

GENESIS

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

March 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 10 Issue 3

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Why DO we give up something for Lent?

by Pastor Mark Whittaker



Paul in his writing to the church in Corinth talks about how we are free from the law, free from having to prove that we are true believers.

The Jews were circumcised and they had to follow food requirements and be obedient to hundreds of laws in order to be able to say they were Jewish.

Paul wrote that there are no requirements placed on us to prove our faith.

So then, why do we give up something for Lent?

It is not to fulfill some requirement. There is nothing in the Bible or even in the tradition of the United Methodist Church that talks about giving up something for Lent.

It is not something that we have to do. It is something that we get to do.

Giving up something for Lent is a "Means of Grace."

It is a way for us to break down barriers between us and God so we can have a renewed discovery of his closeness and love in our lives.

There are any number of these "Means of Grace" including fasting, Bible study, receiving communion, baptism, and service.

They all help us to focus on God rather than ourselves.

Several years ago someone came up with the idea of putting a rubber band around your wrist and every time you felt the urge to have a cigarette you would pull the band back and snap yourself. Ouch! It was a way to condition yourself - longing for a cigarette equals pain. The rubber band became a means to an end - stopping smoking.

Giving up something for Lent gives rise to occasions when we stop what we are doing and think about - dream about - crave, whatever it is that we have given up.

In those moments of distraction we have an opportunity to focus instead on God.

Each time we notice we are missing something, we are reminded about God's call on our lives and the opportunity we have to put him first in our lives.

Do you have to give up something for Lent? No. It's not a requirement.

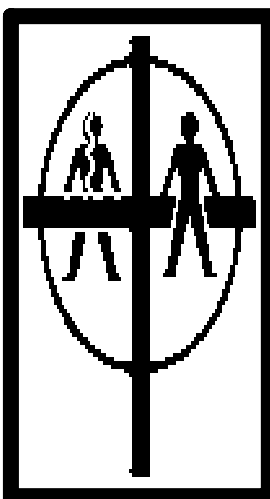
It is an opportunity to put the focus back where it belongs, on God.

Are you going to give up something for Lent this year? What is it going to be?

Mark



Lent begins



We are a
Stephen
Ministry
Church

"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
- 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

~ Bear One Another's Burdens ~

Galatians 6:2 instructs, "*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*" How can you do this?

- Are you willing to care for and help others?
 - Can you listen intently without judging?
- Will you commit to an initial 50 hours of training, supplemented by ongoing peer support?

The following Stephen Ministers and Leaders are eagerly waiting to tell you what it is like to be a layperson providing Christian caring to members of our First UMC congregation:

Ernie and Martha Dorrell, Peggy Benson, Betty Eldridge, Charles Peters, Marilyn Siegel, Jim Potts, Earl Cadaret, Bob Bunting, Diane Cary, Kay Bast

At this time we are especially seeking additional female Stephen Ministers to help meet the needs of our growing church. A new training class at FUMC will begin soon. Call today to learn more about joining this special care team.

**Ash Wednesday
Service
~ March 1 ~
10 a.m.**

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a season of penitence and fasting as we ready ourselves for the gift of Christ's death on our behalf.

It is a recognition of who we are and an awareness of who we are called to be.

The service offers us an opportunity to kneel before God and acknowledge that we have fallen far short of what he calls us to be. It gives a beginning point to work toward being more Christ-like in everything we say and do.

The service this year will be on Wednesday, March 1st at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday Service is a time of deep reverence and commitment. It is not a time to be entered into with an indifferent or careless attitude.

We will celebrate with the imposition of ashes as a recognition that we can not escape who we are: rebellious and mortal beings standing in the need of grace.

At the same time, it will be a time of reassurance that we are not alone as we face the reality of death.

**~ Soup Suppers ~
Wednesdays
March 8th thru April 5th
5:30 in the Fellowship Hall**

Each year during Lent we suspend our regular Wonderful Wednesday Dinners for a sacrificial meal of soup and bread. It is a reminder that not everyone has enough food or good food to sustain them every day.

It is also an opportunity for us to share in a program that centers around the Lenten theme of preparation for Easter.

Each week one of our United Methodist Women's circles hosts the supper, and they need help in preparing enough soup for everyone.

Most Wednesdays we need between 20 and 25 pots of soup to feed all those who come to share in the meal.

If you would be willing to provide soup - of any variety - please contact the church office so we can get your name on the list.

The Soup Suppers will be every Wednesday from March 8th to April 5th at 5:30 in the fellowship hall.

Come and join us for good fellowship, good soup and an opportunity to share in the Lenten experience.

~ Facts for action from Church World Service ~

840 million people are undernourished worldwide.

1.2 billion people in developing countries live on \$1 a day or less.

70% of those who suffer from hunger are women and girls.

6 million children under age five die each year as a result of hunger.

More than 33 million U.S. citizens - one in ten - cannot afford to meet their basic food needs.

One in five U.S. children is born into poverty.

From Pastor Mark's Desk

~ Habitat For Humanity ~ by Pastor Mark Whittaker

Habitat For Humanity of Citrus County is planning to build a house in Homosassa starting on the 18th of February. This is an ambitious project because they are also building one in Inverness at the same time. This will divide the tools as well as the man power to get the job done. The Homosassa project will also give us an opportunity to get involved in building a house right here where we live.

Habitat builds most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings from 8 to 12. This opportunity is open to all adults who would like to volunteer to help build the house. The structure is wood frame, and we do most of the construction, only sub-contracting out the electrical, plumbing and air conditioning. This is a chance to be part of building something that will minister to a new family, helping to fulfill their dream of home ownership. Building this home offers us an opportunity to fulfill God's call to help house the homeless. It is also a great way to work out your frustrations as you WHACK a nail with a hammer.

The house will be constructed at 4974 W Strawberry, which is out Grover Cleveland Blvd to Joy Terrace (there is a sign for a furniture store on the corner), south to Strawberry and east (left) to the house.

I would like to encourage you to make this house our project so we could be instrumental in getting it built. Hope to see you on the 18th!

FAILING TO PLAN IS PLANNING TO

The Committee on Strategic Church Development is the church's primary body responsible for the long range planning and strategic direction of our church. The committee consists of fifteen carefully selected members, including our pastor, and meets regularly to set our church's course into the future.

"Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ," our Mission Statement, came from this group. Holistic Small Groups came from this committee's work in implementing author and researcher Christian Schwartz's Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches. Now the committee is wrestling with county growth patterns, our church demographics, and determination of what programs, missions, ministries, staff and resources we need to fulfill our calling over the next five to ten years.

This is an exciting and demanding challenge. The committee welcomes your input and your attendance at our monthly meetings. Together, with a dynamic long-range plan in hand, we will continue to grow in numbers and outreach as we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Stewardship Spirit

By Sallyann Moore, Stewardship Chairman

How does a Christian steward differ from stewards who care for the affairs of others? For one thing, we take care of the household of God. That's a pretty tall order since God's household includes our spiritual and physical lives, the wellbeing of our church family, our environment, our local community and the world beyond, our monetary resources, and our quest for justice and equity. In addition, we do our work for reasons other than personal gain; some might even say that we "pay" to partake in these tasks.

So why do we do it? Quite simply, we believe that everything begins with God's love. We recognize God as the owner of all we have and celebrate our partnership with Him. We understand that life holds deeper meaning when stewardship becomes a lifestyle, and we delight in sharing God's hope and love with others.

Homosassa First United Methodist Church is alive with stewards. Over the next few months, this column will look at just a few of the many ways we steward God's resources and further our church's mission: Everyone becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." -1 Corinthians 4:1

The "Building For Tomorrow" Committee has been evaluating the results of the capital campaign for 2006-2008, and we are now refining plans for the third and final phase of our building program.

Estimates of Giving over the next three year period total \$456,750, slightly less than in previous years, although we expect total income to be closer to \$561,750.

We are indeed blessed to have a congregation that has once again demonstrated their tremendous support and faithful stewardship.

You previously paid for a 1.2 million dollar sanctuary in less than 10 years, and we expect to pay for Phases I and II of the current building program, another 1.2 million dollar project, in about seven years.

Although we still have about \$140,000 to pay on the Phase I and II mortgage, we expect to pay that off by the end of this year.

Phase III is expected to cost nearly 2.2 million dollars, about twice the amount of the other two projects.

It is now apparent that it will require some additional income over a period of time to accumulate a large enough down payment to keep our monthly mortgage payments on Phase III at a comfortable level.

Therefore, we plan to delay Phase III construction for a few years.

Because we need the new facilities, and because construction costs have been increasing rapidly over recent years, we'd like to begin construction as soon as financially feasible.

Right now, we hope to have sufficient funds by the end of 2008 to begin construction soon after.

We have considered a number of other options.

One that we think we can handle financially is to build the new thrift shop as soon as the current mortgage is retired.

Because the thrift shop is essentially an independent structure, we think that is practical to do without adding any additional total expense to Phase III or delaying construction of the other Phase III facilities.

If, after further study, this continues to look advantageous, we will schedule a Church Conference to obtain approval of this action.

To all our faithful members and friends who have contributed to these building projects in the past, and to those who continue that support now and in the future, we are eternally grateful.

With God's help and guidance, we will complete Phase III and position our Church to more fully minister to our church family, our community, and the world.

Dave Marquis
Building Committee Chairman

Building For Tomorrow Committee



Artist's rendering of the new Fellowship Hall, as viewed from Bradshaw Street

Panama Canal Cruise in 2007

By Richard L. Evans

From Rev. Richard Evans's Desk

The information for 2007 has just been released from Holland America Cruise Line, and the prices will never be lower—with early registration incentives.

I am working with Tally-Ho Travel in Inverness to put together a wonderful 18-day trip through the Panama Canal from April 22—May 9, 2007.

Our group will depart following the 8 am service of worship on Sunday, April 22, and ride by chartered motor coach to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale.

There we will board the ms Volendam for a 15-day cruise with ports-of-call in Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Mexican Riviera (including Acapulco).

We will have a full-day transit through the canal on April 26, from 6 am to 7 pm.

We will disembark in San Diego on May 7, where we will transfer to the Holiday Inn on the Bay.

Two days in San Diego are included—one with free time to explore on your own, and one with a full-day tour of the city and dinner at a local restaurant.

We will fly back to Tampa on May 9, with motor coach transfer to Homosassa.

A total of 18 days, with all transportation, baggage handling, taxes, and port charges for \$2,877 (inside) to \$3,637 (with several ocean view categories in between). Veranda rooms are available for \$4,777.

Prices are double occupancy; single available at extra cost. Additional expenses will include trip insurance, gratuities for the crew, four lunches and one dinner, plus whatever shore excursions you may select.

Flyers are available at the church office. Register early for the best selection of rooms and the best price.

A deposit of \$950 with Tally-Ho will secure your reservation, the balance to be paid by February 1, 2007.

Myrna and I will accompany this tour. Call me (563-5833) if you have questions after you have reviewed the flyer.

This will be a great cruise with some of your church friends. We hope you will consider joining us.

And others are welcome, too. Invite family members, friends, and neighbors to come along with you.

Cremation vs. Traditional Burial By Richard L. Evans

Over the past several decades, cremation has steadily increased in popularity as an alternative to traditional burial. Recent statistics show about 25% of the entire US population choosing cremation for the disposition of their bodies after death, and in some regions of the country it is over 60%.

For many people of faith, cremation has been a thoughtful choice. Often, however, people have given less thought to the final disposition of their cremated remains. Some choose to have the ashes scattered; others simply leave the decision up to surviving family members. Still others may arrange for burial of the ashes in a traditional cemetery.

I think it is important to have a permanent location for the cremated remains of every person—with an official record that may be accessed by surviving family members and by those in the future who will seek genealogical information. From the earliest years of Christianity, Christians have been buried within the church community. From the catacombs of the early Church, to the great cathedrals of the Middle Ages, to the cemeteries surrounding the most humble churches in rural America, people have found their final dwelling place in a living community of faith.

That is why we, at First UMC Homosassa, are creating a Columbarium. We are reviving an honored tradition by providing a permanent location for the above-ground storage of the cremated remains of church members and their families. The Columbarium, to be located within a small Memorial Garden, will contain multiple niches—each of which will accommodate one or two urns. A memorial name plate will identify the remains of each person.

Those who are interested in purchasing a niche may obtain an Application Packet from the church office. If you have questions about the Columbarium, contact the church office or call me at home (563-5833).

You and Your Will By Richard L. Evans

Your attorney probably drafted your *Will* based on laws, financial needs and objectives, and asset values at the time. As your situation changes, however, your *Will* should change too. You may need a codicil or you may need to rewrite your *Will*.

It is a good idea to review your *Will* each year and to ask your attorney to review it every two or three years. Changes in state laws, new tax pitfalls and opportunities, and new financial considerations make such a review necessary and worthwhile.

As you review your *Will*, think about the wisdom of leaving a lasting legacy to your church, as an expression of your Christian faith and stewardship. Such bequests can take several forms;

Outright Bequest. A gift of a particular amount of money or percentage of the estate. For example: "I bequeath \$10,000 to First United Methodist Church, Homosassa" or "I bequeath 10% of my estate...."

Residual Bequest. The residue of an estate after all specific bequests have been distributed. The exact amount will not be known until a final accounting is complete. The residue may be given in its entirety or as a percentage bequest. For example: "I give one-half of the residue of my estate to First UMC, Homosassa."

Contingent Bequest. An alternative plan for disposition of assets: you name a secondary beneficiary in case the primary beneficiary is not alive. For example: "I bequeath \$10,000 to my sister; but if she has predeceased me, I direct that the \$10,000 be paid to First UMC, Homosassa."

Why not consider leaving "tax-burdened" property, such as IRAs and other retirement plan assets, to the church? As a tax-exempt organization, FUMCH can keep every dollar of such bequests while another beneficiary might owe a substantial amount in required taxes.

And, when you do name FUMCH in your *Will* or as a beneficiary of any planned gift, be sure to let the church office or the pastor know so that we may welcome you as a member of the 5th *Dimension Society* and thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.



Holistic Small Groups Ministry



From Pastor Steve's Desk

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

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

Discussion Groups:

Current Affairs:

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

Support Groups:

Cancer Survivors:

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

First Place (evenings)

Meets on 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:

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

Sugarmill Woods Area Bible Study

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

Christian Community Bible Study

First Meeting ~ Tuesday, March 7
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Room 203 ~ Conference Room
with Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise
382-0699

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.



**Methodist Youth Fellowship
Mission Outreach:**

A recent mission outreach was to make 20 sand-art bottles for shut-ins. Each bottle had a card that read, "May this sand art remind You that God's love for You is more abundant than all the sand on every shore."

**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" and to help fund projects for our own youth.

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

**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



Steve's weekly inspirational column is also available at ww.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*.

And Now.....

Saturday, March 4
Youth Trip to
the Plant City Strawberry Festival

Grammy winning Christian singer
Steven Curtis Chapman
will be in concert.

There will be shows by the Chinese Acrobats
and the Bikes/Boards/and Blades
Freestyle Airshow!

We'll leave in the morning,
see the shows,
attend the concert at 4:30,
and then be home around 8 pm.
We have limited tickets available
so notify Steve a.s.a.p. if you want to go.

Coming up and in the works:
Youth Family Trip to
The Holy Land Experience Theme Park
Youth Family Trip to a
Tampa Bay Devil Rays Baseball game



Sunday School

Miss Joyce Ann leads our middle and high school youth in Bible studies that focus on issues 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.

**THE BIBLE
AND OTHER
"GOOD BOOKS"**

Our Church Library has many different versions of the Bible and Bible commentaries to help us understand and study the scriptures better.

Most of the Bibles are Reference books and remain in the Library.

Following are listed some "good books" you might want to read:

1. "The Chronicles of Narnia" by C. S. Lewis. Here is your passport to a most extraordinary excursion into magical lands and enchanted happenings.

Book 1: The Magician's Nephew - how Aslan created Narnia and gave the gift of speech to its animals.

Book 2: The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe - how Aslan, the noble lion, freed Narnia from the spell of the White Witch.

Book 3: The Horse and His Boy - how a talking horse and a boy prince saved Narnia from invasion.

Book 4: Prince Caspian - How good Prince Caspian and his army of talking beasts conquered the Telmarines.

Book 5: The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader" - how King Caspian sailed through magic waters to the End of the World.

Book 6: : The Silver Chair - how captive Prince Rilian escaped from the Emerald Witch's underground kingdom.

Book 7: The Last Battle - how evil came to Narnia and Aslan led his people to a glorious new paradise.

2. "A Time to Dance" by Karen Kingsbury.

John and Abby Reynolds were the perfect couple after 21 years of marriage, envied by their friends, cherished by their children, admired by their peers. But - are there times when marriage - even the marriage between two people of faith - is truly beyond repair? Discover the resilience of boundless love, the power of commitment, and the amazing faithfulness of God.

3. Following the 1st of her Firstborn Series, "Fame", Karen Kingsbury has written "Forgiven".

It continues the life of Hollywood actor Dayne Matthews who is successful but empty inside, and tells of Katy Hart who is looking for her own answers in the wake of a horrible tragedy, and Dr. John Baxter who is trying to be both mother and father to a difficult daughter after his wife's passing. When these three lives in crisis collide, will they seek the help and redemption that only God can bring?

4. The highly anticipated sequel to "The Notebook", a classic tale of enduring love by Nicholas Sparks, is "The Wedding".

After 30 years of marriage to his wife Jane, Wilson is forced to admit the romance has soured. Facing their daughter's upcoming wedding, he turns to the shining example of his in-laws' 50-year love affair, determined to make his wife fall in love with him - again.

5. "Lay That Trumpet in our Hands" , a novel by Susan Carol McCarthy.

The author delivers a wise and luminous story about a northern family, a southern town and the senseless act of murder that sparked an extraordinary act of courage. In the Spring of 1951

Florida Klansmen abducted and killed a 19 year old black citrus picker, Marvin Cully, igniting a drama that would forever change Reesa McMahon, the world she knew and the people she loved.

6. "So What's the Difference?" by Fritz Ridenour.

A look at 20 worldviews, faiths and religions and how they compare to Christianity.

7. "Light from Heaven" by Jan Karon.

In this long-anticipated final volume of the beloved Mitford years series, Father Timothy Kavanaugh has been asked to do the impossible.

The retired Episcopal priest is charged with the revival of Holy Trinity, a mountain church that's been closed for 30 years. The Bishop's mandate is "Get it up and running ASAP." Though challenged and often doubtful, Father Tim gathers the flock with all of their struggles. You'll find characters, both old and new, and answers to questions asked by millions of readers since the series began.

8. "A Breath of Snow and Ashes" by Diana Gabaldon.

A winning combination of time-travel romance and historical fiction, this book is one of the Outlander series. This is literally a large book with a big story set on the eve of the American Revolution in 1772. Loyalist Jamie Fraser is called upon to safeguard the colony for King and Crown. But from his beloved time-traveling wife, Claire, he knows that in three years independence will reign and the shot heard round the world may be aimed at them.

Your Church Library Staff:
Helen LeFave
&
Barbara Jackson

GOOD NEWS About "GOOD BOOKS"

Education Corner

Last year, our Church Council adopted a mission statement for the Church that was recommended by the Church's Strategic Planning Committee—Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ. Since then, you've seen that statement on almost every written communication, and Pastor Mark often begins his announcements at Sunday worship with his reminder of those words. But if a stranger came in one day and asked you to tell him what we mean by our mission statement, could you tell him? If asked, "What is a disciple and how does one become one," could you give a clear response? If you wanted to strengthen your own position of discipleship, would you know where to begin?

Many of us are asking how we can make our mission statement become a reality in our own lives and thus the real mission of our church. The church staff and a committee of hardworking disciples have planned a weekend to help us make our mission statement become more than often-quoted words!

On the weekend of March 3 ~ 5, we intend to focus on that statement as we only learn more about discipleship and decide what changes Christ, whose disciples we are, is asking us to make in our own lives. John Riley, an engaging speaker who has been popular at Leesburg retreats and is well-known in the Southeastern United States, will be here for two days to help us focus our attention on discipleship.

He will speak at covered-dish suppers on Friday and Saturday nights, with emphasis on discipleship for the entire church. He will focus his attention on issues of particular interest to men at a Saturday morning breakfast and to women at a Saturday luncheon—both in the fellowship hall. As you know, the size of our fellowship hall limits attendance to 150, so reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis beginning immediately. On Sunday morning, Mr. Riley will speak at all three services, completing a weekend of challenge to our congregation.

Everyone who has heard this man speak tells us we won't want to miss a word so mark your calendars now. We hope that by the time you read Genesis you will have made your reservations for the weekend meals. Education is a life-long process! Let's educate ourselves on the meaning of true discipleship during this important weekend. Remember the dates—Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 3 , 4, and 5.

Walking On The Path

Patience Nave

*“Let no corrupt communication come out of your mouth but that which is good,
that it may minister grace unto the hearer.”* *Ephesians 4:*

I go regularly to visit our members who are sick at home, in extended care facilities, or in a hospital. Some days it is difficult to find the time to do all the visiting that I would like. The interesting thing, however, is that even though I may be tired or have trouble scheduling the time to get to where I think I should go, I always come away refreshed myself and oh, so glad that I have gone! Such a recent visit reminded me of the above verse.

I visited several people. It was a rainy afternoon, and it was a little inconvenient just getting in and out of the car in the rain. I honestly didn't grumble about the task, but will confess that I thought I would be glad to get to the last visit so I could go home. Then I sat down with a dear little friend, and we talked about a lot of things—mostly what God was doing in her life and how thankful she was for His faithfulness. As we had prayer together, I was so grateful for these quiet moments with her. When we concluded our prayer, I told her that for years her life has been to me an amazing testimony. I told her that my own personal prayer is that I may be able to age with the grace I see in her. Tears came to her eyes. She thanked me for the encouragement of my words and confessed that she sometimes feels pretty useless. She said that my words challenge her “to keep on going.”

As I drove away from the facility spiritually refreshed and thanking God for this beautiful woman and for our visit, I also thanked Him again for His prompting words in us that allow us to “minister His grace.”

Prayer: Father, I know that there is nothing that we do that you could not do better! Yet you allow us to fumble along, “ministering Your grace” by our words of encouragement. Help us to recognize every opportunity to do this. Make us a people whose very conversation reveals You and Your grace to a world desperately in need of grace. Amen

Thank you.....

To the many wonderful people
at FUMC!

I was on Prayer Chains from
CA, to OR, to MN, to NC,
and I appreciate all the
love and concern.

After 5 surgeries I'm happy to
leave 2005 behind.

Here's to a healthier 2006
for all of us~

Helen Dresback



(JoAnn Ryan & Helen at W.W. Dinner 2/8)

To The Congregations,

We wish to extend to
you our heartfelt
thanks for all your
prayers for our
grandson Christopher.

He has recently
returned safely to his
home base in Georgia
after completing 2
tours of duty in Iraq.

God bless you richly,

**Bud and Donna
Ludwick**





27
Janet & Peter
Magamoll ~
63 years

30
Barbara & Robert
Bellcase ~
48 years

Regina & William
Parks ~ 62 years

B.J. & Duane
Smith ~ 59 years

1
Glenn Harwood
Stan Sobolak
2
Gladys Bevan
Helen Vaught
Larry Stainton
James Haskell
3
Henry Mangels
5
Frances McCrady
6
Patricia Ludlow
Priscilla Oleson
Eleanor Bennett
Ida Bradley
Janet Watson
7
Alan Shimp
Fran Smith
Shirley Dunkle
Pam Cleary
8
Edna Forney
Daisy Janke
William Busby
Glenda Gable
9
Dolores Briggs
Pat Rada
Margaret Woods
Margo Blum
10
Richard Barrett
12
Earl McCarty
Shirley Cromer
William Squires
Rolland Custer
13
John Guthrie
Pat Barton
14
Nan Lawrence
Lorraine Wood
Allen Millikin

15
Gerry Green
17
Barbara Gilbert
Pat Burns
Joanne Holcomb
18
James Graham
Pat Kern
Jerry Winters
21
Blanche Ashlock
Charles Peters
22
Ed Wrenn
Nina Farewell
Linda Clawson
Wendy Miles
23
Zip Bender
Jim Price
24
Emily Walker
25
Gene Ludlow
Vera Irish
Bill Yuhasz
26
Jerry Cole
Barry Reichard
Mary Jane Houchins
27
Ray Ritter
David Benthusen
29
George Cole
Judy Lee
30
Larry Rogers
31
Peter Magamoll

March 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

5
Marilyn & Clarence
Kohler ~ 51 years

Jackie & Sheldon
LaMountain ~
13 years

9
Dayna & Ron
Middlebrooks ~
10 years

12
Joyce & Robert
Leaming ~ 15 years

13
Mary & Fred Casper
~ 52 Years

Onlee & Eugene
McEachin ~ 8 years

17
Sandra & Donald
Tam ~ 4 years

18
Nell & Bill Lent ~
57 years

20
Sarah & Len
Clewett ~ 24 years

Ann & Donald
Parkinson ~ 2 years

23
Faye & Ozzie
Schmitt ~ 60 years

24
Patience & Wallace
Nave ~ 55 years

Pat & John Rada ~
55 years

In Memoriam
Margaret
Ayers
1912- 2005

In Memoriam
Mary Ellen
Cole
1927-2006

In And About Our Church



SHARE of Florida

By Tom & Nancy Pearo

SHARE is well on its way to another year of savings. Even with the price increase, we are still the best bargain in town. There were some problem but, with the help of our volunteers, everyone has been satisfied.

One nice thing about SHARE is we have a schedule. D-Days and sign up days are posted at the start of each year.

The schedule is available for anyone who wants one; we even have it on a small magnet this year so you can put on your refrigerator. We take orders on D-Day as well as two days following the first of the month, usually a Wednesday and a Saturday. Times are always 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Contact Tom or Nancy to receive a copy of our schedule.

We need to increase our sales if we are to continue to provide good prices for everyone. A lot of people who order from us are not church members. We need to change this. One of the arguments I hear is "I live alone" or "it's just me and my spouse and we can't use that much food." It is true that you must spend at least \$18.00 every time you order but there is no reason you have to buy the basic package. Everyone can save a lot of money by ordering just meats alone. Being a "Select Site" allows you to do this. When we have a particular meat you like such as chicken, ground meat, or steak, you could get those items as long as you spend \$18.00 or more. You can always include the produce pack with your meats. We also have special items like the bacon wrapped steak package. You can also share your order with a neighbor so that everyone can take advantage of the prices. Remember, our meats and other items are frozen to zero or colder before leaving the warehouse. When you get it, it is still cold enough to put in your freezer, and anything you buy from us is at least twice the price at the supermarket.

We are more than just a food program. Once a month, about thirty five people gather together in fun and fellowship to help others. We are an outreach of the church, and by providing this service to the community, we bring people to the church to see the joy of working together to help others. It is a chance to show our Christian love at work.

Barrington Place
Ken McGuire

Brentwood
Betty Pettit
Rene Dube

Brentwood Independent Living
Evelyn Bash
Richard Pettit

Citrus Health & Rehab
Ralph Hudson
Robert Smith

Crystal River Rehab
Robert Smith
Ralph & Helen Hudson

Cypress Cove
Julia Wilkinson
Ruth E. Smith
Willie Smith

Cedar Creek
Bill Marquis

Life Care
Louise Ozee
Julius Cortez
Wallace Nave

Sugarmill Manor
Ray Short
Grace Payne
Del Parker

Surrey Place
Maddie Wallace
Marjorie Cook
Eugene McEachan

Hospice At Home
Ray Bender
Howard Procius

Recovering At Home
Yvonne Beck
Audrey Gregory
Ken Smith
Doris Smith
Jack Warner
Jack Ness
Dick Bradley
Helen Dresback
Joe Henry
Dale Evans

Homebound
Hilma Carlson
Fran Erikson
Bill Wells
Margaret & Ashton Sawyer
Ruth Smith
Paul Glen
Warren McDonald
Etta Whilden
Jack Boyd
Charlotte Carlson
Al Cuko
Alma Mallet
Armin Marvin
Don Oblinger
Regina & Will Parks
George Knerr
Helen Hudson



*Welcome
New
Members!*

Stephen & Rebekah Csont
Stephen from Southington, CT
Rebekah from Bedford, IN
5861 Candy Cane Dr
Homosassa 34448
628-0109

Philip & Ruth Rittgers
from Goshen, IN
12050 W. Tarpon Ct.
Homosassa 34448
628-3899

Terry & Frankie Adams
from Lawrenceville, GA
14 Beech Ct. S.
Homosassa 34446
382-2777

Carolyn (Lyn) Wolf
from Prairie View, IL
11 Sycamore Ct. S.
Homosassa 34446
382-1173

Vera Irish
from Jackson, MS
4 Jungleplum Ct. S.
Homosassa 34446
382-0188

Ronald (Ron) & Helen Scheetz
from Haledon, NJ
7503 Pederson Lp.
Homosassa 34446
621-7999

Agnes Brickmeier
from Wantagh, L.I., NY
45 Seagrape St.
Homosassa 34446
382-2020



Let new friendships blossom!

“Cheers”

How many of you remember the old TV show Cheers?

There actually is a restaurant and bar called Cheers in Boston, and you go down some stairs to enter it.

A line in the opening theme song says, “You want to go where everyone knows your name.”

It’s a good feeling when you are recognized and called by your name. On the other side of the coin, it is nice to know the names of those we see, especially those in our family. Part of our overall family is the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa.

Let us make a concerted effort to wear our name tags so all those in worship and church functions will know our names and we will know theirs.

If you have lost or misplaced your name tag, please call the church office and give the receptionist your information and you will receive a new name tag.

Yours in Christ,
Connie and Bill Barton



Thank you,
Steve & Steffy
for your
Wonderful
Wednesday
Dinner
Program.



“The Preacher and the Little Boy”
“My Best Friend”
A family-written song
“The Highway To Hawaii”
Steve’s juggling....
“Seize The Day”

Thank you for sharing....



HENRYS ATTEND CONFERENCE IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

Joe and Elaine Henry, missionaries we assist in Chaing Mai, Thailand, recently returned from a week-long conference/retreat held in a southern section of the country and attended by missionaries from Thailand and other nearby countries.

They wrote, "What an encouragement it was to hear the stories of what the Lord is doing in this part of the world. Also, to reveal the full picture, what a humbling experience it was to hear the stories of intense emotional pain in their lives. Life as a missionary puts people on the front lines of Kingdom warfare, and there are plenty of scars to prove it. One of the most important things we can do is pray for the missionaries that we know to have God's hedge of protection around them, particularly when it comes to Satan's lies in the areas of discouragement, failure and relationships."

Under their "prayer points for the month" they wrote, "We have had a fistful of people step up and commit to helping us get our account out of debt, and we are happy to report it took just one month to be in the black again. Praise God! Thanks so much to all of those who either prayed or gave out of their generosity.....Please continue to pray for us to make up the \$700 we are lacking in monthly support so we don't continue to fall behind financially."

Before going to the conference the Henrys had their first meeting with the Thai couple with whom they "may work later this year in beginning a new church." They ask for our prayers concerning this relationship.

Joe has been asked by the Thai church which they attend to begin in late April to teach one morning a week at the Bible school. This timing is about six weeks earlier than originally planned. Joe asks us to pray that he "has rapid growth in language skills."

In closing they wrote, "Elaine is excited about where the Lord has placed her in ministry. The combination at Grace Int'l. School and working in Thai ministry is a real blessing for her. Pray for her to continue to be effective in these two hard-working areas."

FAITH PROMISE PLEDGES FOR MISSIONS TOTAL \$12,800

Faith Promise Pledges for Missions, the major source of funding for mission outreach programs of the Missions Committee, totaled 12,800.

These funds will be used to help:

- The Kevin Wooster missionary family in Moscow, Russia,
- The Joe Henry missionary family in Chaing Mai, Thailand,
- The Red Bird Mission,
- The Jim Russo Prison Ministry,
- The Sanctuary,
- The Path Homeless Shelter,
- The United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Furnish Bibles for the County Correctional Institution,
- Other district and conference programs.

If you missed the opportunity to submit a Faith Promise Pledge For Missions you may obtain a pledge card at the church office or locate one on a table in the Narthex at the front of the Sanctuary.

The pledge cards may be turned in at the church office or submitted with your Sunday offering.



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.

WOOSTERS FACE COLDEST WINTER IN 100 YEARS

The Kevin Wooster missionary family we help support in Moscow, Russia, has been facing the coldest winter recorded for the past 100 years according to an E-Mail received from the family.

They wrote the temperature dropped to minus 40 degrees Celsius which caused their sons' school to close for several days. The schools automatically are shut down at minus 30 degrees Celsius.

Kevin, the father who directs the group's activities in Central Russia, this month will be considering plans to establish a new work effort in Yakutsk, Siberia, where the average January temperature is -40 Celsius!

They stated they hope to "plant" a new outreach effort of two families "in this very needy region of Siberia."

The Woosters reported that Kevin has also been working with the team in Ulan Ude, Siberia to register a new team in Horinsk, a village where they started with a camp in the summer of 1998. They wrote:

"The work there is far from over, but we see that inroads are being made. We plan to send several hundred pounds of clothing from Moscow to be distributed in this village no later than the middle of March.

"Please pray that we would be able to collect the clothing and finances needed to mail the boxes to Siberia."

"Their two sons, Joshua and Corey, are "doing well" in school and the varsity basketball team on which they play has been "winning a lot of games."

"Joshua, who graduates this year, hopes to attend Messiah College next year and is putting together a video of his

basketball games to send to the college's coach. Joshua is hopeful of playing college ball next year.

The boys mother, Laura, remains busy with her students she teaches at the school the two sons attend.

She wrote recently that when she was helping her 11th grade students on a paper concerning the American Indians and how they assimilated English, a student remarked in his paper "our language and culture make us who we are; they're our identity." Another student asked, "Is this really true, Mrs. Wooster?"

Laura continued, "The look on his face was quite serious and I knew he had something on his mind.

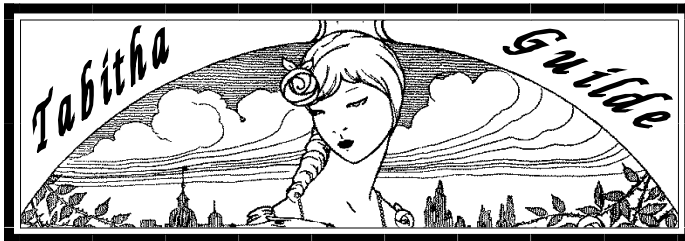
"You see he was born in Korea, but has lived in Russia since he was two years old. He's now 14 and feels much more Russian than Korean.

"However, he really doesn't 'fit' in either place. In Korea he just looks Korean, but has no idea what that means. In Russia, because of his Asian look, he is treated as inferior. His question was aimed at the identity issue. They talked a while longer and after a few minutes I reminded him where our true identity lies.

"We are created in the image of the Creator and should be identified by our love ~ the love that was given to us by our loving Savior. We are to pass it on to others. What a blessing to be able to work with these kids each day for the Lord!"

Missionary Reports from Jack Radabaugh

	<p>To contact the Henrys: Email: jebj@eroam.net Snail Mail: 191/106 Koolpunt Ville 5 Chiang Mai 50100 Thailand</p>
<p>To contact the Woosters: Stateside Address: 315 Bobby Jones Rd. Sarasota, FL, 34232 Email: klwooster@aol.com</p>	



**March 17
9:30 am**

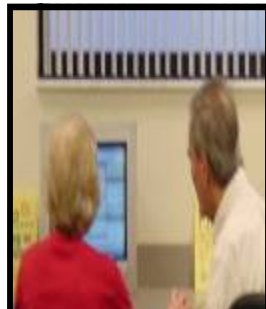
**We meet every third Friday of the month,
first in Room 114 for coffee,
then Room 106 for our project.**

**For more information contact:
Arlene Stohrer
or
Myrna Evans**

**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.



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

**March 14, 2006
9:30 am
Refreshments & Fellowship**

**Program: Call to Prayer & Self-Denial Service
Leader: Nancy Pearo, Spiritual Life Coordinator
Hostesses: Faith Hope Circle**



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

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

**There is a CRITICAL NEED for
TYPE 0-, O+, B blood!**

**Over 3,500 Units of blood
were used last week alone.**

**"The efforts of FUMC have always been
appreciated and the support of the commu-
nity blood program goes a long way towards
replenishing blood supplies and ultimately
saving lives."**

Honor Roll

- Vincent Edward Speed**
- Sherril Clark**
- Mary C McCrea**
- Lois A. Diedrich**
- Bernhard E. Diedrich**
- Jo Ann Ryan**
- Shirley A. Burkhardt**
- Janet D. Watson**
- Adam Kenneth Will**
- Barbara Jean Gilbert**
- Neretta T. Brobst**

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

UMW's Church Mouse's Closet of Issues:

- Bazaar Committee is organizing to start on projects for the November 2006 Bazaar. Come join us!
- An invitation to Spring Hill for March 6th. Contact Pat Blake if you are interested in going. Should we plan on taking the church van for this outing?
- Kiwanis Dinner was a very profitable event for our UMW Unit.
- An honor gift is going to the Children's Home in Sheldon LaMountain's name.
- There are 110 cookbooks left! They make great hostess gifts...and wedding season is coming up!

**Our United Methodist Men in Action!
Not a bunch to sit around in meetings..
More Mission Orientated...Give them hammers and nails to whack!**



**~ ~ New Roof ~ ~
2/6/2006**

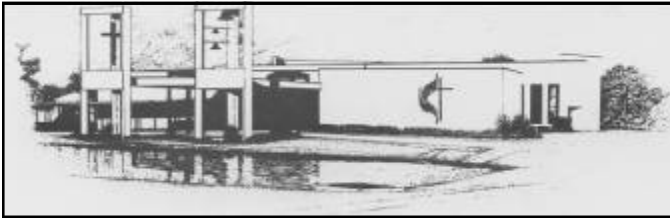


**United Methodist Women's Spiritual Renewal Brunch
February 14th**



**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

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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