

# G E N I E S I S

DECEMBER 2007  
Volume 11  
Issue 10

~ OPEN HEARTS ~ OPEN MINDS ~ OPEN DOORS ~

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

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Sharon E. Smith  
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Michael Rodgers  
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Dale Evans

In "A Faith to Proclaim," James Stewart tells about an artist who painted a picture of the confrontation between Faust and the devil.

Faust had gambled with the devil, and the soul of Faust was to be the prize.

In the artist's rendition, the confrontation is pictured as a chess match. Looking at the picture, things seem pretty bleak. The game is almost over, and Faust has only a few pieces left - a king, a knight and one or two pawns. On his face is a look of blank despair.

On the other side of the chessboard, the devil leers in anticipation. The situation is hopeless - Faust is checkmated.

One day in the art gallery, a chess master viewing the picture became fascinated by the

look of despair on the face of Faust. He turned his attention to the chess pieces, studying them intently. Other people came and went, but the chess master continued to concentrate on the chessboard.

Suddenly the gallery's quiet was shattered by a shout from the chess master. "It's a lie! The king and the knight have another move!"

Sin's seeming checkmate is a lie! The God of all creation had another move.

The birth of Jesus exposes the lie that sin and death have control over our lives. It is through the birth of a baby born in a stable that God shows us a spectacular move just when many believed there were no moves left.

With the arrival of the Christ child in Bethlehem, we are given the opportunity to dis-

cover that the game is not over, that sin and the devil can still be defeated in our lives.

Christmas is a celebration of God's gift of his Son, a "move" promising salvation and forgiveness to all mankind. This gift was made available to everyone who would receive Him, even to those who feel they have sold their souls and identify with the deep despair of Faust. The move to receive Jesus Christ as God's salvation is available to all, even to those who feel they are already defeated by life's challenges.

Christmas  
shouts,  
"It's a lie."



The devil has not won; God has made the final, winning move.

*Mark*

☾ John 1: 1-5 ☆ ☆

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."



*"This life (is) The Light"*



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.



The Purpose of Genesis is to:

**NOTIFY** its readers of what has happened, what is happening, and what is scheduled to happen.

**EDIFY** believers by printing material that encourages and strengthens their Christian walk.

**GLORIFY** God by being one of His instruments of communication at Homosassa Methodist Church and wherever else He may choose to spread the Word through this publication.

The  
Reason  
For  
The  
Season!



# Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

Did you ever notice the importance of the words following the little word “if”?

- If you want to go with me tomorrow, call me tonight.
- If you love me, you will.....
- If I figure out the answer, I’ll let you know.

Jesus based the reality of discipleship on certain “if” clauses. Just as in choosing to receive Jesus Christ is based on our willingness to respond in a certain way - *if you confess with your mouth*, “Jesus is Lord,” and *(if you) believe in your heart* that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9, bracketed words added) - so becoming a disciple is another step of saying yes to “if” challenges. Jesus said to those Jews who had believed him up to a certain point, “*If you hold to my teachings*, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-33)

What is the challenge of the “if” clause?

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The Jews listening to Jesus found this “if” too much to accept and began defending themselves on the basis of their traditional faith, claiming God as their Father through their ancestral relationship to Abraham and their obedience to Old Testament laws.

How did Jesus respond as recorded in John 8:42?

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Why do you think Jesus would tell them that *if* God were really their Father, they would love him?

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How are his words here related to his words in John 14:15, “*If you love me*, you will obey what I command”?

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And again, in John 14:23a, Jesus says, “*If anyone loves me*, he will obey my teaching...” Why is loving Jesus so important in our seeking to hold to the teachings of Jesus?

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We laugh at the truth of the oft-repeated illustration - you can sit in a garage for as long as you want, but sitting in a garage won’t make you a car. In the same way, we can sit in church Sunday after Sunday, attend Sunday School and Bible studies faithfully, work hard on committees but none of these things will make us disciples. We can only become disciples if we are willing to go beyond just the hearing to “holding to” or obeying the “ifs” Jesus gives us.

To the large crowds who were following him because they were delighted with his way of teaching and his miracles, he gave this “if” clause: “*If anyone comes to me and does not hate* his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-27) From last month’s study, we know Jesus did not want us to literally hate others, but to love him how in comparison? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this “if” a hard one for us to accept?

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We know a disciple can only have one master. Why is it necessary for Jesus to have more influence over us than family or even our traditional way of life? (Remember the Jews in the first “if” situation.)

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Identify some things (or people) that might challenge the Lordship of Jesus in your life.

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One of the most challenging “ifs” in the family of God is this command: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, *if you love one another.*” (John 13:34-35) The one marker to witness to others that we are disciples is:

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What happened to “*if you are in church every Sunday, if you give your tithe, if you work hard for God...*” Why do you think Jesus didn’t use these as ways to identify His Disciples?

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**THINK ABOUT IT:**

As Christians, we assign great importance to “The Great Commission.” Have you noticed what it doesn’t say? There’s nothing there about many of the things we think of as important reasons for “going out.” Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore *go and make disciples of all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

- Are we intent on making others disciples of Christ or converts to our way of thinking?
- Are we eager to teach others to obey (“hold to”) Christ’s teachings or do we find that we ourselves are not particularly excited about being the kind of Christian who actively obeys Christ’s commands?

*What is your personal response to the “ifs” of discipleship?*

# ALL-CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

The Building For Tomorrow Committee and the Trustees have scheduled an "All-Church Clean-Up Day" on Monday, December 10, from 9 a.m. to noon (or longer if needed) to prepare our buildings for the construction scheduled to begin in January. As you know, the existing Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Youth Room, and adjacent restrooms will be demolished to make room for the new Phase III facilities. We must remove all furniture, equipment, and supplies in those areas before the contractors start their work.

On clean-up day, we'll have a large storage container on site, along with trash bags, and several pick-up trucks waiting to haul our discards to the dump. But we need your help to make this day a success! We need:



- You or your committee to organize and dispose of any unused items stored in areas not scheduled for demolition. This will open up space to store materials and supplies from areas affected by our construction. If it hasn't been used for 3 or more years, it's a good candidate for disposal! So...if you are on a committee or in a group that has anything at all to be stored, you will want to be there to determine where the material goes. If no one from that committee shows up, out the stuff goes, because the Building Committee personnel are ruthless and take no prisoners.
- You or your committee to sort through and dispose of unused items in areas to be demolished.
- People to pack, tape, and label boxes with storage items.
- People to move items designated for storage from sections to be demolished to other climate-controlled storage areas in the church.
- People to label newly reorganized storage areas.
- People to carry furniture, equipment, and boxed supplies into the on-site storage container.
- People with pick-up trucks willing to take our discards to the landfill.
- People willing to clean up the messes this process will create.

There's a task for virtually everyone, regardless of age or physical stamina. The last time something like this was done, more than 100 people showed up and everyone had a good time helping the church accomplish an important task.

**Mark your calendars for MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, AT 9 A.M.**

Join us for a day of work and fellowship as we prepare to kick-off the construction of our new Phase III facilities.

~ FUMCH Building Committee



## CALLING ALL READERS!

Have you got a bit of space to spare?  
Then we've got some books  
we'd like to share!

All of our church library books are in need of temporary homes during the Phase 3 construction process.

If you have a bit of climate-controlled space (no garage or attic storage please) available and would be willing to store 20 or more books for the 10-12 month construction period, we'd love to hear from you!

To take part in this great opportunity to enjoy a mini-library in your own home while helping safe keep our wonderful titles, please call the church office.

Thank you!  
Sallyann Moore

Give a  
**REALLY SPECIAL**  
Christmas present to a  
young child this year...



Big Brothers Big Sisters

"Be a friend. Be a mentor. Just be there."

Call 352-344-0400  
Or visit  
[www.bbbspc.org](http://www.bbbspc.org)



Openings available for mentors  
at  
Homosassa Elementary



“On This Day  
The Earth Shall Ring!”

## 2007 Christmas Schedule



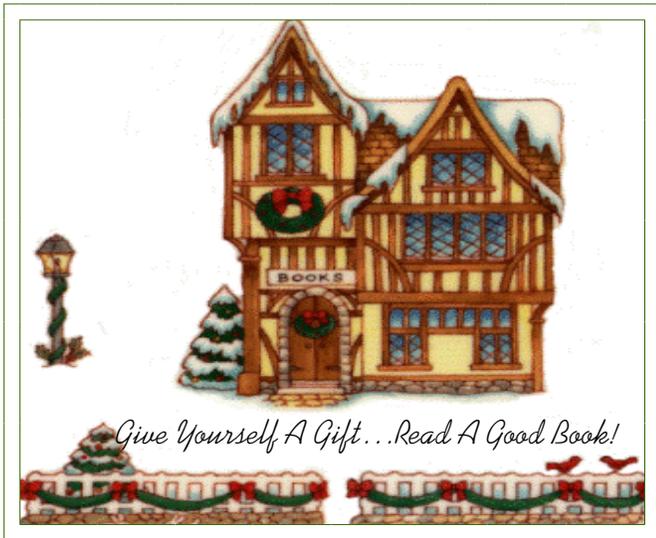
*Sunday, December 23*  
*Three Regular Services:*  
*8 am, 9:30 am, & 11 am*

*Monday, December 24*  
*5 pm & 7 pm - “Lessons And Carols”*  
*11 pm - “Communion And Candlelight”*

The 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. services will be identical and will once again feature our chancel choir, handbell choir, sacred dance group, harps, instrumentalists, vocal ensembles, and a selection from our Jazz Gospel Group, “Jubilation.”



*See You Christmas Eve!*  
*Mary Kay Messenger,*  
*Director of Music Ministries*



Building constructions will be starting in January 2008, so our Church members can sign out books until the end of December.

If you are avid readers, you are encouraged to take out as many books as you may want to read for a few months as long as you leave the sign-out cards in the yellow box.

However, these books cannot be returned until construction is completed. Listed below are some of the new selections.

1. **“THE SOUND OF MY VOICE”** by Jo Kadlecck . This tells the story of Jordan Riddle, aspiring playwright and part-time waitress. She lives in New York City, waiting for her big break. Peter Riddle, her father, is Assistant Pastor of a church in Jackson, Mississippi. They haven’t talked in five years due to a misunderstanding. As a shared grief emerges from the past, neither is prepared for the cost required to heal the painful disappointment that separates them when art and faith collide.

2. **“THE BACHELOR’S BARGAIN”** by Catherine Palmer. Housemaid Anne Webster accepts the proposal of roguish Ruel Chouteau in order to save her family from their dire circumstances. Both have their own agenda - she to use his riches, and he to use her lace-making skills. Can they put their differences aside to fend off an unexpected foe? And, as always, Miss Pickworth, the society tattler, has a thing or two to say about the scandalous union.

3. **“THE MEASURE OF A LADY”** by Deeanne Gist. There are Five Rules for Proper 19th Century Ladies in San Francisco:

1) Speak politely - even when you’re the only respectable woman around protesting the city’s decadent surrender to gold fever.

2) Dress modestly - wear your sunbonnet at all times and make sure nobody sees the men’s boots that you’re wearing muddied by city streets.

3) Remain devoted to family - protect your siblings from temptation, even against their wishes.

4) Stand above reproach - most difficult when a captivating man turns out to be a saloon owner.

5) Rise above temptation. No accepting gifts or bestowing favors. No impeachable behavior except maybe a little kiss.

These rules become increasingly difficult to uphold. Can Rachel Van Buren remain a beacon of virtue in a city of vice?

4. **“THE HOPE WITHIN”** by Tracie Peterson.

Part of the Heirs of Montana series, this story follows Dianne Selby and her family as they leave their Montana home to visit her husband Cole’s dying father in Kansas. Dianne receives a cold reception and she faces a dramatic decision that could determine the fate of the people and land she loves.

5. **“THE BELIEVER”** from storyteller, Nicholas Sparks. Jeremy Marsh is the ultimate young New Yorker and an expert on debunking the supernatural. When he gets information about ghostly lights that appear in a legend-shrouded cemetery in the tiny town of Boone Creek, North Carolina, he sets out to investigate. While there, he meets the librarian, beautiful Lexie Darnell. If they are to be together, Jeremy must make a difficult choice

6. **“A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER”** by Thomas Kinkade.

Return to Cape Light for the touching story of bedridden Lillian Warwick, who shares special memories with her daughters.

7. **“A SISTER’S SECRET”** by Wanda E. Brunstetter.

Book One of Sisters of Holmes County.

Grace, the oldest sister in the Hostettler family puts her “rumschpringe,” (her running around years) behind her and returns to the Amish community in Holes County, Ohio, where she wants to live the rest of her life. She settles into her new life and is engaged to Cleon Schrock, an upright and loving Amish man. Suddenly, out of the blue, she runs into Gary Walker, an ‘Englischer’ who knows more than enough about her life when she was out in the world to destroy her future.. Will love and faith triumph over shame and deception? You won’t want to miss this thrilling read!

8. **“THE CHRISTMAS LETTERS”** by Bret Nicholaus. Four generations of Grandpa’s family convene for Christmas Eve dinner to celebrate the holiday. In the midst of the usual conversations, Grandpa calls for their attention. Each family member receives a personal letter from Grandpa - along with a life-changing lesson that will stay with them forever. It’s the little things in life that often mean the most.

9. **“THE CHALICE OF ISRAEL”** by Marilou Flinkman et al. Four stories by four different authors. God uses a chalice to draw His children home. The stories follow the Chalice from A.D. 49 to 12th century Jerusalem to a 1948 refugee camp to 2000 in modern Jerusalem. Each woman’s story is one of romance and spiritual growth.

10. "A NEW FRONTIER - SAGA OF THE SIERRAS" by Brock & Bodie Thoene.

(Four bestselling novels complete in one volume). They include "The Man from Shadow Ridge," "Riders of the Silver Rim," "Gold Rush Prodigal," and "Sequoia Scout."

11. "DREAM THIEF" by Stephen R. Lawhead.

Dr. Spencer Reston, dream research scientist on space station Gotham, discovers that he has become a vital link in a cosmic coup masterminded by a mysterious creature known as the Dream Thief - and all civilization hangs in the balance. Here is science fiction that is fast-paced adventure, alien settings, cliff-hanging suspense, and compelling spiritual underpinnings.

12. "OPAL" by Lauraine Snelling.

Book 3 of Dakotah Treasures. This follows "Ruby" and "Pearl." Opal can outshoot, outride and outwork any cowboy on the ranch, but when she makes a foolish, though innocent, decision, her dear friend Atticus is taken from her and she is consumed with feelings of guilt and self-recrimination. A new arrival among the people of Dakotah Territory is Jacob Chandler, a young minister hiding secrets from his past. He wants to begin a new life with his son and soon finds himself falling in love with the enchanting Opal. Will the tragedy that broke Opal's heart keep her from love forever?

13. "AMETHYST" by Lauraine Snelling.

Book 4 of Dakotah Treasures. It's 1886 and Major Jeremiah McHenry is retiring from the Army and returning to Medora in the Dakotah Territory. He wants a new, quieter life - and he wants to find a wife. Feisty newcomer, Amethyst Colleen O'Shaunasy, is trying to recover from her mother's death and to escape her abusive father back in Pennsylvania. Amethyst is drawn to the retired Major. Can he convince her he's just the kind of man she needs to heal her broken heart?

**We also have the following:**

**DVD - "ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING"**

It runs 124 minutes and the cast includes Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, and John Rhys-Davis. This is the sweeping epic about Hadassah, the young Jewish orphan girl who becomes the biblical Esther, Queen of Persia, after marrying the powerful King Xerxes. An inspiring story about courage, faith, and destiny.

**VCR - "JESUS"**

By Warner Brothers, and runs 83 minutes. This is an epic story of the tragedy and triumph of the most controversial life in human history.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
from your library staff....

Helen Lefave

&

Barbara Jackson



*From Ireland to America*

By Rev. Richard Evans

Did you know that some of the first Methodists to set foot on American soil were immigrants from Ireland? In 1760 Philip Embury and his wife, along with cousin Barbara Heck, came from County Limerick to New York City. They were catalysts in the founding of a Methodist Society in lower Manhattan - on the site where John Street UMC stands today.

In the little village of Ballingrane in County Limerick, there is a small chapel erected to the memory of Philip Embury and Barbara Heck. That is one of the out-of-the-way places we will visit on our Tour to Ireland from May 24-June 7, 2008. And the itinerary includes most of the famous sites you have read about in both the Republic and in Northern Ireland.

As United Methodists, however, we will see a few other places where John Wesley lived and preached on some of his 42 pilgrimages from England to Ireland. During his first visit, in 1747, Wesley wrote from Dublin, "For natural sweetness of temper, for courtesy and hospitality, I have never seen a people like the Irish."

We expect to experience that same hospitality as we visit the Emerald Isle. More than 25 people are now registered and we are ready to open the tour to others beyond our congregation. We expect the trip to "sell out," so don't be disappointed. Pick up an information packet at the church office. Call me (563-5833) with any questions. Then register with J & L Travel and get ready for the trip of a lifetime.

**THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT  
HUMOR & LAUGHTER**

Proverbs 17:22 tells us "a merry heart doeth good like medicine, but a downcast spirit driest up the bones." Most experts agree that LAUGHTER and HUMOR do enhance our overall well-being. Some of the other benefits mentioned are:

- Providing exercise by increasing the heart rate and stimulating circulation and breathing (especially good belly laughs).
- Reducing stress and/or tension
- Stimulating the immune system
- Relieving pain (for some), by releasing endorphins

Best of all, LAUGHTER and HUMOR can be shared, and they are free. Think about what you find humorous, whether it be an old movie, talking with a friend, a library book, an internet site or reading cards at the card shop. Then make it a point to include it in your daily routine. What better time to practice this suggestion than during the holidays! You too can have a MERRY HEART!

~ Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse

## Education and Ministries

### by Patience Nave

You've done it again. We plan something, ask you to support it, and you go so far beyond what we had hoped, I am just overwhelmed. Our new directory is a perfect example of that.

The directory costs the church nothing. That's right. Nothing. We get a directory for every family who has had a picture made. Then we get certain benefits based on the number of pictures we had made and what you bought for your personal needs.

Your faithful support of this project has produced 12 ministry pages to tell about our church, 150 extra directories, and 1000 professionally produced brochures to use as needed for outreach, new members, etc.

A huge committee has worked faithfully, planning, scheduling, and bringing all the parts together. We are going to have a great new directory. You are a phenomenal church! I love working for you and with you.

The directory will be a little later than I had promised. We couldn't schedule all the pictures in the allotted time, so we were given a make-up day. That causes a delay in the delivery, but that is a good problem since we'll now have more people pictured. I think I can promise it to you by the middle of January, no later than the third week. Thanks for being patient.

I also want to tell you about something new and exciting that is coming up after the first of the year. Perhaps you have heard of Dave Ramsey and Financial Peace University. If not, go on line and check it out. This is a most unusual program sweeping the country that helps Christians learn how to manage their money. It is *not* a help-me-get-rich program. It's designed to help us make the right decisions to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and use the money that God has given us in the best possible way, for his kingdom and our good. Several people have told me about it, and it has strong appeal to the young. I hope to have everything in place no later than February. You'll hear more about it when the directory is completed, and we will advertise the program locally as an outreach to people in the community.

I can hardly believe that what I am writing today is for our Christmas issue of Genesis, but it is. So I close with this. I am so grateful that you have allowed me to have this job to bring meaning to my life when I thought meaning had slipped away when Wallace died.

You are an incredible church. I pray for us all, as we begin the month of December, to be daily aware - keenly aware - of the fantastic first Christmas present that God gave to us.

I pray our hearts will sing with joy as we comprehend in the depths of our beings that God called his gift *Emanuel*, *God with us!*

*Have a wonderful, happy, holy-day,*  
*Patience*

## Stephen Ministry

Ribbons, glitter, gift wrap or gift bags of various designs and colors adorn the presents that we share with family and friends during the Christmas season. Frequently the giver spends almost as much time selecting the covering as choosing the item, which is wrapped with love.

As we grow in maturity and years, we soon learn that being in the "presence" of the giver is often much more important than the "present" itself. Indeed, the greatest gift that we can provide to others is our presence.

This affirms what our volunteer Stephen Ministers are taught during the initial 50 hours of training and the bi-monthly continuing education peer support group meetings that follow thereafter. Their "presence", via weekly visits with care receivers, is a gift to those who are struggling with the many challenges that are a part of daily life in our ever-changing world.

If you desire the gift of a compassionate, trustworthy companion for a few weeks, months, or perhaps longer, contact Diane (382-7242), Kay (382-4908), other Stephen Ministers, or the church office. For those who would like to further explore becoming part of this lay ministry, call Kay for an application. Classes may be offered early in 2008 depending on the level of interest expressed by members of the congregation.

Merry Christmas to all  
from your Stephen Ministers and Leaders!

## Welcome October Joiners!

Jim & Carolyn Roth  
8257 W. Promenade Dr.  
Homosassa 34448  
628-7436  
From: Columbus, IN

Robert K. Clanfield  
10430 S. Walden Forest  
Cir.  
Homosassa 34446  
382-5902  
From: Schaumburg, IL

Kyle Pazian  
5021 Deepwater Pt.  
Homosassa 34448  
628-7275  
From: Buffalo, NY

Richard Stanard  
8094 W.Coconut Palm Dr.  
Homosassa 34446  
919-630-6610  
From: Homosassa, FL

# Knitters & Crocheters Come Join Our Prayer Shawl Ministry



"Shawls ... made for centuries...universal and embracing...symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."

Janet Bristow © 2007



The prayer shawl ministry was founded in 1998 by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut.

Most (but not all) prayer shawl groups are church-based with about 300 existing prayer shawl groups in this country, 34 here in Florida.

Peace shawls for Afghanistan and shawls for Walter Reed are just two examples of the wide outreach of this ministry.

An entry from a prayer shawl journal: "...When you are knitting it's a great time to have your talks with God and feel His guidance. He always answers but sometimes we're not listening." Carol F.

Those interested in knitting or crocheting, please join us at 1:15 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Church Library.

For further information, contact this website:

[www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)

~By Ann Morrison



## Linda's Loaves

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Do you have the gift of hospitality? If so, Linda's Loaves needs you.



Linda's Loaves is a ministry of friendship and welcome, symbolized by the delivery of freshly baked bread to first-time visitors of our church.

We are in need of people willing to bake and deliver bread on a rotating basis. Bread machines, instructions, and all supplies will be provided. Can't bake? Find a baker friend and sign up as a team.

To help with this warm, welcoming, outreach ministry, please contact Sally Moore at 476-8172, or [sarmore@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sarmore@tampabay.rr.com). Thank you!

Sallyann Moore

### Archive Submissions

For proper placement of articles and information in the Church Archives, we need all photographs to have names, addresses, dated and noted, and printed materials dated.

Your assistance is appreciated.

~ Barbara Jackson

### RED CROSS CPR, AED, First Aide

Coming on January 12, 2008,

we will have our first training class for:



•CPR – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

•AED – Automated External Defibrillator

• First Aide

All of these topics will be discussed in an eight (8) hour class presented by our local Red Cross staff.

If you only wish to participate in the CPR and AED portions, you can do that. The cost for CPR, AED is \$35.00, while the cost for the whole day is \$45.00.

Class size is limited to 12 people. Please register through the church office at 628-4083.

We are very pleased to have the Red Cross working with us on this project.

~ Sharon E. Smith,  
Parish Nurse

# Walking On The Path

## by Patience Nave

*"Then . . . David asked of the Lord . . .  
and the Lord answered . . .  
so David acted."  
(II Samuel 2:1-2a)*

I never leave home without my AAA card. I know enough about my car to keep it filled with gas and to recognize problems if I hear an unusual sound. But I do not know how to diagnose what that sound may indicate. So for many years I have been very dependent on AAA, and they have never let me down. My annual fee gives me a great sense of security. I call...they come.

As I have been studying David's life for the past few months, I realized that David also carried a AAA card. His card, however, is a spiritual one, and I found it in the pattern of David's life.

When David recognizes that something is wrong, that he needs help, he asks God. God diagnoses the problem and tells him what to do. Then David acts.

Ask, Answer, Act...AAA.

As I looked carefully at David's life - and we all know that he did some pretty bad things - I found that the only time he got in trouble was when he failed to use his Spiritual AAA Card. When he acted on impulse, when he acted on emotion, when he acted on desire, he was in trouble. He needed an expert, but he tried to fix things himself. For some of those actions, the consequences were far-reaching. Years of grief ensued.

I won't have to pay an annual fee for my spiritual AAA card because Jesus has paid for my life membership. But I want to learn from David and never leave home - or stay home - without it. I'll ask, He'll answer, I'll act.

I'm going to put my spiritual AAA card right next to my automotive AAA card, as a reminder that I'll stay out of trouble if I always ask God for His help with this life that I often don't know how to handle.

*Prayer: Father, You know so much better than I how to diagnose the signs of trouble in my life. I would never try to fix my own car. Yet I often try to fix my life. Forgive me. Help me to remember to ask You - the ultimate expert - to help me diagnose and correct the trouble spots in my life. Help me learn to always ask, wait for Your answer, and then act. Amen.*

# Last Chance!

## Reminder: Tax Benefits

**Reminder:** the tax benefits offered by *The Pension Protection Act of 2006* will expire at the end of this year.

This legislation allows anyone older than 70 ½ to make a charitable gift directly from an IRA, Roth IRA, or rollover IRA without paying federal taxes on the disbursement. This wonderful opportunity for generous giving, while avoiding income taxes incurred by voluntary or mandatory IRA withdrawals, expires at midnight on Dec. 31, 2007.

There are many ways this temporary tax break can work to the advantage of those who qualify. Does your IRA force you to take unneeded taxable withdrawals that may increase the tax on your Social Security income? Through this incentive, you may avoid those penalties.

Are you concerned that your loved ones may, one day, have to pay significant income taxes on your retirement account? A qualified charitable distribution can help to ensure that this does not happen.

Do you and your spouse have separate IRAs? You can get twice the benefit and do twice the good.

Are you a generous giver to the church? By giving from your IRA, you can make a significant gift and lower your income taxes at the same time.

Have you been thinking about arranging a Charitable Gift Annuity in order to increase your annual income and to leave a significant gift to the church? Fund the CGA from your IRA and save twice on your income taxes.

With a gift from your IRA to First United Methodist Church of Homosassa, you can...

- help us build our new Fellowship Center,
- or furnish one of the rooms in our new addition,
- or advance one of our many outreach ministries,
- or create a scholarship to assist college students to earn a degree,
- or honor a former pastor who may have influenced your life,
- or honor a loved one through a memorial gift.

By giving now, you will have the satisfaction of seeing your generosity at work. But time is short. Talk with your financial advisor and your IRA Administrator.

Call the church office or me (563-5833) for more information. We can help you accomplish what you want to do with a direct gift now to FUMCH, or with a deferred gift later to FUMCH arranged through the Florida United Methodist Foundation.

---Rev. Richard Evans,  
Chairman of the Permanent Endowment Committee

# Discipleship in Action

by Judith Huffer

Our own church custodian, Dale Evans, walks the Jesus walk...talks the Jesus talk...and offers up a quiet ministry in his lifestyle.

Besides being a volunteer fireman, chasing off at a moment's notice to save people's lives and property, Dale is a humble Disciple.

As a member of the Romeo Baptist Church in Romeo, Florida, he answered the church's mission call to raise monies to pay bills for cancer treatment of their Youth Pastor, Kevin. The proposal of \$500 per person, who shaved their head in solidarity of Kevin's cancer fight, was offered to the church's congregation.

\$65,000 was raised...with three women also undergoing the shaving and contributing their hair to "Locks of Love."



Way to go, Dale!

## HELP SWEETEN CHRISTMAS FOR INMATES

In what has become an annual event, we have been asked to provide 1000 candy bars for the inmates Christmas packages at Lancaster Correctional Institution and 400 for Citrus County Detention Center.

The Missions Committee is asking the congregation to bring standard size (2.07 oz.) Snickers Candy bars to the

**Sunday Church Services on  
Dec. 2, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16.**

Officials point out it is very important that all the bars be of the same kind and size to insure that everyone knows they are being treated equally. A box for the candy bars will be located in the church narthex. Cash donations are welcomed. Businesses in the area will be asked to assist. Each candy bar will be wrapped with an appropriate Christmas message written by our pastor. Prison officials have stated these modest gifts are very meaningful for the inmates because it shows that people on the outside do care.

The Missions Committee would welcome volunteers to help wrap the candy bars,

**3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20.**

Please call the church office, 628-4083 if you are interested.

# Leesburg Women's Retreat

January 18 - 20, 2008

## "Practicing the Presence"

The Women's Retreats provide women a time to intentionally come away from their responsibilities to set their feet on holy ground and to meet Jesus Christ face to face.

We invite you to take this opportunity to come away from all the cares and responsibilities of work and family to meet our Lord face-to-face. Know that He has "storehouses of blessings" waiting just for you.

The design team has prayed that each of the attendees will receive from the Lord every unique blessings of encouragement, rest, and renewal.

This will be a time of sharing fellowship with women from all around the state as we seek the Lord together.

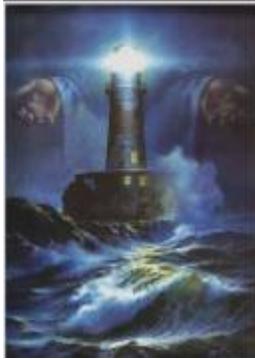
Our theme this year is "Practicing the Presence." We will learn through The Word and worship what it means to practice the presence of God and live day-by-day, moment-by-moment, in that Presence.

Keynote:	Rev. Sheryl Marks-Williams
Music Leader:	Higher Ground
Bible Study Leader:	Rev. Alexis Talbott
Devotional Leaders:	Marilyn Thomas Deb Davis
Enrichments:	Sue Sommer Leanne Weiss Chris Dials Samantha Parrish Dr. Trudy Corry Rankin - Spiritual Director John and Margaret Anderson: Hymn Sing
Make It Take It:	Courtney Williams

Check in begins at 3 p.m. Friday.  
Retreat ends at noon on Sunday.  
Registration opens 8/28/07 and ends 12/19/07

Register online at [www.flconf2.org](http://www.flconf2.org)  
or use the forms on the bulletin boards next to the poster.

**2008 Couples' Spiritual Retreats**  
**"Jesus is the Lighthouse"**  
**Life Enrichment Center Leesburg**  
**February 29 – March 2**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

John Riley encourages his listeners to do and be all that is possible through God for His Glory. He has spoken to more than 9500 audiences in 15 countries & throughout America for 30 years.

Rev. Geraldine McClellan is a returning favorite. Not only is she a pastor (now serving as District Superintendent), she is also a certified Clinical Counselor with the Assoc. of Pastoral Care and Counseling and a certified Chaplain with the Veterans Administration Hospital.

**ENRICHMENT LEADERS:**

Rev. Donald Taylor will be sharing with us a unique insight into our Jewish roots. While pursuing his ThM in Hebrew studies, he studied for six years under an Orthodox Rabbi.

Rev. Nancy Dixon-Walton SERVED AS A MISSIONARY IN Belize, Central America for four years. She is now the pastor of Gray Memorial UMC in Tallahassee.

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Lenee Schroeder traveled the UK and US in full-time Christian concert ministry for 25 years. She is now music director at Christ UMC in Venice, FL.

Jeff & Diane Anders have been in full-time music ministry many years. They will lead us in music during the weekend.

Complete information is available on the website at [www.ummflconf.org](http://www.ummflconf.org) More information and registration forms are also posted on bulletin boards in the area near the office and Sunday school rooms.

Costs vary with accommodations, i.e. staying at the campground will save money. Motel room-type accommodations and all meals are \$264 per couple. Reservations will be guaranteed only after full payment is received.

**FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2008.** Check-in begins at 3:00 PM on Friday. Dinner begins at 6:00 PM. The last session begins at 8:45 Sunday morning.

This is OUR WEEKEND at the Couples' Retreat! It will be an amazing time together. The weekend will fill up rapidly, so let's get those reservations in quickly!

*Columbarium  
 and  
 Memorial Garden*

Have you considered our church Columbarium as a final resting place for your cremated remains? The Columbarium and Memorial Garden were completed and dedicated in late October, 2006.

Niches in the granite wall-mounted Columbarium are available for \$1,200 - much less than most columbaria, memorial parks, and cemeteries for the interment of ashes.

Each niche will accommodate the cremains of one or two persons. The price includes brass urns, brass name plates, opening and closing, and perpetual care.

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden are located next to our beautiful Worship Center and create a peaceful setting for some of God's faithful who "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The garden is visible through the north window in the right rear section of the Worship Center.

The fenced area has two benches available to anyone for times of prayer and meditation.

Information and application packets are available at the church office. See Theresa Weber, in the church office, to inquire about the availability of specific niches and to answer questions you may have.



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**DECEMBER BUS TRIP**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007**  
 Show Palace Dinner Theatre, Hudson, FL.  
 A Christmas Review Show  
 of classic favorites, including dinner.  
*Transportation for this trip will be on a 55-passenger coach bus.*

Reservations and payment are due as soon as possible. Cost is \$55.00 per person which includes transportation, dinner, and show.

Please contact:  
 Bill or Neretta Brobst 352-621-3736

**December Birthdays**

1  
Doris Kertesz  
2  
Martha Formender  
Phillip Rittgers  
Rusty Harry  
4  
Shirley Wardrip  
Dorothy Nobles  
Bess Hoes  
5  
Zane Megos  
Fred Casper  
Susan Dean  
Holly Jordan  
6  
Elizabeth Gaines  
Betty Huffstutler  
Dorothy Jones  
Charles Dixon  
Vickey Post  
7  
Marybelle Baker  
Ron Phillips  
Howard Watson Sr.  
Willy Pouderoyne  
Edwin White  
8  
Ruth Anderson  
Abbye Jean Richner  
Jeana Stansbury  
Jeremy White  
9  
David Pirkle  
Marie Witham  
10  
Glen Seiler  
Minnie Watson  
Mary McCrea  
12  
Buddy Hansen  
Carolyn Bright  
13  
Frank Harris  
Imogene Burnett  
14  
Richard Shaffer  
Delanne Parker  
William Little  
Barbara Shores  
Wanda Ashley  
16  
Charlie Walker  
Armin Marvin  
Maureen Guthrie  
Kenneth Will

17  
Betty Davis  
Sandra Dewart  
18  
Edith Keilt Parker  
19  
Phyllis Dixon  
20  
Marilyn Wells  
21  
Malcolm Whetstone  
Lois Young  
Don Hand  
Mildred Mott  
Jessica Cocking  
22  
Jim Potts  
Sue Cloyd  
David Kegley  
23  
Mary Ellen Wais  
24  
Ted Archambault  
25  
Carolyn Huggins  
27  
Bill Gilbert  
Fredee Pooley  
Sasha Shuart  
Natasha Dawson  
28  
Rene Dube  
Judith Huffer  
30  
Audrey Johnson  
Charlotte Gable  
31  
Dorothy Graham  
Sally Moore  
Lisa Bently



December 2007						
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**Dec. Anniversaries**

8  
Michelle & Ryan Selby  
~ 5 years ~  
12  
Joan & James Eyster  
~ 54 years ~  
Joyce & Jim Winder  
~ 48 years ~  
17  
Isabelle & Ernie Verge  
~ 64 years ~  
Judith & William Busby  
~ 24 years ~  
Phyllis & Charles Dixon  
~ 19 years ~  
18  
Martha & Ernie Dorrell  
~ 47 years ~  
19  
Donna & Bud Ludwick  
~ 48 years ~  
20  
Laurie & Larry Stainton  
~ 48 years ~  
Wilma & Walter Stroud  
~ 22 years ~  
Carole & Gunter Fahl  
~ 21 years ~  
21  
Jeannine & Jim Love  
~ 49 years ~  
22  
Kathy & Stephen Betsko  
~ 17 years ~  
Marge & Harold Swinson  
~ 62 years ~  
Lee & George Knerr  
~ 52 years ~  
Audrey & Roger Johnson  
~ 34 years ~  
27  
Cheryl & Tom Smith  
~ 42 years ~  
28  
Kay & Lee Bast  
~ 51 years ~  
Judy & Bob Bunting  
~ 47 years ~  
Dee & Jim Green  
~ 12 years ~  
29  
Cranie & Kenneth  
Koellhoffer  
~ 40 years ~



**Members Residing In Long Term Care**

As of November 7, 2007



**NURSING CENTERS**

- BARRINGTON**  
Ken McGuire
- BRENTWOOD**  
Evelyn Bash  
Rene Dube  
Del Parker
- CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH & REHAB.**  
Robert Smith
- CYPRESS COVE**  
Elta Whilden
- DIAMOND RIDGE**  
Marjorie Cook  
Maddie Wallace
- LIFE CARE**  
Bob Brown
- NATURE COAST LODGE**  
Betty Duncan
- SUGARMILL MANOR**  
Shirley Hart  
Grace Payne
- WILLISTON**  
Bill Marquis
- WOODLAND TERRACE**  
Helen Hudson



**Change of Address**

Marge Heybeck has asked me to please let her new address be known in church.

Marjorie Heybeck, Apt. 232  
220 Collins Industrial Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
678-376-9632

~ Connie Barton

A tremendous “thanks” to my loving, caring church family for all your prayers, calls, visits, and cards. It meant so much to me.

I’m especially thankful to my fellow receptionists for their continuous support during my illness and while I’m still mending.

God Bless you, Sharon Smith, for all your comforting prayers and concern while I was in the hospital and when I came home.

Joyce Leaming

**TO ALL OF OUR CHURCH FRIENDS**

We wish to give a belated “thank you” to all for the prayers and support during Ken’s illness and his passing. Also, for the cards, prayers, and support during the time of my surgeries. They all meant so much and helped us through a stressful time.

On behalf of our beloved Joey, he wants to thank you for your prayers and hopes you will continue to pray for him in his time of trouble.

We also want to give a special thanks for the blessing of Kay and Marilyn.

We love you all,  
Barb Smith and family

Thank You!

## Retreats – A Means of Grace

Pastor Mark talks about “spiritual disciplines” – these are also sometimes referred to as “means of grace.” Although they are the same thing, when we use the word “discipline” it might trigger a rebellious response - *who wants to be disciplined?*

“Means of grace” describes what these acts are – a way of knowingly experiencing God’s grace. When we practice the means of grace or spiritual disciplines, we intentionally put ourselves in a position where we are likely to have an encounter with the Living God. What an AWESOME place to be!

One of those means of grace is a spiritual retreat, like the one in where some of our men recently participated. If you’ve heard any of them since their return, you know they DID have an encounter with God. It is exciting just to be around them.

What’s really exciting is what is happening around here! When someone mentions an upcoming retreat, the response is an excited, “When?” Then the conversations often continue something like - “Are you going?” “Do you want to room together?”

Our weekend at the Women’s Retreat is January 18 – 20; registration closes January 19, so get your registration in quickly.

Our weekend at the Couples’ Retreat is February 29 – March 2; John Riley will be one of the speakers. The weekend will likely fill up fast, so don’t put off registering. Look for more information elsewhere in Genesis and on bulletin boards around church.

May you each have a blessed Christmas celebrating our Savior’s birth,  
Marilyn Watson

### THE NOSE KNOWS

As we prepare our homes for the holidays, we think of the warm and comforting aromas that come with family dinners and accompanying decorations. Increasingly, however, we are finding that many people are reacting to fragrances, even resulting in serious allergic reactions. We also need to be aware that our personal fragrances, no matter how delightful they are to us, may cause respiratory distress to others. Even in church, our colognes, perfumes and aftershave may adversely affect our worshiping neighbor. This is just a reminder to be considerate of the needs of others.

~ Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse

*S.H.A.R.E.*  
*Be Part Of It...*  
*And make the world a better place*

**From the SHARE Newsletter:**

*"Sharing a delicious meal with family and friends is the highlight of any holiday season. However, the holidays can be difficult for families who cannot afford what others take for granted. For more than 15 years, hope has come to families during the holidays through the gift of SHARE food. Your generous donation will continue this long tradition of compassion and brighten the lives of countless families who will be able to sit down and share a real holiday meal this year. When you purchase a SHARE Holiday Package for your family, don't forget to purchase additional packages for families in need.*

*"Remember when you're looking for a great gift this holiday season that SHARE Gift Certificates make a great gift for ANYONE. Give the gift of food and fellowship this season with gift certificates for your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers or employees. The gift certificates are available for the SHARE Basic Package (\$18) or a Holiday Package (\$25) and can be redeemed by placing an order through any of the over 300 SHARE Host Sites located in Florida and Southern Georgia"*

*"For a list of Host Sites, current menus - or for information,  
 visit the SHARE website: [www.shareflorida.org](http://www.shareflorida.org) or call (800) 536-3379"*

The above article was on the first page of the SHARE paper. It is asking for people to buy a "SHARE Gift Certificate." Sounds like a good idea but we have a better one. If you know someone who could use some food, buy a Basic or Christmas Package for them. Give them the copy of the order and tell them when and where to pick it up. We would also tell them how to order every month. If they do, you will have done them a service. Even if you don't want to buy that first package for them, you could tell them about us and direct them here. Take some of the newspapers and hand them out in your neighborhood.

SHARE has been here since October 2000. We hope to be here for a long time. The site in Crystal River has closed because they were not supported by their Church. The only support we lack is the congregation ordering from us. We would like to see more of you. Remember, there is no low income requirement. There is no membership to maintain. Don't be concerned about the quality of the food. Everything comes from the same place as our supermarkets, and we freeze it down to zero or colder so that by time you get it home, it's still well frozen. There are a lot of volunteers working very hard to keep this program going. We only ask that you take advantage of the prices because a bigger volume is better for all.

We hope you get this on time to order the Christmas Holiday Package. It is a 6 lb. Boneless Honey Smoked Ham with broccoli, peas, corn, rolls and other fruits and an Apple Pie, all for \$25.00. The price is up but it is still the best bargain in town.

~ Tom & Nancy Pearo



The Thrift Shoppe will not accept donations after December 15th. We appreciate your patronage and look forward to the opening of our new, enlarged shop at the completion of Phase III construction.

**UMW Unit Meeting**  
**December 18, 11:30 AM**  
**Christmas Pot Luck Salad Luncheon**



Program: Installation of Officers for 2008

Leader: Pat Blake

Hostesses: Mary Martha Circle

Installing new officers will be  
 Director of Christian Education, Patience Nave

December Circle Duties: Thrift shop - Helping Hand Circle

## Dear Praying Friends,

We made it! We have moved successfully into our third house (in three years) here in Chiang Mai. So far, so good, as everyone is enjoying more space, the quiet street, and actual grass. Thankfully, we were able to sign a long lease and plan on living here until the Lord tells us otherwise. Please pray for us to be good witnesses in our new neighborhood and to serve our Lord with passion and commitment.

### Praises:

- Cool Shade of Life Church will have three candidates at its second baptism service on Nov. 25, when we will also celebrate the church's first-year anniversary. Praise God for this year of ministry and for the way He is preparing this congregation to birth new churches for Him in the future! Please pray for this service to be a special time of fellowship.
- Thanks to a gift from a kind group of friends here, we were able to buy the items we needed for the new house below. That was a great blessing to us.



- Elaine and the children had a relaxing 11-day break from school (as relaxing as it could be since we had to move.) Prior to the mid-October break, Elaine's 2nd-grade class at Grace International School enjoyed taking a field trip to the zoo here in Chiang Mai (see Jamie and class below).



- A well-kept secret of the missionary life today is that, for some of us, it is not so "extreme" anymore thanks to globalization.

We'll send this email via high-speed Internet; many houses here have air conditioning; Starbucks has several locations in the city; large clothing items can be found at the export shop; and, most importantly, there's pizza.



liking!)

See the "pizza company" ad to check out the latest deals. (Just make sure you read the menu carefully – those pies with crab stick, corn, squid, chilli paste, or prawns might not be to your

### Prayers:

- Joe has begun his teaching role in the year-long Sunday School discipleship process he has put together for Cool Shade of Life Church. His first topic involves the purpose and history of the church. Please pray for wisdom in preparation and teaching.
- Five of the 9 students in Joe's Thursday night English Bible class have moved on to more intensive English training. Please pray for future direction for the class as it is now so much smaller.
- Continue to pray for Elaine's health. She saw the doctor again this week and found that her blood levels are still good. As a result, she will increase the dosage of the new drug she is taking to control her autoimmune disease. This cautious, stepwise approach will take months in order to find the right dosage that will control her disease without causing side effects.
- Last month's church leadership meeting was a great encouragement and provided excellent direction for the near future, particularly in terms of discipleship. Please pray for continued wisdom and insight from these monthly meetings every first Monday.
- Two church members, Banjong and Kheek, have been studying at Chiang Mai Baptist Church's Bible Center. However, the center will not be open for the foreseeable future because none of their church members are presently in need of training. Pray for wisdom in how to continue training Banjong and Kheek, perhaps even with Joe doing one or more of the subjects at Cool Shade of Life Church.
- We will attend a church camp with members of Cool Shade of Life and Chiang Mai Baptist churches Nov. 16-18. Joe will cover one of the speaking times, focusing on the "one body" passage from 1 Corinthians 12. Pray for wisdom in preparation and speaking and for our family to enjoy the camp and safe travel.
- After a full calendar year of good financial news in our PIONEERS support account, we had very low contributions in September and now are in financial deficit again (about \$1,270 in the red). Please pray for the Lord's provision so that this can be a less-prolonged problem this time.

*For His glory,*

*Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb, & Jamie*

## Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We have a little more than a month before we make that journey back to Siberia. At times, it is quite overwhelming, but we have seen the Lord pour out his grace and peace just when it's needed the most. The actual packing will begin soon and the decisions as to what can actually go and what will have to stay behind...is the item a need or a want...is it worth another bag? As always, we pray for discernment; even with packing, it's easy to start packing things that really aren't necessary and forget items that could be useful in the ministry.

We have a huge prayer request at this time and wanted to share this with our prayer partners and church family. We recently received word of law changes for foreigners seeking visas to live in Russia. This isn't unusual except for the fact that the law went into affect immediately and is being enforced across the country.

The government has decided to allow one year visas; however, you can only stay 90 days then must leave the country for 90 days before you can return. Again, you can only stay another 90 days; then you must leave the country for another 90 days. Bottom line - you can be in the country 180 days a year but not all at one time.

Of course our first response is...what? How can we ever minister to anyone with regulations like this? However, we know this is not a surprise to God and that if He wants us to be there, he has worked out those details already, and we just have to trust the outcome. We will stand on His promises and 'press on' towards the goal. There are people waiting to hear of the hope and love that only come with a knowledge of Jesus.

### Your Prayers Answered!

This group of people is the result of prayers.



This past year, the "Good News" church in Ulan Ude celebrated their 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are completely on their own in leadership and financial support. They are so very grateful for those who were willing to 'go' and bring them hope and even more grateful for those who have and continue to lift the church in prayer. Please know that they pray for you also, even though they don't know any of you by name or any particular

church or organization, they pray. It's a command from God and is taken quite seriously. We look forward to see what the Lord is going to do next. **THANK YOU** for your prayers.

Corey wanted to share a picture of his new car - a blessing that came from his accident in August. His truck was totaled and, after all was settled, he was able to buy a car and pay it off so as not have any payments. He's also excited to be starting classes in January at Manatee Community College in Bradenton, Fl. He's working hard to save money for expenses and has been able to receive a grant to cover his schooling. God is so good! Please keep Corey in prayer as he begins this new journey in his life.



It's so hard to believe that Joshua is halfway through his second year of college. He'll be joining us for Christmas break, beginning on the

15<sup>th</sup> of this month, until we leave in January. Then he'll fly up to PA. to visit a few days with his grandparents and friends from Messiah College before heading back to the west coast. He has found California to be a good move and has been doing really well in his classes. We can't wait to see him again and have him join us when we visit Homosassa in January. **THANK YOU** for all the prayers that have been lifted for Joshua's transition back to the US and for college life.

#### Praises:

- The Lord's provisions over the past year.
- Joshua's transition into college life.
- Corey's transition into living in the US and college.
- The peace that only comes from the Lord as we head back to Russia without our boys.

#### Prayer Requests:

- The churches in Russia.
- We will get our visas and that even with the law changes, we won't have to leave every three months.
- Outgoing expenses as we travel back to Siberia; we need to set up house and purchase a vehicle.

May your Christmas be filled with the Joy and Love of Jesus.

*Sewing Together,*

*Kevin, Laura, Joshua and Corey Wooster*

# Bazaar Moments



# 2008



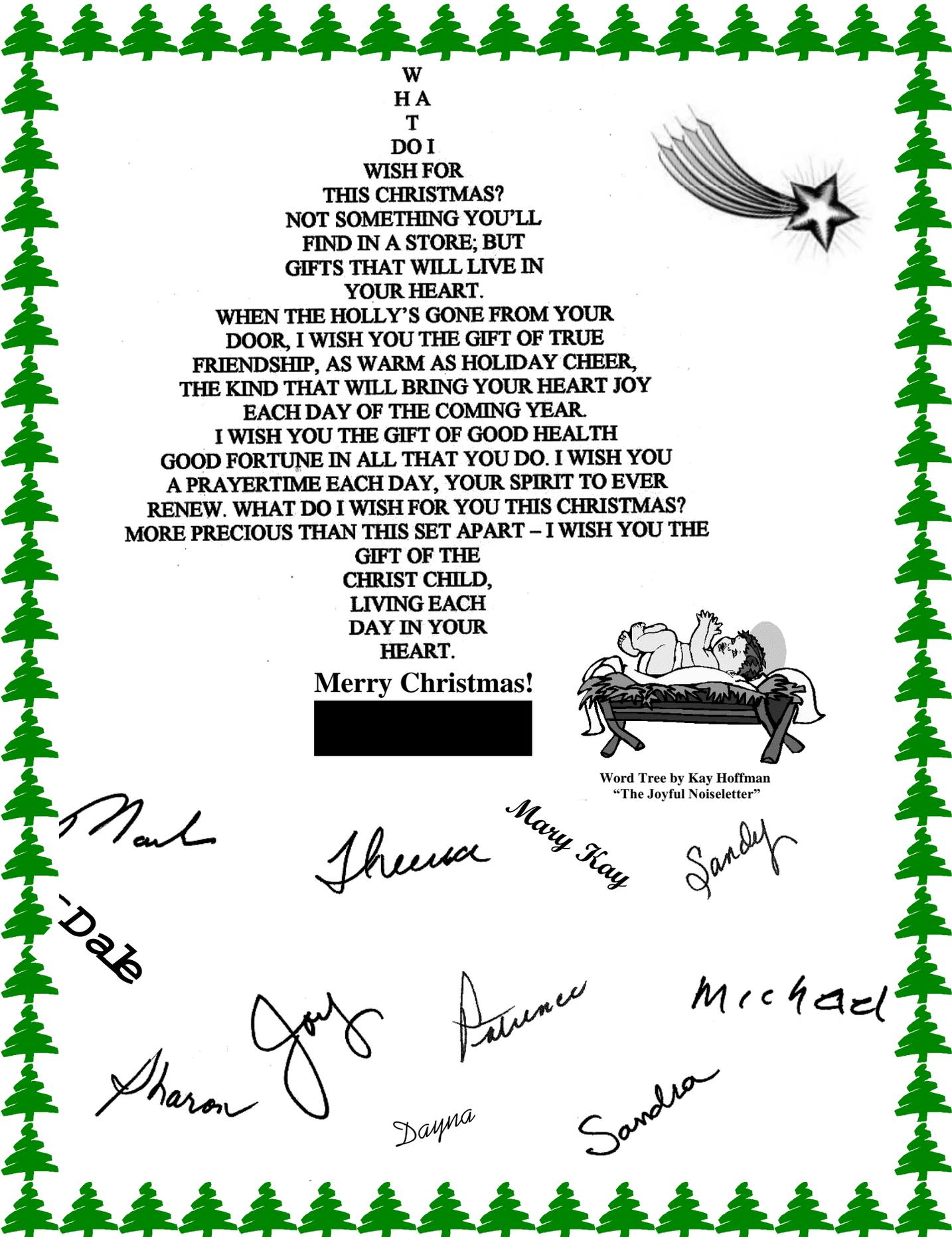
Its time to begin planning for our busy year ahead and the sooner the better. This year will require extra careful planning due to construction of Phase III of our building project. Fellowship Hall, the kitchen and the youth rooms will not be available for use and several schedules may be effected.

To assist me in keeping track of all the meetings and events on the calendar, I would like to ask that all committees, groups and special events pick-up and complete a gold 2008 meeting/event information sheet from the office.

If your meeting/group times and days will remain *the same* for 2008, it will *not be* necessary to complete a new information sheet. I only ask that you call or email me verifying that your group will remain the same. The key to making this system work is input from you, the congregation. Please let me know anytime you plan a meeting or if any changes are made. Another item to keep in mind is the more I know about your meeting, group or event, the better I can advertise for it and direct the people as they call or come in.

I would like to have a good idea about the 2008 scheduled meetings by the first week of December. Please be sure to let me know what you expect your plans to be as soon as possible. The more I know, the more I can do for you. I look forward to another great year.

Serving for the Glory of our Lord,  
~Theresa Weber, Church Administrator



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Merry Christmas!



Word Tree by Kay Hoffman  
"The Joyful Noiseletter"

*Mark*

*Sheena*

*Mary Kay*

*Sandy*

*Dale*

*Joy*

*Patience*

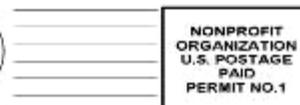
*Michael*

*Sharon*

*Dayna*

*Sandra*

**First United Methodist Church of Homosassa**  
8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**We Are A Stephen Ministry Church**

Visit our Web Site ~ [www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.org)

Neil Kline, Webmaster

**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: 352-628-4083

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*Soli Deo Gloria*

