'Jesus was truly human; he knew how to laugh'? Despite the importance of laughter, we hear almost nothing about it in Christian teaching, and sometimes it is forbidden or discouraged. "

Rev. Dr. Harriet Harris  
<http://www.university-church.ox.ac.uk/sermons/Parish/LaughingJesus19-01-03.htm>

## ***Columbarium to Become Reality***

By Richard L. Evans

In January 2005 the Church Council named a committee to explore the possibility of establishing a Columbarium—for the permanent storage of cremated remains of church members and families.

After looking at several locations and numerous suppliers, the committee recommended an Eickhof Columbarium to be installed on the east exterior wall of the Worship Center and to be surrounded with a small, fenced Memorial Garden.

The wall-mounted unit will be expandable to eventually hold 216 companion niches, each holding one or two urns, for a maximum of 432 urns. A beautiful bronze cross will be mounted on the wall above the Columbarium. Benches in the Memorial Garden will provide a place for surviving family members and friends to sit, remember, and pray.

Since the proposal was adopted in December, church members have been purchasing niches for future use. In a few instances, families have in their possession the cremated remains of loved ones and are waiting for the Columbarium so that the cremains may be inurned

there. A minimum number of niches have now been sold and the committee will place the order during April. Delivery and installation is expected by late summer, with landscaping to follow.

Dedication of the completed Columbarium (first phase) is expected sometime in mid-fall. So, by the end of this year, the Columbarium will be a reality—our modern counterpart to the ancient tradition of a church burial ground or cemetery.

Niches are still being sold at the pre-construction price of \$1,000. The price includes one or two urns, engraved memorial plates, opening and closing, and perpetual care. The price will increase on June 1, however, due to increases in our costs. The new price will be \$1,200 (\$500 of which will be considered a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes).

A display in the narthex of the Worship Center describes the Columbarium and shows the location. More information and application packets are available at the church office.

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## ***Charitable Gift Annuities Are Popular***

By Richard L. Evans

Charitable Gift Annuities seem to be growing in popularity among our church members and friends. Recently several new CGAs have been arranged through the Florida United Methodist Foundation, naming First United Methodist Church Homosassa as beneficiary.

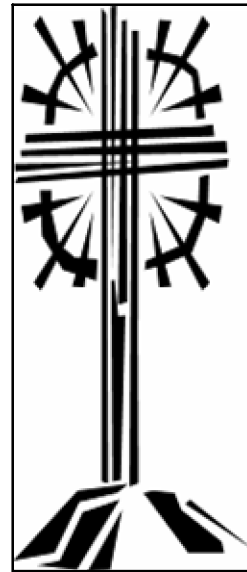
These gifts will provide the donors with very attractive rates of income during the rest of their lives. Then, after their deaths, the remainder of the gifts will be turned over to the church to be used as specified by the donors. Donors also receive a substantial charitable deduction on their federal income tax.

More and more United Methodists are discovering CGAs and realizing that they are an easy way to maximize their income during their lifetimes and a wonderful way to continue their Christian stewardship after their deaths.

If you would like to find out about Charitable Gift Annuities and how they could benefit both you and FUMCH, call the church office and Lyn Romano, Church Administrator, will give you a brochure and/or put you in touch with someone who can tell you more.

# Cruise Through "the Canal" in 2007

By Richard L. Evans



Panama is "the canal" for many US tourists and we are going all the way through it—east to west—in 2007. We'll sail from Port Everglades in Ft. Lauderdale on Sunday, April 22, and we'll fly back to Tampa from San Diego on Wednesday, May 9. In-between we'll enjoy 15 days on Holland America's ms Volendam, with stops in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico (including Acapulco). Our full-day transit of the canal will be on April 26 (6 am-7 pm).

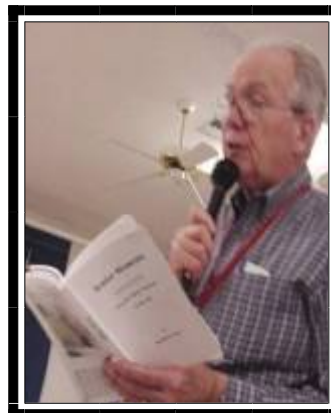
We will disembark in San Diego and spend two days enjoying the sights in that Southern California city. We'll spend two nights at the Holliday Inn on the Bay before returning home. Myrna and I will be leading this cruise/tour, and we invite you to join us. I'm working through Tally-Ho Vacations in Inverness, who will handle arrangements and registrations for us. Others are welcome, too, so invite your friends to join you.

Because this is a "repositioning" cruise (moving the ship from Florida to Vancouver in preparation for summer cruises to Alaska), the rates are good. And our San Diego "add-on" is quite reasonable. Here are prices for the whole cruise/tour package (including bus to Ft. Lauderdale, the flight from San Diego to Tampa, and the two days in San Diego):

Inside cabin (Cat. K)-\$2,843; Several Ocean view categories (E, DD, DA, D, C)-\$3,363 through \$3,603; Verandah cabin (Cat. B)-\$4743. Prices are double occupancy; single available at extra cost. Additional expenses will include trip insurance, gratuities, 4 lunches, 1 dinner, plus whatever shore excursions you may select.

Flyers are available at the church office. Register early for the best selection of cabins and the best prices. A deposit of \$950 with Tally-Ho will secure your reservation, the balance payable by February 1, 2007.

Lord,  
Thank you for spending  
33 years with us:  
for announcing Love  
from the high heavens;  
for introducing Love in an  
obscure manger setting;  
for living Love in a family framework;  
for sharing Love with the poor  
and deprived and diseased;  
for showing Love to the unlovable  
and unloving;  
for letting little children feel Love  
in your arms;  
for suffering on a cross  
because of Love;  
for loosing Love upon the world  
to take up residence in us;  
for your Love that will not let us go.  
Amen.  
—Forrest Nees



*Just a reminder:  
A copy of Rev. Evan's  
book  
"Senior Moments"  
is available to borrow  
from the church library.*

*Copies also are  
available for purchase  
at the church office.  
Editor*



## Holistic Small Groups Ministry



**We now have 9 Holistic Small Groups!**  
**There's a place just for you in our Holistic Small Group Ministry.**  
**Groups meet at their own pace, on their own schedule,**  
**to support, study, discuss, minister, pray and share.**  
**Check out one of our current groups or start your own!**

**Steve Skelley, Small Groups Ministry Director**  
**Phone 628-4083 or Email [StevenSkelley@yahoo.com](mailto:StevenSkelley@yahoo.com)**

**Prayer Groups:**

**Women's Prayer:**

Meets Thursday mornings at 11 am  
 At the church with Lyn Romano  
 Room 203 — Conference Room  
 628-4083 more information.

**Men's Prayer:**

Meets 7 am on Wednesdays  
 At the church. Call Clarence Kohler at  
 628-3282 for more information.

**Discussion Groups:**

**Current Affairs:**

Meets Monday afternoons at 3 pm  
 with Bill Ackerman  
 Room 203 — Conference Room  
 382-2274

**Support Groups:**

**Cancer Survivors:**

Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1  
 pm at the church.  
 Anna Cooley and Earl Cadaret  
 382-4132 or 382-1923

**The Bible's Way to Weight Loss:**

**First Place (daytime)**

Meets Wednesday mornings at 10am  
 with Diane Gibbs and Donna Ludwick  
 Room 106 at the church.  
 628-0688

**First Place (evenings)**

Meets Friday evenings at 5:30 pm  
 with Diane Gibbs and Patience Nave  
 Room 114 at the church.  
 628-0688 or 382-4171

**Bible Studies:**

**Women's Bible Study:**

Meets Wednesdays, 10 am with Marilyn Siegel  
 At her home, 57 Linder Drive.  
 382-3774

**Sugarmill Woods Area Bible Study**

Meets Wednesdays at 3 pm  
 with Bill and Barbara Gilbert at their home.  
 Call 382-4304 for more information.

**Christian Community Bible Study**

Meets Tuesdays 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm  
 Room 203 ~ Conference Room  
 with Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise  
 382-0699

***From Pastor Steve's Desk***

**Start Your Own Holistic Small Group**

Do you have an idea for another Holistic Small Group? Two more people have already approached me about starting their own HSGs. One would focus on the concerns of those whose spouses don't attend church with them. The other would focus on the concerns of those who live with chronic pain. Training is modeled on the HSG format so if we can get two more potential facilitators, I could lead another set of training sessions in early 2006. Training is easy and even fun. What kind of group could you lead to reach 4-12 people? Contact Steve Skelley at the church office to start your own Holistic Small Group.



### Youth Missions

Thank you Youth Fellowship for participating in the 2006 Crop Walk. We raised \$110. Thank you sponsors!



The Youth Ministry is contemplating an out-of-state summer mission trip for participating teens. More info to follow.

Our contract with the Adopt-A-Park program is official, and we now care for Bluebird Springs Park as our community service mission.

### **We Need Your Empty Ink Cartridge Donations!**

The First UMC Youth Ministry thanks you for bringing in your empty computer printer ink cartridges. We raise \$30 to \$75 a month through your donations. These funds support two poor children through the Children International mission. The collection box is located on the soda machine beside the fellowship hall door.

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

Steve Skelley Devotions  
[www.MySMW.com](http://www.MySMW.com)  
[www.NaplesSunTimes.com](http://www.NaplesSunTimes.com)



Dick and Myrna Evans grandson Josh plays basketball with Pastor Steve.

### Youth News

By Steve Skelley

#### Youth Fellowship Schedule

- April 2.....Adopt-A-Park Sunday  
Community Service  
Picnic at Bluebird Springs  
Plant Flowers, Clean Park
- April 9.....Palm Sunday  
Lunch & Puppets Practice
- April 16....Easter Sunday  
No Youth Fellowship
- April 23....Car Wash Sunday  
Fundraiser At Church
- April 30....Surprise Sunday

#### Thank You

Thank you Jacqueline, Alison, Helen, Leslie, Samantha, Steffy, Bill, Ester, Tom, Steve and Joyce Ann for attending the 2006 Plant City Strawberry Festival and Steven Curtis Champan concert.

Thank you Adam, Steffy, Helen, Leslie, Samantha, Ester, Steve and Joyce Ann for walking in the 2006 Crop Walk.

#### Coming Soon:

A summer 2006 Family Trip to *The Holy Land Experience* courtesy of the First UMC travel ministry.

A Family Fun Trip to a Tampa Bay Devil Rays baseball game.

### Sunday School

Pastor Steve will be teaching Sunday School for a while as Joyce Ann and Steffy attend church services. It's a tag-team! Our goal will be to help youth better understand the Bible and our place in God's creation.

All 11-19 yr. olds are welcome.  
We meet on Sunday mornings  
from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Youth Room.

Every teen also receives his/her own copy of the best selling Bible in the country:  
*The Revolve Bible.*

**REMEMBER WHEN?**

Do you remember when you were in school and you HAD to read the classics in order to get a good mark?

Now is the time for you to read one of those "classics" found in your church library at your leisure and really ENJOY the story.

Two favorite novels in one beautifully bound book entitled "Bronte Sisters" are "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte - the haunting love story of Heathcliff and Cathy, and "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte.

Also two favorite novels in one book by A. J. Cronin are "The Citadel" and "Keys of the Kingdom".

Another book in this category is a collection of Charles Dickens' novels.

Dickens is considered by many to be the greatest of all English novelists.

Four of his best and successful books are as follows:

1. "Oliver Twist", set in London's Victorian underworld where we meet the orphan Oliver, Viper Fagan, Bill Sykes and the Artful Dodger, some of the most memorable characters in all literature.

2. "A Tale of Two Cities" is a great novel of the French Revolution, a time of terror and treason when a starving people rose up in fury at a corrupt and decaying regime. Charles Darnay and Sidney Carton tell the human story within the Revolution.

3. "Great Expectations" the story of Pip and the mysterious fortune that falls in his lap. It is filled with memories of childhood fairytales with a twist both comic and tragic.

4. "A Christmas Carol," the most beloved story with characters of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Some other titles that may stir memories are "Lorna Doone," a romance of Exmoor, by R. D. Blackmore; "Dragon Seed" by Pearl Buck; "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austin, and the following by Mark Twain: "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" "Life on the Mississippi," "Prince and the Pauper" and "Celebrated Jumpin' Frogs and other Stories."

We can remember Jesus easily when reading Max Lucado's books such as "When Christ Comes," "Next Door Savior" and "The Final Week of Jesus." We have at least ten books by this prolific writer.

And for the here and now, we have some new offerings.

"Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger is a story of 11-year old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest who has reason to believe in miracles. He finds himself, along with his sister and father, on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been controversially charged with murder. The end of their journey shows how family, love and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.

"Love's Haven" by Catherine Palmer tells of romance and inner struggles of the heart. Brock Burnett had been her husband's best friend. Now Mara blamed the reformed playboy for her husband's death. Brock asked her to marry him, an opportunity to give her baby a life of privilege instead of the abject poverty Mara remembered from her childhood. But at what cost? Though Mara feared forsaking her late husband's memory, she knew that for her baby, the future was everything.

Reading is fun - the old and the new!

Happy Easter from your  
Library Staff  
Helen Lefave  
and  
Barbara Jackson



## THE STEWARDSHIP SPIRIT

By: Sallyann Moore,  
Stewardship Chairman

Every month about 25 people contact our church with a prayer request.

Typically the requests come through Pastor Mark or our Church Administrator, Lyn Romano, and, once received, travel quickly across e-mail and phone lines to the 40 or so members of the Prayer Advocacy Group.

They set about praying – for the new requests and those previously received. And they keep on praying until the requests are withdrawn. It’s certainly uplifting to know that, whenever we need it, God will hear 40 prayers a day on our behalves!

But wait – there’s more! The Women’s Prayer Group, the Men’s Prayer Group, our small groups and Bible studies, our church staff, and those attending Sunday services pray regularly and often for various needs as they become known. There’s little doubt that ours is a church built on a strong prayer tradition.

But what, you’re probably wondering, does prayer have to do with stewardship?

Well ... just about everything! Through prayer, we acknowledge the reality of God and his never-ending gifts of compassion, mercy, love, and forgiveness.

We express our love for Him and for the neighbors we name in prayer. And we seek His will, not our own, for living our lives here on Earth.

For me, prayer and stewardship go hand-in-hand; each uses God’s gifts to advance God’s glory.

*“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” – Jeremiah 29:12*



## Hurricane Katrina Relief Mission ~ April 17-23

By Pastor Mark Whittaker



As you look out across the cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland you are in awe of the destructive power of nature. Everywhere you look you see destroyed buildings and lives.

But now, six months later, you also see new construction and larger and larger trash piles as people get the help they need to get their lives back.

We have an opportunity to go back to Bay St. Louis to work with the United Methodist Church there in helping the area recover from the hurricane.

We can take ten (10) people this time, and we will be staying at Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis.

Working with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (U.M.C.O.R.), we will be one of many groups who will come this year to share the love of Jesus Christ with people who need to know that the world has not forgotten them.

Since the team will be staying at the United Methodist Church, we will have to either cook our own food or eat out at the few restaurants that are open in the area, so the cost will be a little higher this time.

If you are interested in going on this trip, contact Steve Skelley who will be our team leader, and let him know that you want to be a part of the recovery of Hancock County and Bay St. Louis.

# Welcome New Members!

Toni Aschbach  
from St. Paul, MN  
17 Floribunda Ct.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-7178

Alice Wilson  
from St. Joseph, MI  
60 Cactus St.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-7656

Jack & Bev Mulder  
from Ridgewood, NJ  
73 Oak Village Blvd. S.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-2772

Raymond & Nelva Clemans  
Ray from Reynolds, IN  
4051 S. Oakhurst Dr.  
Nelva from Morganton, NC  
Homosassa 34446  
628-1280

Wes & Sue Harris  
from Mt. Clemons, MI  
6 Gypsaphila Ct.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-2450



We are trying to locate the following people.  
If you can help, please call Jack Eldridge, 794-7182.  
Or the church office, 628-4083.

- Bailey, Pam
- Cilwa, Beth
- Desimone, Dickee
- Formender, Martha
- Forney, Edna
- Harmon, Thersa
- Ochier, Exie
- Shellenberg, Waldo & Dorothea
- Shores, Dave & Barbara
- Urzen, Patricia
- Verlee, Sean
- Wellborn, James
- Wicks, Hilda
- Willis, Elizabeth

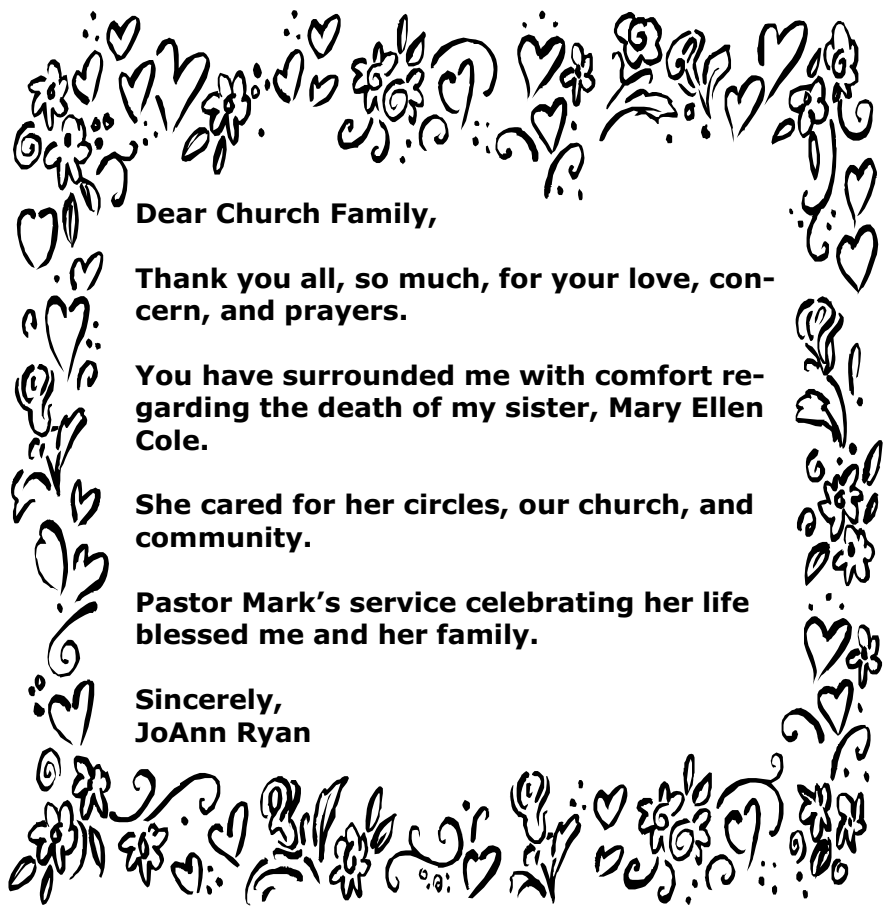


Getting to  
Know You

Getting to know all about you.  
Getting to like you,  
Getting to hope you like me....

**Let's all remember  
our name tags!**

**"....and your name was  
what?"**



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all, so much, for your love, concern, and prayers.

You have surrounded me with comfort regarding the death of my sister, Mary Ellen Cole.

She cared for her circles, our church, and community.

Pastor Mark's service celebrating her life blessed me and her family.

Sincerely,  
JoAnn Ryan



April Birthdays

1  
Dorothy Koehler  
Gerry Graham  
Diane Cary

3  
Hazel Meyerhoff  
Richard Sanford

4  
Dolli Scott  
Mary Casper

6  
Frank Zack  
Robert Gidlow  
Nick White  
James Earl

7  
Richard Bader  
Carol Andrews

8  
Larry Raymond  
JoAnn Guthrie  
Robert Blum  
Joshua White

9  
Donald Tam  
Elaine Harwood  
Stacey Dawson

11  
Virginia Rese  
Theresa McCracken

13  
Susan Helfman

14  
Shirley Wilson  
Hendrik Ponderoyrn  
Joy Potts

15  
Nelson MacBroom  
Lou Mosier  
Laurie Stainton  
Mary Joy Speicher

16  
Edythe Shaffer  
Peggy Benson  
Jim Winder  
William Murray

17  
Harry Rogers  
Russell Chapman  
Ken Smith  
Janet Small  
Molly Norman  
Cameron Cleary

18  
Freda Hale

19  
Grete Nygaard  
Olive Stevens

20  
Thelma Jean Buzby  
James Eyster

21  
Gloria Elsea  
Carol Wallis  
Dale Miller

22  
Alan Moore

25  
Alan Burcaw  
Mark Waldrop

26  
Eileen Ferguson  
Lawrence Maddox

27  
Katherine Tidswell  
Virginia Will

29  
Warren MacDonald  
Roger Ferguson

30  
Dene Balmer  
Carli Benthusen



3  
Frankie & Terry  
Adams ~ 24 years

4  
Helen & Frank  
Harris ~ 36 years

5  
Catherine & Richard  
Barrett ~ 59 years

6  
Dottie & William  
Baker ~ 27 years

9  
Helen & Buddy  
Hansen ~ 61 years

11  
Sharon & Dale  
Miller ~ 36 years

13  
Joan & Earl  
Cadaret ~ 21 years  
Julie & Louis  
Garthaus ~ 10 years  
Dee & Dick Otto ~  
27 years

15  
Grete & Dan  
Nygaard ~ 6 years

16  
Mert & Marge Davis  
~ 46 years

17  
Loretta & Charles  
Blair ~ 30 years

18  
Evelyn & Deforest  
Knight ~ 54 years

19  
Jerry & George Cole  
~ 58 years  
Marilyn & Ralph  
Siegel ~ 15 years

21  
Betty & Glen  
Gunderson ~ 55 yrs

22  
Ruby & Larry  
Raymond ~ 46 years

25  
Barbara & Ken  
Smith ~ 53 years



The Decorating Committee is busy planning for a spectacular display for Easter.

That's where you come in.

Orders for lilies and other flowering Spring plants will be taken after all services on:

**March 26,  
April 2  
and  
April 9**

You may also order a plant at the church office.

The cost is \$10.00 and you may take the plant home after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday.

Thank you to my Church Family for all your caring support and prayers during my husband's illness.

Your kindness will long be remembered.

Joan Carra

***In And About Our Church***

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING**

No, this is not a typo. We are looking for "craft" people who would be interested in making (or learning to make) Chrismons to decorate the tree in the Narthex. Some of the ornaments need to be replaced, and we also would like to see a lot more on the tree.

Please contact Holi Benthusen at 621-1914,

**HENRYS' MINISTRY  
HAS MANY  
BLESSINGS AND STRUGGLES**

The Joe Henry family we help support in Chiang Mai, Thailand, is kept very busy by its missionary outreach according to the family's March prayer bulletin.

For the first time, Joe taught a Bible lesson in the Thai language. He said it took about six hours of preparation to present 20 minutes of material and the group "was very gracious with tips and encouragement."

They reported that Elaine was invited by the cell group leader's wife to do visitations with people from the church. This is an exciting ministry and will give Elaine an opportunity to increase her language skills.

Elaine also has been invited to attend a teachers' workshop in Korea during June. They pointed out that many Korean families are "pouring into the mission field and this will be a unique opportunity for missionary educators throughout Asia to more fully understand how best to minister to Korean families and children."

The Henrys are very thankful that Elaine has received the assistance of a full time aide who "can assist with the mountains of paperwork."

Their youngest son, Jamie, is "thriving at the Thai-English Kindergarten he is attending."

They write that the teachers and their friends "rave" about his skills with the Thai language. He also is enjoying English and math and, in August, will attend Grace International School with the rest of the family.

In their prayer requests they ask that we:

Continue to pray for Joe's "rapid language development" as he leads the cell's Bible study and will also begin in April teaching three-hour sessions in their church's Bible school.

Pray for Elaine's second grade class where almost two-thirds of the students are studying English as the second language. Also there are several students whose behavior is poor to the point of being disrespectful.

Pray for Brittany, Judith and Caleb as they seek to balance their social life with academics. The parents wrote that having so many friends in such a big school is a new experience for them.

Thailand's political situation is uncertain. The prime minister, who is from the Chiang Mai province, is under pressure to quit. He dissolved parliament and called for "snap" elections in early April. The opposition is getting more frustrated. They ask that we pray for a peaceful solution to the problem.

**GROUP ASKS: IF JESUS  
WERE TO RETURN TODAY  
WOULD PEOPLE ACCEPT HIM?**

The Kevin Woosters, the missionary family our church helps support in Moscow, Russia, were asked in their Bible-study class recently, "If Jesus were to return today would the people accept him?"

The Woosters wrote, "Of course we gave the answer that Jesus is going to return, but it does make you think. We should all have a sense of urgency as we go about our lives that Jesus is returning. What are we sharing with those around us who do not know about his imminent return?"

The family received the good news that their oldest son, Joshua, has been accepted at Messiah College in Grantham, PA. He has been successful academically and has been developing a video presentation of his basketball skills in hopes of obtaining a scholarship.

Their youngest son, Corey, has been fighting the flu. A couple of relapses set him back, but he is on the mend. They do ask for our prayers that

he stays healthy and has no more problems.

Kevin has been working with church leaders in the field to determine if a new area should be opened in Siberia. He wrote the process begins with a survey trip to the area to access the needs of the community. Continuing he said, "We look at what programs are in the area and how they are operating. If there is a group there are they reaching out to the area? Is the group grace oriented in its teaching? Are the people being disciplined?"

"We also are beginning to evaluate which languages are spoken in the region to determine if Russian can be used or will there be a need to learn the local language to better reach the people."

Kevin added that once the decision is made to go into a new area a strategy is developed in conjunction with the interested families and individual missionaries who will be involved in the program. Presently they are assessing under what visas they will operate.

Previously they used Community Development visas, but with new laws coming out they may attempt to obtain Temporary Residency permits which would let them stay in the country for three years.

Kevin stated that the process for developing a strategy to reach an area is one in which demographics, language, giftings of team members, and many other things are considered before the initial work can proceed.

Kevin and Laura will attend an International Leadership Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in April from the 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Pioneer organization noted, "Due to our varied works and geographic distance between us, we need to regularly and purposely develop our sense of unity."

"The 2006 ILC will be the 5<sup>th</sup> gathering of this nature, a unique event for PI's leaders and key partners to connect personally, grow spiritually, develop professionally, and engage in key issues."



To contact the Henrys:

**Email:** jebjcj@eroam.net

**Snail Mail:**

191/106 Koolpunt Ville 5  
Chiang Mai 50100  
Thailand

To contact the Woosters:

**Stateside Address:** 315 Bobby Jones Rd.

Sarasota, FL, 34232

**Email:** klwooster@aol.com



Missions  
Committee

Joe Henry, Jr. writes:

If you would like to become a financial support teammate, please fill out a check to "Pioneers" and attach a note saying it's for Joe & Elaine Henry, account #010798.

For tax-deduction purposes, do not put anything in the memo line of the check.

Mail it to: Pioneers, 10123 William Carey Drive, Orlando, FL 32832.

**Missions Closer To Home...  
Remember our Food Pantry on  
the third Sunday of the month.**



**United Methodist Women**

**UMW READING PROGRAM UNDERWAY**

The new selections for the 2006 United Methodist Women reading program have been processed and are located in the shelves in the Library office to the right of the gray file cabinet.

The simplest reading plan is to read four books, one from each category. These categories are "Spiritual Growth," "Education and Interpretation," "Membership, Outreach and Nurture" and "Social Action."

Each category is written in the front of each book along with the year. Credit is given for any book read for years 2001 through 2006. Some books listed as "Bonus Books" are noted in the front of the book and on the cards. These are a bonus because they count as either two books in the same category or as one book in two different categories. Large-print books can be counted in any category you choose.

You can track your reading progress on the pamphlets available on the shelf. Completed pamphlets should be turned in by June 1st to Maureen Samstag, Secretary of Program Resources, or leave them on the Church Library desk. They will be forwarded to the district so you and our unit will get credit.

NOTE: Fill out the card at the back of the book and place it in the little yellow box on the desk. The UMW secretary will keep track of the reading program cards. When you return the books, please leave them on the library desk.

Thank You



Crocheters!

Your effort at resupplying our 'Scrubbie' inventory for our Annual Bazaar is highly appreciated.

**UMW UNIT MEETING**

**April 11, 2006**

**9:30 am**

**Refreshments & Fellowship**

*All Unit Meetings are open to The Church Congregation.*

**Program: Children of the Bible  
Speaker: Ruth Levins**

**Leader: Betty Bennett,  
Education & Interpretation Coordinator  
Hostesses: Mary Martha Circle**

At the April Unit Meeting, Betty Bennett will be coordinating the program. Ruth Levins, who writes a column for the Citrus County Chronicle, will be our speaker on "Children In The Bible." She attended the study session on that topic at the Christian School of Mission last July. She is also President of the Crystal River United Methodist Women.

The last Lenten Soup Supper will be on April 5th. Faith Hope Circle will be doing hostess duty.

**Wonderful  
Wednesday  
~ April 19 ~**



**Ladies  
Fashion  
Show**

***You don't want to miss this!***



## Good Morning, God By Betty Sue Mason

*Betty Sue Mason is a director of the Women's Division from Plant City, Fla., of the Florida Conference. This meditation is written to help United Methodist Women begin to prayerfully prepare themselves for the United Methodist Women's Assembly, May 4-7, in Anaheim, Calif., and for the ensuing education, inspiration, and mission work of the organization*



*And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?  
(Micah 6:8b)*

I am reminded of the elderly gentleman who, when he awakened each morning, prayed, "Good morning God, what are you up to today? I want to be a part of it."

United Methodist Women have a tremendous opportunity to stand up, speak up, and reach out to those who cannot speak for themselves.

- A group of women collect suitcases for children and young people who have been removed from their homes because of abuse, so they do not have to carry all of their belongings in paper bags.
- Women meet regularly to make Teddy Bears for the local Sheriff's Department deputies to give to children, rescued from all kinds of emergency situations, to show them that somebody cares.
- Several babies had to share a baby bed at the Child Care Center at Tampa's United Methodist Centers, so a United Methodist Woman went home and returned with the crib stored in her attic that she had been saving for her grandchildren.

**RISE! SHINE! GLORIFY GOD!**

Prayer: *Good morning, God, what are you up to today? I want to be part of it.*

### CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

## HELP!

Several kits are ready to be competed for the November 2006 Bazaar!

- CREWEL
- COUNTED CROSS-STITCH
- REGULAR CROSS STITCH
- And some others...

Some are already started and need to be finished.

If you can help, please call Pat Blake, 628-6602.

If I'm not at home, leave a message and I will return your call.  
Thank you.

~ Pat Blake

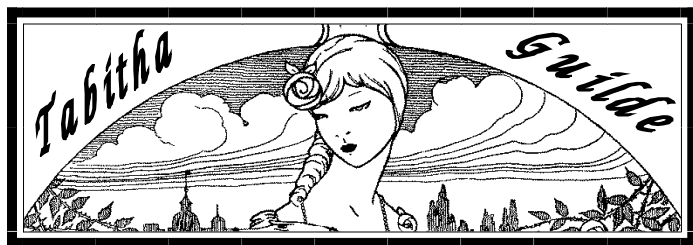
### MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A member of United Methodist Women is anyone who commits herself to the **PURPOSE** and chooses to belong. United Methodist Women celebrates an inclusive membership and welcomes all women who want to become members.

Being a member of The United Methodist Church is not required nor is there any minimum age requirement. Out of a commitment for mission locally and globally with women, children and youth, United Methodist Women choose to participate in meetings, prayer, financial giving, study, action and service.

#### *Our PURPOSE*

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



April 21  
9:30 am

We meet every third Friday of the month, first in Room 114 for coffee, then Room 106 for our project.

For more information contact:  
Arlene Stohrer  
or  
Myrna Evans

### Computer Classes Mondays at 10 AM to Noon

~ This is a Learning Lab ~  
This is your lab!

Instruction is individually paced.  
Got a computer problem bothering you?  
We offer "hands-on" instruction, and an online tutorial site, "GCF Learn Free," that you can use at home.



### **Heading Back North?**

Please contact the church office, 628-4083, so we can change our records so you will continue to receive church notices and Genesis.  
Thank you.

Have a wonderful Summer.  
Hope to see you again in the Fall.

## SHARE

By Tom & Nancy Pearo



We need your help to get the word out on SHARE.

Take a SHARE newsletter home and pass it around in your area. There is also a new brochure that explains SHARE better. You will find these in the reception area of the Administration Building.

This is an outreach of the church and everyone can be involved.

If you do not want to buy for yourself, you can still help spread the word.

### Volunteers are down.

Some of the people who came out on a regular basis to work SHARE have moved on to other things.

We will always have a place for you.

If you think you can help on a D-Day, please let us know or just show up.

### The SHARE Basic Package \$18

The Basic Package provides members with a delicious assortment of frozen meats, fresh fruits and vegetables and other grocery items from the familiar brands you've come to trust. Each month may offer previous favorites and new selections priced far below grocery and specialty stores.

SHARE Basic Sample \$18	
Pork Loin Chops	Potatoes
Chef's Choice Meatballs	Onions
Choice Beef Sirloin Tips	Broccoli Slaw
Crab Sticks	Spinach
Chicken Thighs	Carrots
French Toast Sticks	Radishes
Pancake Syrup	Apples & Pears

### The SHARE Select Program

The Select Program offers its products in more of a grocery store fashion. Purchase what you want and select the quantities you need. Simply spend a minimum of \$18. See how much you save on each individual item:

SHARE Select Sample	
Produce Pak	\$6.50
1 lb Garlic & Herb Chicken Kabobs	\$2.75
1 lb. Alaskan Salmon Filets	\$2.65
1 lb Ground Sirloin	\$1.90
2 lbs. Johnsonville Italian Sausages	\$2.65
1 lb Ground Turkey	\$0.80
12 oz. Volvosta Shells & Cheese	\$0.90
12oz can Cranberry Juice Concentrate	\$0.75
2.5 lbs Beef Sirloin Roast	\$7.50
2.25 lbs. Fully Cooked Slab of ribs	\$10.00

You can also call us anytime at 382-1034, and we will be glad to tell you all about SHARE.

**Prayer of Those Searching for God**

**O Lord my God,  
Teach my heart this day where and  
how to see you,  
Where and how to find you.  
You have made me and remade  
me,  
And you have bestowed on me  
All the good things I possess,  
And still I do not know you.  
I have not yet done that  
For which I was made.  
Teach me to seek you,  
For I cannot seek you  
Unless you teach me,  
Or find you  
Unless you show yourself to me.  
Let me seek you in my desire,  
Let me desire you in my seeking.  
Let me find you by loving you,  
Let me love you when I find you.**



**Friday, April 7, 2006  
12:00 noon  
Fellowship Hall**

**Guest Speaker: Nancy Kennedy  
Special performance by: Steve Skelley**  
If you have participated as a volunteer in the past year, please join us as we celebrate all you have done for FUMC Homosassa.

Please R.S.V.P. by  
Friday, March 31, 2006  
Call the Church Office Receptionists

**John Riley Week End  
March 3—5**

John communicated great truths in a simple, understandable and often-humorous manner. Not only were we well-entertained, but we left each session feeling deeply enriched.



**Our Favorite FUMC Quartet was there.**

**John's AM Prayer: "Lord! Whatever!"  
John's PM Prayer: "Lord, Oh well!"**

~~~~~

**"A Disciple of Jesus talks with his heart. When you give hugs, it is two hearts talking, touching, with love."**

~~~~~

**"Alarm clock, or Opportunity clock?"  
"88% of life is just showing up."  
"Tell people, 'You are great.'  
'I'm so glad...'"**

~~~~~

**"When somebody blesses you they are putting Christ upon you."**

~~~~~

**"Did somebody tell you something negative? Don't let anybody put their wounds on you!"**

~~~~~

**"If Christ lives in your heart -  
Let your face know it!"**

~~~~~

**"Christianity is not a crutch!  
Christianity is the ambulance!"**



**John preaching at our 'Sunrise Service'**



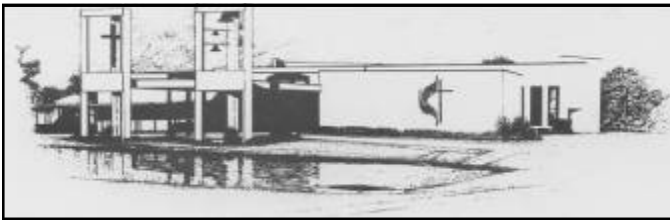
**Consideration to his fellow-man. "Before I begin, I want everyone to get comfortable."**

**Psalm 118:24**

**"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."**

**First United Methodist Church  
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**A Stephen Ministry Church**



WE ARE  
ON THE  
WEB

[www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.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 11AM**  
**Nursery at all services**  
**Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM**  
**Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM**

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

**Submissions to Genesis:**  
**Judith Huffer, Editor**  
**Jan Wise, Copy Editor**  
**Email: [Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com)**



**EASTER**