

# GENESIS

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

FEBRUARY 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 10 Issue 2

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## Lepers Amongst Us

by Pastor Mark Whittaker



Who are the "lepers" among us today?

In a gospel reading for February from the book of Mark, Jesus heals a man with leprosy.

At the time, leprosy was almost any kind of skin disease, like psoriasis or ringworm, as well as Hansen's disease that eats away at your fingers and toes until it kills you.

Lepers in the time of Jesus were considered unclean. They were excluded from society because they might infect people.

Unclean also meant that they were cut off from worship and making sacrifice. They were avoided, feared, disenfranchised and ignored.

So who ARE the "lepers" today? Whom do we avoid because we are afraid of what they have? Who frightens us so we cut

them off from society? Whom do we ignore?

The number of people and groups is staggering. Among them are the people sick with A.I.D.S. or herpes or S.T.D's, the groups who are "different", the people who are foolish enough to be poor, the one who "got caught" doing what the rest of us get away with doing.

We ignore the "lepers" who live in the woods and cars and under bridges.

We avoid those who are dying from diseases like lung cancer and liver failure and hardening of the arteries because we are afraid we might get infected somehow.

But then Jesus steps in. He doesn't lecture or moralize or reprimand. He doesn't say "I told you so" or ignore the problem and hope that it will go away.

No, Jesus touched it. He reached out and touched the untouchable. The clean caressed the unclean, the holy lifting up the unholy and making it whole again.

And isn't that what we also have been called to do - to follow our Lord's example?

Have we not been called to reach out to the "lepers" of our world and love them and forgive them and heal them?

Are we not called to reach out to the worst of our world and bring them into a place of belonging?

How do we do this? We do it the same way Jesus did, with a will and a word and a touch.

Let's be the people we say we are and bring healing to a "leper" in our lives.

Let's touch a life and make a difference so that the world will see - not just hear - that we are followers of the God of all people, even lepers.



In  
Memoriam



Marjorie  
Mitchell  
1929-2006

# "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 statement fits that description.

### 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**

### 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**



**Visitation Care Group**  
 Seated L to R: Barbara Gilbert, Jack Eldridge  
 Standing L to R: Donna Ludwick, Dottie Wolf, Abbye Jean Ridner, Gene Lantz, Patience Nave  
 Not in Picture: Dollie Scott

**It's Just A Matter Of Timing....  
(A letter from your Editor)**

To my Beloved FUMC Family,

This month I am going to be issuing a no-frills, bare-to-the-bones edition of Genesis.

I have encountered the situation of having the church newsletter printed out in a timely fashion, of having the group who handles the task of folding and preparing the manuscript for mailing and assembling doing so in a timely manner, but the postal handling of this newsletter has not been so timely.

The post office can hold up dispersal of a bulk mailing for 10 days. As a result, some congregants do not receive their church newsletter until the end of the first week of the month, or the beginning of the second week.

We all know that the US Postal System is not going to change. So it all falls on our end of the process.

Much calendar juggling was performed this month. Submitted material was given to me a week early. The newsletter assemblage crew is gathering earlier than is normal in the month, and I am publishing a week earlier than usual. (Of course this was the month I had to be out of town for a couple days during the process.)

We plan to deliver the February Genesis to the post office for mailing on January 23. But remember the Post Office is not required to distribute the newsletter until February 1—the end date of their legitimate holding period. It is trying....I am trying. Please pray!

Your Sister in Christ,  
Judith

**Richard Evans  
Writes Book**

Rev. Richard Evans, who has been part of our congregation for over eight years and who served as Assistant Pastor for six years, recently published a book that he titled, "*Senior Moments—Reflections from the Third Trimester of My Life.*"

In 193 pages Dick shares almost seventy years of life experience, insight, and faith.

His reflections introduce readers to members of his family, to a few of his mentors and friends, and—most of all—to himself, along with some of his thoughts, feelings, and opinions.

He also comments on some significant social concerns, spiritual issues, and world events.

Readers who know Dick—and also some who do not—will enjoy "walking" with him through these portions of his life journey.

Dick has placed a copy of his book in the church library. Additional copies are available from the church office for \$10 each.

*(Editor's Note: Richard's book is an extremely gentle read. I picked up the book and could not put it down as I journeyed year to year with Richard and his family. Wonderful insight from one of our active church's most energetic members.)*

**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 at home? Word? Excel?

How to navigate from menu to menu?

We offer "hands-on" instruction, and an online tutorial site, "GCF Learn Free," that you can use on your computer at home.

Contact: Tom Pearo  
or John Gibbs

**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 \$250. 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!

## **MAKE TIME TO READ!**

By Helen LeFave

"Make time to read" is a resolution that you won't want to break, especially with the fine assortment of subjects you'll find in the books in your Church Library. Consider the following:

1. "The Grace Awakening Devotional" by Charles R. Swindoll.

He also wrote the classic book, "The Grace Awakening" in 1990. Now, in a month-long spiritual journey, you'll explore the new-found freedom of God's grace in your life. By committing to this 30-day walk, you'll experience a liberating breath of the sweet air of God's grace. A small book with a giant message.

2. "Christ Among Other Gods" by Edwin W. Lutzer - a defense of Christ in an Age of Tolerance.

It is recommended for every concerned Christian who desires to know how to defend his/her faith in an increasingly pluralistic and tolerant culture and also recommended for non-Christians who wish to understand WHY the Christian faith is different.

3. "Every Storm", a stunning World War II romance by popular author Lori Wick.

The story tells of Lorri who is stranded alone on a South Pacific island after a plane crash until a PT boat, captained by Lt. Donovan Riggs, lands for repairs. But their encounter is just the beginning of something much more.

4. A.D. Chronicles by Bodie & Brock Thoene (pronounced Tay-nee) continue.

Book Three is "Third Watch" where you'll meet Jesus' first followers and join them on their journey to Yeshua. Book Four is "Fourth Dawn". As Herod plunges deeper into madness, where is the liberator who will set the world right? Travel back in time to first century A.D. for one of the most thrilling and significant stories you'll ever read as young Mary of Nazareth receives an unusual visitor who gives her a message that will impact Judea and change the world for eternity.

5. "The Maker's Diet" by Jordan S. Rubin.

He writes of the 40-day health experience that will change your life forever. Biblically based and scientifically proven, the Maker's Diet uses a truly holistic approach to health.

6. "The List" by Robert Whitlow.

Somewhere between the style of Frank Peretti and John Grisham lies the style of lawyer-turned-novelist Robert Whitlow. Renny Jacobson, fresh out of law school and stunned by his father's sudden death, is left only the contents of a deposit box and interest in an unknown company, the Covenant List of South Carolina, Ltd.

When he meets the members of "The List" and discovers the staggering value of his father's mysterious bequest, he starts to feel the supernatural powers of the 140-year-old covenant. When his life starts to unravel, he's forced to face the truth about "The List" and nothing short of a miracle will save him from its grasp.

7. In a different vein, Robert Whitlow wrote "Jimmy".

Jimmy Mitchell knows he's different from the other teen-agers in the little town of Piney Grove, Georgia. He's what people call "slow." But Jimmy sees and hears a lot, even the occasional "Watcher" (his mama calls them angels), and he can remember what he sees and hears with uncanny accuracy. This is why his lawyer/father asks him to testify as a defense witness in a criminal trial. Whitlow employs the limited viewpoint of an innocent child to illuminate complex human motives and often overlooked spiritual realities.

8. "Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers is a powerful retelling of the book of Hosea.

This is a life-changing story of God's all-powerful love. The characters are Michael Hosea and Angel, the girl God calls him to marry. It's set in California gold country in the 1850's. Angel fights Michael's tenderness tooth and nail. Will she let God heal her shattered heart?

9. "A Reason for Hope" by Michael S. Barry, Chaplain of Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

This is a book about taking control of your cancer rather than being controlled by it. The author has an insider's understanding of the cancer patient's need for a reason to hope.

10. "The Regime" by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins.

This is the latest book in the Left Behind series. For readers who are following this story, there are many questions to be answered concerning Rayford Steele and his family, Cameron Williams and Nicolae Carpathia.

~ Your Church Library Staff ~  
~ Helen LeFave and Barbara Jackson ~



## ***The Columbarium—A New Service for Church Members***

*By Rev. Richard L. Evans*

***The Church Council has approved the establishment of a Columbarium as a repository for cremated remains of church members and their families. The cabinet of 108 sealed niches with granite fronts will be erected against the east exterior wall of the Worship Center—facing the new parking area. Each niche will accommodate up to two urns. Future expansion will bring the total to 216 niches (and up to 432 urns).***

The Columbarium will be surrounded by a landscaped and fenced garden area—an ideal setting for meditation and prayer. A large bronze cross will be placed on the wall of the church, above the wall cabinet. The Columbarium will be a modern counterpart to the old church burial ground and is an appropriate final “resting place” for faithful followers of Christ and members of His Church.

Members of FUMCH may purchase niche spaces and reserve them until their time of need. The pre-construction price for each

niche is \$1,000—inclusive of either one or two bronze urns (made specifically for these niches) and one or two engraved bronze nameplates that will be attached to the granite front of the niche. There will be no additional charges beyond the original purchase price.

We need to sell at least 35 niches, at the pre-construction price, before we have sufficient funds to place our order. As of early January, we have sold slightly less than half that number. The committee is anxious to proceed so that we may complete the installation of the Columbarium and the Memorial Garden during 2006. If you’ve been thinking about it and have not yet decided, now is the time! Pick up an Application Packet from the church office and take advantage of the pre-construction price (which will increase once the Columbarium unit is installed).

For answers to your questions or for more information, call Lyn at the church office, Rev. Evans at home (563-5833), or any member of the Columbarium Committee.

## **Your IRAs—A Tax Timebomb?**

**By Rev. Richard L. Evans**

Traditional IRA plans have been around for over 20 years, and many people who created them are now facing the consequences. Some people who had the foresight to invest in IRAs for retirement were also successful in other areas of financial planning and, now that they are retired, they may not need the money.

However, Internal Revenue rules state that, whether the money is needed or not, owners must begin taking minimum annual distributions by age 70 ½. Since every dollar contributed to IRAs was tax-free, every dollar that comes out is fully taxed. So, for some, unneeded income results in unwanted taxes.

In order to minimize the problem, many people choose to take the smallest distribution possible from their IRAs. But this strategy often results in the IRA becoming part of the owner’s estate and with a significant tax burden being passed to his/her heirs.

So here’s an idea! During your lifetime, why not plan ahead to avoid unwanted taxes by designating your church as the beneficiary of the remainder of your IRA? You will want to check with your financial advisor, but you may find that the resulting charitable deduction will equal the income from the IRA distribution.

As a result of this plan, there will be no tax “shrinkage” on your IRA and 100 cents on each dollar will help extend the ministry and mission of First United Methodist Church, Homosassa. You can designate how you would like your gift to be used, if you wish. And your gift will qualify you for membership in our 5<sup>th</sup> Dimensions Society, along with others who have arranged planned and deferred gifts to the church. If you have questions or desire more information, contact the church office or me at home (563-5833).



## Holistic Small Groups Ministry



**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 on Thursday mornings at 11 am  
with Lyn Romano  
Room 203 — Conference Room  
628-4083

**First Place (daytime)**

Women's Physical and Spiritual Health  
Meets on Wednesday morning at 10am  
with Diane Gibbs and Donna Ludwick  
Room 106  
628-0688

**Discussion Groups:**

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

**First Place (evenings)**

Women's Physical and Spiritual Health  
Meets on Friday evenings at 5:30 pm  
with Diane Gibbs and Patience Nave  
Room 114  
628-0688 or 382-4171

**Support Groups:**

Cancer Survivors  
Meets once a month at 1 pm  
Anna Cooley and Earl Cadaret  
382-4132 or 382-1923

**Sugarmill Woods Area Bible Study**

Meets on Wednesdays at 3 pm  
with Bill and Barbara Gilbert  
382-4304

**Study Groups:**

Women's Bible Study  
Wednesday, 10 am with Marilyn Siegel  
At her home  
382-3774

**Christian Community Bible Study**

Call for meeting times and dates  
with Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise  
382-0699

*From The Desk of Pastor Steve*

**Contemporary Praise Service News**

**By Steve Skelley**

**After 6 months of some great worship, teaching and fellowship,  
we are taking a short hiatus.**

**Our goal is to spend some time seeking God's heart for ways to be more effective in reaching the dechurched and unchurched in the Homosassa / Homosassa Springs area. Keep us in your prayers as we seek His face.**

**We thank everyone who faithfully supported the Praise Ministry for those 6 months. We couldn't have done it without you. May God bless you richly.**

**Have Another Interest?  
Start Your Own  
Holistic Small Group**

**Do you have an idea for another Holistic Small Group?**

**Two more people have 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.**

**Steve Skelley Devotions  
Now On Local Website**

**Our Small Groups, Praise, and Youth Ministries Director Steve Skelley now has a monthly devotional available at the Sugarmill Woods website:  
[www.MySMW.com](http://www.MySMW.com)**



**Steve's weekly inspirational column is also available at [www.NaplesSunTimes.com](http://www.NaplesSunTimes.com) in the Faith Forum section.**



**Youth News**

**By Steve Skelley**

**In October, we attended a Devil Rays baseball game. In November, we visited the Homosassa Wildlife Park. In December, we ministered to residents at a local nursing home .**

**In January we went to the Christian-themed movie *The Chronicles Of Narnia*.**

**Pictured are: Helen, Samantha, Leslie, Mitchell, Ester, Steffy, Adam, Joyce Ann, and Steve.**

**Check with Steve Skelley to attend:  
February and March Youth Events**

**including the March 4 youth trip to the Plant City Strawberry Festival.**

**Grammy-winning Christian singer**

**Steven Curtis Chapman will be in concert.**

**Other events include the Chinese Acrobats and the Bikes/Boards/and Blades Freestyle Airshow!**



**Sunday School**

**Miss Joyce Ann leads our middle and high school youth in bible studies that focus on issues that teens face.**

**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.***





**Feeding Of The Lambs  
5 o'clock Service**



**Sacred Dance  
7 o'clock Service**



**Youth Choir at the 5 o'clock Service**



**Young Adult Quartet with Pastor Steve at the 5 o'clock Service**

***Christmas Photo Album***



**The church was filled to overflowing at the 7 O'Clock Service**



**The Blessing of the Toys ~ Christmas Day Service**



**Even the wildlife came.....**

## Education Corner

**EBADOC! EBADOC!** We see that word on the marquis out front, and Mark sometimes begins his announcements by saying, "EBADOC." Since almost everyone knows this is no English language word, it's not surprising if you don't know what it means.

Usually when the word comes up in conversation, someone will quickly translate. Often when we are enjoying a Wonderful Wednesday dinner, someone asks the whole crowd to tell what it means. We timidly say what we think, and then we have to say it again—louder! "Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ—EBADOC"—the motto of our church. If you didn't know it before, now you do. We can all "mouth" the words.

But what if we are no longer asked to shout out the motto? What if instead we were asked to tell someone exactly what our motto means? Could we do it? What is a disciple, and how do you become one? Are you already a disciple, and if so how do you become a better one? These words must be important if the church council has adopted them as the motto for our church.

On *March 3-5*, John Riley, a dynamic layman from Alabama, will be at our church to lead us in a couple days of seriously considering what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. He comes to us with the highest possible recommendations, and we are planning a great weekend of fun and fellowship, beginning with a covered-dish dinner on Friday night. On Saturday morning the men will have breakfast with him for "men talk," and at lunch he'll focus on issues that impact the women. Saturday night we'll have another dinner together to hear him share, and Sunday he will speak at all the services.

I hope you will mark your calendar now to reserve the weekend for this important time in the life of our church—a time which will impact us both individually and collectively.

## Walking On The Path

Patience Nave

*"In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

Romans 12:5

God often teaches me things through our granddaughter Elizabeth. While she was here recently, she complained about a sore finger. Though I looked closely, I couldn't find a thing. She kept coming back, and finally her eyes filled with tears as she asked me to *please* do something about her aching finger.

I looked again—this time with the advantage of glasses, magnifying glass, and the bright morning sunshine. The good light and two sets of magnification revealed the tiniest of black spots right at the edge of her nail. A very small splinter! We knelt in the sunlight at the window, and, with the help of a sterilized needle, began the painful process of removing the splinter. God not only helped me remove the source of her pain but talked to me about what I had found.

In Romans 12, Paul tells us that we, as believers, are the visible "body of Christ." This means, of course, that what impacts one of us impacts the whole body. I understand that concept when it comes to sharing someone else's grief or feeling the joy of others when they hear good news. But, God reminded me, do I realize that if sin has entered my life—even the tiniest little splinter of sin— it can cause great pain in the whole body? Do I remember my life must be placed in the bright sunlight of His Word, with the magnification of the Holy Spirit's insight to find where and what the sin is so I can confess it and He can remove it? Is the whole body of Christ at Homosassa United Methodist Church rendered less effective than it could be because of a "splinter of sin" in my life?

*Prayer: Father, I don't want—we don't want—anything in life to hinder Your good work through our church—Your Church. Shine Your bright light of revelation on each of us, and if You find any splinters—large or small—cause us to come to You to remove them through our confession and Your forgiveness. Make us a pure church so that You can minister to the dying world around us through a church unencumbered by our sin. Amen.*

### I Will Go, Lord

Patience Nave

I continue to be amazed at the faithfulness of our Visitation Committee. The day after Christmas, almost all of the committee was there to pray for our sick and to send notes and cards! January 2, the same thing happened. They told me the only time they will not meet is when Christmas Day falls on Monday. So I guess we will reschedule our meeting for this coming December 25—which is on Monday.

We continue to visit our members in homes, extended-care facilities, and hospitals. A dedicated group calls those whom we know have missed a few Sundays to be sure they know they are missed and to find out if there is anything we can do to help them. We write cards to shut-ins and to those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Notice the column in *Genesis* listing the birthdays and anniversaries of our members. Many have been married *over 50 years—even over 60 years*. Some are getting close to *70 years!* This surely testifies to a sense of commitment and God's blessing.

This Christmas we took soup to some of our shut-ins. We made small portions that can be taken from the freezer and make a hearty meal without having to cook a whole pot. We plan to do more of this during the cold weather.

We depend on you to keep us aware of who is sick, who is in the hospital, and who needs our attention. Thank you for helping us not to overlook anyone. Don't forget to call us. And if God prompts you to become involved in this most rewarding of ministries, we'd really like to have you join us. Stay well!



**In And About Our Church**

1  
Sarah Clewett

15  
Harold Slusher  
Bill Jahn  
David Brightman

3  
Gini Slusher  
John Hoadley  
Syble Little  
Harold Marvin  
Karen Kline

16  
Barbara Phillips  
Todd Little  
Judy Lipovetz  
Judy O’Gorman

4  
Phyllis Grotjahn

17  
Delmar Meewes  
Bernice Wade  
Marilyn McKown

5  
Arlene Stohrer  
Elizabeth Smith

18  
Audrey Gregory  
Alice Hurley

6  
Neill Lent  
Marjorie Ottman

19  
Marvin West

7  
Frances Ericksen  
Allen Stone  
Roberta Little

20.  
Ben Toole  
Patricia Urzen  
Candy McFarland

8  
Donna Yuschak

21  
Jack Radabaugh  
Pat Layman  
Neil Kline

9  
Bill Barton  
Wanda Wheeler

23  
Raymond Bender

10  
Pam Milat

11  
Barbara Smith  
Bud Ludwick

25  
Jack Ness  
Richard Hartley  
Donna Ludwick

12  
Maddie Wallace  
Audrey Hite

26  
Marilyn Kohler

14  
Helen Harris  
Pam Bailey  
Pamela Patton

27  
Maureen Samstag

28  
Ray Royal  
Richard Evans

**February Anniversaries**

1  
Olive & Alex  
Stevens ~ 55 years

2  
Sharon & James  
Haskell ~ 42 years

Carole & Charles  
Weinberger ~  
44 years

15  
JoAnn & Edwin  
White ~ 14 years

Helen & Frank  
Zack ~ 64 years

16  
Diane & John  
Gibbs ~ 43 years

Beulah & Glenn  
Seiler ~ 54 years

17  
Loretta & Alan  
Burcaw ~ 16 years

Althea & Arthur  
Stuckey ~ 42 years

23  
Dorothea & Waldo  
Shellenberg ~  
49 years

26  
Ina & Joe Ryder ~  
6 years

27  
Gail & Richard  
English ~ 37 years

Barrington Place  
Ken McGuire

Brentwood  
Betty Pettit  
Rene Dube

Brentwood  
Independent  
Living  
Evelyn Bash  
Richard Pettit

Crystal River Rehab  
Robert Smith  
Ralph & Helen  
Hudson

Cypress Cove  
Julia Wilkinson  
Ruth E. Smith  
Jack Mallet  
Willie Smith  
Audrey Gregory

Cedar Creek  
Bill Marquis

Sugarmill Manor  
Ray Short  
Grace Payne  
Mary Ellen Cole  
Del Parker

Surrey Place  
Maddie Wallace  
Marjorie Cook  
Eugene McEachin

February 2006						
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				



**Hospice At Home**  
Ray Bender

**Recovering At Home**

Yvonne Beck  
Paul Warner  
Betty Huffstutler  
Barbara Froedge  
Emily Walker

**Homebound**

Hilma Carlson  
Fran Erikson  
Bill Wells  
Margaret & Ashton Sawyer  
Ruth Smith  
Paul Glen  
Warren McDonald  
Etta Whildon  
Charlotte Carlson  
Al Cuko  
Alma Mallet  
Armin Marvin  
Don Oblinger  
Regina & Will Park

**Thank you,**  
**First UMC!**

*(On December 11, eleven youth and parents went to Sugarmill Manor to minister to the residents. We sang Christmas carols, took song requests and handed each resident a special Christmas teddy bear. We received the following note from Sugarmill Manor.)*

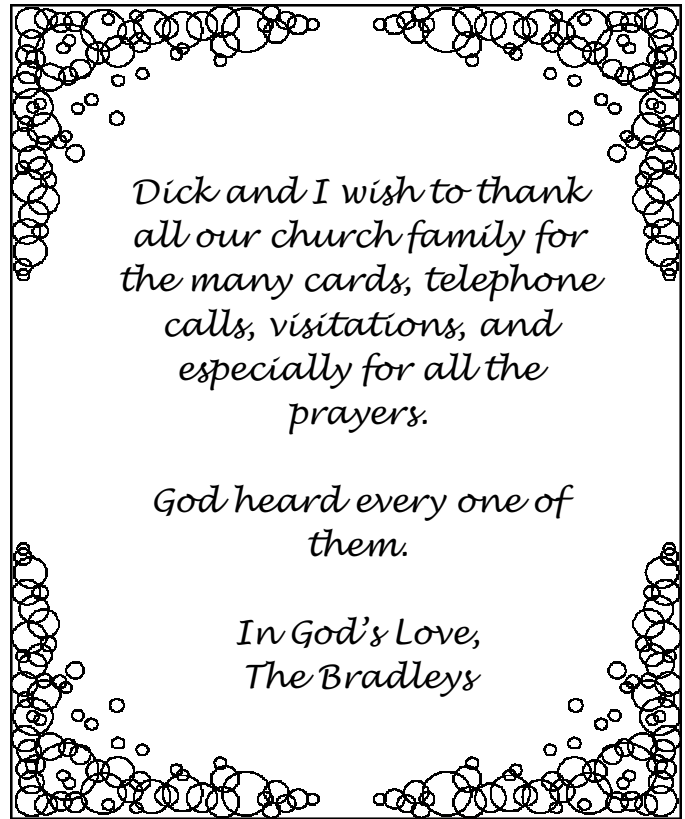
On behalf of all the residents of Sugarmill Manor, please let me thank you.

We enjoyed the carolers and the songs.

Residents especially enjoyed receiving the stuffed teddy bears.

Thank you so much for sharing your good holiday cheer with all of us.

Elaine Heller  
Activities Director /  
Sugarmill Manor



*Dick and I wish to thank all our church family for the many cards, telephone calls, visitations, and especially for all the prayers.*

*God heard every one of them.*

*In God's Love,  
The Bradleys*

**Wonderful Wednesday**

**~ February 8 ~**

Due to an overwhelming response to the December 14th musical program, with our own talented Barbershop Quartet, it gives us pleasure to bring you more musical entertainment.

***Steve & Steffy Skelley***

**Uplifting Praise Music,  
50's & 60's Sing-A-Long**

**Come sing-a-long to many of your favorite songs.**

**~ February 22 ~**

***"Authors Evening"***

Make your reservations for a delicious meal, 5:30 pm, and meet several of the authors and composers in our congregation.

Each will speak briefly and read (or play) an excerpt of their works. Several of the authors will be signing books before and after the program.

Evelyn C. Bash, Jan Wise, Richard Evans, & Joy Potts will be among the presenters.

Don't forget to sign up on the Attendance Pad on Sunday morning, and the number in your party. Show your support for the hard work each of our guests/committee put forth.

**First United Methodist Women's Unit Meeting**

**February 14, 2006  
10:00 am**

**Spiritual Renewal Brunch**

**Program: Isaiah foundation**

**Speaker: Penny Phares**

**Leader: Myrna Evans.**

*Social Life Coordinator*

**Hostesses: Helping Hand Circle**



## SHARE, A New Beginning

SHARE has had its best year in 2005, with a total of \$15,600.00.

For December alone, we had a total of \$2,370.00. That's almost 50% over the monthly average. Our total sales from when we started in October of 2000 are almost \$75,000.00. That mounts up to a lot of savings for everyone.

There are so many families out there that have benefited from this program, and we need to get the word out to even more.

The secret behind our success is the many volunteers who put their time and talents into making everything work. There are those who do the paper work, the drivers who use their own trucks to pick up the food and the people who come out faithfully every D-Day to help hand out the food and clean up. Without them, SHARE would be closed.

We want to give a special "Thank You" to those who came out in November and December to handle the extra large orders.

Become a SHARE Volunteer. You can become a part of SHARE just by doing a few small things.

- First, if you buy groceries from the local store, check out our prices and items. You don't have to buy every month but remember that all our meats come frozen so you can take them home and use them when you want.
- Second, if you know a family struggling to make ends

meet, tell them about the program. Take home a SHARE news paper and pass it around to your neighbors. If you want to help a family, get a basic package for them, or you can make a donation to SHARE. We will use it to buy for families we find coming into the program for the first time. Sales need to be kept up. We have better buying power if we order more.

How can you find out about next month's menu?

Go to the SHARE website at [www.shareflorida.com](http://www.shareflorida.com).

Look over the menu and see what's coming up so you can plan your buying and meals. Check out the recipes for the items being sold. There is a lot of information there worth checking out.

By Tom and Nancy Pearo

SHARE 2006		
MONTH	SIGN UP	D-DAY
January	4th & 7th	21st
February	8th & 11th	25th
March	8th & 11th	25th
April	5th & 8th	22nd
May	3rd & 6th	20th
June	7th & 10th	24th
July	12th & 15th	29th
August	9th & 12th	26th
September	6th & 9th	23rd
October	4th & 7th	21st
November	1st & 4th	18th
December	29th & 2nd	16th

Sign up times are from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, of a Wednesday and Saturday after the first of the month. Sign up on D-Days 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

**From The Desk of SHARE FLORIDA**

## HENRYS HAVE BUSY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

The Joe Henry missionary family we help in Chiang Mai, Thailand, wrote they expected to have a quiet Christmas week, but found that "God had different plans."

In the monthly prayer bulletin they said:

**DEC. 24** – Attended their Thai cell group's Christmas party, which included several non-believing neighbors; saw the generosity of leaders, Ogot and Di who "made the difficult decision" to buy small gifts for their friends' children and the orphans who they would be visiting on Christmas day instead of buying gifts for their own children.



**DEC.25** – After a "great morning of fellowship and worship" visited an orphanage with members of the Chiang Mai Baptist Church.

At the orphanage they sang songs, played games and shared the children's Christmas play.



They returned home at 4 p.m. to open the family's gifts.



**DEC. 26 & 27** – Met on two occasions with Ogot and Di and their families including once for Joe's birthday.

The two couples feel the Lord may be guiding them to work together on a new church birthed out of the Chiang Mai Church where they attend. The pastor, who has been mentoring Ogot for two years, recommended the two couples pray about this.

**DEC. 28** – Joe and Elaine were asked to have lunch with Pastor Tawaat and his wife. The Henrys did not realize the main purpose was to determine their language skills. After they did well, he asked Joe to work at CMBC's Bible school this summer when another missionary goes on furlough. Joe views it as a wonderful opportunity to study the Thai Scriptures and to learn to share the Gospel in a culturally relevant way.

**DEC. 29** – Joe, Pastor Tawaat, Ogot, and two other men visited a small church connected to CMBC. It was located in a tribal area two hours north of Chiang Mai. Joe wrote it was a great opportunity to see God working in a small Thai village and to observe a rural church-planting ministry.

The couple wrote, "Please pray with us that we will allow these opportunities to correctly shape our future service for the Lord. We are excited that He is opening so many doors for us to serve here in Chiang Mai."

They also noted that after a few lean months their mission financial account "is in the red for about \$1300."

Also later in the month they are scheduled to attend a week-long conference costing \$1000, but probably will not attend because their account is already negative. They ask that we join them in praying about their finances.



## WOOSTERS FIND MOSCOW COLD AND SNOWY

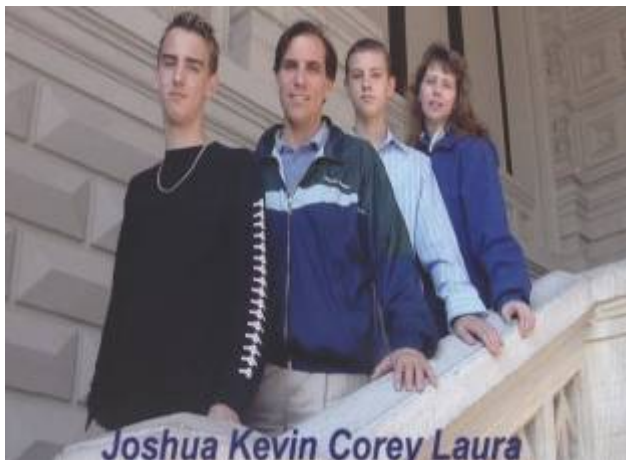
The Kevin Wooster missionaries we help in Moscow, Russia, report that winter weather has arrived with 15 degree weather, plenty of snow and few sunny days.

They are meeting with a small group with whom they are using the book, "On the Road to Emmaus," along with games, movies and music to establish interest. They write, "we have had many serious and interesting conversations over the past year and a half. We've had a couple get married during this time and are blessed to be able to show them how a Christian marriage works."

The Woosters continued, "Over the holidays, we had a party with traditional American food, a white elephant gift exchange, and watched 'It's A Wonderful Life.'

"After the film a couple was teary eyed and we had an awesome discussion about the difference we each can make in people's lives and the importance of being true friends."

Both of the Woosters sons, Joshua and Corey, are playing on the varsity basketball team. Joshua finds it particularly challenging this year because he is the "point guard," a new position for him.



### Hello Thailand.... Hello Russia....

Jack Radabaugh monitors calls to our missionaries at Wonderful Wednesday dinner on January 11th.

### 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.



### To contact the Henrys:

**Email:** jebjcyj@eroam.net

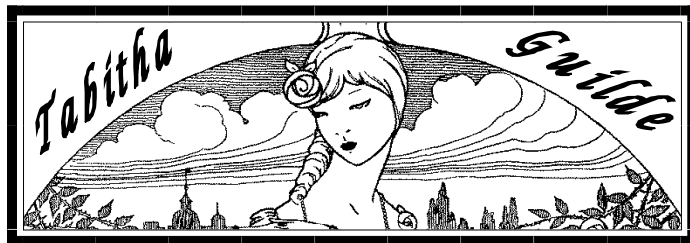
### Snail Mail:

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



**February 17  
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**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Blood  
DRIVE**

**The Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot, under the trees facing Bradshaw on:**

**March 12, 2006,  
at 7:45AM to 1:00PM**

**For more information call:  
Barbara Jackson at 382-2705**

**A note of "Thank You" was received from Life South Community Blood Center, stating,**

**"We are truly grateful for your support for our community blood supply.**

**Blood donations are a unique, tangible way to make a difference for life."**

**Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?**



Going through a tough time—emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down?

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with a pastor or Stephen Leader.

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

— Galatians 6:2

**Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

**A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend!**



Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative going through a difficult time?

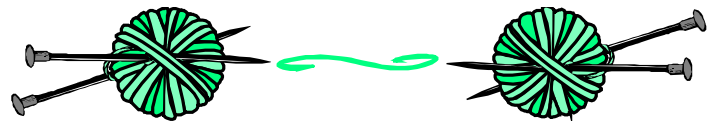
A Stephen Minister may be able to offer the support he or she needs. Stephen Ministers are members of our church trained to provide emotional and spiritual care to people who are hurting.

To learn how you can help a friend receive care, talk with a pastor or Stephen Leader.

*"As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

— John 13:34b

**Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**



**Seeking Yarn Donations!  
Knitting Worsted Weight Only.  
~ No Black ~ Any other color!  
Drop-off to Pat Blake in The Sorting Room  
or Judith Huffer in Room 202**



**I am so happy to see that the knitting instructions for "Knit For Kids" T-Top, hanging on the bulletin board between the Educational and Administration wings, are being taken! I pray for at least one sweater from each booklet.**

**KEEP KNITTING, LADIES!**

*Judith*

**There will be a new Stephen Minister Class beginning soon.**

**Watch for an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin and/or Genesis.**

**Contact Diane Cary  
or  
Kay Bast**

## January 10, 2006 New Member Reception

The United Methodist Women held their Unit meeting on Tuesday evening, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was hosted by Membership Coordinator, Lorraine Tollefson and President, Pat Blake.

A Tea and Dessert preceded the meeting. All women who had joined our church in 2005 were invited, and we were happy to welcome eight guests.

Fran Graham was the speaker who gave our membership and guests an orientation on the mission projects in which our unit is involved.

She also told about the five Circles we have, with the hope that our guests would join one and meet new friends along with getting involved in the events we sponsor such as the Fall Bazaar and Lenten Soup Suppers.

The U.M.W. is a community of women who are bound together with the purpose of providing love and aid to others locally and worldwide.

Fran's talk was interspersed with much humor. She prompted us to ask ourselves, "Should I or Shouldn't I" when making decisions about joining a group or project. She challenged us to think about whether we are choosing something that will really fit our needs, time and interests.

We pray that our women will accept this challenge.

## Mississippi Reconstruction Team has safely returned to Homosassa.

Pastor Mark's group worked on restoring a home on nine foot stilts and others from FUMCH worked on restoring a non-denominational church.

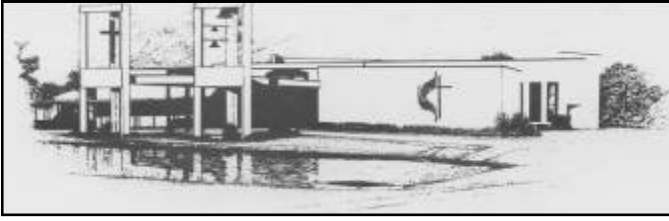
They slept on cots with foam mattresses and noted that the devastation was beyond belief. *(Photos by Pastor Mark)*



**UMW President Pat Blake & Guest Speaker Fran Graham**

**First United Methodist Church  
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



***A Stephen Ministry Church***



**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**

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