

# GENESIS

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

JANUARY 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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by Pastor Mark Whittaker



It is seeing the same old things in a brand new light and celebrating the change that they bring into our lives.

It is also the time when we bring the light. It is the time of the year when we make a special point of talking about bringing the light of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard about him as well as to those who have heard but have never made his truth and life a part of their lives.

Come and celebrate Epiphany with us this year and invite the light of the world into your life so that you can share him with all those you meet.

Have you ever seen a cartoon when the character suddenly gets a brilliant idea and a light bulb goes off over his head?

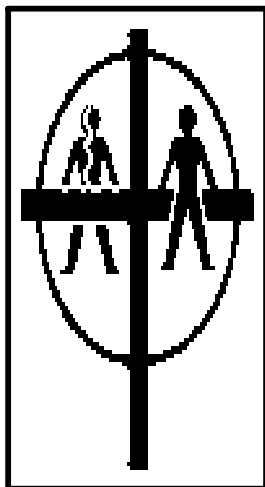
when we missed finding the connection. The Epiphany Season of the church is a new awareness of the presence of Jesus Christ.

The character has had an epiphany, a great moment of insight and understanding. It is a time when the light dawns!

It is the light of the world coming to light our lives and give us a new understanding of what abundant life is really all about.

An epiphany is a new understanding, a new way of thinking about something, a new way to connect what we thought was totally unconnected - or

But epiphany is also our discovering new insight, new understanding, of what God is doing in the world around us.



We are a Stephen Ministry Church

## Join Us For Our Contemporary Praise Service! Saturday Evenings at 6:30 pm

(There will be no service New Year's Eve.)

With coffee, dessert, and fellowship time that includes an open microphone session where you can share a song, poem, or testimony.

Our worship service begins at 7 pm. 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.



Pastor Steve Skelley

# "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



Louis, Cora, Julie & Tiffany Garthaus



Tom & Nancy Pearo



Wrapping Snickers Bars



Steve, Steffy & Joyce Ann Skelley

## A Hand Reaching Out to Mississippi

The area of Hancock County in Mississippi was devastated by hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, and they are nowhere near recovered from the blow.

It has been a terrible fall and winter with nothing but destruction and ruin all around. It is almost numbing to have to live among the debris. It is hard to get up each day and go back into the fight, yet there are bright spots of hope.

People from all over the country have been coming in almost overwhelming numbers to help with the relief and recovery efforts in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

They are there to share the love of God with the people who have been badly hurt by the forces of nature. One of the biggest problem the communities affected have is how to take care of all the people who want to come and help.

Working with three other United Methodist churches in Citrus County we will be going to Bay Saint Louis in Hancock County January 9-14 of this year.

We are going to be working out of Main Street U.M.C. and will be engaged in reconstruction and repair of the houses that are still standing in that city.

Over half of the houses were destroyed but the church is still there, and they have an active and ongoing ministry to the people who are struggling to bring their community back to life after the storm.

Part of your support to the Hurricane Fund will be used to meet the needs of the people where they are right now. We don't want to send them clean up supplies when what they need are dry wall and shingles.

We are going to be in communication with them so we can provide the support and help that they need the most when we get there.

This will be a very long recovery process, but with your prayers and continued support we will be a part of the solution.

Thank you for your support and your prayers.

If you are interested in going on a future trip to help with the recovery process, please let the pastor know and we will begin planning for the next trip.



**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
remembered

The African American Alliance Ministers of Crystal River are hosting the First Annual Event in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This weekend of celebration will begin on **Saturday, January 14th** and conclude on Monday January 16th and is open to the entire community.

The celebration will include:  
A picnic at Copeland Park on Saturday.  
A worship service at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church on Sunday the 15th at 5 pm.  
A parade on Monday, from Citrus Ave. to Copeland Park, starting at 10 a.m.

Each church is encouraged to participate in the parade with floats, marchers and banners.

You are invited to come and participate as we remember the contributions that Dr. King made to the cause of justice and equality in our world.

**From Pastor Mark's Desk**



"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord" makes a good first line of the chorus of a song.

But does it happen in reality?

Do we work together to bring about the kingdom or are we so concerned about our piece of it that we don't have time to look beyond our own walls?

The North Sun Coast Ministerial Association is sponsoring an Ecumenical Celebration for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We are planning a service here at Homosassa **Sunday, January 22, 2006 at 3 pm.**

We are inviting the whole community to gather to lift one another up and to worship together as God's people sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ with all we meet.

We invite you to come to this special service and be a part of the family of God because we are "one in the Spirit, one in the Lord."

## AS YOU HAVE DONE IT UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE

The Bible is very clear about our role in reaching out to the poor and those in need of help.

Jesus said, "This is my commandment that you love one another." In Matt. 25:40 and following he talks about caring for the least of his children.

The Bishop of the Annual Conference has asked all the churches in Florida to expand their outreach ministries.

The question he posed to us was: "If your church were to close, would anyone in the community notice?"

I believe that it would leave a large hole in the community if we were to suddenly stop doing all that we do.

But we don't know all that you do. There are many of you that are active in groups and clubs and organizations outside the Church that are your witness to the love of Jesus Christ to the people of our community.

We would like to get a list together so we can get an idea of all the different places where we are involved, locally and across our country.

Are you involved in an outreach ministry in our community or our church?

Do you give time to an organization that helps others?

Any service clubs or projects both in and around the church are important to us.

For example, are you involved in ringing bells for the Salvation Army, active in P.E.O. or Rotary, Habitat, Hospice, Clowns, Key Center, Food programs here at the church etc., etc., etc.

We would appreciate it if you would write what you do and your name on the form below and put it in the offering plate. This way we will have a list to bring to the Charge Conference next year when the District Superintendent comes to lead the meeting.

Thank you for your help in putting this list together.

**SERVICE PROJECT(S):**

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**NAME:**

## Panama Canal Cruise April, 2007 by Richard Evans

In early March 2006, twenty-two members and friends of FUMCH will depart for an informative and inspirational cruise/tour from Greece to Italy ending in Nice, on the French Riviera.

Rev. Ernie Dorrell and I are tour hosts for this exciting trip. When I retired for the second time (two years ago), I agreed to plan and lead one major international trip for church members and friends each year.

I have been in touch with the Holland America Cruise Line about a Panama Trans-Canal Cruise during April 2007.

Each spring the major cruise lines reposition some of their ships from the Caribbean to Seattle or Vancouver in preparation for summer cruises to Alaska. The pricing on many of these "repositioning" cruises is quite competitive.

I am proposing a cruise from Florida (probably departing from Ft. Lauderdale)

through the Panama Canal, with ports-of-call along the coast of western Mexico and California and ending either in Seattle WA or Vancouver BC.

Although brochures and pricing will not be ready for several more months, I think we can expect that cabins will start between \$2,500 and \$3,000 (between 18 and 21 days, depending on the itinerary.)

Those who are interested should to be ready to register as soon as HAL begins taking reservations—sometime in the spring of 2006.

Call Lyn at the church office and ask her to put your name on the "Panama Canal" list. We'll give you a brochure as soon as we receive them.

Imagine—2 1/2 to 3 weeks of relaxing vacationing to such interesting places, and only unpacking once!

I'm really looking forward to it. I hope you will too! And I'll keep you posted as our plans continue.

**From Rev. Richard Evans's Desk**

## Workshop Planned on End-of-Life Issues

"Are You Ready?"

Saturday, February 18, 2006

9:00 AM until Noon, in Fellowship Hall.

All members and friends of FUMCH are invited to this special program coordinated by our Permanent Endowment Committee.

A continental breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM and the program will begin promptly at 9:30. A Presentation Panel will consist of a Pastor, a local Attorney, a local Funeral Director, a representative of Hospice, and a Widow from our congregation. The panel will address many important issues, including:

- Planning ahead: a gift to your family!
- Our final days; where will we live?
- What documents do we need?
- What should we know about organ and tissue donation?
- Cremation or traditional burial?
- The funeral or memorial service—a celebration of life!

*There is no charge for the workshop. All participants will receive a packet of helpful materials. Please call the church office to add your name(s) to the list of those planning to attend. (We want to have a sufficient number of packets ready as well as enough food). I look forward to seeing you there.*

# Fifth Dimension Society Honors Church Members

## By Rev. Richard Evans

The 5th Dimension Society continues to honor the members and friends who have made "planned gifts" to First United Methodist Church, Homosassa.

Since planned gifts are so vital to the future of FUMCH, the society symbolizes the importance the church places on this kind of commitment.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society is one way the church can say "thank you" to such foresighted and generous people.

As I consider Christian stewardship, I think of five dimensions.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Dimension consists of the contributions made in response to a variety of appeals from both within and beyond the church. Many Christians give generously to such appeals.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Dimension is goal-driven giving in response to a stated goal, such as the amount needed to operate the church in a given year and the amount needed to build new buildings over several years. Many Christians "stretch" their giving in response to such goals.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Dimension is proportional giving—setting a goal to give a certain percentage of our income. Many Christians have worked their way up to the Biblical tithe (10%) or beyond.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension moves us beyond our annual income to our accumulated assets as a source of our giving. Some members have given real estate, stocks, and bonds (often highly appreciated and with significant tax advantages).

The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension goes one step further and consists of using accumulated assets to fund planned or deferred gifts—gifts that make it possible for our Christian stewardship to continue for years to come.

Membership in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society is open to all members and friends of FUMCH, and the following kinds of gifts qualify for membership:

- 1. A *Will* directing a portion of your estate to FUMCH.
- 2. A *Trust* arrangement naming FUMCH as a beneficiary.
- 3. A *Life Insurance Policy* naming FUMCH as a beneficiary.
- 4. A *Charitable Gift Annuity* naming FUMCH as a beneficiary.
- 5. A *Gift of Property*, with retained life interest, to FUMCH.
- 6. A portion of an *IRA* or other *Retirement Plan*, naming FUMCH as a beneficiary.

If you have made a planned gift that includes FUMCH or if you are interested in more information about the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society and opportunities for giving to FUMCH, please contact the church office or me at home (563-5833).

## Authors' Evening—February 22

The program following our Wonderful Wednesday Dinner will feature some of our own published authors including Evelyn C. Bash, Richard L. Evans, and Jan Wise.

The program will also include our own Joy Potts, who is an accomplished composer.

If there are other authors and composers among us who have had works published during the past decade, please let Lyn know at the church office.

We'd like to include them in the program.



**Youth Fun Trips!**

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.

Check with Steve Skelley for January and February Youth Events!

**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 \$300.

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!



**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 his/her 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. These cover just about any issue a teen may face in life and provide biblical advice to help make good, informed decisions. We are giving young people the tools they need to make Biblical choices for the issues they face every day.



Our Youth Fellowship has joined Adopt-A-Park and adopted Bluebird Springs Park as a community service mission for 2006.

Left to Right:

Helen McCallister, Steffy Skelley, Leslie Montgomery, Samantha McCallister.

***From The Desk of Pastor Steve***

## Holistic Small Group Ministry News

### **Find A Holistic Small Group Just Right For You!**

Our Holistic Small Groups are growing! We now have seven groups in operation and one soon to launch.

Bill Ackerman's Current Events HSG has nine committed participants. He reports that people are very supportive and participating well.

Marilyn Siegel's Women's Bible Study HSG is currently using a curriculum titled "12 Steps To A More Organized Woman." The group ministers to women and is doing wonderfully.

Lyn's Women's Prayer HSG meets weekly and is studying a curriculum titled "From The Heart." I have heard only positive feedback from the group! They average 6-8 participants.

Anna Cooley and Earl Cadaret's Cancer Survivors group held its first meeting. It had four participants at its launch. Since a HSG is defined as 4-12 participants, they are doing fine. Tell someone about this excellent support group.

Bill and Barbara Gilbert have teamed with Pastor Mark to launch a Bible Study HSG in their home using a curriculum titled "A Faith For All Seasons."

Diane Gibbs and Donna Ludwick's HSG is using a curriculum titled "First Place" which focuses on women's physical and spiritual health. Their HSG quickly reached maximum attendance of 12.

Diane Gibbs and Patience Nave have launched a second "First Place" HSG. None of the participants enrolled to date are from First UMC. Their group is definitely affecting the Homosassa area community.

Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise are going to launch a new group that will study Christian community. They are currently reviewing some Cokesbury curriculum as well as considering writing some of their own.

If you'd like to attend a small group meeting, just call the church office for the phone numbers of Group Facilitators. We'll be happy to help!

### **Have Another Interest? 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.

#### 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.





**Feeding Of The Lambs ~ December 11**



**If you missed this Wonderful Wednesday supper, you missed a great show! Thank you Joy, Jim, Ernie, & Ron.**



**Clarence Kohler & Lloyd Pond spent a Monday harvesting 9 citrus trees. 500-plus lbs of citrus was divided amongst: FUMC Food Pantry, SHARE, & Family Resource Center in Hernando. (Thanks, guys! Editor)**

**Thank You, to all, for your generous contributions to our Christmas Toys for Children programs!**  
  
**1800 children in Citrus County are going to have Christmas presents, on Christmas Day, thanks to the caring and giving citizens of this county.**



**Can you believe it? December 11th and we have platter-size roses in our church garden!**

**December Photo Album**

**It's a New Year and we are featuring new books -  
but - the best books are those that never grow old.  
By Helen Lefave**

Featured this month is author Karen Kingsbury, one of America's favorite inspirational storytellers, best known for her life-changing fiction.

She has written more than 30 gripping novels. Her books have helped readers with their own lives and problems.

"A Kingsbury Collection" encompasses three page-turning novels in one - "Where Yesterday Lives", "When Joy Came to Stay" and "On Every Side".

A separate novel is "Fame". The subject is that sometimes living a dream costs everything.

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"The Unseen Essential" by James P. Gills, M.D. is a story for our troubled times.

Michael Nostasis is handsome, brilliant, successful. He "has it all" until the night that marks the pinnacle of his career. Life sets him on a course that will change him forever.

This is a contemporary novel about one man's poignant, face-to-face encounter with himself and ultimately with God.

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On the National Best Seller List is another great storyteller, Adriana Trigiani.

The first of three books that we've acquired is "Big Stone Gap", a Southern novel that is chock full of engaging oddball characters and unexpected plot twists.

The tiny town of Big Stone Gap is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and is home to some of the most charming eccentrics in the state.

This is followed by Book two, "Big Cherry Holler", eight years later and covers unexpected events that are funny and yet deeply poignant.

The main character in all the books is Ave Maria Mulligan, and in Book Three, "Milk Glass Moon" continues to follow her life.

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"Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" by Dai Sijie, is a funny, touching, sly and delightful novel about the magic of reading.

Two city boys are exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There they meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation.

Between flirting with the seamstress and secretly devouring these banned works, they find outside their grim surroundings worlds they never imagined.

"Off the Mangrove Coast" is a collection of classic adventure tales by Louis L'Amour who is an American legend and master storyteller.

The hallmark of his fiction is relentless suspense, breathtaking danger and riveting characters.

These nine stories take you from the jungles of Borneo to hidden canyons of the American West, from a Parisian cafe at the end of World War II to the South China Sea.

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These books will be on the display shelves to the right of the door when entering the Library.

Please date and sign the card in the back of the book and leave the card in the yellow box on the desk.

The Library is closed on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Besides our books of fiction, there are biographies, devotional books, magazines that you can take home and return, humor and reference material.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**  
from your Library Staff,  
Barbara Jackson  
and  
Helen Lefave

**Education Corner**

Many years ago, when my husband was in graduate school, I typed a paper for him in which he said, "Education is a life-long process."

Whether that sentence was his or a quote from one of the books he was studying, I don't remember. I do know that I became an absolute proponent of the philosophy.

Of course, the "education" to which he was referring was the general kind, but I am convinced it applies to all education—general and spiritual.

That's why we are bringing educational opportunities to the whole church for on-going spiritual growth.

Let me remind you of several:

- Sunday school classes now exist for almost all ages! There *must* be one that will fit your needs and in which you can fulfill your part of our church mission—*everyone becoming a disciple of Christ!* If you are not sure which one, call me and I'll help you decide.
- Small groups are springing up everywhere. Call Steve Skelley to get help in determining which one suits your needs.

John Riley will be here February 24-26 for our church retreat. He is a former football player from Alabama, a great speaker, and will challenge us to grow up in our Christian faith. Please don't miss this great opportunity. You'll hear more as we get closer to the date.

We also have a couple of very serious needs:

We have a class of children, kindergarten through grade two, that needs a teacher. They cannot grow without a teacher!

Someone now serves as a "fill in" (And she is doing a wonderful job, but she doesn't think this is what God wants her to be doing) until the person whom God wants to do this recognizes his/her opportunity.

Are you that person? These children are so precious, like little sponges. What a tremendous opportunity to introduce them to a life-long walk with Jesus!

Call me, either at the church or at home (382-4171), if you think you are the person God wants to help them understand our mission of *everyone becoming a disciple of Christ.*

Some of our young people are in college locally. Some are working locally. We need to begin a class for them—a class that would complete our Sunday school offerings and make it possible for us to offer on-going education to all age groups.

Our mission of *everyone becoming a disciple of Christ* will not be realized unless we find the person to lead them in their personal growth. Is this the place for you to serve? Call me and I'll help you get started!

David says in the scripture, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

If all of us are serious about our mission statement, if it is true we believe that in our church *everyone* [is] *becoming a disciple of Christ*, the "everyone" includes each of us.

Find the place that fits you and your personal study or in which you can learn as you teach.

Hide God's Word in your heart as a protection against sinning against Him!

**From The Desk of Patience Ware**

## Walking On The Path

Patience Nave

***"Now we see through a glass darkly, then face to face; now we know in part, then shall we know even as also we are known."***

***I Corinthians 13:12***

We have a wonderful little black cocker named Cisco. The other day God made the above verse come alive to me through something I was doing for him.

We have an electric underground fence, and Cisco is well trained to avoid the "reminder" that his collar gives when he gets too close to the fence. At night when he goes out, I turn on the light in the back yard so that he can see where he is and not wander accidentally too close to the fence.

Last week, I forgot the light and opened the door to let him out. He paused on the stoop, unsure of the darkness. I realized what I had done but waited to see if he would go to the yard. The reflection of the room was apparent in the door's glass, but I couldn't see the yard. That's when I heard in my head, "Now we see through a glass darkly."

I turned on the light, his familiar back yard became clear to both of us, and he was free to go. As I stood there, I thought how much people are like our little Cisco. If we cannot see where we are going, we are hesitant to take a step toward what is "out there."

I believe that Paul is talking in the above verse about the eternal unknowns, but couldn't it also apply to the New Year? We're unsure about many things, but we should take great comfort in knowing that as we step into the future—eternal or 2006—God will be there and will turn the light on so we can see.

***Prayer: Father, how foolish we are to want to understand what tomorrow holds. Keep us from fear of the unknown. Remind us that you will take care of tomorrow. We trust you to turn on the light as we step into the unknowns and to be there to walk through them with us. Amen***

## I Will Go, Lord

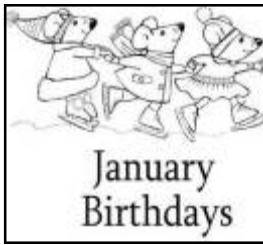
Patience Nave

Your Visitation Committee continues to pray for our sick and to visit them as frequently as we can. We also send lots of cards and make many telephone calls.

We try very hard not to miss anyone, but on occasion someone goes to the hospital and we don't know until they have gone home! That happened twice this month. Today I heard that one of our members has gone to rehab after a hospital stay of several days—and we didn't know! Help us not to let this happen again!

We need you to tell us of any whom you know who have gone to the hospital, to a nursing home or rehab center, or are sick but not hospitalized. Call the church or call me at home (382-4171).

When you read this, five blankets will have been placed on the altar for prayer and will have been delivered to recipients. All were pleased to have been remembered in prayer and to enjoy the warmth of the beautiful blanket. Your response to this new ministry has been very positive, and the committee will continue to have the blankets made—thanks to the generous help of members who have great talent and equipment! We should give many blankets to shut-ins in 2006!



1  
Joyce Stone  
Barbara Hartley  
April Collins  
John Collins

2  
Marian Sandlas  
John Cooley

3  
Gloria Marquis  
James Stoneman

5  
Isabelle Verge  
Dick Bradley

6  
Barbara Bellcase

7  
Dot Reed  
James Roberts

8  
William Oleson  
Sue Kuntz  
Jane Ling

9  
Marlene Kaiser

11  
Mary Kay  
Messenger

12  
Myrna Evans  
Joyce Leaming  
Ed Messenger  
Steve Skelley

13  
Iris Whittaker  
Ruth E. Smith  
Paul Glenn  
Hilda Seagren  
Louis Garthaus

14  
Mary Severance  
Annie Carl  
Evelyn Knight

16  
Marilyn Grime  
David Marquis  
Ruth Smith

17  
Harold Swinson  
Mae Adair  
Barbara Lawrey  
Ann Ice  
Elizabeth Winner

18  
Joan Cadaret

19  
Glen Gunderson  
Robert Grafton

20  
Paul Patton, Jr.

21  
Betty Blockus  
Shirley Cole  
Colleen Megan De-  
Clue

23  
Nancy Buzby

24  
Elly Case

25  
L. Archer Walker

27  
B.J. Smith  
William Waters

28  
Phyllis Konitshek

29  
Lois Pohlman

30  
Kathy Betsko

31  
Earl Speicher

3  
Joyce & Wallace  
Saxton ~ 58 years

4  
Lisa & Rusty  
Stocker ~ 3 years

5  
Betty & Jack  
Eldridge ~ 54 years

9  
Roberta & Todd  
Little ~ 42 years

11  
Gail & Walter  
Rudolph ~ 3 years

13  
Norma & Duane  
Geiger ~ 55 years

15  
Karen & Neil Kline  
43 years

Lois & Jack Schoch  
57 years

17  
Gloria & Zane  
Megos ~ 37 years

20  
Alma & Jack Mallet  
60 years

26  
Karen & Greg Jones  
15 years

31  
Gerry & James  
Graham ~ 8 years

Life Care  
Fran Hughes  
Helen Dresback

Moffett  
Ruth Smith  
Helen &  
Ralph Hudson

Barrington Place  
Ken McGuire

Brentwood  
Betty Pettit  
Rene Dube  
Lois Alger  
Fran McGuire

Brentwood  
Independent  
Living  
Evelyn Bash  
Richard Pettit

Crystal River Rehab  
Robert Smith

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  
George McKeachan

*In And About Our Church*



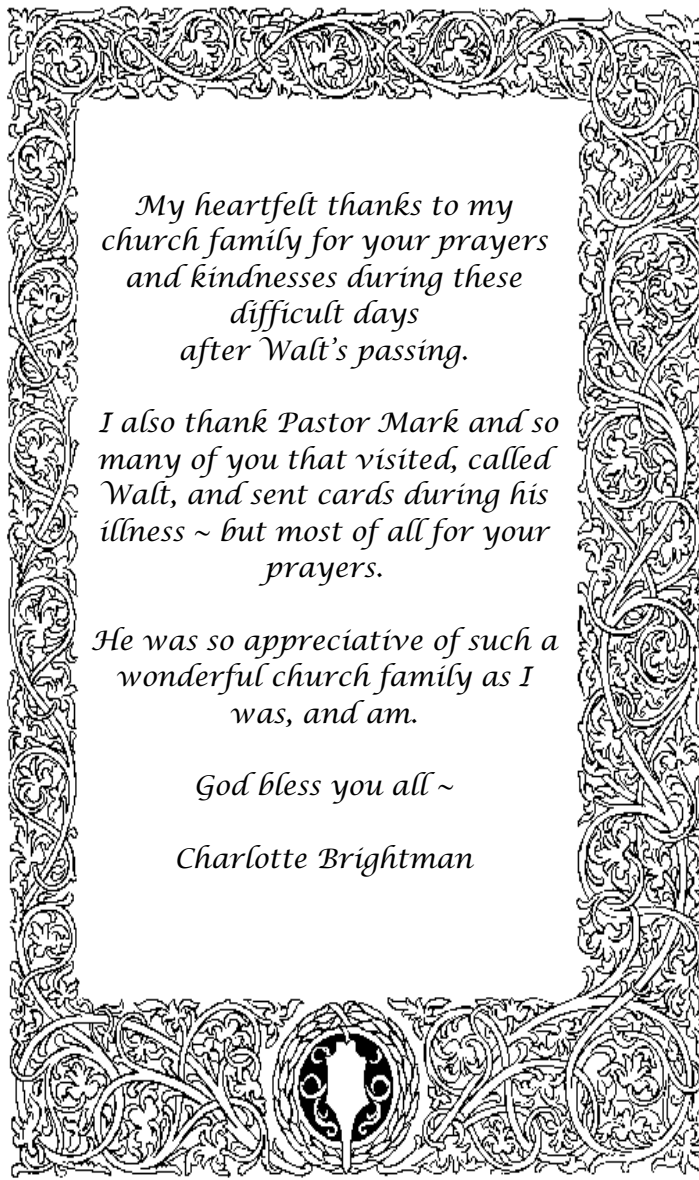
**Hospice At Home**  
Ray Bender

**Recovering At Home**

Marge Falk  
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  
Jack Boyd  
Charlotte Carlson  
Al Cuko  
Alma Mallet  
Armin Marvin  
Don Oblinger  
Regina & Will



*My heartfelt thanks to my church family for your prayers and kindnesses during these difficult days after Walt's passing.*

*I also thank Pastor Mark and so many of you that visited, called Walt, and sent cards during his illness ~ but most of all for your prayers.*

*He was so appreciative of such a wonderful church family as I was, and am.*

*God bless you all ~*

*Charlotte Brightman*

**Welcome To Our Church!**

**Amy Donnellan**  
10422 S. Darbyshire Terr.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-1317  
from Kingston, NY

**Bill & Charlene Murray**  
3849 W. Warbler St.  
Lecanto 34461  
382-0731  
Bill from Crown Point, IN  
Char from Northridge, CA

**John & Donna Yuschak**  
10256 S. Bainbridge Terr.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-3413  
from Evansville, IN

**Joyce Ann Skelley**  
80 Harrison St.  
Beverly Hills 34465  
527-9532  
from Louisville, OH

**Steffy Skelley**  
80 Harrison St.  
Beverly Hills 34465  
527-9532  
from Louisville, OH

**Allen & Mary Lee Millikin**  
204 Daisy St.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-4249  
from Manassas, VA

**Kim Bennett**  
15 Knotwood Ln.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-3941  
from Greenwood, SC

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and cards .*

*It was quite a change to become a care receiver, but the Lord does give more Grace ~ and just when you really need it.*

*I thank God for my precious church family. With my love and prayers,*

*Marilyn Siegel*

**A gentle reminder to the congregation...  
It is a nice gesture to wear your name tag.  
Help new members meet & greet their new church brothers & sisters.**

## Chaplain Expresses Thanks For Snicker Bars Donations

Chaplain Knowles of Lancaster Correctional Institution was deeply appreciative when we said we were again coming up with one thousand Snickers Bars for the inmates.

He said it has a very positive effect on the men as well as on the staff that is in charge of them.

The chaplain expressed his great thanks to our congregation for our outreach with the Snickers Bars.

He confirmed that the Christmas message written by Pastor Whittaker was definitely read and appreciated by everyone at Lancaster.

He wished all of us a very Merry Christmas.

*To our Church Family,*

*We wish to express our profound thanks to all those who called, wrote, and in so many other ways supported and comforted us following the recent death of our daughter Pamela.*

*We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderfully caring congregation.*

*In Christian Love,  
Ann & John Mayles*

### Alternate Christmas Gift Fair

A big thanks to all who contributed gifts in someone's name for Christmas to the following three organizations:

- Society of St. Andrew      \$ 400
- Habitat For Humanity      \$ 1646
- Heifer International      \$ 2045
- For a Total of:      \$ 4091

The Alternate Christmas Gift Committee

## **ATTENTION!** **Effective February** **2006**

**Submissions for Genesis  
will be due:  
THE FIRST FRIDAY  
OF THE MONTH!**

*Please & Thank You,  
Judith*

# Wonderful Wednesday

**~ January 11th ~**

**Jack Radabaugh,**  
the Missions Committee Chairperson,  
will give us a glimpse of the many  
missions supported by FUMC.

**~ January 25th ~**

**The Thrift Shop Ladies**  
will be putting on a Fashion Show!  
There will be some surprise guests.

We hope you can join us as we  
welcome these wonderful speakers  
and guests to our church.  
Come and enjoy Christian fellowship  
around an excellent meal  
prepared for you by  
members of FUMC!

~ Installation of Officers ~ December 6, 2005 ~

**United Methodist Women**



From Left to Right ~ President: Pat Blake, Vice President: June Bish  
Secretary: Helen LeFave, Treasurer: Jackie LaMountain  
Secretary of Program Resources: Maureen Samstag  
Education & Interpretation Coordinator: Betty Bennett  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Nancy Pearo  
Membership Outreach & Nurture Coordinator: Lorraine Tollefson  
Social Action Coordinator: Myrna Evans  
Chairman of Committee on Nominations: Peggy Benson  
(Not in picture ~ Publicity Director: Judith Huffer)



District UMW President,  
Jackie Bridges  
was M.C. for the  
Installation of Officers.

**UMW Unit Meeting**  
**January 10, 2006**  
**7 PM**  
**New Member Reception**  
(For new members beginning  
July 1, 2005)

Program: Surprise Entertainment  
Leader: Pat Blake  
Hostesses: Dorcas Circle,  
Dessert & Coffee

If you need or would like a ride,  
please check with your Circle leader.

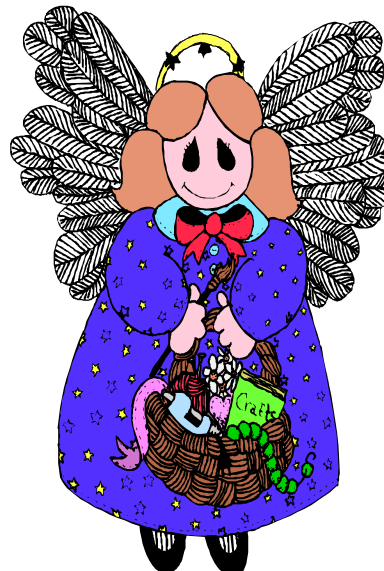
**Note of Recognition ~**  
As of August 2005,  
Patricia Blake  
has been a member of  
United Methodist Women  
for 55 years.



Maureen Samstag  
has completed compiling  
UMW Yearbooks!  
They will be distributed to  
Circle leaders at the  
January Executive Meeting.



Thank you for your hard work, Maureen!



UMW'S  
CRAFTING  
GUARDIAN  
ANGELS



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



## Happy Hands and Peace of Mind

Women have maintained money-making and charity activities with sewing, knitting and crocheting since the beginning of organized religious establishments.

Not only are these busy hands performing charitable manufacturing, but recent surveys show that these activities rank high on women's lists of most calming activities.

Stress hormone levels can be lowered in as little as 10 minutes.

The journal, "Neurology" reports that knitting is one of thirteen activities shown to reduce the risk of developing dementia by as much as 38%.

Our church has contributed hundreds of handmade sweaters to Guideposts' Sweater Project over the years.

Craftspeople start crafting for the next year's bazaar the day after the current bazaar is dismantled and stored away.

For more information contact Pat Blake or Myrna Evans about our Outreach Ministry knitting, crocheting, and sewing projects.

Judith Huffer

THERE  
ARE  
MANY  
WAYS  
TO  
SERVE



**HELP,HELP,HELP,HELP,HELP,HELP,**  
**HELP,HELP,HELP,HELP,HELP,**  
**HELP,HELP,HELP,HELP,**  
**HELP,HELP,HELP!**

One of our UMW Craft Ministry participants moved out of the area, and left behind a project in need of a craftsperson!

### **CROCHETIER NEEDED!**

Nothing Big. Nothing Fancy.  
Nothing Complicated

Handmade "Scrubbies" have been bringing over one-hundred dollars a year into the UMW Missions Treasury.

Everybody loves and uses these Scrubbies! They are a very popular item at our bazaar.

Call Pat Blake at 628-6602 if you are the angelic pair of hands that will answer the dedicated call to this project.

All materials will be provided.

### **Christ still calls us**

The rugged hills of Galilee  
Drop down to meet the sea  
Where burly men still mend their nets,  
Still fish there eagerly.

The sea's the same place where Christ said,  
"Lay down your nets and heed  
My call to love all people  
And serve them in their need."

"I'll help you fish for humankind,"  
He told them long ago.  
His call's still heard, His help's still real  
Today, as we well know.

Yes, people still are leaving 'nets'  
Wherever they might be,  
And as disciples still go forth  
To serve Christ willingly.

Peggy Ferrell

**137 Years in Mission: 1869—2006**

**HENRYS REPORT BLESSINGS FLOW AT MOUNTAINTOP CAMP RETREAT**

The Joe Henry missionary family we help support in Chiang Mai, Thailand, reports in their latest newsletter that it was a "privilege" to join a three-day camp retreat sponsored by the Chiang Mai Baptist Church last October. The campsite was located on Doi Inthanon, Thailand's tallest mountain about two hours south of the Henry's home.

They wrote, "The event, titled "One Spirit," brought together almost 50 adults and children for worship, fellowship and Bible study. The most exciting event was a river baptism that included our first language teacher and her husband along with two of Brittany's good friends, the daughter and niece of one of Elaine's other language teachers. What a joy it was to see these new brothers and sisters publicly proclaim their love for our Lord!"

Other highlights reported by the Henrys included: two sessions of games that had everyone rolling in laughter; a bonfire gathering rich in fellowship; Bible study times that were edifying, especially when we could understand what was being said; special times of worship where we praised God in song and prayer as a group; a farewell trip to the top of the mountain, about 8,465 feet above sea level. Even though it was fogged in and raining, it was nice to be in 55-degree weather for a few minutes. Caleb and Jamie enjoyed playing with their new friends and being able to run around like maniacs for several days! All of us made friends for life on this retreat.

The Henrys plan to do more speaking in the Thai language in their home setting and ask for our prayers for this to help their "speaking and comprehensive skills."

They also asked prayers for more regular financial donors as their support is at 90% and their account has "slipped back into negative territory."

**WOOSTERS EXPRESS THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH'S SUPPORT**

In a recent E-Mail the Kevin Wooster missionary family writes, "A new year brings new beginnings and projects. 2006 will be no exception. However, we could not have been able to continue the work here in Moscow if it wasn't for such faithful 'co-workers' as First United Methodist Church of Homosassa."

They stated, "As we look back over our partnership together, we are in awe. Our oldest son Joshua was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade when we shared a vision of where we were heading. This year he is in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and we are still following the vision placed in our lives so many years ago. Over the years we have gone from being a part of one work in one city (Ulan Ude, Siberia) to now being part of works throughout Russia and Siberia."

Continuing, they said they have seen their "works grow in both number and depth of knowledge. The latest work has been started here in Moscow where we have been able to have an outreach with a local high school. Even though this is a new program we are already seeing fruit."

They noted the first snow has arrived making "everything pretty and white" and "it is not cold unless the wind is blowing."

They ask that we pray for Joshua as he decides on what college to attend and "all the other changes that await him during his final year in high school."



To contact the Henrys:  
**Email:** [jebjcj@eroam.net](mailto: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](mailto:klwooster@aol.com)

### 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.

### The Chance To Practice “Living in a Christian Community”

Early in 2006 a new small-group study entitled “Living in Christian Community” will be starting.

The Bible study/discussion format will center around what Jesus and others in the New Testament said about how we are to live our lives as part of the family of God.

Is it all right to excuse our complaining, judging, worrying, unforgiving and unloving ways with the comfort of “everybody else does it” or “God knows I’m only human”?

If you are tired of living a more-like-the-world life and would like to learn how to live a more-like-Christ life, you will find this study both exciting and challenging.

Our weekly aim will be to put into practice what we are learning.

If you’re interested in this kind of study, call Elizabeth Smith, 382-0699, and tell her what days and times would be best for you.

Jan Wise

### Computer Classes For January

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

### 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.



**X**  
Regis-  
ter  
Date

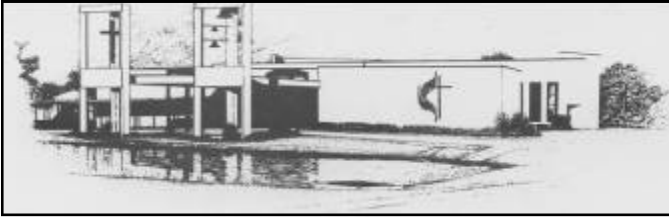
  
**2006**

**O**  
Pick-up  
Date

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**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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