

# GENESIS

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

May 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 10 Issue 4

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## Visitation

Sharon Smith

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## "The DaVinci Code"

by Pastor Mark Whittaker



This month the movie based on the novel "The DaVinci Code" is in the theaters. It will cause a great excitement and generate a lot of money because of what it is about – and what it isn't!

It is important to remember when you read the book or if you go to see the movie that it is a work of fiction.

The book begins by saying that what is in the book is based on fact. It isn't – it's all a work of fiction. Yes there are facts. But using facts anyway you want does not make them accurate. If you use facts out of context and interpret them to say what you want, you have facts but they are not factual.

Unfortunately a lot of people are reading the book and assuming that because there are a number of scholarly references, it must be true and they question the church and what they thought they believed. Those who are

not Christians are pointing to the book as proof that the church was founded on lies. The book would have you believe that the Catholic Church has for centuries been hiding different "gospels" because they didn't want you to know the truth.

There are books that are called the "Lost Gospels" but there is nothing lost about them. They have been known and read for thousands of years. They were not included in the Bible by the early church leaders long before the Catholic Church became "the church."

One of the "Lost Gospels" that was not included in the Bible is the Gospel of Thomas. It tells the story of what Jesus was like when he was a child. In one part he makes birds out of mud and then touches them and they come alive and fly off. In another part he is reprimanded by his parents for getting mad at his friends and killing them with a bolt of power.

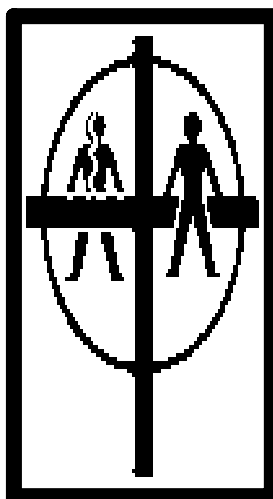
Another major

assumption in the book is that Jesus lived through the crucifixion, escaped with Mary Magdalene to France where they raised a family and died of old age. But when you realize that Mary Magdalene was not the daughter of Bill and Sue Magdalene but from the city of Magdala, that Magdalene was her identifying characteristic, then you realize that if she were married to Jesus she would be Mary, wife of Jesus, not Magdalene.

Problems abound in the book with Historians, Leonardo DiVinci students, Art Historians and Biblical Scholars all agreeing that what is said is wrong and misleading.

So it is important that when you discuss this book or the movie with friends that you understand that it is a work of fiction designed to sell books, not educate people to a hidden truth.

The Good News remains the same, God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believed in him would not perish but have everlasting life.



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



### ~ Angel Tree Participants ~

Left to Right: Jeanette Cole, Sharon Deutsch, Betty Gunderson, Susan Dean, Alice Williamson  
Missing: Abbye Jean Richner

These are the ladies who worked on this past Christmas' Angel Tree.  
They were given an award from the Salvation Army for their work helping  
97 children living in Homosassa to have a Merry Christmas.  
We thank all of you who contributed gifts to this very special venture.

# First United Methodist Church Begins New Ministry

FUMC would like to welcome a new ministry known as Parish Nursing.

Heading up this new ministry is a new part-time staff member, Sharon Smith.



Sharon, who is a registered nurse, will oversee the Parish Nursing and Visitation ministries.

She comes to us with an impressive resume and many years of varied experienced in the field of nursing.

You may be wondering what Parish Nursing is all about.

It is a health promotion, disease prevention ministry based on the care of the whole person and encompassing care of the body, mind, and spirit.

Some functions of this ministry include: (1) integrator of faith and health, (2) personal health counselor, (3) health educator, (4) referral agent, (5) trainer of volunteers, (6) developer of support groups, (7) health advocate.

This nursing role does not embrace the medical model of care or invasive practices such as blood drawing, medical treatments, maintenance of intravenous products, or administration of medication. It is a professional model of health ministry using a

registered professional nurse.

The focus of the Parish Nurse Practice is the faith community and its ministry. This ministry is intended to be integrated into the life of the congregation, revitalizing the mission of health and healing of the congregation, with the Parish Nurse being a regular member of the ministerial staff.

The Parish Nurse, in collaboration with the pastoral staff and congregants, participates in the ongoing transformation of the faith community into a source of health and healing. Through partnership with other community health resources, Parish Nursing fosters new and creative responses to health and wellness concerns.

Sharon already has many ideas and plans for this new ministry to become an integral part of our church ministry, particularly in the areas of health education and visitation.

She will be looking for individuals from the congregation with or without medical background, and/or experience to assist her in many ways.

If you feel "called" to this ministry, please leave Sharon a message through the church office.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is very excited to welcome Sharon and this new ministry to our congregation and the community we serve.

Dave Benthusen



## The Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and

guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our

little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself.

By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



**FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING**



drug abuse, illness, or death of a parent. There may be neglect, or conflicts that have made impossible a normal family life. A majority of referrals now come from family, schools, courts, or other agencies. Each child is evaluated to see if the program of the Home can be of help.

Thank you for your gracious gift on April 30, 2006. You give this ministry a vote of confidence each time you support our efforts to help troubled children, youth, and families.

I was recently reminded that our church has many new members who may not know about this Florida Methodist Ministry. This beautiful 100-acre campus is located on Lake Monroe, in Enterprise, Florida, near Deltona.

The campus is a beautiful spot with huge oak trees, lovely brick buildings, and eleven cottages for the children to be housed. Each cottage has about eight residents and their cottage parents. No more than two residents share a room. Meals are prepared by members of the cottage as a "family" group. Menus are supervised by a dietician to ensure that a wholesome balanced diet is available. Residents share chores in the cottages and are responsible for their own rooms.

The children come because of sexual abuse, other physical abuse, abandonment, or

The resident's ages range from 5 to 18, and are enrolled in local public schools from kindergarten through high school or junior college. A highly trained educator, who is a staff member, evaluates each incoming resident to make the proper placement in school. Tutoring is available to help each student. Cottage study time is a regular part of each day.

Each year, on average, about 85% of their total funding comes from private sources. Strong church support through our Fifth Sunday Giving enables the program of the Home to maintain its ministry as a Christian outreach of our commitment to children.

With the Enterprise campus as a focal point of activity, the Home assists children living in other facilities, in independent living and those in vocational programs and institutions of higher learning.

Now you can see why I am so proud of this ministry!

Marsha Bader

**Blood DRIVE**

First United Church of Homosassa  
March 12, 2006

~ Honor Roll ~

- Downs, Joan C.
- Downs, Lynn M.
- Shimp, Alan B.
- Messenger, Edward A.
- Wells, Marilyn Mae
- Wells, Leon Edward
- Stoneman, James Vincent
- Hewitt, Shirley E.

- Speed, Vincent Edward
- O'Gorman, Judith
- Dilling, Marjorie Jean
- Blockus, Helen
- Diedrich, Bernard
- Kline, Karen A.
- Diedrich, Lois A.
- Whinam, Marie A.
- Darby, Richard E.
- Watson, Janet D.
- Potts, James M.
- Shaffer, Richard Vincent
- Blum, Margo B.
- Whittaker, Mark Alan

**BLOOD DONORS  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
Thank you for this gift.  
~ Barbara Jackson ~

**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 \$400.

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!

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING

Bishop Tim Whitaker has announced the Annual Conference Offering to be received during the "Witness With Power" 2006 Florida Annual Conference, June 1-3.

The offering highlights the global connection of The United Methodist Church, particularly Florida's connection with Angola and Latin America.

Sixty percent of this offering will strengthen the ministries of the East Angola Conference and the partnership between our two conferences. The Angola Conference continues to recover after 28 years of civil war. We have already helped to rebuild former missionary buildings in the country including the "Mother" church of Angola.

Thirty percent will be given to the "Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean." This fund was established in 1992 to help the church in the Caribbean and Latin America deal with political turmoil. It will supply financial support for the mission outreach of the evangelical Methodist churches in the region.

Ten percent will be invested in Florida's children through the Council of Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty and the Florida Conference Children's Harvest. This ministry touches over 5,000 at-risk children who receive support for school supplies.

We will be receiving this offering in May just before Annual Conference. Please keep the work alive with your gift to the Annual Conference.

### Welcome Neighbor!

With all the growth in Citrus County it is not hard to find someone who is moving in right down the block.

Do you remember when you first moved into a new place. You probably didn't know where to look for a doctor or the church or any number of special needs that you might have.

That is why we put together the Welcome Gifts. They are chock full of helpful information about the area and the church and even have a goodie or two buried in there amongst the information.

We hope that if you have someone new move in close to you that you will come and get one of the gifts. It is a great way for you to introduce yourself, welcome them to the community, invite them to church and whether or not they every come to church, to make a new friend.

One of the things about God's love is that it is free - no strings attached. This is a gift that is given free - no strings attached. All it takes is a willingness on your part to share God's love with a new neighbor.

### Hurricane Preparedness Workshop Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - 7pm in Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars for this important meeting! Under the direction of Bob MacKenzie FUMC will be having a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop.

We will have a guest speaker and material will be provided.

After last year's many named storms, and a new season approaching, this workshop is sure to be informative.

Check the bulletins for further information.

*From Pastor Mark's Desk*

## **Four Stages of Planned Giving** by Richard L. Evans

"Planned Giving" (sometimes called "Deferred Giving") consists of the charitable gifts we arrange from our accumulated assets—to be distributed after our deaths.

Our "planned" gifts to our church (and possibly to some favorite charities) are created while we are in the prime of our lives and are "deferred" until we have been reborn into eternal life.

Any age or any stage of life can be a good time to consider a "planned gift" to your church.

**30s and 40s:** Wills and estate plans usually are drafted when Christians are in this age range. Some decide to express their gratitude to God by naming their church in a will or living trust for a portion of their estate.

**50s and 60s:** People looking toward retirement often find that a Charitable Gift Annuity, with payments deferred until retirement, is an attractive complement to their savings. And those who have achieved success in their careers, businesses, or investments often are at an age when Charitable Remainder Trusts are attractive as a way to minimize taxes, maintain a good income for life, and make a substantial gift to their church and some favorite charities.

**65 to 75:** Retirement years may bring a desire for gift arrangements that provide tax deductions and a steady income that is also partially tax-free. A Charitable Gift Annuity can be just the answer. Those who own real estate or other investments may decide to transfer those assets and create Charitable Remainder Trusts, enabling them to enjoy a good income, tax benefits, and the satisfaction of continuing to be good Christian stewards—long after their deaths.

**75 and older:** Charitable Gift Annuity payout rates are highest at these ages. Many Christians review their estate plans with thoughts about the next generation and the role of the church in helping to make the world a better place for all God's people. Life insurance policies no longer needed and IRAs and 401Ks may also be assigned to the church.

Whatever "stage" of life you are in, First United Methodist Church of Homosassa and the Florida United Methodist Foundation are in partnership to assist you in your "planned giving." Call the church office or any member of the Permanent Endowment Committee for more information

Adapted from an article in *Lasting Legacy* published by Boston University Office of Estate Planning

## **Columbarium Update** by Richard L. Evans

By the time you read this article, we will have placed an order with the Eickhof Company of Crookston MN for our new Columbarium, with installation anticipated for late August or early September.

It will consist of 108 companion niches, each accommodating either one or two urns.

As soon as the wall unit is installed, the Memorial Garden will be landscaped and fenced, creating a beautiful setting for the cremated remains of some of God's faithful.

Recently I stood in St. John's Cathedral in Valetta, on the island of Malta, and looked at the hundreds of crypts under the floor of the church where bodies of the faithful are buried.

I was reminded again of the significance of our Columbarium project and how appropriate it is to create such a place as part of our church.

The Columbarium will be a beautiful place of remembrance and an appropriate burial place for church members and families.

The Columbarium Committee has authorized a price increase, beginning June 1, based on our increasing costs.

The new price will be \$1,200 per niche and will include one or two brass urns, memorial nameplates, opening and closing, and perpetual care of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden.

Niches still may be purchased during the month of May at the preconstruction price of \$1,000.

See Lyn in the church office for application packets. Call me at home (563-5833) if you have questions after reading the materials in the packet.

## ***Travel With Your Church Friends*** by Richard L. Evans

Twenty-two travelers recently returned to Homosassa from a Mediterranean Cruise following the Fourth Missionary Journey of St. Paul. They enjoyed some amazing sights and stunning vistas in Athens and Corinth before sailing to Malta, Sicily, and on to Naples. They marveled that the ruins at Pompeii (buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius) were so well preserved. And Rome was spectacular—from the ancient ruins to the Vatican and St. Peter's basilica.

Now we're looking ahead to 2007 and our next tour—a 15 day Panama Canal Cruise on Holland America's ms Volendam. Sail from Ft. Lauderdale (with ports-of-call in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico) and an additional two days in San Diego before flying back to Tampa and returning to Homosassa. Departure is on April 22, 2007. See the display in the lobby of the Worship Center. Flyers are available from Lyn at the church office.

Although it is almost a year away, this cruise will fill, and it is important to register early for the best choice of accommodations. At the time of this writing, more than 45 people have picked up materials and about a dozen have registered. We'll have a 58-passenger bus from Homosassa to Ft. Lauderdale so there's plenty of room. Call me at home (563-5833) with any questions, after you have read the materials.

## **THE STEWARDSHIP SPIRIT**

By: Sallyann Moore,  
Stewardship Chairman

A few years ago my husband gave me a book called *The Art of Abundance*. In it, the author encourages us to be aware of our God-given bounty by repeatedly completing the sentence: *Abundance is ....* For example: *Abundance is ...* a fresh coat of paint, a dewdrop-spangled rose, a friend to laugh with, something wonderful to get up early for.

The book reminds me that our natural habitat is a gift from God, who looks to us to be stewards of our environment and all He places in it –gardens, houses, streets, parks, cities, and more. If you happen by the church on Monday mornings, you're likely to find a group of men and women doing just that.

The Monday Morning Group, as they're known, tends flower beds, trims shrubs, paints walls, installs shelves, and repairs leaky toilets in and around the church. The group, which numbers as many as 12 (depending on the season), will do just about anything they can to help the church save money, freeing it for other uses, says Clarence Kohler.

About three years ago, several Monday Morning members joined together to form a men's prayer group that meets regularly to tend to the spiritual needs of its members. The group's growth from physical work to spiritual pursuits brings Matthew 25: 23 to mind: " ... Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Through everyday stewardship we are abundantly blessed.





# 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](mailto:StevenSkelley@yahoo.com)**

**Prayer Groups:**

**Women's Prayer:**

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

**Men's Prayer:**

Meets 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**

Tuesday, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
Room 203 ~ Room114  
with Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise  
382-0699

**Start Your Own Holistic Small Group**

Do you have an idea for another Holistic Small Group?  
A Golf Group? A Ladies Fellowship Group? A Singles Group?  
Training is easy and even fun.

If we can get two more potential facilitators, I could lead another set of training sessions  
in early 2006. 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.





**Sunday, May 14**  
**MOTHERS DAY.** Our youth are invited to hand out a special gift after each service to each female who attends Sunday services.

**Sunday, June 18**  
**FATHERS DAY.** Our youth are invited to hand out a special gift after each service to each male who attends Sunday services.



We have some very talented youth in the church! I have asked them if they'd like to record some songs on CD as a fundraiser. Watch for a Youth Christmas CD this Christmas!



Get your own shirt with the First UMC of Homosassa logo embroidered right on it!

We'll have polo shirts, denim shirts, sweatshirts, short sleeved t-shirts, long sleeved t-shirts, and twill shirts.

Watch for the sale table on the sidewalk between services. Proceeds support ministry to youth.

# DAY TRIP



**Sunday, May 21**  
**CANOE TRIP** after church for Youth Fellowship

**Saturday, June 24**  
**YOUTH & FAMILY TRIP**  
The Holy Land Experience/  
Orlando

Walk through a recreation of the times when Jesus walked among us. Characters in Bible Times Costumes and more.



Pastor Steve 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.*

**YOUTH NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Education Announcement from Patience.** Many have asked me if there will be some kind of follow-up to John Riley’s visit. Pastor Mark and I have been talking about what that could be, and we have an idea. We want to offer a class in basic Christian education, perhaps calling it “Christianity 101.” Not all of us have grown up in the Methodist Church, and some might benefit from such a class. Others have always been Methodists but we could still enjoy a re-fresher course in the tenets of our faith.

In John’s small first epistle—only five chapters long—he says over 35 times that there are things he wants us to *know*, to know for sure! Such assurance is a good Methodist doctrine. What are those things the Bible teaches that will help us--if we know them for sure—to live productively?

The classes would meet once each week for eight weeks for about an hour and a half, possibly in the late afternoon or early evening to accommodate those who work. With the long days of daylight, we won’t even have to drive at night!

I’ll develop the curriculum and teach the class. If you are interested in such a class, please call me (382-4171), or email me ([pnaave@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pnaave@tampabay.rr.com) at the office or [wnaave@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:wnaave@tampabay.rr.com) at home.

**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.



Our church tennis nut, Steve Skelley, was recently invited to play some tennis with former world-number-one and Hall of Famer Jim Courier.

The daughter of Pastor Steve, Steffy, has had quite the stretch of rough road this past year with a knee ailment.

After a successful surgery this past March, it is great to see her back up and around.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Steffy with former world number one tennis player and Hall-of-Famer Jim Courier.

He invited her on court, signed autographs for her, and took pics with her.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



## **I Will Go, Lord** **By Patience Nave**

Not much work is more rewarding in our Church than the task assumed by our Visitation Committee. I've told you before that this wonderful committee meets every Monday morning, rain or shine, holiday or routine Monday. Every person whom we know who is in any stage of illness or recovery is remembered in prayer, with cards carefully selected and prepared, and with plans for visits and phone calls. As we sit around the table signing cards and bulletins, we often tell heart-warming stories about the blessings we have received as we have visited the sick during the previous week. Recently we also remembered someone who came before us.

Some of us who are new to the committee did not know that one of our dearly loved members, Grace Payne, chaired the first Visitation Committee. Her influence still impacts the work around that table. She instilled a deep sense of commitment that has prevailed long past her own participation on the committee not to forget those who, for one reason or another, cannot regularly be present on Sunday mornings for worship. She challenged the committee to visit, to call, to send cards, to take bulletins, tapes, and flowers to members who miss services. She was then and still is an inspiration.

We continue doing today some of the things that Grace Payne initiated. As we remembered her service to the Lord through this ministry, we also thanked Him for the privilege of visiting her now, as she has moved from her active and important role here to being a resident at Sugarmill Manor. She's not here often for church services because getting here is difficult, but her ministry continues. Recently when one of the committee entered Sugarmill Manor to visit her and other members in residence there, the sound of organ music filled the air. There was Grace, playing familiar hymns as residents came into the dining room for dinner! She's a lovely inspiration of graceful adaptation to changing life and of a life-long and continuing ministry to others. Steve Greene sings a song in which he says, "And may those who come behind us find us faithful." We come behind. We still find Grace Payne faithful.

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### ***Walking on the Path***

Patience Nave

*"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."  
Psalm 91:1*

Sometimes it seems that my days are just way, way too busy! There are so many things that I *want* to do and so many things that I *need* to do, and not enough hours to do both! You can guess what happens on those days! I am frustrated that I can't accomplish both the *wants* and the *needs*!

Feelings of frustration usually become exaggerated when I have not gotten up early to begin my day in "the shelter of the Most High." There is much less frustration in days begun in the "sheltered" times. There I gain the sustaining strength and grace to be productive. Such quiet beginnings give me direction and produce a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day. To "rest in the shadow" of our wonderful God is a great way to get perspective for all that any day holds.

In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson paraphrases Psalm 91:1 like this: "You who sit down in the High God's presence, spend the night in Shaddai's shadow." Isn't that amazing? Getting up early in the morning is extremely appealing when we think of it as sitting down with our Friend, the High God. No wonder such days go more smoothly! And then the knowledge that we go to bed overshadowed by *El Shaddai*, the Almighty One, brings a sense of security that produces restful sleep!

## Education Corner

### Patience Nave

Help!

Help!

Help!

Help!

**Do you hear the desperate note in my cry? Well, maybe desperate is a slight exaggeration, but not much! We have some problems, wonderful problems, and I need your help!**

- **Last year we began a Sunday morning study for a group that I called “the in-betweens”—not old enough to be in existing adult classes but too old to be with the children. Martha Dorrell began that class in August, and it is now a vibrant, lively discussion group. They call themselves the Bible Questers, and they are learning together some of the underlying principles of our faith. They meet at 9:30 in the Computer Lab, and they welcome adults who want to discover what God says about our living in a way that pleases Him.**
- **Now we need another class. We have the nucleus of a class of young adults, once again a kind of in-between class. They are too young for the Questers but too old for the teens. As you are thinking about how God would have you live out your discipleship to Jesus? Is a still small voice in your heart telling you that you’re what He wants as a teacher for this new class?**
- **We also have a small group of children, kindergarten through second grade who need a teacher. Ester Waters has been teaching the class for almost a year as a “fill in, ” and she really feels that it is not the place for her. The children are beautiful, and I am sure God would not bring them to us if He did not also bring us a teacher for them. Does reading these words encourage you to want to teach these children the truths of our faith that will change their lives?**

**We have classes for middle/high school students, for pre-K through 5.**

**Would you be willing to substitute in any one of these classes when one of our faithful teachers must be away?**

**This is a great way to “get your feet wet” and determine if teaching children is the place of ministry God has in mind for you.**

**Call me (382-4171) if any of these much needed positions is one where you think God would have you minister.**



1  
 Arthur Smith  
 Gene McGee  
 Joan Downs  
 Tracy Hodges  
2  
 Charlotte Carlson  
3  
 Raymond Short  
 Marlene Pond  
4  
 Gil Kissinger  
 Josie Reel  
 Elizabeth Evans  
 Marilyn Siegel  
 Alice Williamson  
 Sharon Smith  
 Cindy Harrell  
5  
 Sharon Haskell  
6  
 John Manser  
 Loretta Blair  
 Carolyn Crawley  
 Ryan Blevins  
7  
 Marge Dilling  
8  
 Henry Folsom  
9  
 Dolly Schwalbert  
 Jack Eldridge  
 Gail English  
10  
 Evelyn Bash  
 Debbie Grafton  
11  
 Ina Ryder  
14  
 Caroline Hay  
 Lori White  
16  
 Howard Kuntz  
 Joyce Saxton  
 Amanda Grafton  
 Amanda George


17  
 Carole Weinberger  
 Patricia Coleman  
 Dayna Middlebrooks  
18  
 Conrad Keniston  
 Chuck Hoeffler  
 Marge Davis  
 Richard English  
19  
 M.J. Jahn  
20  
 B.J. Lesbirel  
22  
 Bill Marquis  
 Onlee McEachin  
24  
 Jack Graham  
25  
 Ruth Bronn  
 Linda Ritter  
26  
 Jack Fasnacht  
 William Smith  
 Linda Schrock  
 Ernie Dorrell  
27  
 Lillian Gorlitz  
28  
 Ernie Verge  
 Jack Schoch  
 Alma Mallett  
 Joe Henry  
 Dolores Henry  
29  
 Sandra Tam  
30  
 Ruth Eaton  
 Lyn Wolf  
 Clarence Kohler  
31  
 Grace Payne  
 Arthur Case Jr.  
 Ann Albere  
 Barbara Lantz

5  
 Joyce & Allen Stone ~ 60 years  
7  
 Joyce & Stan Zawacki ~ 51 years  
9  
 Sharon & Ronald Seely ~ 47 years  
11  
 Dreama & Mark Waldrop ~ 7 years  
12  
 Ruth & Dermot Samuda ~ 17 years  
15  
 Jimmi & Barry Reichard ~ 33 years  
16  
 Lori & Stan DeClue ~ 8 years  
17  
 Emily & L. Archer Walker ~ 59 years  
22  
 Jack & Linda Schrock ~ 52 years  
 Joan & Clayton Spencer ~ 1 year  
24  
 Ruth & Oliver Bronn ~ 65 years  
25  
 Angie & Michael Watson ~ 4 years  
26  
 Sue & Wes Harris ~ 22 years  
30  
 Charlotte & Albert Carlson, Sr. ~ 65 years

*In And About Our Church*



May 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



**New  
to Our  
Church**

**JEFFREY & VICKY POST from Homosassa**  
**Kayla Micali**  
**Paul Micali**  
**Harli Post**  
**4297 S. Velma Pt.**  
**Homosassa 34446**  
**628-4102**



How many times throughout the year,  
 And especially on this day, do  
 People known as children,  
 Praise the one who made their way to  
 Yet another beautiful day,  
 More enticing than those before,  
 Or healed their wounds, corrected wrongs,  
 Then even loved them even more?  
 Her hair shows signs of silvering,  
 Each strand for childhood pranks.  
 Right now is when each child should give a  
 Special prayer of thanks.  
 Dear God of all, we thank you,  
 And ask for only this,  
 Your blessings on all mothers dear,  
 Maybe give each mom a kiss?  
 Other obligations keep us from showing now,  
 More than anyone we've ever known,  
 to Love – she taught us how!

Mad Poet

**SHARE of Florida**  
**By Tom & Nancy Pearo**

SHARE has reached a high for the month of February of \$1,436.60. The last time we were this high was in 2001. Sales continue to grow slowly but we need to do more.

The benefit to low income families can never be measured. Being able to buy food at such a reduced price helps everyone involved.

The community also gains from the two hours of community service required for each sale. We still need your help to get the word out on SHARE. Take a paper home and pass it around in your area.

There is also a new brochure that explains SHARE better. This is an Outreach of the church and everyone can be involved.

If you have reasons for not buying for yourself, you can still help spread the word. If there is any other way you think you can help, let us know. We are always looking for new ways to reach the neighborhood...

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

We will always have a place for you. If you think you can help on a D-Day, please let us know or just show up.

If you missed your Holiday Ham, you missed a great deal. Our four pound boneless, Honey Smoked Ham was a big hit.

We are looking forward to other great bargains each and every month. Check the paper, or go to our new web site:

[www.shareflorida.org](http://www.shareflorida.org)

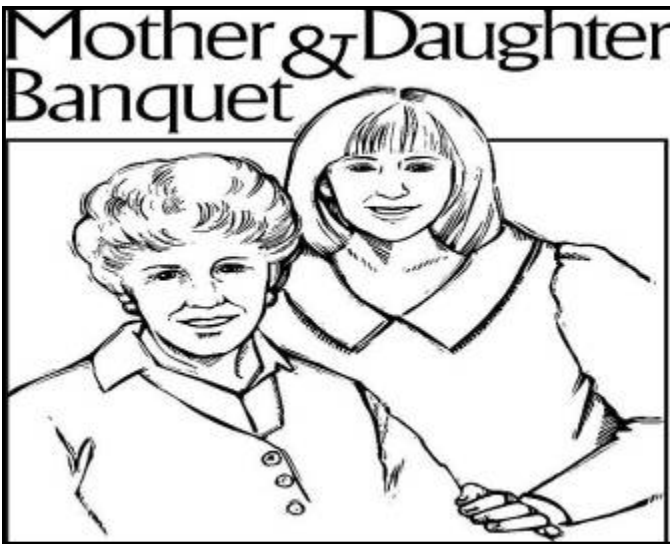
It will give you the Basic package and other information. You can also call us anytime at 382-1034 and we will be glad to tell you all about SHARE.



Florida Food Network

**2006 D-DAYS**

JAN 21	MAY 20	SEPT 23
FEB 25	JUN 24	OCT 21
MAR 25	JUL 29	NOV 18
APR 22	AUG 26	DEC 16



**May 9, 2006  
5:30 PM  
Fellowship Hall**

**Open to all women  
in the church.**

**Bring your Daughter(s),  
Granddaughter(s),  
Somebody else's Daughter...  
Or, you are someone's  
Daughter yourself and  
therefore eligible to attend.**

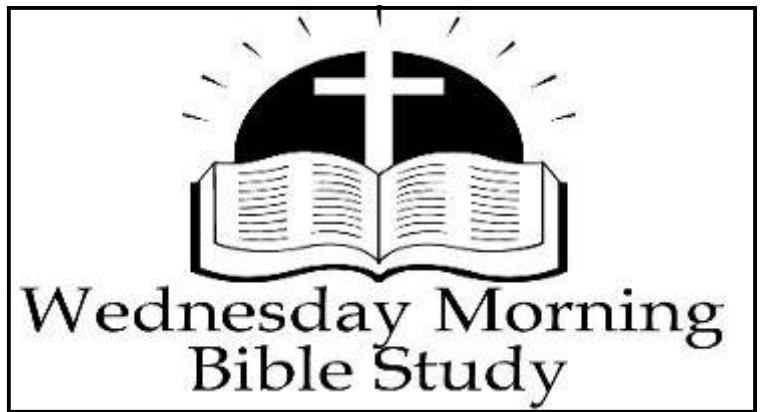
**Meat, rolls, dessert, and  
beverage will be provided.  
Bring a pot-luck dish of  
salad or vegetable to share.**

**There's no charge.  
Ruth Circle will hostess.**

**There will be entertainment.**

**Please R.S.V.P. by calling the  
Church Office or Circle Leaders  
by May 1st.**

**This will also be the last  
meeting of UMW until next Fall.**



**The Wednesday Morning Bible Study  
Group has been quietly meeting for so many  
years that nobody can remember exactly when  
it began.**

**It is listed on the weekly activity calendar  
of the Sunday Bulletin. Other than that it is a  
personal welcoming invitation to come and par-  
take of this fellowship offered to new members  
by long-standing members of the group.**

**A milestone in our church history was  
reached when the church moved from the first  
building on Cherokee Street in Old Homosassa to  
the second church facility on Bradshaw Street.**

**The earliest records we have naming lead-  
ership positions are for the years 1959 to 1965.  
Two such names were Margaret Duryea and Vi  
Dorow.**

**Grace Payne remembers that in 1981,  
when Dr. Max Rittgers was the appointed minis-  
ter, the group started meeting at the church.  
Soon the Visitation Group was created.**

**As stated, formal records of attendance  
are sketchy. According to Evelyn Bash's re-  
search in her book, "The First One Hundred  
Years", the history of FUMC of Homosassa, "one  
person who regularly attended church services  
and Sunday School was listed only as 'Aunt  
Sally'."**

**Some people who were members: Agnes  
Ellison, Paul & Sadie Dowd, Bill & Jean Holdren,  
Marguerite Lambes, Frank & Lee Fidler, June Ol-  
tendorf & mother, Gwen Rickenbacker. and Er-  
lene Belyeu,**

**Evonne Rogers presided as leader of this  
group for many years before her death in 2005.  
While she was leader, the following were mem-  
bers: Eleanor Bennett, Betty Bennett, Helen Le-  
Fave, Ray Short, June Oltendorf & mother.**

**This group is just one little piece of the  
fabric of the quilt of FUMC Homosassa. These  
disciples can be found in the Library every  
Wednesday morning, 9 am to 10 am.**

**By Betty Bennett, as told to Judith Huffer**

## **"HOT" NEWS FROM JOE HENRYS IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND**

The Joe Henry missionary family we assist in Thailand wrote, "Greetings from Chiang Mai where the temperature tops 100 every day because our hearts are on fire for the Lord. We continue to be excited by how the Holy Spirit is shaping our services for Him here and cherish your prayers as we seek to follow His plans for our lives."

They stated that Joe has begun weekly meetings with Ogaat, the Thai man with whom they hope to start a new church early next year.

Elaine's weekly visitation with the women of their "Thai cell group" was said to be a "tremendous encouragement to both sides. She is greatly enjoying being a listening ear and sharing the love of Christ with these precious believers."

Their bulletin reported that because the pastor of the Chiang Mai Baptist Church will be going to the U.S. next month Joe will not be teaching at the church's Bible center until June, for which he is thankful because it will give him more time for language study.

Joe is leading the Bible study at the Thai cell group which numbers about 20 persons. They ask for our prayers for Joe's "clear use of Thai and that the Lord would use this opportunity to reveal more of Himself to the group."

Elaine and Brittany, Justin and Caleb, the three children attending the school where she teaches, will have two weeks off for Songkran, the Thai New Year's celebration. It is the year 2649 in Thailand. They wrote, "It's a blast for the kids because it's basically a city wide, week long, water gun fight, but it has a sad side in that there is a lot of spirit-worship activity."

It was pointed out that despite the fact the opposition parties are going to boycott the vote they are going to hold a "snap election." They ask that we continue to pray for an equitable Lord-led solution to the "political woes" there. Some of the superstitions they noted: The prime minister left his home at 9:30 in the morning because it would bring him good luck. He also rode an elephant at a nearby campground "to rid the political process of bad luck."

## **PLANS BEING MADE FOR CHURCH IN SIBERIA**

Kevin Wooster, the missionary we help support in Russia, is meeting with representatives to register a new church in Ulan Ude, Siberia. Kevin and other field leaders are discussing with the men they are training "how to catch a larger vision for Russia and the world."

The Woosters wrote, "In the long run we as foreigners cannot make all the decisions that need to be made for the future of the work....The long term goal is to see them grasp the advantage of having a group of churches that work together and are connected through meetings, seminars, retreats, etc...This will keep them accountable one to another..."

"With Russia being a matriarchal society," they said, "it has taken many years for men, young and old, to step up and take positions in the church. Years of patience and prayers have been realized and it's exciting to see these men learning to become leaders and planning for years into the future while still realizing that they need to continue to feed the 'sheep.'"

Keeping abreast of the ever changing laws for non-governmental agencies continues to take large amounts of time. They report it always is a challenge to register their organizations. Presently they work as an international organization, however, many officials in the outer regions do not understand how to interpret the laws for non-Russian groups. They ask that we pray that all will go well with their organizations and that they will not have problems with the governmental agencies.

In an update on their oldest son they wrote, "Yes, Joshua is accepting the offer to study at Messiah College. In fact he hopes to play basketball there and will be sending out a video to the coach to see Joshua in action. Please continue to pray for Joshua as he is filing for scholarships. He has about 65% of the funds needed for his first year of college and is trusting God to bring in the rest."

The Woosters expect to meet the Joe Henry family when they travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand for a church conference later this month.



## OPEN INVITATION TO VISIT CHURCH LIBRARY

You are invited to visit the Church Library Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The Church Library offers a variety of books, magazines and videos that we hope will cover your interests.

There is a new series of easy-to-read books in the writing style of Jan Karon.

The setting is Fairacres, an English village. Ms Karon states, "You'll find wonderful wit, quirky characters, the colorful intrigues of daily life, along with love and laughter."

This novel, "The Village Centenary", centers on Fairacre School that is 100 years old and of course such an occasion should be celebrated, but that isn't the only problem to be solved.

There is a leaky school skylight; the fresh out-of-college new teacher is full of idealistic theories and the vicar has decided to keep bees. Miss Read is the narrator of the stories.

The other books that follow are: "Summer at Fairacre", "Mrs. Pringle of Fairacre", "Changes at Fairacre", and "Farewell to Fairacre".

Linda Windsor has written two romantic comedies.

First is "Fiesta Moon". When American social worker Corinne Diaz arrives at a remote mountain village to volunteer at a local or-

phanage, she thinks it's a slice of Mexican heaven. Enter Mark Madison, an engineer, who has once again been saved from the clink by his brother Mark, promises to stay sober and fly right. Working together, the stubborn opposites try to dispel an old superstition threatening the new orphanage.

Sometimes an added pinch of faith can make just about anything possible.

Next is "Paper Moon", a rollicking romance wherein fun-loving Caroline and career-driven Blaine are single parents who fall in love when they chaperone their daughters' class trip to Mexico.

Heartbreak overtakes their happiness when their girls disappear. As they search for them, can they hang onto their love?

We have a new Amish novel by Beverly Lewis titled "The Preacher's Daughter".

This is the first in the "Annie's People" series. Annie Zook is a preacher's daughter, lives in Paradise, PA and carries a shameful secret which is her passion for drawing and painting.

The Amish church considers such art to be a direct violation of the commandment "Thou shalt not make thee any graven image". Annie keeps putting off her baptism because of her secret and it even costs her a beau as baptism is required for marriage.

When the secret is eventually revealed and her father is furious, must Annie choose between the Amish

life she's always known and art, her life's great love?

Lynn Austins has written "Gods & Kings", a biblical story of Hezekiah that becomes so real, you'll be shaking the dust off your shoes. Hezekiah is heir to the throne of David.

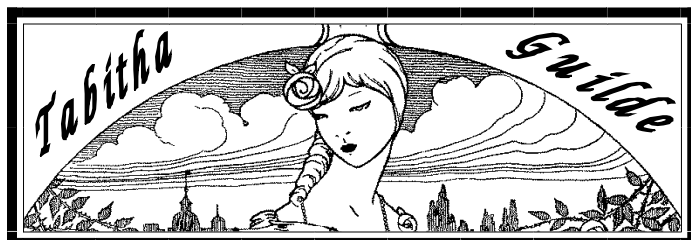
To ensure a military victory, Hezekiah's father, King Ahaz, sacrifices his firstborn son, Eliab, to the pagan god Molech.

As the King's enemies continue to close in, Hezekiah's mother searches frantically for a way to save Hezekiah from the same fate. But God has great plans for Hezekiah and soon he and his mother will discover the one true source of strength.

News anchor John Gibson takes a political and personal look at how Christmas is under attack here in America. "The War on Christmas" covers court decisions to remove nativity scenes to ACLU threats over the use of the word "Christmas" in school documents. He feels Christian faith is pitted against secular humanism.

For lighter reading, there's "Life with Father" written by Clarence Day. If you like Art, we have a book of illustrated covers for the Saturday Evening Post painted by Norman Rockwell.

Hope you find something you like,  
Your Library Staff  
Barbara Jackson  
and  
Helen Lefave



**May 19, 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.**

**I want to thank all the people who were there for me when Ray was so ill; for their cards, calls, visits and prayer.**

**It was good to know that I had so many friends looking after us and helping us get through a tough time.**

**They were still there for Beverly and me when Ray passed away and I don't think we could have gotten through all of this without them.**

**I also want to give a special thank you to Pastor Mark Whittaker for his visits and wonderful sermon at Ray's Funeral. I listen to it every night before retiring.**

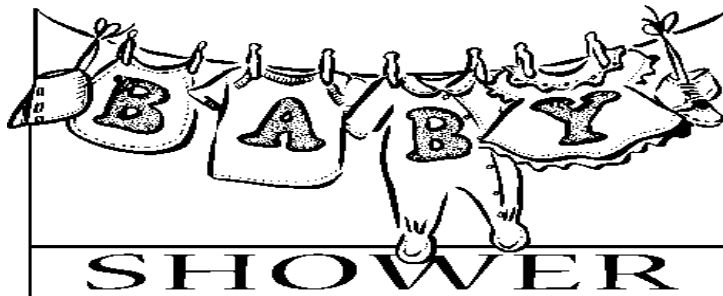
**~ Love,  
Zip**

**Nancy and I wish to thank our Church family for all the kindness while I was in the hospital. The visits, food, the help in cleaning made my stay much easier to bear.**

**Thank You everyone.**

**Tom and Nancy**

**WORLD'S GREATEST**



**For new and expectant mothers in Citrus County  
May 11**

**FUMC will again collect new baby blankets (and other items you deem appropriate) for this community project.**

**If you crochet or knit, we encourage you to "get those needles going".**

**Cash contributions are acceptable, and checks may be written to CCHCE.**

**Please place your donations in the collection basket in the church narthex on April 23 or 30.**

**Dee Green  
Outreach Committee**

**We would like to thank everyone at First United Methodist Church of Homosassa for their continued prayers for Barbara and our newborn son, Timothy. Timothy is still in the hospital NICU, but seems to be improving a little bit each day.**

**We would also like to thank the church for the beautiful rose that was on the alter in honor of Timothy.**

**Barbara, Larry, and Timothy Sunderland**

**Thank you all so much for your kind words, thoughts & prayers about my surgery.**

**It's so nice to be a part of such a wonderful church family.**

**Love, Steffy Skelley.**

**The website for our new district UMW is [www.gbqm-umc.org/gulfcentral-umw/](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/gulfcentral-umw/)**

**Check it out!**

**Nancy Pearo**

## **Cancer Survivors Form Support Group**

**By Steven Skelley**

Albert Einstein said, "In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity." Two local residents have faced the extreme difficulty called cancer and are now creating opportunities to encourage others. Anna Cooley and Earl Cadaret have recently launched the Cancer Survivors Support Group in Homosassa. "We are both cancer survivors and we feel we have something to share with people who are going through similar circumstances. This support group is for anyone in the community," Anna said.

Earl continues, "People who have cancer begin to wonder if anyone cares at all. You often feel alone. You feel like you are in no man's land. We're here to help them and support them through this battle in every way we can."

"People think the diagnosis of cancer is the kiss of death. That's not always the case anymore. We've been there. We want to let people know we are here for them. We understand their fears and concerns. I'm a lung cancer survivor of 15 years," Earl shares.

"Some people may be afraid they have cancer but be afraid to go to a doctor to find out for certain. Cancer is scary. There is a fear of the disease itself. Then, being diagnosed with cancer elevates the fear. When my oncologist told me I had lung cancer, I lost the next 45 minutes. Once he told me I had lung cancer, that was the last thing I heard. I don't like to think I am a fearful man, but fear absolutely took hold of me when I heard those words. If I had had a group like this one to support me, it would have made a big difference."

Anna, also a cancer survivor, had a breast removed five years ago. "When I first heard I had cancer, my knees buckled. Just before that, I had been to a Billy Graham crusade and I had gotten a book called *Peace With God* and that book got me through that first week. It's funny how the Lord got me that book just before I found out about the cancer because I really needed it then."

Earl believes faith made a difference in his battle as well. "I believe that faith also makes a huge difference. My wife actually prayed with my surgeon before he operated on me. I believe God spared me for a reason and now I want to do something to help someone else and that's why I'm doing this."

"There are things that every person with cancer deals with on a daily basis. It's possible with God's grace to make it through all this. It's possible with the support and help of people who care about you to face these choices and challenges. That's our goal: to help you through this."

Anna continues, "Our group is also confidential. What we share with each other stays in the group. We trust each other. It's like that saying, 'What happens on the cruise, stays on the cruise!' With us, it's 'What we share with each other in our group, stays in our group.'"

Earl adds, "At our first meeting, we found that there was no hesitation for all of us to talk about this stuff with each other at all. I think the reason is that we're all fighting this battle. We all face the same fears. It's all the same. It doesn't matter if it's lung cancer or liver cancer or breast cancer. The fears are all the same."

"Our group is not all doom and gloom! We have fun too," Anna explains.

Earl continues, "Anna and I were friends before our cancers. Our friendship is even deeper now. That's what happens to cancer survivors and what we will see in this support group."

"Basically, the bottom line is that this group is for family, for friends, for people who have anything to do at all with someone who may have cancer. You may know somebody and be worried about someone with cancer. We're here for you,"

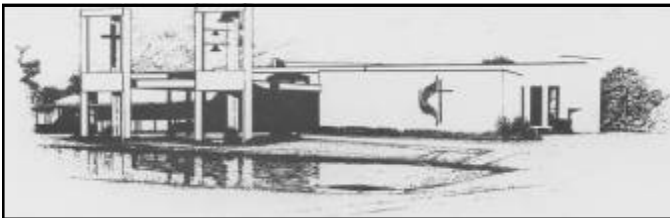
"That's right," Anna says, "We're here for you. We're here to help reinforce your physical, mental and spiritual health."

Anna Cooley and Earl Cadaret's Cancer Survivors Support Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at First United Methodist Church in Homosassa.

Call Anna (382-4132), Earl (382-1923) or the First United Methodist Church (628-4083) for more information.

**First United Methodist Church  
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**A Stephen Ministry Church**



WE ARE  
ON THE  
WEB

[www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.org)

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

**Rev. Mark Whittaker**  
Pastor

**Sunday Schedule**

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM  
Nursery at all services

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM  
Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM

Office Hours: Weekdays  
8:30AM to 4:30PM

Office Telephone: 628-4083

Submissions to Genesis:  
Judith Huffer, Editor  
Jan Wise, Copy Editor

Email: [Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Genesis34448@tampabay.rr.com)



**WYSIWYG**

Due to many factors this month's  
edition of Genesis is:  
"What You See Is What You Get."

It is a first draft, no copy-edited  
presentation of articles.

I promise you we will be back to  
our well-edited, well-tweaked  
standards next month.

Your Editor,  
Judith