

# GENESIS

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

APRIL 2007

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

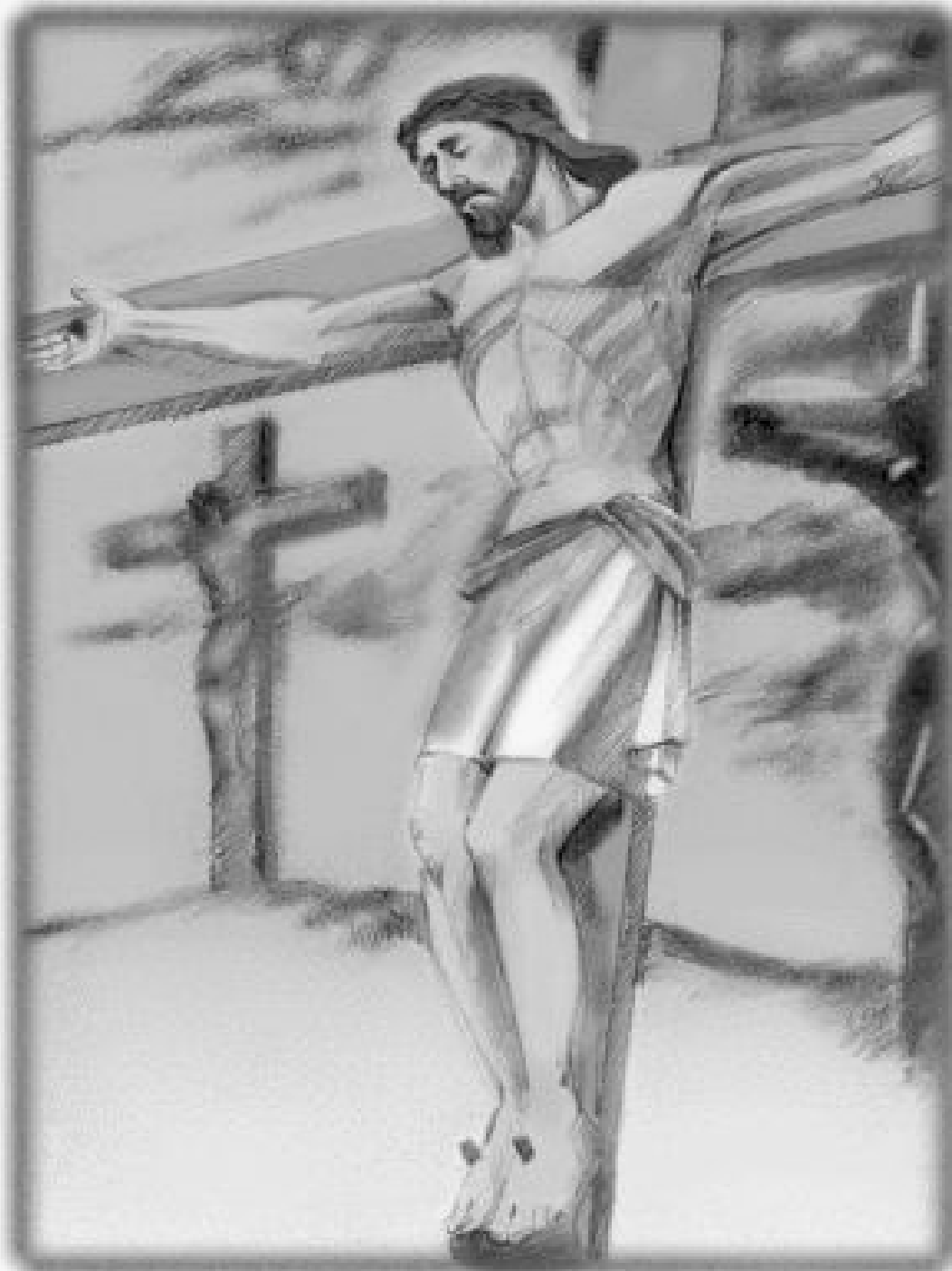
Volume 11 Issue 4

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## JESUS SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE



THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

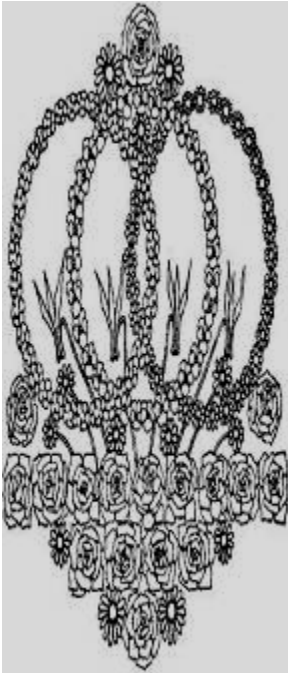
LUKE 23:34



We are a  
Stephen Ministry  
Church

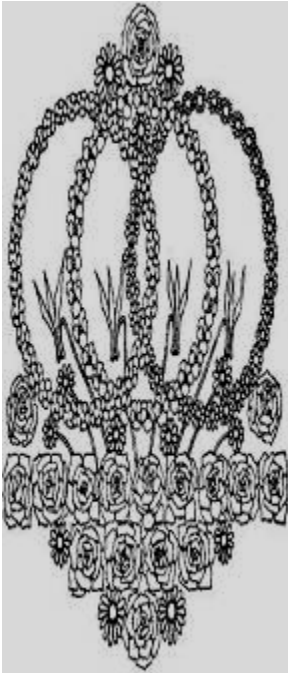
# "Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

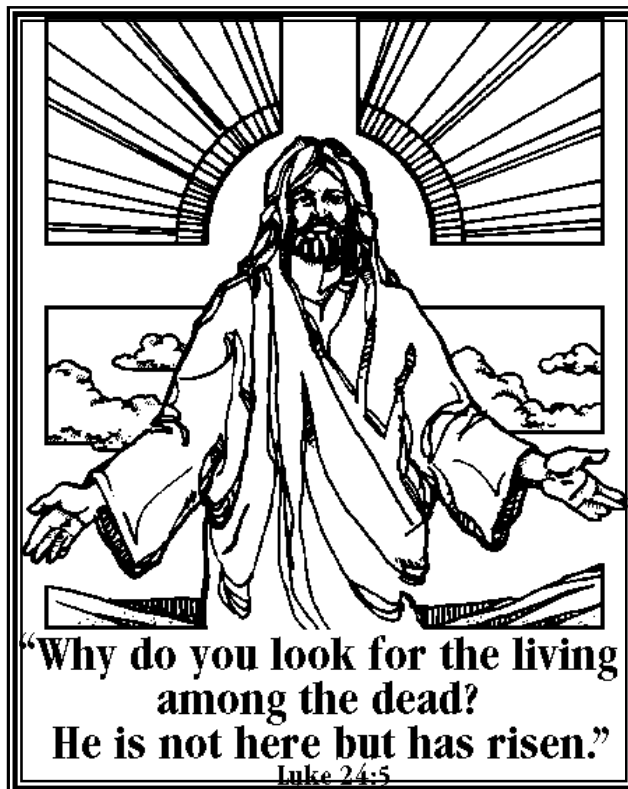
The purpose of an organization's mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation. It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future. This mission statement of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was adopted on January 27, 2005.



**HOLY WEEK**  
**April 1 - 7, 2007**  
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Palm/Passion Sunday - April 1**  
**Holy Thursday - April 5**  
**Good Friday - April 6**  
**Holy Saturday - April 7**  
**Easter Day - April 8**





**But...**

Have you ever been talking with someone and heard that coming?

From the way the person is talking, you know there is going to be a "but" following whatever statement is being made.

You know you are about to make a sudden change in direction. "The left-handed widgets that you have are of better quality than the ones we've been buying, but..."The team worked hard and played with exceptional skill, but...." You don't even have to hear the rest of the sentence to believe that somehow you are going to come up losing.

In the scripture from Acts 10:34-43, Peter talks about all the things Jesus had done in his ministry - "...he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

In spite of all the good Jesus did, he was nailed to a cross and executed as a common criminal at the hands of the Romans, BUT.... (In case you don't know what comes after this "but," Peter says, "BUT God raised him from the dead on the third day.)

And that is the Easter story.

This is a time when those who hear what comes after the "but" move from a sense of total loss to the wondrous news of victory.

This "but" is the difference between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is the difference between life and death, heaven and hell, hope and despair.

That one little word, one small conjunction, signals a happening which turned the world upside down, and nothing will ever be the same again.

The good news for us today is how that one little "but" can turn our lives around, too.

Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we don't have to be afraid.

We have reason to hope and reason to look forward to the future.

Because of what happened after the "but," we can have meaning and purpose in our lives.

We can have a sense of assurance that cannot be destroyed by the events that make up our day-to-day life.

Jesus was dead—really dead, not pretend dead. Jesus did die, BUT.... What comes after that little word makes all the difference in the world!



## Holy Week and Easter Celebration by Lia Icaza-Willetts

During Holy Week, we reflect on the suffering, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ. Holy week begins on Palm Sunday, when we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem -- leading to the crucifixion of Christ on Good Friday. This is a time to share our faith with our families and friends by observing Holy Week.

**Preparing for Holy Week:** Get the family together (include children and youth) for a family meeting and ask members of the family to covenant to observe Holy Week. As a Christian family, observe Holy Week by having prayer and devotions together to remember the suffering, crucifixion, and death of Christ.

- Designate a member of the family to make or find a symbol that relates to the Scripture of the day (for example, a palm branch, wooden cross, crown of thorns).
- Get a cassette of hymns or contemporary Christian music to play during devotions.
- Ask each member of the family to abstain from something during Holy Week (give up meat, dessert, candy, chocolate, or other treat).
- Prepare a family altar on a table. Every day, place a symbol on the altar. You can set up the altar every day during Holy Week and continue to use it once a week after Easter.
- Prepare by reading the Scriptures for the day ahead of time. Find a symbol that relates to the Scripture reading, and add it to the table. At the end of the week, you should end up with eight symbols (such as a wooden cross, a palm branch, a rock, and so on. these could be an object, a drawing, or a picture).

**Single People:** We encourage single people to take time to be close to God during Holy Week with special acts of devotion. You might want to invite a neighbor, friend, or prayer partner to observe Holy Week with you. You could have your Holy Week devotional together on the phone, during lunch, or at another time.

### Suggestions for Observing Family Devotions During Holy Week:

- Gather with your family. Single people might want to gather with a small group of friends.
- Begin by listening to music (Christian music, gospel songs, or hymns).
- Pray an opening prayer together:  
"Loving God, we come to celebrate Holy Week.  
We come to listen to you.  
We come to ask for forgiveness.  
We come to learn from one another.  
Clean our hearts and our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit. Bless our family in this petition. And help us to walk with Jesus all the days of our lives. We thank you, and we praise you in Jesus' name. Amen"
- Add a symbol of Holy Week to the altar or table every day and offer an act of service.

- Have children and youth read the Scriptures.
- Talk about the Scripture reading. Some possible discussion questions include: What is the Scripture saying about Jesus? What is this Scripture saying about me?

### Suggested Readings, Symbols for the Altar Table, and Actions to Take During Holy Week;

- **First Day — Palm Sunday**  
Symbol: Palm tree  
Scripture Reading: Luke 19: 29-40  
Action: Visit older people in nursing homes or in hospitals.
- **Second Day — Holy Monday**  
Symbol: The Bible, placed on the altar table  
Scripture Reading: Luke 19:41-48  
Action: Read together Psalm 51. Family members write notes asking forgiveness of God and one another for wrong doing.
- **Third Day — Holy Tuesday**  
Symbol: Bowl with water and towel  
Scripture Reading: Luke 22: 1-22  
Action: Family members wash one another's feet and pray for one another.
- **Fourth Day — Holy Wednesday**  
Symbol: An offering placed on the altar table for the poor and needy  
Scripture reading: Luke 22:39-62  
Action: Family members offer love and kindness to all the people they meet during the day.
- **Fifth Day — Maundy Thursday**  
Symbol: Bread and grape juice  
Scripture Reading: Luke 23:1-25  
Action: Make this a day of fasting and prayer. Fast during breakfast and lunch; drink water only. Pray a few minutes every hour. Family shares bread and juice at the evening meal. Bring to the church food or money for the poor.
- **Sixth Day — Good Friday**  
Symbol: A wooden cross  
Scripture Reading: Luke 23: 50-56  
Action: Go to a worship service together as a family. Observe a day and night of silent prayers.
- **Seventh Day — Holy Saturday**  
Symbol: Picture of a person or family in need  
Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12  
Action: Organize an Easter egg hunt for the children in the neighborhood. Begin by reading the Resurrection story.
- **Eighth Day — Easter Sunday**  
Symbol: Fresh flowers  
Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12  
Action: Attend Easter Sunrise Services. Bring a friend ( a college student, a single person, an older person) to Easter Sunday worship services. Also invite the friend to have Easter dinner with your family.

The author, Lia Icaza-Willetts, pastor, First United Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida, previously served as a director of family ministries for the General Board of Discipleship.





## Maundy Thursday Services

April 5, 2007  
at 7:30 pm

God's gift of Jesus Christ involves his walking out of the tomb on Sunday morning.

The resurrection is important - critical - but without Jesus' obedience even unto death, it would never have happened.

Maundy Thursday is our opportunity to remember with awe and to wonder anew at the love which enabled Jesus to go to the cross. The service is about Jesus' willingness to die for us so our sins might be forgiven and we might be judged "not guilty" by God in spite of our guilt.

It is a service of shadows that starts with the worship center well-lighted. Then, as the service moves forward, the lights are dimmed following each brief meditation and musical presentation. At the conclusion, the shadows of death cover the room, and we leave in the quiet of the tomb to await the light and glory of Easter morning.

It is a beautifully moving service, and we invite you to come and bring your friends and neighbors to share in this experience.  
~ Pastor Mark ~

## Good Friday Observance

### *"The Passion Of The Christ"*

will be shown in the chapel at 2 PM and 7 PM.  
Join your church family in this solemn observance of Jesus' suffering and death for our sins.



## What Is A Disciple?

A Disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ.

### JESUS ASKS THREE THINGS OF HIS DISCIPLES:

- Disciples give their whole heart to God.
- Disciples give their mind to God in study.
- Disciples give their hands and feet to God in Christian Action.

### FIVE TRAITS OF BECOMING A DISCIPLE:

- A disciple is a growing person.
- A disciple is a minister (not necessarily ordained).
- A disciple is a full-time Christian.
- A disciple is a witness to Christ. (Acts 1:33)
- A disciple is a Christian leader. (John 1:40-42, Matt 16:15, Matt 5:13-14, John 13:12-16)

### SIX NATURAL QUALITIES OF A DISCIPLE

- A disciple knows her/his priorities sets the course for life.
- A disciple has discipline.
- A disciple has a sense of reality.
- A disciple shows empathy.
- A disciple takes the initiative.
- A disciple is generous.

### FOUR SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF A DISCIPLE:

- Faith – All things are possible with God. (Matt 19:26, Book of Acts)
- Humility – Born out of a relationship with Jesus Christ. (Phil 2:1 – 11)
- Hope – When human hope ends, God's grace begins. (Matt 19:26)
- Love – The assignment of a disciple is to love. (1 John 4:7)



Disciples are Christian leaders – not by office or position, but by the spiritual quality of the life they live and by the authority of The One whom they represent.

They have responded to the two commands of Christ:  
"follow Me"  
(Mark 1:16-18)  
and  
"feed My sheep"  
(John 21:17).

~ Marilyn Watson

## Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

*"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19:20 KJV)*

I woke this morning singing the chorus to a hymn I love.

*"For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;  
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light."*

I realized that I know the chorus but not the words to the verses, so I went to the church and looked them up. It is a glorious hymn.

*"We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
A story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light."*

*"We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above,  
Hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love."*

*"We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,  
That all of the world's great people, might come to the truth of God."*

I've thought about those words all morning. I can't get the tune and its message out of my head. Jesus told us that we are to go and teach - not just in China or Africa or Russia or Thailand but even right here in Homosassa! All around me are people who do not know God loves them and has a plan for their lives. I believe every word of the hymn, so why do I do so little to see that they hear the message? Why do I sit so comfortably in my pew every Sunday? What am I doing from Sunday to Sunday to get the message out? If I am going to sing this hymn, my actions need to show I believe what I'm singing. We have a wonderful message to tell! Jesus says we should tell it. I feel very convicted that I have not and am not obeying Him.

*Prayer: Father, Jesus did so much for us, and He asked so little of us - just that we go and tell others. Forgive us - forgive me - for being so careless about doing as he asked. Bring people to us who need to hear. Open the doors for us to speak, and then give us the boldness to walk through those doors with the best news the world has ever heard! Amen.*

## REMEMBER APRIL 29, 2007, IS FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING



**Florida  
United Methodist  
Children's Home**  
Located in Enterprise since 1908

*Touching  
The Future ~  
One Child  
At A Time*

Many of our Church Membership has visited the Children's Home. Remember the Therapeutic Ropes Course that is on their campus?



Recently, the Dr. Phillips Foundation of Orlando graciously provided the funding to expand the Ropes Course.

Five new high elements have been added, which greatly increases the variety and challenge the residents face as they attempt the Ropes Course.

This is a series of low and high elements. Each one has a specific task to be accomplished by the group or individual.

In order to complete the elements, the young people must work together to find a solution. The residents encourage and cheer each other on as they work through the course.

The Ropes Course teaches the young people to trust each other and their leaders, to rely on cottage mates, to work as a team to solve problems and to develop greater self-confidence.

It is the Home's hope that by facing and overcoming the challenges of the Ropes Course each resident will find courage and confidence to confront the many other challenges they are facing in life.

The recreational coordinators have been trained and certified to lead people through the various elements of the course. Only the middle and high school residents attempt the high elements.

We thank you for your generosity in supporting the Children's Home.

~ Marsha Bader



The Faith Promise Pledges we received from Mission Sunday, January 21, 2007, will enable the Mission Committee to meet our commitment to our two missionary families again this year.

We should also be able to continue supporting The Path and The Sanctuary on a quarterly basis.

The Mission Committee is presently seeking information from Larry Rankin of the Gulf Central District on some mission projects being planned for our district.

We are looking into participating in a covenant with other churches that are part of these mission projects within the United States and/or outside of our country.

Once we get information we will probably be planning some fund raisers to accumulate the money necessary for our participation in one of these projects.

~ Jackie LaMountain

### Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Eighteen members of The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society, members of the Permanent Endowment Committee, and several guests attended the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Appreciation Luncheon recently at the Bella Oasis Hotel in Homosassa Springs.

Rev. John Peterson, Vice President of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, was the guest speaker. Presentations were made to five new members: John and Virginia Hoadley, Robert and Mary Huey, and Lyn Wolf.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society honors the members and friends who have made deferred gifts to FUMCH from their accumulated assets. Those gifts, when invested in the Permanent Endowment Fund, will provide income to the church and will extend the Christian stewardship of the donors for generations—and even centuries—to come.

~ Permanent Endowment Committee

## Education Corner

Patience Nave

Because space is precious in *Genesis*, I am going to just give you some bullets - items of interest in the area of education this month.

- We have a new Superintendent of Sunday School. Sandra Tam, who cares for our children so well in the nursery on Sunday morning, has taken on this important job. We are grateful to have her, and I hope you will stop by the nursery and thank her personally for all she is doing.
- The Education Committee is considering a new format for Sunday school. This will take time to plan but will be worth the effort as we reach children with exciting ways of learning about the Lord who loves them. You'll be hearing more about this, and I hope some of you will want to be involved in it as this new format becomes a reality.
- Vacation Bible school this year will have a new face. It will be at night and for the whole church, not just for the children. The theme is *Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with God!*

Kim Bennett, who has wonderful ideas for all of us, will direct the one-week evening meetings.

Obviously our children are not the only ones who need to "soar to new heights." Some of us as adults can get into ruts in our faith and need to be lifted up to get a new vision of what God has in store for us.

Plan to spend five evenings in June letting God change your life, your commitment to Christ, and your day-to-day Christian walk. Registration forms are available at the reception desk in the Administration Building, and a sign-up sheet is on the Education Bulletin Board in the hallway between the education wing and the administration wing.

Come and enjoy this high-flying adventure with us  
June 11 - June 15, 2007  
6 PM TO 9 PM

To register for our hot-air balloon adventure or to find out more, call the church office at 628-4083 or Kim Bennett, VBS Director, at 382-3941.





# From The Desk of Pastor Steve

## Youth Ministry



In January, I asked parents and youth to plan one special youth event this year.

They could choose anything they wanted to do, invite their friends and become more involved in the ministry of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.

Unfortunately, I received only one reply. I had hoped we could have one special event each month.

Any takers? Contact me at the church or at [CitrusCountyTeens@yahoo.com](mailto:CitrusCountyTeens@yahoo.com). I'll be glad to help you with your event planning and funding.

We will be organizing a musical Youth Ensemble this Spring and Summer. Come use your God-given musical talents to sing about His love. Contact Steve Skelley if you are interested in participating or helping organize.



**YOUTH MINISTRY WEBSITE:**  
[www.CitrusCountyTeen.org](http://www.CitrusCountyTeen.org)



### Youth Ministry Schedule:

Sunday School ~ 9:30 to 10:30 am  
in the library.

Youth Fellowship ~12:00 to 2:00 pm  
Meet in the youth room.

Lunch followed by special events  
and community service.

## Join Or Start a Holistic Small Group

### This Week.



- Men's Prayer with Clarence Kohler
- Bible Study with Marilyn Siegel
- First Place with Dane Gibbs
- Chronic Pain Support with Lisa Specht
- Cancer Survivors

with Anna Cooley & Merl Hoar

- Christian Community Bible Study with Jan Wise.
- Current Events with Bill Ackerman

Call the church office for dates and times or check the online calendar at [www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.org).



Thank you for supporting  
Crop Walk 2007!

Our church alone raised \$826 toward providing food for those in need in the US and overseas. Approximately one dozen people from 1<sup>st</sup> UMC walked this year. Thank you.

## Ink Cartridges

Please place your empty computer printer ink cartridges in the collection box on top of the soda machine by the kitchen.



One of our children:  
Adriana E Sanchez Ponce

These funds help support the youth ministry's 2 adopted children in Ecuador and the Philippines.

Through your ink cartridge donations, they receive food, clothes and schooling they otherwise would not have.



1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
of each month at 7 pm.

Join Pastor Steve Skelley and Rev. Mark Whittaker as we look for creative ways to communicate the gospel artistically in our church services.



Crop Walkers: Pastor Steve Skelley, Samantha McCallister, Leslie Montgomery, Steffy Skelley, Helen McCallister, Esters Waters, Joyce Ann Skelley, Marge Frazier, Fern McWilliams, Charles McWilliams, Rev. Mark Whittaker, Rev. Richard Evans



## SO MANY BOOKS ---- SO LITTLE TIME

Why not take advantage of the extra hour of daylight to read one of the following selections found in the Church Library:

1. "The Journey" by Billy Graham "You will only make this journey once. What kind of journey will it be?" Wherever you are in your journey - just beginning, the middle or near the end - you've already learned that there are a variety of paths you can take. Each fork and crossroad requires a decision. With characteristic clarity and passion, Billy Graham offers wisdom, encouragement, hope, and inspiration for anyone wanting to make the most of the journey.

2. "Ever After" by Karen Kingsbury, the sequel to "Even Now". This is the next captivating chapter in the lives of an American family struggling to live their faith on today's world. Twenty-year-old Emily is deeply in love with a young Army medic who is about to be sent to Iraq. Lauren and Shane struggle to move past their opposing beliefs about war and faith as their wedding date fast approaches.

3. "Whispers of Winter" by Tracie Peterson is Book 3 of the Alaskan Quest series. The unforgiving descent of Alaska winter has Jayce Kincaid and Jacob Berringer struggling for survival after their ship is trapped in the ice floes of the Arctic. Back at Last Chance Creek, Leah and Helaina endure the long separation. Leah wonders if her children will ever know their father and Helaina longs for the chance to express her love to Jacob. Helaina has unfaltering faith. Leah in the midst of her greatest trial will confront her understanding of God, His will, and a love that won't let go.

4. "Mountain Top" by Robert Whitlow, best selling author of legal thrillers set in the South. The novel has a former attorney turned minister, Mike Andrews, asked to represent an eccentric man, Sam Miller, who gets information from strange dreams, but his information lands him in jail as a suspect. The question for Mike and the jury is just how far should one follow guidance they receive from dreams and visions.

5. "Saving Graces" by Elizabeth Edwards. She writes about her early years traveling around the world with a military family and about her husband's campaign for Senate, President and Vice-President, and of the tragic death of her 16 year old son. She shares her experiences of fighting advanced breast cancer after being diagnosed only days before the 2004 election. She believes strongly in the power of community to make our lives better and richer.

6. "John's Story", Book I of the Jesus Chronicles by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. John is the last witness. The year is A.D. 95 and John, the one whom Jesus called "beloved" is the last of the 12 apostles still alive and nearing ninety. He's still committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. John is called by God to write a Gospel to show that Jesus was in fact the Son of God, so John recalls his time with Jesus. His words continue to bring followers to Jesus every day.

7. "Teacher Man" by Frank McCourt, an autobiography. He was born in Brooklyn, NY to Irish immigrant parents, grew up in Limerick, Ireland, and returned to America in 1949 and taught for 30 years in public schools in New York City. His teaching methods were anything but conventional. He asked some students to write "An Excuse Note from Adam or Eve to God." At age 66, he burst onto the literary scene with "Angela's Ashes," the Pulitzer Prize winning memoir of his childhood in Ireland. This book shows how his teaching career shaped his second career as a writer.

8. "Goodbye is not Forever" is a true story by Amy George. Amy's father was arrested by the Soviet Secret Police when she was a baby. He was sent to the frigid wastelands of Siberia. When she was 7 years old, Amy and her mother were taken by cattle car to a slave labor camp and witnessed firsthand the horrors of Hitler's Germany. As the war ends, they make a daring escape. They would have been executed if captured. Over the years Amy wondered if her father was still alive and if she'd ever see him again. This is a true story that serves as a vivid confirmation of God's never-ending grace in the lives of His children.

9. "Leaves of Hope" by Catherine Palmer. A novel involving Beth Lowell, a risk taker who travels the globe for her job. Beth wonders how her newly-widowed mother, Jan, can endure her staid, predictable life. Then a note hidden inside a tea set reveals that Jan has kept a shocking secret from Beth. This starts Beth's search for the birth father she's never known. As her search takes her to an enchanting tea estate in the Himalayan foothills accompanied by a handsome British businessman.

10. "That Camden Summer" by LaVyrle Spencer. At the beginning of the 20th century, a freethinking Boston divorcee, Roberta Jewett, returns with her three daughters to Camden, Maine, the seaside village where she was born and raised. Modern times for Camden is the motorcar but a divorced woman is still considered little better than a prostitute by the townsfolk. She gets a job as a country nurse, learns to drive and buys herself a Model T. Roberta perseveres in her struggle to forge a good life for her girls. In the ultimate test of will and devotion, Roberta must summon the courage to stand up to an entire town.

11. There are 4 Craft books available that give instructions on making Chrismons for every day of the year.

12. Two Family DVDs - "Miracle in the Woods" is a powerful drama of three generations of women united by the precious gift of love. "Helena, First Pilgrim to the Holy Land," is about Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great of Rome. She goes to the Holy Land in 326 A.D. to fulfill her solemn vow to find the holy places influenced by the life of Jesus and to build churches to honor Him.



Happy Easter from your Library Staff

Barbara Jackson and Helen Lefave





# Time to Build Challenge

There was never a moments doubt for a lot of people. They knew right from the beginning that we could do it!

The "Time to Build Challenge" was an awesome leap of faith but the church was ready and more than ready to see this final phase get started. We are pleased to report that, as of today and in response to the "Time to Build Challenge," so far the church has received special gifts to the Building Fund totaling over \$185,000 so far. We are grateful to all members and friends who have already contributed, and we look forward to additional gifts that will enable us to reach or exceed our goal of \$200,000. We praise God that we are almost there!

These special gifts will make it possible for the Building Committee to proceed with plans to build the Fellowship Center early in 2008—saving us hundreds of thousands of dollars in increased construction costs over several more years. We sincerely appreciate your faithfulness and your commitment to the future of First United Methodist Church and our ministry and mission in Homosassa and throughout the world.

David Marquis, Chairman Building for Tomorrow Committee

From the Presidential Inauguration Speech, Nelson Mandela, 1984

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves: who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

~ Marilyn Watson, Passionate Spirituality

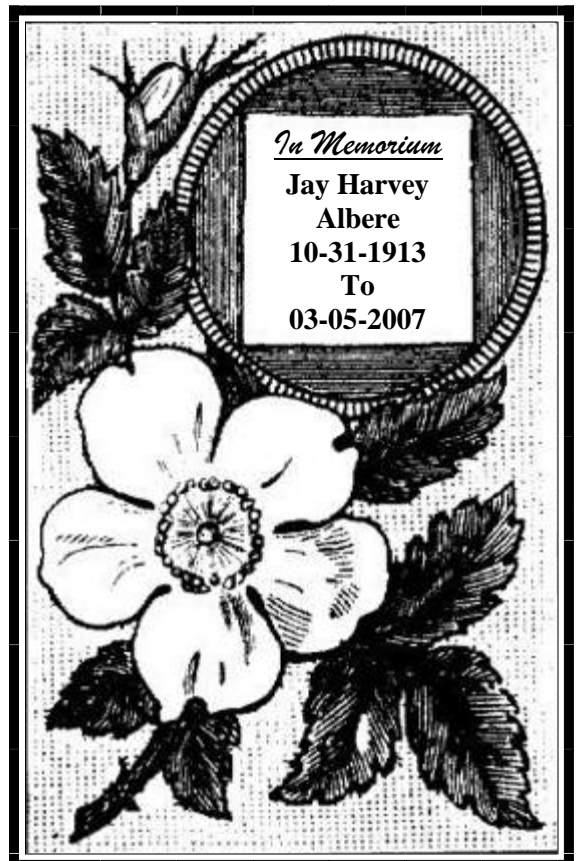
## 100% Worsted Yarn Needed!

To continue with our Guidepost Sweater Knitting Ministry we need yarn to make these "handmade sweaters from the heart." Any color except black is acceptable.

The yarn can be left at the Church Office, Thrift Shop, or with Pat Blake.



<http://www.dailyguideposts.com/help/sweaterproject.asp>



### Annual Salvation Army Volunteer Recognition Breakfast

Along with many other Citrus County volunteers, over 35 members of FUMC enjoyed a buffet breakfast and awards ceremony recognizing their support of the Salvation Army - 2006.



This church collected more than \$8,200 at Publix Market in Homosassa during the Christmas Season and was awarded a "third place" plaque for the kettle drive. The total kettle income for the county was \$66,436.00, all to be used locally.

The church was also recognized for its effort in support of the Angel Tree program.



An award was presented for our assisting seventy-five families with their children's Christmas "wish lists."



Betty Gunderson was recognized for her efforts in the Angel Tree program and Dee Green for her work with the kettle drive.

Pastor Whitaker also received a crystal bell symbolizing his support of the Salvation Army program within FUMC.

~ Dee Green  
Outreach Committee



### Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: February 2007 Joiners

Marlene Mullins  
25 Poppy Ct.  
Homosassa 34446  
302-6694  
From Lackawanna, NY

Tom & Cheryl Smith  
11654 W. Waterway Dr.  
Homosassa 34448  
628-3369  
From Trenton, NJ

Donald & Mary Wither  
3956 N. Tamarisk Pt.  
Beverly Hills 34465  
746-1505  
Don from Contoocook, NH  
Mary from Concord, NH

Cecelia Bledsoe  
1637 S. E. Paradise Cir. #304  
Crystal River 34429  
From Winston-Salem, NC

Marilyn Watson  
51 Birchtree St.  
Homosassa 34446  
from Florida

**Correction:** Eve Walsh is from Pittsburgh, PA. Not from Poughkeepsie, NY. Sorry about our error last month. \*Editor\*

Responding to an appeal from the Salvation Army to assist the February tornado victims, 15 of FUMC's congregation, on very short notice, rose to the occasion.



For two full days at our local Publix Market we manned a post collecting non-perishables, water, toiletries, items for babies, and pet food.

These items were picked up by Keith Gross of Hernando Produce and delivered to Leesburg, FL for areas devastated by the tornadoes.

The Salvation Army estimates that from Citrus County approximately \$5000 worth of much-needed supplies was donated - and also greatly appreciated.

~ Jim and Dee Green  
Relief Efforts For The Recent Tornado in Central Florida.

## Women's Fellowship



United Methodist Women's Unit Meeting  
All women are welcome!  
Please plan to join us for refreshments & fellowship.

**April 17, 2007**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Room: 114**

Program: "So Who Told You The Good News?"

Leader: Kim Bennett,

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Hostesses: Ruth Circle

Circle duties for the month:

Thrift Shop: Mary Martha Circle





### Did You Know?

Did you know that there are many creative and tax-saving ways to arrange a deferred gift to the church—some with financial benefits to you now?

Did you know that it is easy to remember the church in your will or trust—simply by naming FUMCH as a beneficiary of a specific amount or of a portion of your estate?

Did you know that a life insurance policy you no longer need can become a gift to the church—simply by naming FUMCH as beneficiary?

Did you know that a charitable gift annuity (CGA), purchased through the Florida UM Foundation and naming FUMCH as beneficiary, will give you an attractive income stream for the rest of your life—with the remainder given to the church after your death?

Did you know that you can arrange for a portion of an IRA or other retirement plan to be given directly, or by naming FUMCH as beneficiary, without any tax being paid?

Did you know that highly appreciated stocks and real estate can become gifts to FUMCH, avoiding capital gain taxes and receiving charitable income tax deductions?

Did you know that any deferred gift to FUMCH may be designated toward a specific need or left “undesigned” to be used where it is needed most at the time it is received?

Did you know that any deferred gift to FUMCH’s Permanent Endowment Fund may be designated for (1) Capital Improvements, (2) Church Ministries, (3) Outreach & Mission, (4) Scholarships and Education Grants, or left Undesigned—the annual interest to be used where it is needed most?

Did you know that all persons who arrange deferred gifts to FUMCH become members of The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension Society, through which the church expresses appreciation to these fore-sighted and generous people?

Did you know that you can receive more information about Planned and Deferred Gifts by calling the church office?

(Submitted by the Permanent Endowment Committee)

### Workshop Helpful to Many

Members of the Permanent Endowment Committee have received numerous comments and expressions of appreciation about “The Rest of Your Life” workshop



held on Saturday, February 17. More than 70 people attended the morning session.

This year’s workshop focused primarily on where we may decide to live and what services are available to us as we age, especially during the last years of our lives.

The panel, moderated by Rev. Richard Evans, consisted of an elder care manager, an attorney, a financial planner, the director of an assisted living residence, a representative from Hospice, and our own parish nurse. Printed resources were also available as handouts and for pick up. Members of the Permanent Endowment Committee arranged for refreshments and handled the details of “hosting” the event.

Previous workshops have addressed such topics as *Basic Estate Planning, Are You Ready?* and *What Do I Need to Do Before I Die?* Workshops are held annually on a Saturday morning in February, and are open to all members and friends of FUMCH at no cost.

### COLLECTIVE PRAYER FOR USA

Someone has said if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during W.W.II there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England , its people and peace.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America.

If you would like to participate: Every evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8:00 PM Central) (6:00 PM Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States , our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay." said his father "So, son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.'"

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is it's still out there in your pockets."

~~~~~

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand-printed sign . . . "Energy efficient vehicle; Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "Don't be scared because you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day the pastor stopped by for tea and the mother asked him what that morning's Sunday School lesson was about.

He said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

Dear Church Family,

We are inviting all children, youth, and adults to be a part of the excitement at our Vacation Bible School,

**REGISTER NOW FOR VBS!**

**“LIFT OFF! SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH GOD.”**

With this hot-air balloon-theme VBS, the children will become Sky Scouts and learn about the sport of hot-air ballooning as well as connecting what they learn to reaching new heights with God.

The children will extend their learning through every activity: making their own special memories in Pilot Projects, singing fun tunes at Sky Songs, experiencing science activities at the Launch Lab, participating in recreational activities at Rip Line Rec, and enjoying tasty snacks as well as preparing mission packets at the Cloud Café, where the motto is “Serve and Be Saved.”

These are the five flight plans for soaring to new heights with God:

- I WILL FOLLOW
- I WILL TRUST
- I WILL LISTEN
- I WILL REPENT
- I WILL SERVE

A youth and adult Bible Study will be offered while the children are enjoying their activities.

- For Youth - “Crosswinds” - a Spirit-driven Experience.
- For Adults - “Lift Up My Soul” - Taking Flight On the Winds of Faith.
- A curriculum for “two’s,” toddlers, and pre-k will be available.

Come and enjoy this high-flying adventure with us  
 June 11 - June 15, 2007  
 6 PM TO 9 PM

To register for our hot-air balloon adventure, or to find out more, call the church office at 628-4083 or Kim Bennett, VBS Director, at 382-3941

**Palm Sunday**

It was Palm Sunday and because of a sore throat five-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter.

When the family returned home they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked what they were for.

“People held them over Jesus’ head as he walked by.”

“Wouldn’t you know it.” the boy fumed, “the one Sunday I don’t go He shows up!”

**Life After Death**

“Do you believe in life after death?” the boss asked one of his employees.

The new employee replied, “But of course.”

“Well, then, that makes everything just fine,” the boss went on. “After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother’s funeral, she stopped in to see you.”

*Thanks for the chuckles  
 Grayce Payne*

**AUTHOR’S WORKSHOP**  
 To Benefit UMCM’s Literacy Services



**“Family Histories:  
 Preserving Your  
 Family’s Legacy”**

Directed by:  
**Dr. Gloria Houston  
 (Ms. Mac)**

World-renowned author, Dr. Gloria Houston, will be in the Tampa Bay Area conducting an Author’s Workshop benefiting United Methodist Cooperative Ministries’ Literacy Programs. UMCM serves people with limited English or literacy skills or those new to the country by providing ESOL classes at numerous locations in the Bay Area.

All proceeds will go directly to the UMCM Literacy Programs. The workshop will guide individuals and families in gathering family history and constructing a personal narrative or story. Writers of all ages and experience are welcome, especially intergenerational groups.

Dr. Gloria Houston earned her Master’s and Doctorate at the University of South Florida, Tampa, and was formerly a professor and author-in-residence at USF as well as Founder of the Suncoast Young Authors Conference, USF. She has been an educator for grades K-12 throughout the Bay Area, known fondly as Ms. Mac, and her writing textbook “How writing Works: Imposing Organizational Structure Within The Writing Process” has been a best-seller among writers and teachers.

Most recently, Dr. Houston donated the rights to her most well-known book, “The Year Of The Perfect Christmas Tree,” to help save her childhood home of Spruce Pine, NC. The results have been amazing, creating 31 new businesses, new employment for over 1,000 people who were under-or-unemployed, and bringing hope to an otherwise dying community.

Word of this creative and unique endeavor spread to the White House, where Laura Bush, familiar with Houston’s books, chose to honor the town and Houston’s efforts by featuring items from the town in this year’s White House Christmas decorations at the East Wing entrance and the Oval Office doorway.

Join us: Saturday, May 12, 2007  
 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
 Heritage United Methodist Church  
 at Countryside  
 2680 Landmark Drive  
 Clearwater, FL, 33761

Tickets will be available in advance for \$20 or at the door on the day of the event for \$25.

For more information: [www.GloriaHouston.net](http://www.GloriaHouston.net)

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

|                                                                      |                                                                                     |                                 |                                                                                    |                                         |                                                                    |                                                    |                                          |                     |                                          |                                                                             |                      |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Dorothy Koehler<br>Gerry Graham<br>Diane Cary                   | 3<br>Hazel Meyerhoff<br>Richard Sanford                                             | 4<br>Dolli Scott<br>Mary Casper | 6<br>Frank Zack<br>Robert Gidlow<br>William Schuessler<br>Nick White<br>James Earl | 7<br>Richard Bader<br>Carol Andrews     | 8<br>Larry Raymond<br>JoAnn Guthrie<br>Robert Blum<br>Joshua White | 9<br>Donald Tam<br>Elaine Harwood<br>Stacey Dawson | 11<br>Virginia Rese<br>Theresa McCracken | 13<br>Susan Helfman | 14<br>Hendrik Ponderoy<br>Joy Potts      | 15<br>Nelson MacBroom<br>Lou Mosier<br>Laurie Stainton<br>Mary Joy Speicher |                      |                                      |
| 16<br>Edythe Shaffer<br>Peggy Benson<br>Jim Winder<br>William Murray | 17<br>Russell Chapman<br>Ken Smith<br>Janet Small<br>Molly Norman<br>Cameron Cleary | 18<br>Freda Hale                | 19<br>Grete Nygaard<br>Olive Stevens                                               | 20<br>Thelma Jean Buzby<br>James Eyster | 21<br>Gloria Elsea<br>Carol Wallis<br>Dale Miller                  | 22<br>Alan Moore                                   | 23<br>George Woodward Jr.                | 25<br>Alan Burcaw   | 26<br>Eileen Ferguson<br>Lawrence Maddox | 27<br>Katherine Tidswell<br>Virginia Will                                   | 29<br>Roger Ferguson | 30<br>Dene Balmer<br>Carli Benthusen |

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

|                                      |                                          |                                         |                                                                                          |                                           |                                         |                                          |                                                                                 |                                     |                                        |                                        |                                             |                                                  |                                                                                 |                                          |                                          |                                         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Sasha & Cody<br>Shuart ~ 1 Year | 3<br>Frankie & Terry<br>Adams ~ 25 years | 4<br>Helen & Frank<br>Harris ~ 37 years | 5<br>Catherine & Richard<br>Barrett ~ 60 years<br>Patricia & Harry<br>Coleman ~ 39 years | 6<br>Dottie & William<br>Baker ~ 28 years | 9<br>Helen & Buddy<br>Hansen ~ 62 years | 11<br>Sharon & Dale<br>Miller ~ 37 years | 13<br>Joan & Earl<br>Cadaret ~ 22 years<br>Julie & Louis<br>Garthaus ~ 11 years | 15<br>Dee & Dick<br>Otto ~ 28 years | 19<br>Grete & Dan<br>Nygaard ~ 7 years | 18<br>Mert & Marge<br>Davis ~ 47 years | 19<br>Loretta & Charles<br>Blair ~ 31 years | 18<br>Mary Valeria & Donald<br>Wither ~ 48 years | 19<br>Jerry & George<br>Cole ~ 59 years<br>Marilyn & Ralph<br>Siegel ~ 16 years | 21<br>Betty & Glen<br>Gunderson ~ 56 yrs | 22<br>Ruby & Larry<br>Raymond ~ 47 years | 25<br>Barbara & Ken<br>Smith ~ 54 years |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|

**Nursing Centers**

**MEMBERS & FRIENDS at NURSING CENTERS**  
Barrington  
 Ken McGuire  
Brentwood  
 Evelyn Bash  
 Rene Dube  
 Ann Specht  
Citrus Health & Rehab.  
 Gerry Waing  
Crystal River Health & Rehab.  
 Robert Smith - Hospice  
 Cypress Cove  
 Jack Mallett  
 George Mestjian  
 Willie Smith  
 Elta Whilden  
 Julia Wilkinson  
Sugarmill Manor  
 Del Parker  
 Grace Payne  
Diamond Ridge  
 Marjorie Cook  
 Maddie Wallace  
Life Care Center  
 Helen Zack  
Nature Coast Lodge  
 Betty Duncan  
Hospice At Home  
 Dick Bradley  
 Dea Miller  
 Wallace Nave  
 Ken Smith



**Keep Our Property Safe & Secure**

When using FUMC for small groups, meetings, etc., we ask for your help in making sure that the building is secure after you leave.

**REMEMBER:**

**STOP**

Check that all lights and fans are off.

**LOOK**

to make sure that everyone has their belongings and has left the building before you...

**LOCK** the doors!

**Thank you!**



Michael Rodgers, Night Security

**FOUR RULES TO LIVE BY**

I met this guy and he has a motto he lives by every day. He said listen carefully and live by these 4 rules: Drink, Steal, Swear, & Lie.

I was shaking my head no, but he then told me to listen while he explained his four rules. So here they are:

~ Drink from the "everlasting cup" every day.

~ Steal a moment to help someone that is in worse shape than you are.

~ Swear that you will be a better person today than yesterday.

And last, but not least, when you lie down at night thank God you live in America and have freedom.

~ Email from Tom and Nancy Pearo

**" Growth Of Love "**

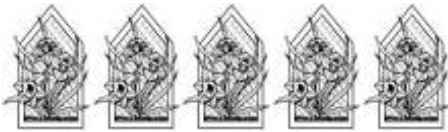


Within our hearts our love will grow,  
 From inner feelings, that love we know.  
 With warmth of love, like sunshine rays,  
 Bringing happiness, through all our days.  
 Sometimes with love, we may forget,  
 Those special times of love, when we first met.  
 To ensure our love, to show we care,  
 We'll embrace in love, that love we share.  
 From all shared love, that we will give,  
 Fulfills desire, for love to live.  
 From inner feelings, our love will grow,  
 Embraced in love, from love we know.

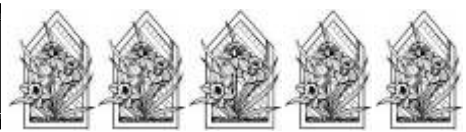


~ Sammie McCallister





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



SHARE continues to be a community outreach, thanks to our volunteers. With fortyfive orders in February, totaling over \$1,000, we have managed to save at least that much for everyone. We have also acquired several new buyers; the word of the program is spreading. Since we started, we have had seventy-seven D-Days with a monthly average of about \$1,270.00. Our yearly average is over \$11,000. From the beginning to date, we have sold \$89,719.90 of food, which is an amazing amount of money for six and a half years. We still hope to do better.

One thing that is disappointing is the fact that most buyers are volunteer workers and people who are not members of our church. With our large congregation, we should have better participation. Please remember that SHARE is not just for low-income families; it is for anyone who eats. Our prices are dependent on our volume. If we sell more, we all get more for our money. One of the complaints I have heard is that there is just too much food in an order. Please note that all meats are frozen, and anything you buy can be kept frozen until you use it. You don't have to buy every month. Also, you can join together with other families, friends and neighbors to buy only what you need. We are a "select site" so you don't have to buy a Basic Package. If you have questions, call us at 382-1034. We will be glad to talk with you about SHARE.

By the way, if you missed ordering for March, you missed the best Spiral Cut Ham for about half of what you would pay at the local supermarket. Please, check for the next sign-up days; then come in and see what you can get for your money. Bring a friend or neighbor along. Become a regular at SHARE. You will be helping yourself to good food at a reduced price.

| SHARE Total Sales | Overall average-----> |             | \$1,190.05  |             | Total sales> |             | \$89,719.90 |            |              |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Year of---        | 2000                  | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004         | 2005        | 2006        | 2007       | monthly Ave. |
| Average---        | \$1,887.78            | \$1,278.66  | \$969.99    | \$1,089.69  | \$1,109.08   | \$1,300.43  | \$1,256.87  | \$1,064.80 | \$1,272.60   |
| January           |                       | \$1,568.65  | \$823.70    | \$857.75    | \$836.75     | \$1,375.65  | \$1,210.65  | \$968.40   | \$1,112.19   |
| February          |                       | \$1,745.30  | \$1,232.00  | \$1,040.80  | \$1,297.20   | \$1,247.05  | \$1,436.60  | \$1,161.20 | \$1,333.16   |
| March             |                       | \$1,192.50  | \$1,110.55  | \$1,110.20  | \$1,353.70   | \$1,511.30  | \$1,188.60  |            | \$1,244.48   |
| April             |                       | \$1,145.70  | \$747.40    | \$1,329.00  | \$837.25     | \$1,047.35  | \$1,065.50  |            | \$1,028.70   |
| May               | SHARE                 | \$923.65    | \$936.30    | \$867.70    | \$803.35     | \$1,004.80  | \$1,010.30  |            | \$924.35     |
| June              | Started               | \$861.40    | \$556.20    | \$614.20    | \$705.45     | \$972.55    | \$650.20    |            | \$726.67     |
| July              | In Oct.               | \$674.95    | \$570.00    | \$684.40    | \$842.15     | \$944.75    | \$772.75    |            | \$748.17     |
| August            | !!2000!!              | \$928.25    | \$660.95    | \$643.50    | \$530.05     | \$1,051.00  | \$1,033.50  |            | \$807.88     |
| September         |                       | \$1,055.90  | \$599.45    | \$794.35    | \$664.00     | \$884.00    | \$838.70    |            | \$806.07     |
| October           | \$763.90              | \$1,002.35  | \$886.50    | \$915.15    | \$804.10     | \$855.95    | \$835.55    |            | \$866.21     |
| November          | \$2,676.65            | \$2,337.95  | \$2,279.50  | \$2,436.80  | \$2,159.20   | \$2,336.00  | \$2,630.00  |            | \$2,408.01   |
| December          | \$2,222.80            | \$1,907.35  | \$1,237.30  | \$1,782.40  | \$2,475.70   | \$2,374.80  | \$2,410.05  |            | \$2,058.63   |
|                   |                       |             |             |             |              |             |             |            | yearly Ave.  |
| Yearly total      | \$5,663.35            | \$15,343.95 | \$11,639.85 | \$13,076.25 | \$13,308.90  | \$15,605.20 | \$15,082.40 | \$2,129.60 | \$11,481.19  |

**APRIL BASIC PACKAGE**

Basic Package Guaranteed Retail Value of \$36 or More.... You Pay Only \$18!

- \* 1 lb Chicken Tenderloins
- \* 1 lb Stadium Style Bratwurst
- \* 1 lb Boneless Pork Chops
- \* 1 lb 80/20 Ground Beef
- \* 1 lb Tilapia Filets

\* Indicates 1 item each sold at Non Select Sites for \$12.00 as "Double Meat."  
  
Plus a variety of fruits & vegetables

**Sign Up Dates**

April 4  
&  
April 7

**Delivery Date**

April 21

Sign up times are from:  
10 - 11 AM.  
Pick-up starts at 9 AM.

**APRIL SPECIALS**

**Birdseye Meal Pack \$9.00**  
1 ~ 3 lb Six Cheese Sacchettiini & Chicken Di Napoli Meal  
1 ~ 3 lb Chicken Fajita Meal

**Frozen Vegetable Medley \$10.00**  
9 Individual Bags totaling 10.25 lbs

**Breakfast Box \$15.50**  
2 lbs French Toast Sticks,  
4-6oz Burritos (Potato/Ham/Egg/Cheese),  
4-6oz Burritos (Potato/Sausage/Egg/Cheese),  
17.5 oz Hash Browns,  
1 lb Sausage Patties

**NOTE: Due to market conditions food items may be subject to last minute changes.**

*Dear praying friends,*

Joe has returned from two weeks in the U.S., and all is well at home. Now, in five weeks, we head off to a church camp, and in 14 weeks we return to the States for the summer. Travel is all part of the "romantic" missionary life, right? Anyway, we march forward in ministry here in Chiang Mai as we prepare for our travels.

**Praises:**

- Joe and Pastor *Ogaat's* trip to the Northside Baptist Church (St. Petersburg, Fla., USA) missions conference went very well. They received a tremendous welcome from old and new friends and were able to share their ministry vision with hundreds of people.
- A special thanks to all those who hosted them, had them for dinners,



Pastor *Ogaat* wrote children's names in Thai

welcomed them into their classes and homes, and did a tremendous job of encouraging them during their time there, "Sunday lunch" with Joe's parents and members of two church classes; "Home visit" with Brian and Michelle Langlois, who hosted one of our talks; and "Bible reading," where Joe and Pastor *Ogaat* read the Scripture in English and Thai in three services.

- They also were able to have a great visit with some folks from First United



Joe translating Pastor *Ogaat's* answers to FUMCH's questions.



Methodist Church in Homosassa, Fla., which is a supporting church of ours and the church of Joe's parents.

- Joe survived two weeks of translating Thai, not always an easy task.
- Joe and Elaine have had success in their Sunday School teaching times at Cool Shade of Life Church.

Thank you for your prayers for continued language progress. Also, Elaine's teaching is going better with the help of her Thai tutor, *Lek*, who is a new Christian and is assisting with preparations and teaching the class.

**Prayers:**

- Joe and Pastor *Ogaat* will continue to make plans for the new church, culminating in discussions with other Thai pastors to be held at the church camp in southern Thailand next month. Please pray for direction and wisdom.
- Pray for plans for our church camp and U.S. trips to go smoothly.

Elaine is struggling with a peer relationship at school. Please pray for her to have peace in God's timing and remedy for this frustrating situation.

Staff needs at Grace International School continue to be large.

Please visit [www.gisthailand.org](http://www.gisthailand.org) if you have any interest and pray for the right people to fill the many open positions in the 2007-08 school year.

Justin will be attending an outdoor education program March 26-29. Please pray for his trip to the mountains to be challenging and safe.

Elaine's father is retiring this month. Pray for a smooth transition into retired life for him and Elaine's mother.

*In His love,  
Joe, Elaine, Brittany,*

March 14, 2007

*Dear praying friends,*

We wanted to send a mid-month report in order to ask for prayer for Chiang Mai, which is suffering through unprecedented pollution levels right now. The main cause is fires being lit in rural areas by farmers and residents along with forest fires near the Burmese border and the usual streams of vehicle exhaust.



For those who like numbers, the Pollution Control Department said that the level of pollution particles in the air Tuesday was 284 micrograms per cubic meter in Chiang Mai. The level considered high is 120 micrograms. The carcinogens in the air trigger attacks in asthmatics and heart/lung disease patients. Thankfully, we have AC units throughout our house, which helps immensely, however our lungs hurt whenever we are outside traveling to school and elsewhere.

The children's school has cancelled PE and all outside activities. A cold front is stuck here from China, meaning no rain and nowhere for the bad air to go.



The beautiful mountains of Chiang Mai, are invisible through the haze.

This is a picture of our neighborhood.



Please pray for safety for millions of people through this crisis.

*Prayerfully,  
Joe & Elaine*





How does the old saying go? "April showers bring May flowers." Of course I'd like to use this to compare how much the Lord has 'showered' us with His many blessings these past months.

We've been able to spend some time with supporters of the work in Russia. It's always exciting for us to share what we've been privileged to do these past years and to share what the possibilities are for us in the future!

Since we last wrote, we've visited with six different groups and organizations. (I wish we had pictures but someone forgot to use the camera J. )

Each visit was a huge blessing to our family as we shared how far the work has come and how much more is still needed.

We also shared the burden both Kevin and I feel to encourage *everyone* to step out of their comfort zones and share Jesus. No matter where you are or how young or old you may be, the message is very simple and very much needed in the world today. God loves you and sent His only son to die for you on a cross...then not only to die but to rise and reign with the Father in heaven... WOW...what a message!

We received an update in a new work in a region of Siberia begun by the church we were able to work with many years ago.

A local radio station here in Florida interviewed Kevin over the Thanksgiving holidays and learned of a need for the hungry.

New Years is a very special family holiday in Russia and there is a huge amount of pressure to have a lot of food on your table to bring in the New Year. That's not always possible for many people in the outer regions where unemployment is 40-60%.

So the radio station donated funds to the locals in Siberia so they could buy some much needed staples and something special for the kids in a particular village.

The following pictures tell the rest of the story!



New Year's gifts for the kids in a village. **THANK YOU!!!**



Food for the holidays....meat, flour, sugar, and other much needed foods.



A time of sharing and celebration.



A special THANK YOU for a great News Year's celebration!

Kevin and I will be out on the road again over the next weeks. Please remember to pray for our safety as we travel and for us to speak with the Lord's words and wisdom.

Joshua and Corey will be finishing up their schooling for the year and looking for work over the summer months. We pray they will continue to grow spiritually and as Kevin always reminds them..."to make good choices!"

Blessings and Joy!  
*Kevin, Laura, Joshua, and Corey Wooster*



*O give thanks to the Lord;  
Call on His name;  
Make known His deeds among  
the people.*

*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;  
Talk of all His wonderful works.  
Glory in His holy name;  
Let the heart of those who seek Jehovah  
rejoice.*

*Psalm 105:1-3*



### HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CARRIED AWAY FOR HIM?

Received from Grace Payne

"She hath wrought a good work on Me" (Mark 14:6).

If human love does not carry a man beyond himself, it is not love.

If love is always discreet, always wise, always sensible and calculating, never carried beyond itself, it is not love at all.

It may be affection, it may be warmth of feeling, but it has not the true nature of love in it.

Have I ever been carried away to do something for God not because it was my duty, not because it was useful, nor because there was anything in it all beyond the fact that I love Him?

Have I ever realized that I can bring to God things which are of value to Him, or am I mooning round the magnitude of His Redemption whilst there are any number of things I might be doing?

Not Divine, colossal things which could be recorded as marvelous, but ordinary, simple human things which will give evidence to God that I am abandoned to Him?

Have I ever produced in the heart of the Lord Jesus what Mary of Bethany produced?

There are times when it seems as if God watches to see if we will give Him the abandoned tokens of how genuinely we do love Him.

Abandon to God is of more value than personal holiness.

Personal holiness focuses the eye on our own whiteness; we are greatly concerned about the way we walk and talk and look, fearful lest we offend Him.

Perfect love casts out all that when once we are abandoned to God.

We have to get rid of this notion "Am I of any use?" and make up our minds that we are not, and we maybe near the truth.

It is never a question of being of use, but of being of value to God Himself.

When we are abandoned to God, He works through us all the time.

From: "My Utmost For His Highest"  
By Oswald Chambers

Love and Blessings,  
(From lighthouse4jesus)  
Experiencing God Day by Day...  
Psalm 91



### The Columbarium

Our new church Columbarium and the Memorial Garden surrounding it provide a beautiful setting and appropriate final resting place for the earthly remains of some faithful members of Christ's church.

Niches are available for purchase at \$1,200.  
(Payment plans are available.)

The price includes niche space for the cremated remains of one or two persons, brass urns, brass name plates, opening and closing, and perpetual care.

Call the church office for more information, or talk to a member of the Columbarium Committee.



### AED: AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.....

What is that, you say?

It was a gift!

It gives directions.

It tells you exactly what to do.

How will I know how to use it?

Will someone teach me what to do?

Will it hurt me?

Will it hurt the person I use it on?

We will have someone teach people when & how to use it.

It will not hurt you if you follow the directions. The patient may feel the shock, but it can save lives.

If someone is not breathing and does not have a pulse, this tool can save lives!

If you want to know more, call Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse.



**The Trouble Tree**

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had finished a rough first day on the job, I offered him a ride home.

A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit, and his ancient one-ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence.

On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me, I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied.

"I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Submitted by Art & Althea Stuckey



**HELLO, GOD!**

Hello, God, I called tonight  
To talk a little while  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own...  
I need your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep,  
My family safe and sound.  
Come and fill their lives with confidence  
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day,  
And not to worry over things  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home  
And listening to my call,  
For giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall..

Your number, God, is the only  
one  
That answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night, God, I love You, too,  
And I'll call again tomorrow!

(Author Unknown)

Received from  
Art & Althea Stuckey



**Mary's Lamb**

Think carefully about  
what you will be reading.  
This is a new one for me...

Mary had a little Lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The Lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school each day,  
T'wasn't even in the rule.  
It made the children laugh and play,  
To have a Lamb at school.

And then the rules all changed one day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to school,  
Or even speak His Name!

Every day got worse and worse,  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.

What must we do to stop the crime,  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,  
And teach our kids to pray!

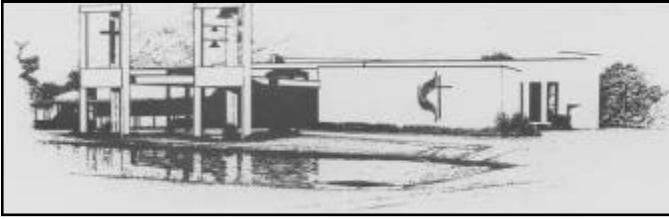
Submitted by Bill & Alice Williamson,



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Saint Mary School, Mount Vernon, Illinois, USA

**First United Methodist Church  
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**A Stephen Ministry  
Church**



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

**Rev. Mark Whittaker  
Pastor**

**Sunday Schedule**

**Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM**

**Nursery at all services**

**Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM**

**Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM**

**Office Hours: Weekdays**

**8:30AM to 4:30PM**

**Office Telephone: 628-4083**

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*Soli Deo Gloria*



**Easter**