

GENESIS

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

FEBRUARY 2007

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 11 Issue 2

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Lent begins

A LENTEN REMINDER

Anyone who has been a Christian for a while knows that one of the traditions of Lent is to give up something. This "giving up" involves making a sacrifice, suffering a little, and doing without as a way of identifying with the sufferings of Christ. When you feel the "pangs" of your depravation, you are supposedly reminded to take a minute to pray, thanking God for the gift of his Son.

Such a small sacrifice for such a short time seems easy enough. Just give up cigarettes or chocolate or Coke or some other favorite indulgence for seven weeks. No problem! Yet, somewhere along the way, the temptation will come to forget about the reason behind our sacrifice and to indulge "just this once." Of course, we know from experience that our "just once" often leads to "just twice," and then it easily becomes all downhill from there.

In Luke 4:1-13, we have the story of Jesus, after his baptism, being driven out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Here we have an example of Jesus facing some of the same temptations we face, each temptation offering a shortcut to satisfaction and influence without having to trust God. Jesus' hunger was real, his desire to have power that would bring the world to God was sincere, his wanting the world to see him as the Son of God was a strong motivation. If Jesus chose Satan's way, things could happen quicker and with more fanfare—the offered shortcut was enticing, especially since it could be accomplished without the suffering of the cross. But Jesus understood the difference between the counterfeit offerings of Satan and the reality of his Father's plan. Jesus resisted because he faced the temptations "full of the Holy Spirit" and having only one true desire—to do the will of his Father.

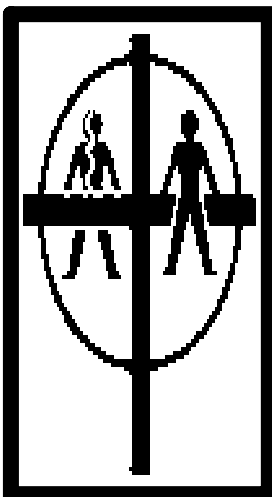
Giving into our temptations may not have the Kingdom-damaging results that would have occurred if Jesus had succumbed to the enemy, but, each time we give into a temptation, we are changed. Each yielding moves us further away from our Father's will until we are no longer



becoming what God has called us to be.

But we, too, can withstand the enemy's attacks if we have prepared ourselves through Bible study, prayer and worship, staying "full of the Holy Spirit" in our daily lives. We can avoid the tempting "shortcuts" by keeping our focus on doing the will of the Father as Jesus did.

Lent is a time to refresh our understanding of why Jesus chose the way of the cross rather than Satan's offered plan. Temptations come in many forms with deceptive promises of good. The Lenten season reminds us of the importance of putting on the "armor of God" (Ephesians 6:11) so that we, like our Savior, can be faithful to take up our cross and follow God's will for our lives.



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.

Within The Church

- Worship Services
- Music Ministries
- Men & Ladies Ensemble
- Children's Choir
- Handbell & Chimes Choir
- Christian Education
- Adult Sunday School
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Ministry
- Lenten Soup Supers
- Fine Arts Program
- Disciple Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- UMW Circles
- Tape Ministry
- Blood Bank
- Visitation Care Group
- Golf Outings
- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Disaster Relief Programs
- Small Groups Ministry
- United Methodist Men
- United Methodist Women
- Biblical Travel Ministry
- Counters
- Attendance Tracking



As Outreach

- Thrift Shop
- Food Pantry
- SHARE
- Holiday Baskets
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Cancer Survivors
- Current Affairs
- Healthy Body & Healthy Spirit
- Volunteers In Mission
- Habitat for Humanity
- PAWS (Pets Are Working Saints)
- Crop Walk
- Salvation Army Kettle Ministry
- Discretionary Giving Committee
- Brownies
- Boy / Girl / Cub Scouts
- Clown Ministries
- Missions Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Children's Home
- Hospice Bereavement
- After-School Tutoring
- Angel Tree
- Stephen Ministries
- Angels With Wheels
- Prayer Blanket Ministry



In this new year, may we commit to reaching more people than ever with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to boldly living our lives with a renewed commitment to holy living.



RETREATING INTO THE WILDERNESS WITH JESUS

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Someone once said that to recognize the signs of God, pay attention to your stirrings. Look closely when you feel the swell of joy within, or the tightness as your throat closes up in sorrow. Live in that moment, poke around in its corners, and feel the texture of its walls. Sit with it for awhile, long enough to sense the presence of God sitting with you.

## "Fake fish" Medieval apple pie during Lent

All text and pictures of dishes are the intellectual property of Christianne Muusers, [www.coquinaria.nl](http://www.coquinaria.nl)

In the Middle Ages the Catholic Church prescribed what was on the daily menu. Each week counted at least one day, and more often three or even four days (depending on where and when in medieval Europe) during which no meat was to be eaten.

For many Catholics Friday was still an obligatory "fish day" until well into the twentieth century. In this way one was weekly reminded of Jesus who died on the cross on what we call "Good Friday."

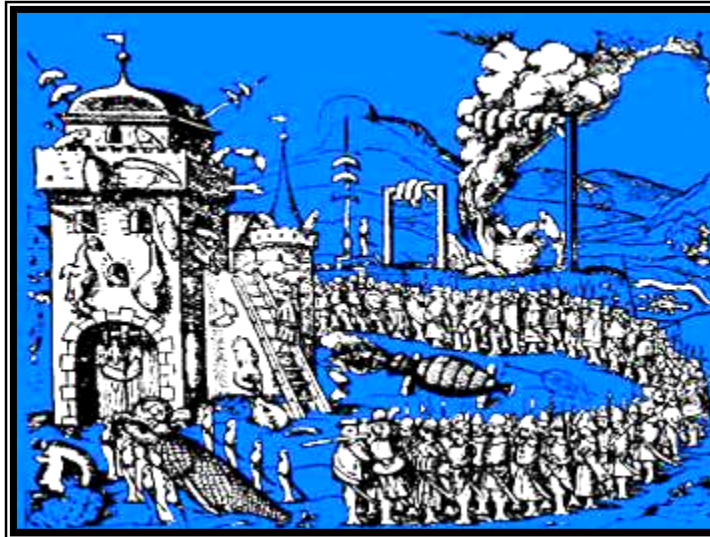
Other possible days of fasting were Wednesday (because of Judas' treason) and Saturday (to honor the Virgin Mary). Together with this weekly cycle, there was also an annual cycle of fasting days: the Ember Days (these mark the beginning of the new seasons, in December, March, June and September), Advent (the four weeks before Christmas), and Lent (the six weeks between Carnival and Easter).

Added together, this means that to the medieval Christian meat was prohibited foodstuff during a third to more than half of all the days in the year (even if he or she could afford it).

This does not mean they were part-time vegetarians: the eating of fish was allowed. A simple (perhaps too simple) explanation is that during the Biblical Flood, meant to punish mankind for its sins, all fish survived! It was clear that fish were free of all sin.

When you think of it, a period of six weeks in which all you get to eat besides fruit and vegetables is fish, fish and again fish is rather wearisome. It seems, however, that some people hadn't had enough of fish yet. A recipe for apple pie in the form of a fake fish, especially for Lent, is written down in a Middle Dutch manuscript from the end of the fifteenth century.

The fake fish is a closed apple pie, or resembles



apple dumplings, according to which size you make it. The body of the fish, formed like the ear of a calf, is deep fried pastry filled, after frying, with the uncooked stuffing that is also used in the apple pie or the dumplings.

When you read the recipe given below, you will find that it does not mention any dough for the fake fish. It is just the stuffing that is described. However, in the previous recipe, which is for fake fish outside Lent, it is stated clearly that the apple stuffing is meant to be packed in dough, and then baked in the oven for half an hour.



### The recipe for fake fish.

The dough:  
500 gram flour  
125 gram oil  
(neutral of taste)  
40 gram ground almonds  
3 decilitre water  
1 teaspoon salt  
Some whole or sliced almonds to make scales if you want to.

The stuffing:  
3 apples  
6 tablespoons cane sugar  
1 teaspoon ginger  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon saffron  
2 slices gingerbread (40 gram), lightly toasted, crumbled, or 40 gram ground almonds

Preparation: Preheat the oven at 200°C. Divide the dough into two. Roll out the first part to an oval form. Use a pizza roller or a knife to cut out the form of a fish. Arrange the fish on a baking tray. Sprinkle some toasted breadcrumbs on the dough, to absorb the moisture of the stuffing. Spread the stuffing on the dough, leaving free the outer rim of the dough. Roll out the second part of the dough, and cut the second fish, which is to cover the stuffing. Make two holes in it, one where you would expect the eye of the fish, and another near the tail. Place this second fish on the stuffing, and press the rims of the two fish well together. Now you can form fins, tail, gills, scales, whatever you want, to give your fake fish a realistic appearance. Place the fake fish in the middle of the oven, bake for 45 to 60 minutes.



Rose Trearcus had a dream.

In it the homeless and hungry of Homosassa received two good meals every week from the soup kitchen based in our church. But if Rose had stayed – she moved north a few years back – her mission would be no closer to reality. Our kitchen is simply too small and outdated to serve this purpose.

Like Rose, Steve Skelley and Paul Huffstutler and so many more have a dream. Their dream is filled with vibrant youth gathered together in a safe haven – equipped just for them – growing as individuals and as members of the body of Christ. But their mission has stalled, waiting for the space needed to make it a reality.

Rose and Steve and others aren't alone.

The United Methodist Women dream of meeting our community's need for good quality, low-cost clothing and household goods, while supporting our mission programs with a larger Thrift Shop.

Everyone involved in our Christian Education Department and our Library dream of fulfilling our church's thirst for knowledge with

more classrooms and a larger library.

And the Wonderful Wednesday crew dreams of growing this exceptional evening of Christian Fellowship in a spacious Fellowship Hall with a modern kitchen.

These dreams, and so many more, could be realized if we had the facilities and volunteers needed to expand our ministries. It's my belief that the volunteers are among us, waiting patiently for the facilities to catch up to the missions that fill our hearts.

With Phase III of the Building for Tomorrow program, we can advance our ability to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We can experience individual spiritual growth and missions realized. And we can flourish in a strong, vibrant, and growing Christian community.

There's beauty in a bonsai tree, whose roots and branches have been clipped to keep it from growing in stature. But isn't the unclipped tree, reaching upward to heaven in praise of its creator, all the more beautiful?

Let's grow our church as the unclipped tree grows – stretching ever outward in service to our heavenly Father.

Mark Whittaker

**LEARNING TO LIVE IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

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Have you ever really looked at what the New Testament teaches about how we are to live with each other in Christian community?

The small group, "Living in Christian Community," will resume meeting Tuesday, January 16th, 1:30-3:30 pm, in Room 114.

We will be studying the Bk. of Ephesians, looking at what Paul wrote as he taught the church how to interact in accordance with the teachings of Jesus.

Is what he wrote for them applicable to our church today?

If so, are we practicing what he taught--and, if not, why not?

We welcome back all those who came to this small group last year and invite anyone else who is interested to join us.

If you plan to attend, please call Jan Wise, 382-5799 or Elizabeth Smith, 382-0699 so we know how to set up the room.

Christian Education Corner
By Patience Nave

We have several exciting things coming up during the month of February, and I hope that you will mark your calendars now with some specific dates.

On Sunday, February 18, at 3:00, a girls' chorale from Lecanto Middle School will present a concert in our sanctuary.

These 28 girls are students of Sue Jeffes, and they have been chosen to go to New York in May to sing with other students at Carnegie Hall.

Five of these girls are our own: Hanna and Hailey Amundson, Jenna Crabtree, Jacqueline Dixon, and Allison Jones.

The girls are raising funds to support this trip. Sue Jeffes told me as I was preparing this article that they have raised \$40,000 of the \$50,000 required for their flight and stay in New York.

There will be no charge for attendance, but admission will be by ticket to ensure that there is adequate room for all in our sanctuary.

Having their concert at our church will be special treat as well as giving us the opportunity to welcome community guests to our church for the occasion.

On Tuesday, February 20, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a festive covered-dish dinner in the fellowship hall.

Several of our members will present a program about the significance of the day in preparation for Easter.

We'll ask people to make reservations to attend in the same way we reserve a place for Wonderful Wednesdays. (Someday we'll have a bigger Fellowship Hall to accommodate more of us at these meals.)

At the Lenten Soup Suppers this year our own members will present the programs.

There are five of these suppers, and five people have agreed to assume the persona of a Biblical character and present Easter thoughts through their character. They will come in costume, so it may be fun to guess who they are. Some characters may be ones that we always associate with Easter, but I know of a couple that will surprise you! These are always won-

derful times, and I hope you will plan to attend.

If all goes as I am planning now, your Lenten Devotionals will be available at the regular worship hours on Sunday, February 18.

At Christmas we ran out of devotionals, and I don't want this to happen again.

If you think you are going to want more than one copy of this daily devotional guide, would you please tell me or put a note in my box. I want to have enough for all who want them.

Man or Woman for Job that may Change the Future!
 ~ Incredible Benefits ~
 ~ Unusual Pay ~

Qualifications:

--Must love the Lord and want to serve Him.

--Must love children and want to teach them about God's great love for them.

--Must be willing to grow spiritually as God teaches teens through him/her.

Position:

Teacher for Middle and High School Students



CREATIVE WORSHIP WORKSHOPS

Our Creative Worship Workshops are now held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at the church in the conference room.

Creative Worship Workshops are led by Steve Skelley in conjunction with Rev. Mark Whittaker.

The goal is to work as a team to support the gospel message creatively so that people of all learning styles can understand God's love for them.

Do you have talents in music, drama, art, decoration, or outside-the-box thinking? Join us.

Contact Steve Skelley for more information.

HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS

Lisa Specht knows what it like to hurt. Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, she has spent years struggling to do the things many of us take for granted.

Lisa has decided to launch a support group for people who suffer from chronic pain.

In 2nd Corinthians, Paul tells us that he is given a physical ailment and three times he asks the Lord to heal him. God's answer to Paul - 'My grace is sufficient.'

If you or a loved one suffers from chronic pain and you need some grace, support, or a place to talk, come join the Chronic Pain Support Group.

The first meeting will take place at 10 am on Friday, February 16th, at First United Methodist Church of Homosassa.

Your input on future meeting dates and locations will be discussed at that meeting.

Contact Lisa at 382-2858 for more information.

No matter who you are, we have a Holistic Small Group for you:

- Men's Prayer with Clarence Koehler
- Marilyn's Siegel's Bible Study
- First Place with Diane Gibbs
- Chronic Pain Support with Lisa Specht
- Cancer Survivors with Anna Cooley
- Current Events Discussion Group with Bill Ackerman
- Living In Christian Community with Elizabeth Smith and Jan Wise.

How about starting your own group for Single Adults? Or Motorcycle Enthusiasts? Or Golfers? Or Tennis Players? Or Parents of school aged children?

Contact Steve Skelley at the church office (628-4083) for information on joining or starting a Holistic Small Group at First United Methodist Church of Homosassa.



YOUTH MINISTRY

We now have 15 middle and high school youth at 1st UMC Homosassa. We look forward to a 2007 full of spiritual and numerical growth. For Christmas, each youth received a subscription to the Upper Room devotional for teens called DEVOzine. Each day of 2007 they can read a devotion by teens and for teens.

Parent & Youth Challenge

I would like to challenge each family of youth to host *one youth special event* in 2007. We should be able to have at least one special event per month if we all chip in and work together.

In 2007, let's have parents and their middle and high-school children plan and host a special event of their own choosing. Invite the friends you want to invite. Invite the youth from your church. Host a cook-out or a party or a dance. Plan a trip to the beach or a zoo or Cape Canaveral or a water park (We have a church bus and drivers available).

Contact me, Steve Skelley, at CitrusCountyTeens@yahoo.com or 572-9532. I'll be glad to help you with your youth event.

Youth Website

Don't forget to visit the Youth Ministry website at www.CitrusCountyTeens.org Your picture may be there!

Youth Ministry Schedule Sunday School

- 9:30 – 10:30 on Sunday mornings in the Youth Room Youth Fellowship
- 12:00 – 2:00 pm on Sundays. Meet in the Youth Room

Recycle Your Empty Ink Cartridges

Bring in your empty printer ink cartridges and place them in the recycle box on the soda machine near the fellowship hall.

Recycling these cartridges saves the environment and earns us money to support ministry to local youth and to pay for food, clothes and schooling for Ralph and Adriana, our mission children in Central America.

SAFE DRIVING CLASS

Learn "How to Comply" with Florida's new bicycle law, move-over law, and other ways to improve your driving and crash prevention.

A safe-driving class is scheduled in Fellowship Hall on: February 19 & 20, 2007 9 AM to 1 PM

Class size is limited. Call Frank Tobin at 628-3229 for early registration.

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How do you tell a child that the people welcomed Jesus with a parade one day and then killed him soon after that?

It is not easy to tell a child about betrayal. I have found a book to use to help explain the suffering that led to the glory of Easter morning.

It is a book that can be used every year in your home as your children grow in their understanding and development.

This inspiring book brings the event alive with a beautiful text and brilliant illustrations.

"The Easter Story," retold and illustrated by Carol Heyer and published by Ideal's Children's Books is a must for any Christian home. Add it to your family's Easter celebration.

Blessings, Connie Friar, Director of Children's Ministries West Des Moines United Methodist Church

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Soon the season for giving Valentine's Day cards, candy, flowers, or teddy bears will arrive. Perhaps dinner reservations "for two" will create special memories. Many of us take time during February to express love to our spouses or special friends in this manner.

Another way to show how much we care for others is by pausing to listen intently, to maintain confidences, and to walk beside someone who is journeying through difficult circumstances.

Likewise, our Stephen Minister team is commissioned to care by providing weekly one-hour visits and telephone support to those in our congregation who request assistance or reassurance.

So enjoy the chocolates or balloons, humorous or mushy greetings, and all the rest that herald this month of love.

If you would like to experience empathetic, Christian nurturing from one of our trained volunteers, contact:

Diane (382-7242)
Kay (382-4908)
or, the church office (628-4083)

Happy Valentine's Day from your Stephen Ministers and Leaders!



PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

By Sharon E. Smith

As this ministry has now been in existence for a little over a year, the Visitation Care Group has determined that some slight revisions in policy and procedure are appropriate. These are enumerated below:

* The purpose of a Prayer Blanket is to encourage people who are ill by giving them a reminder of Christ's love and of our prayers for them. The soft, warm blanket symbolizes the comfort of God's love wrapping them as they face the challenge of illness.

* Prayer Blankets are available to the FUMC community, including members of the congregation, friends of the congregation and close relatives. This ministry is under the umbrella of the Visitation Care Group; therefore, requests will be reviewed and approved by this committee.

* Because the process of making these blankets is a time-consuming labor of love, we can only expect the seamstress to complete one blanket per week. A donation of \$20 will be accepted to help defray the cost of materials. A small, additional amount is requested if our seamstress is required to program the machine for a new verse not in our available list.

* When the recipient's name and the chosen Bible verse have been stitched on the Prayer Blanket, the blanket will be placed on the church altar. The congregation will then have the opportunity to lay hands on the blanket and pray for the person who is ill. The presentation of the blanket to its recipient may be done by a representative of the Visitation Care Group or by the person who requested the Prayer Blanket.

As members of the Visitation Care Group, we hope these guidelines will be helpful to you in understanding the significance of this heart-felt ministry.



December 31, 2006: Baptism of Rylie Brim Csont, Daughter of Rebekah & Stephen Csont of Homosassa, by Rev. Mark Whittaker.

"THE REST OF YOUR LIFE"

A Workshop exploring available resources to provide quality of life to seniors and assurance to family members during "the sunset years."

**First United Methodist Church
Homosassa**

**Saturday February 17, 2007
9:00 am until Noon—in Fellowship Hall**

Continental Breakfast served from 8:45—9:15 am.
Panel Presentation begins promptly at 9:15 am.
Participants:

- Sharon Smith—Parish Nurse, FUMCH
- Christina Martenssen—Geriatric Care Manager, Crystal River
- Gloria Jeannotte—Executive Director of Cedar Creek ALR, Crystal River
- John Clardy—Attorney, Crystal River
- Jonathan Beard—Hospice of Citrus County
- John Peterson—Financial Planner and VP of Florida UM Foundation, Lakeland
- Richard Evans—Retired UM Pastor and Moderator

Agenda

Where Will You Live during the rest of your life?

- In your own home? (With services if needed?)
- In a multi-level retirement community? (Locations? Costs?)
- In an assisted living residence? (Locations? Costs?)
- In a care center, rehabilitation center, or nursing home? (Locations? Costs?)
- In a hospital or Hospice? (Locations? Costs?)
- In Florida, closer to family, or back where you may have come from?

Financial Planning for the rest of your life.

- Will you "outlive" your financial resources?
- Getting the financial advice you may need.
- What about Long-Term Care Insurance? Can I afford it?
- "Leveraging" your assets to increase your income. Charitable giving from your accumulated assets.

What Legal Issues might face you in the years ahead and what Legal Documents will you need?

- Medicaid regulations re. assets and income for eligibility.
- Last Will and Testament or Revocable Living Trust?
- Durable Power of Attorney?
- Advance Care Directives?
- Do Not Resuscitate Order?

Community Resources for those living independently.

- Home Health Care?
- Hospice?
- Transportation?
- Meals?

Spiritual Resources for the "journey."

- The Church as your "extended family."
- The Visitation Committee
- The Pastors

LIBRARY FEATURES BOOKS ON LOVE AND MARRIAGE

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We have several novels where love triumphs through adversity:

1. "Grace In Thine Eyes" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Davina McKie is a gifted fiddler and clever as anyone. She has been unable to speak since birth and has led a sheltered life, protected by her doting brothers. When Davina goes on vacation to visit her cousins, she catches the eye of a young man. Davina is unprepared for the shocking events that follow, and her father and brothers vow to avenge her. This story illustrates how even the heartache of shame can be healed through God's endless mercy and love.

2. "The Angels of Morgan Hill" by Donna Van Liere. Jane Gable thinks 1947 will be like every other year in Morgan Hill, Tennessee, but it turns out to be the year everything changes. She discovers that angels are all around us every day, in the most extraordinary - and ordinary - ways. The story's unforgettable characters show us the ways and means of the heart and prove that even in the darkest hours, we are never truly alone.

3. "The Quilter's Daughter" by Wanda Brunstetter. Abby Miller's life is picture perfect. She runs a successful quilt shop and is engaged to a wonderful Amish man. When a double tragedy strikes, shattering her world, she is forced to look for answers outside her Amish community. Can God make anything good come out of her heartache?

4. "Hideaway" by Hannah Alexander. Emergency Room Dr. Cheyenne Allison retreats to an isolated farm in Hideaway, Missouri, after her sister dies. A dangerous vandal is terrorizing the community and she finds an unexpected demand for her medical skills. The violence turns deadly. Cheyenne becomes the vandal's target. Will Hideaway prove to be her sanctuary?

5. "Small Town Girl" by LaVyrle Spencer. After leaving tiny Wintergreen, Missouri, for Nashville 18 years ago and never looking back, Tess "Mac" McPhail is a country music star and a millionaire many times over with no time for marriage, children or kinfolk. However, her sisters insist she come home to help care for their widowed mother, at least for a month. Mac is unprepared to be a nonperson which is how she's treated by her sisters, mother and Kenny, the next door neighbor who she had mercilessly teased all through school. She opens her heart to love, to Kenny (a divorced man with a teenage daughter), and she becomes a part of life in Wintergreen. Is there room for caring and commitment in the realm of superstardom or is she destined always to be alone?

6. Book I "The Homeplace" by Gilbert Morris. A young Christian family finds courage and salvation in their faith and the tight-knit community of Fairhope. With warmth, humor and undaunting courage, Lanie leads her siblings into a future that, against all odds, holds the promise of hope, love and fulfillment.

7. Book II "The Dream" by Gilbert Morris". It's the mid-1940's, America is at war, and 17-year-old Lanie has to grow up fast. Her mother died and now her father is in prison for murder. The oldest of five children, she becomes their surrogate mother, and a beautiful young woman who draws the attention of the son of Fairhope's richest man. The town is in chaos when dashing Brother Colin Ryan, the new preacher, arrives wearing blue jeans and riding a motorcycle. He wastes no time in shaking Fairhope to the core of their beliefs. With the town embattled over Colin, her family struggling to survive and her heart in turmoil, Lanie seeks solace in her writing, poring out her trusting heart to God. Will Lanie continue to trust and follow her dreams, even in America's darkest hour?

8. "Waiting for Summer's Return" by Kim Vogel Sawyer. If you love stories with a "Janette Oke flavor" and enjoy tales of frontier Amish life, you'll love this novel. Widowed Summer Steadman settles in a Mennonite community and meets widower Peter Ollenberger. Can their love surmount the obstacles of differing faiths?

9. "When the Heart Cries" by Cindy Woodsmall. This is the first in the Sisters of the Quilt series. Despite being raised by a traditional Old Order Amish family, Hannah wants to break with tradition and marry outside her community. She's in love with Mennonite Paul Waddell and eagerly accepts his proposal even though she knows her family relationships will be destroyed. Then, before the wedding, tragedy strikes. This moving novel will give you a deeper insight into family relationships and new strength to deal with painful situations in your own life.

10. "Under the Northern Lights" Book Two of the Alaskan Quest series by Tracie Peterson. Leah, newly married to Jayce Kincaid, returns to her native village, Last Chance, Alaska only to be kidnapped by her husband's evil twin brother, Chase. She is thrown together in captivity with wealthy Helaine Beecham whom Chase had kidnapped as well. What does Chase have in store for Leah and Helaine? Jayce and Leah's brother Jacob are on their trail but unforeseen events make finding the two captive women and their kidnapper far more complicated than they could have imagined. You won't be able to put it down until its unpredictable and inspiring conclusion.

Happy Valentine's Day from
Your Library Staff
Barbara Jackson and
Helen Lefave



God Said It....That Settles It!
God confirms that Jesus is His Son.
(Transfiguration Sunday) February 18, 2007

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Every day we see cars with bumper stickers. Does your family car have a bumper sticker on it? What does it say?

Some people have a bumper sticker to show support for their school or a favorite sports team. Others might have a bumper sticker that says they love their dog. I have even seen some bumper stickers with a Christian message. One of the first I ever saw was one that said, "Honk if you love Jesus." You've probably seen that one. There is another one that says, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it!" That sounds pretty good at first, but if you stop to think about it, if God said it, that settles it — whether we believe it or not!

When Jesus was on the earth, there were a lot of different ideas about who he was. Many people thought that he was just a good teacher. Some people thought that he was Elijah or one of the prophets. There were some who thought he was John the Baptist. Even his own disciples didn't really understand who Jesus was.

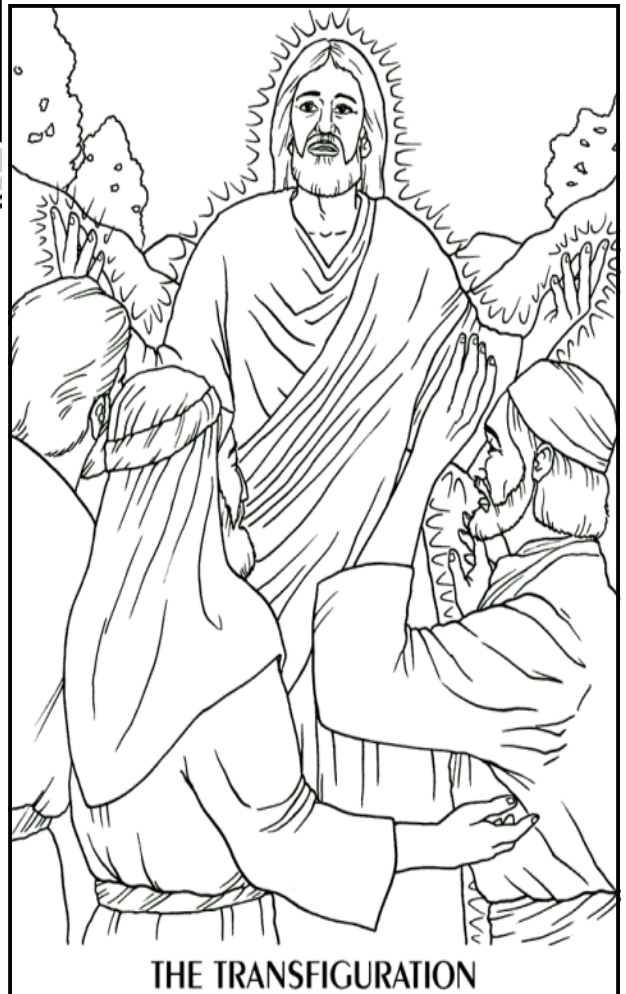
One day Jesus took three of his disciples -- Peter, James, and John -- up on a mountain so that they could be alone. While they were on the mountain, an amazing thing happened. Jesus' appearance began to change. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Then Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking with Jesus. The disciples couldn't believe their eyes! Then they couldn't believe their ears! They heard the voice of God saying, "This is my Son. I love him and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he has to say."

Well, from that moment on Peter, James, and John had no doubt about who Jesus was. He was the Son of God. God said it and that settled it. Peter himself said, "We were eye-witnesses of his majesty...we ourselves heard the voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the mountain." (2 Peter 1:16,18)

There are many people today who still don't know who Jesus is, but we know, don't we? He is the Son of God. How do we know? Because God said it and that settles it — whether others choose to believe it or not.

Dear Father, we thank you for sending Jesus, your Son. We know that he is your Son because you said so — and that settles it. Amen.

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THE TRANSFIGURATION

A Real Super Hero
 Submitted by Angie Faucher

When we think of a Super Hero we often think of Super Man, Bat Man or Spider Man. They all look very normal but each of them can change into a super hero with super powers.

I just thought of another super hero. Can you guess who it is? It's Jesus!

You see Jesus also looked very normal. In fact, that is why many people didn't believe he was a King. But one day on a mountain top he changed. He appeared as a real super hero.

You know Super Man and Bat Man are make-believe with make-believe powers. But Jesus is Real with Real powers!

It's nice to know that we have a Real Super Hero watching out for us.

5th Dimension Society Luncheon
by Rev. Richard L. Evans

The annual Appreciation Luncheon for the members of the 5th Dimension Society has been set for Thursday, March 1.

The luncheon is an annual event hosted by the Permanent Endowment Committee to express the appreciation of the entire church to those who have named First UMC Homosassa in their wills or trusts (or in some other form of deferred gift).

Several new members of the Society will be luncheon guests for the first time. They will be presented with personalized plaques thanking them for their foresight and their generosity in arranging a deferred gift to FUMCH from their accumulated assets.

The Rev. John Peterson, Vice President of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, will be our guest speaker.

A growing number of members have shown interest in arranging a "planned gift" or a "deferred gift" to the church.

A "planned gift" is a gift made now, with the use of the gift by the church deferred to a later date. It is made for the mutual benefit of both the donor and the church. The donor may receive tax benefits now while the church receives the gift at a later time.

Deferred giving opportunities include outright bequests from a will or trust, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and portions of an IRA or 401k plan.

Although we try to include, as members of the 5th Dimension Society, all those who qualify, we may not know about some.

If you have named FUMCH in your will, or in some other kind of deferred gift, (and have not already let us know) please call Pastor Whittaker or Rev. Evans.

We do not need to know all the details—only that you have arranged such a gift. We are eager to include you as a member of the 5th Dimension Society and invite you to our annual luncheon.

And, if you are considering a planned or deferred gift to FUMCH from some of your accumulated assets, call the church office for information on various possibilities—or talk with any member of the Permanent Endowment Committee.

**New Year
 New Beginnings**

Can you believe it's already February 2007?

We can expect busy times this year at FUMC, and I will need your help in keeping our calendar current.

As an attempt to make sure everyone is up to date on all the events happening around our church, I created a calendar to put on our website. This calendar will be updated every Friday and will only be as current as the information provided to the office.

This is where *you* can help. Please complete a simple information sheet, available in the office, for your meeting or event in the coming year.

Please use one sheet for each different committee/group per year. It is also important to let the office know if there are any cancellations or changes to these events.

This information will be most helpful as I update the new calendar on our website.

To view our new calendar, go to www.1umc.org. Click on the calendars tab on the left side. At the bottom of the page you will see each month's calendar.

Click and view. It's that easy! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. ~Theresa

~ Wonderful Wednesdays for 2007 ~

FEB. 14 - JIM & JEANNINE LOVE

A NIGHT FILLED WITH LOVE

(There will be soup suppers held on Wednesdays during Lent.)

APR. 11 - IRIS WHITTAKER

KEY TRAINING CENTER

APR. 25- SHARON SMITH

OVERSEAS MINISTRIES

MAY 9 - DAVID BENTHUSEN

COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION

Keep an eye on the bulletin inserts for more information. We hope you can come and enjoy the delicious food and desserts prepared by your dedicated group of Wonderful Wednesday Volunteers. Plan to enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship and interesting programs.

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
Matthew 6:34

This Scripture has really been on my mind lately, partly I'm sure because of the present state of my husband's health. I decided I should read it in context to be sure that I was thinking about it correctly. The Lord himself is speaking, and He has just suggested that we look all around us to see that lesser beings than man certainly do not worry. The birds and flowers don't worry. I argued with Him—just a little. Birds and flowers don't worry because they *can't!*

Then I noticed that the Lord says that *tomorrow will worry about itself*. But how can *tomorrow* worry. Tomorrow is not an entity. Like the flowers and birds, it *can't* worry. Only a *being* capable of thinking and pondering can worry.

I'm guessing that you can already see where the Lord was leading my thinking to go. The only being we know who has been *into tomorrow* is God. He is the *only* timeless Being, so He is the only one who can take care of tomorrow's trouble. It makes so much sense when I think it about it that way. God seems to be saying, "Don't worry about tomorrow because I have already been there and have taken care of everything."

That's pretty wonderful! Wasn't He smart to divide the time into twenty-four hour days. That's about all that we can take care of at a time, and even with that, we need His help. We need to learn to let Him take care of our tomorrows *and* our todays.

I guess we'll never be like the *birds of the air* or the *lilies of the field* who worry about nothing, but we can earnestly pray that He will teach us to trust Him with tomorrow so that we can enjoy today.

Prayer: Father, I think that worry must surely be sin, and I am guilty. Worry seems to be not trusting you to take care of tomorrow as You have taken care of yesterday and today. Forgive all of us—forgive me—for worrying. Remind us of how well you have cared for us, and help us to depend absolutely on you to continue to do more of the same. Amen

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday from 1PM to 2PM in Room 203.

The next meeting is February 27. We laugh, we cry, we share, we care.

Call Anna Cooley 382-4132 or Merl Hoar 382-4555

Prayer for Those With Cancer

Bless, O God, all who struggle with cancer. Empower them with hope for each and every day.

Provide them with loving and tender care, laughter, and the support of love.

Grant them courage when they are afraid, comfort when they are in pain, and your blessing when all else seems hopeless; that in their fight with illness they may continue to praise you and glorify your name.

Amen.

- Vienna Cobb Anderson

Gratitude for Friends and Family

To our friends who have become family and our family who have become friends-

May you be blessed with the same love and care you've given us.

- Mary Maude Daniels

Large Print Calendars

Now Available every month!

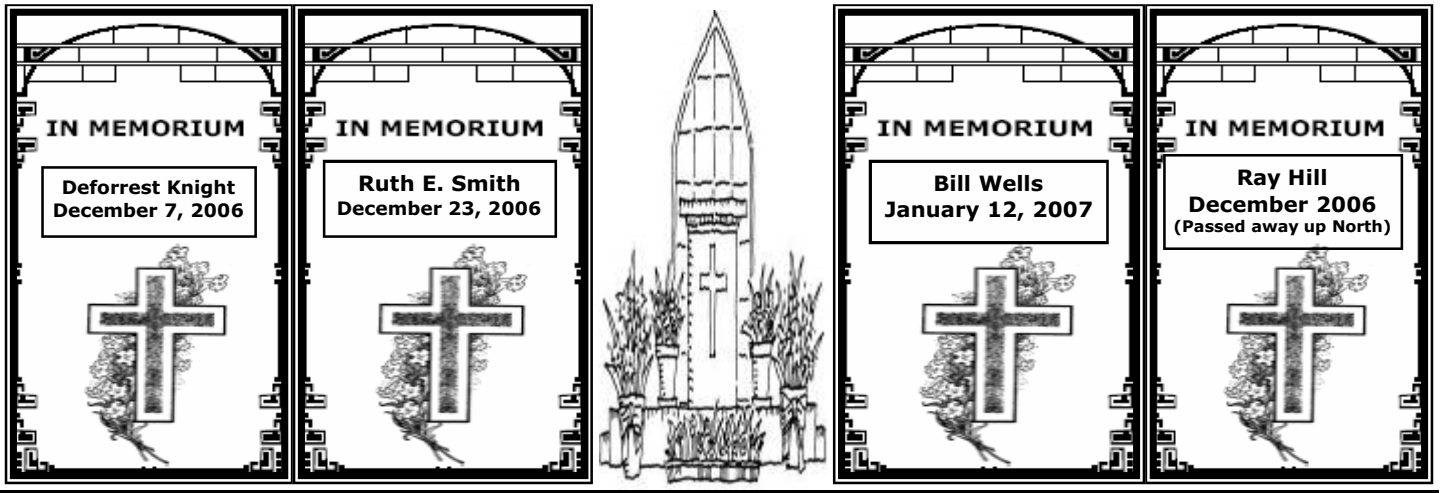
Your Genesis comes with a calendar of current events happening around the church every month.

This information can sometimes be too small to easily read so LARGE PRINT copies of the same calendar are available in the church office the first of each month.

For the most current information, the same calendar is updated every Friday and is available on our website at www.1umc.org and can easily be printed from home.

~ Theresa





January 1, 2007

Dear Pastor Whittaker,

On December 23, 2006, my mother Ruth E. Smith passed away at Cypress Cove Nursing Home.

She was a member of your congregation but because of her illness was unable to attend church services for more than 2 years.

During that time, however, she received flowers from the church almost every Sunday.

We were informed that a member of your Visitation Committee had given Mom communion. We are so grateful that she had this opportunity just hours before she died.

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to thank you and the members of your congregation for the thoughtfulness and kindness that you gave to her in her last years on this earth.

Sincerely,
Peler F. Smith

Father Mychal's Prayer

Lord, take me where You want me to go;
Let me meet who You want me to meet;
Tell me what You want me to say, and
Keep me out of Your way.

- Father Mychal F. Judge, OFM

Former chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, killed on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center disaster.

MEMORIALS

Steve & Mindy Bassler
29 Linder St.
Homosassa, 34446
382-3415
from Baltimore, MD

Ed & Brenda Loper
42 Greentree
Homosassa, 34446
382-2122
Ed from Washington, DC
Brenda from Bartow, FL

Patricia Yacco
182 Cypress Blv E
Homosassa, 34446
382-7101
from Mahopac, NY

Rob & Danielle Christensen
2 Elder Ct E
Homosassa, 34446
382-7962
Rob from Miami, FL
Danielle from Summerset, MA

Sharon Palmer
7095 Walden Woods Dr
Homosassa, 34446
388-2749
from Terre Haute, IN

Anna Rivells
6983 Eatonshire Path
Homosassa, 34446
382-4796
from Newton, PA

Lynn Shuten
10294 S Bainbridge Terr
Homosassa, 34446
382-8011
from W. Irondequoit, NY



The season of Lent is a time when many people who may not have been active in the life of the church are drawn to church to hear the message of hope and resurrection.

They may hear that message from the Scripture or the sermon or in the music. But they may also hear that message in a friendly hello from the person sitting next to them.

During this season of Lent, be a hope-bearer for guests who visit our church. Say hello, introduce yourself. Offer a welcome bag. Extend an invitation to share a cup of coffee in the Hospitality Center.

We welcome because God welcomes us into the message of Easter. It's a glorious thing!
~ Julie Neve

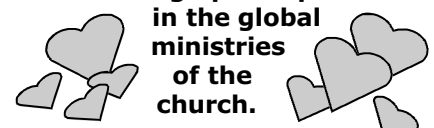
United Methodist Women
~ 2007 ~



PURPOSE
OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



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.



United Methodist Women's Unit Meeting
NOTICE: Gathering will be held in Room 114

February 20, 2007
10:00 AM
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL BRUNCH
Leader: Debbie Tomberlin,
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Hostesses: Faith Hope Circle

Circle Duties for the month:

- Thrift Shop ~ Helping Hand
- Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers ~ February 28, Mary Martha Circle

The importance of Unit Meetings are your opportunity to meet women of the church. With three Sunday services we can miss getting to know each other. Come and mingle in a relaxed, social and spiritual atmosphere.

February Birthdays

3	15
Gini Slusher	Harold Slusher
John Hoadley	Bill Jahn
Syble Little	David Brightman
Harold Marvin	16
Karen Kline	Barbara Phillips
4	Todd Little
Phyllis Grotjahn	Judy Lipovetz
5	Judy O'Gorman
Arlene Stohrer	17
Elizabeth Smith	Delmar Meewes
6	Bernice Wade
Nell Lent	Marilyn McKown
Marjorie Ottman	18
7	Audrey Gregory
Frances Ericksen	Alice Hurley
Allen Stone	19
Roberta Little	Marvin West
8	20.
Hilda Theriault	Ben Toole
Donna Yuschak	Patricia Urzen
9	Candy McFarland
Bill Barton	21
Wanda Wheeler	Jack Radabaugh
Dylan Patton	Pat Layman
10	Neil Kline
Pam Milat	25
11	Jack Ness
Barbara Smith	Richard Hartley
Bud Ludwick	Donna Ludwick
12	26
Maddie Wallace	Marguerite McClain
Audrey Hite	Marilyn Kohler
14	27
Helen Harris	Maureen Samstag
Pam Bailey	28
Pamela Patton	Richard Evans

February Anniversaries

1
Olive & Alex Stevens ~ 56 years
2
Sharon & James Haskell ~ 43 years
Ann & John Sandstrom ~ 42 yrs
Carole & Charles Weinberger ~ 39 years
15
JoAnn & Edwin White ~ 15 years
Helen & Frank Zack ~ 65 years
16
Diane & John Gibbs ~ 44 years
Beulah & Glenn Seiler ~ 55 years
17
Loretta & Alan Burcaw ~ 17 years
Althea & Arthur Stuckey ~ 43 years
23
Dorothea & Waldo Shellenberg ~ 50 yr
25
Janet & Jerry Tanner ~ 30 years
26
Ina & Joe Ryder ~ 7 years
27
Gail & Richard English ~ 38 years

Nursing Centers

Barrington
Ken McGuire

Brentwood
Evelyn Bash
Rene Dube
Betty Pettit
Ann Specht

Crystal River H&R
Robert Smith
Ralph Hudson

Cypress Cove
Louise Brechka
Jack Mallett
George Mestjian
Willie Smith
Elta Whilden
Julia Wilkinson

Sugarmill Manor
Del Parker
Grace Payne
Ray Short

Diamond Ridge
Marjorie Cook
Maddie Wallace

Hospice At Home
Wallace Nave

At Home
Frankie Adams
Yvonne Beck
Marguerite Betzer
Dessa Clark
Betty Davis
Betty Duncan (Moving
north 1/06/07)
Marge Falk
Doris Feldman
Fran Hughes
Dorothy Jones
Nan Lawrence
Harry Livermore
Ginney Rese
Alma Rogers
Stanley Sargeant
Dolli Scott
Florence Sledd
Ken Smith
Verna Strout
Isabelle Verge
Ernie Verge
Charlie Walker
Ginny Watkins
George Cole
Paul Glenn
Dea Miller

~ Visitation Committee ~



SECURITY REMINDER!
Keep God's Property Safe.

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!

After your meeting is over, **STOP** and check that all lights and fans are off.

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

LOCK!
LOCK the doors!

Thank you!



**Michael Rodgers,
Night Security**

In Praise of God

You are holy, Lord, the only God, and Your deeds are wonderful. You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High. You are Almighty. You, Holy Father are King of heaven and earth. You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good. You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God, living and true. You are love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance. You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and moderation. You are all our riches, and You suffice for us. You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender. You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope. You are our faith, our great consolation. You are our eternal life, Great and Wonderful Lord, God Almighty, Merciful Saviour.

- St. Francis of Assisi



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





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

We are well into our seventh year with SHARE. Volunteers have put in many hours and some of their own money to keep this program going.

Everyone is doing their part to make it work. From registration team, to truckers, and food handlers, everyone is vital to the overall success of SHARE.

Most are there every month. Others come when they can or when there is a special need like in November and December when we need to have two lines.

Families that take advantage of the low prices for food and vegetables are grateful.

They know that to buy the same foods in the supermarket would cost them at least twice as much.

Our efforts help so many, making us want to keep SHARE going.

We need to get the word out to everyone in the area and "word of mouth" is the best way.

So if you know a neighbor or friend, co-worker or anyone who has a few mouths to feed, please tell them about SHARE.

Take a newspaper to them and show them how to get started.

You'll be doing them a favor and us too because we can't continue without buyers and the more we sell, the better the bargains are for everyone.



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

FEBRUARY BASIC
Basic Package guaranteed retail value of \$36 or more....
You pay only \$18!

- * **1 lb Ground Turkey Sausage**
- * **2.72 lbs Split Chicken Breast**
- 4 ~ 4-oz BBQ Rib Patties**
- * **10 oz Caesar Parmesan Shrimp**
- * **2 lbs Lasagna**
- 1 lb Frozen Cut Leaf Spinach**

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

FEBRUARY SPECIALS

STEAK COMBO BOX \$15.00
4 ~ 6-oz Filet of Sirloin &
4 ~ 8-oz Filet of Beef

BIRDS-EYE MEAL PACK \$8.50
1 ~ 3 lb Six Cheese Sacchettini
Di Napoli Meal

1 ~ 3 lb Chicken Fajita Meal

COMBO PACK \$11.00
2 ~ 5-oz Sirloin Steaks
2 ~ 4-oz Boneless Pork Chops
2 ~ 4-oz Chicken Breast
4 ~ 4-oz Hamburger Patties

Volunteer Service Receipt

Your participation makes SHARE work. For each month you order food, you are required to contribute a minimum of 2 hours of your time toward community volunteer activities. Coming on Pick-up Day and assisting in the dispersal of food for 2 hours is an acceptable volunteer participation service.

(Your Name)

Has completed _____ hours of volunteer service for:

(Name of Recipient) _____

Description of Service Rendered _____

Signature of Recipient _____ Date _____



"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

-- 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Dear Praying Friends,

As we enter 2007, it's striking to consider Paul's challenge in his first letter to Timothy. While many consider New Year's resolutions and other short-term goals, Paul has more eternal purposes in mind. His call is to a lifestyle of good fruit that brings a harvest of eternal treasures, not the momentary "treasures" of this world that result in fleeting happiness. We pray that this year will be one that finds you seeking the better things of God's kingdom as you look to the coming age of glory!

Praises:

- We played host to a CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) Christmas party at our house last month, with 4 adults and 25 children in attendance.



The three Thai CEF ladies did a fantastic job of presenting the real story of Christmas to our neighbors.

- The new church held a party on Christmas night, with about 50 people in attendance.

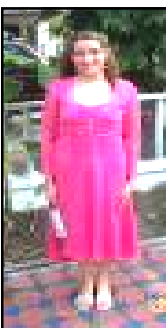


Everybody had a great time with food, games and music. Elaine led the children in a program about the birth of Jesus that was well received.

- We had a good Christmas season as a family.



We have settled in well to our new house and felt at home celebrating the birth of the Savior. We definitely drew a lot of attention in the neighborhood as the *fa-rangs* (foreigners) put up lights,



trees and other crazy decorations! Also, Brittany enjoyed attending the school Christmas banquet.

good cultural learning opportunities.

- We were able to attend the recommitment ceremony of a Thai Christian couple and the wedding of a Buddhist couple, both



- Activities at the new church have been going very well. Pastor Ogaat has taken the reins of leadership well, while he and Joe continue to share teaching duties.



It's been a joy to see Cool Shade of Life Church begin to blossom into a loving witness for Christ.

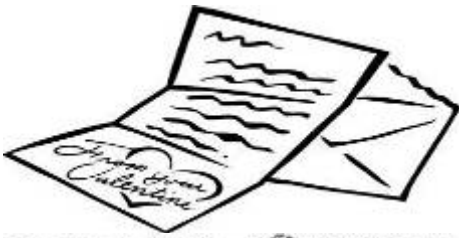


Finances at the new church have also been a blessing as the Lord has provided what is needed through many people.

Prayers:

- Elaine has enjoyed the break from school after the first two quarters. Pray for things to go smoothly for her and the four children as they return to Grace International School next week.
- Joe continues to teach adult Sunday School each week, working his way through the foundational book of Genesis. Pray for his preparations and teaching times to be reliant on God.
- Our home church, Northside Baptist in St. Petersburg, Florida, has graciously offered to fly Joe and Pastor Ogaat to their missions conference in late February. Pray for the Lord to guide Joe through visa and paperwork issues as well as the purchase of airline tickets.
- Thailand is tense again after a series of bombs exploded in and around Bangkok on New Year's Eve, killing several people. The government is blaming political opponents of the military coup leaders. Please pray for peace as Muslim insurgents in the south continue to kill as well. Please continue to pray for our personal finances. Our mission account remains in deficit, and we are barely breaking even each month. In addition, the Thai baht has been Asia's best currency performer, growing 15% against the dollar in 2006.

*For His glory,
Joe, Elaine, Brittany,
Justin, Caleb & Jamie*



To contact the Henry Family in Thailand, their postal address is:

Joe & Elaine Henry & family
 224/445 Soy 20
 Mubaan Kwan Wiang
 Hangdong 50230
 Thailand

Email: jebjcyj@eroam.net



Dear friends at First United Methodist Church of Homosassa,

We want to offer a special thanks to all of you for your continued generosity and kindness.

Your generous regular financial support along with the special gifts that you gave during the Christmas season are a great encouragement to us to continue what the Lord has for us here in Thailand.

It is a privilege to see God's people moving in such thoughtful ways to bring the Gospel half-way around the world.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless all of you as you walk on His path.

In His love,
 Joe & Elaine Henry

NO LONGER STRANGERS

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NRSV)

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
 - Ephesians 2:13 (NRSV)

A friend of mine traveled to another country, eager to help launch a new ministry there. When he stepped off the plane, however, he began to have doubts about his ability to be effective in an unfamiliar culture. He was a stranger in a strange land. He did not belong.

Soon, though, he noticed an encouraging sight. There in the crowded airport stood a person from that country holding a sign with my friend's name written on it. Someone had come to greet him and welcome him to his new life. That simple act helped to break down the cultural barriers, making my friend feel at home in his new surroundings.

Scripture tells us that we have all been strangers, far from God and without hope. But we don't have to be alone or remain separated from our Creator. Christ stands waiting to welcome us home. Thanks to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we are no longer strangers but part of God's household.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the price you paid so that we could be at home in your kingdom. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
 In Christ, each of us is brought near to God.

-- Linda M. Wall (Oregon, U.S.A.)

Editor's Note: This article was published in the Jan/Feb edition of The Upper Room.



February is one of my (Laura's) favorite months. Why you might ask? It's the month for love, Valentines Day... beautiful cards, flowers and candy if you're really fortunate!

I am very fortunate and blessed! I'm very much loved by all three of my boys (Kevin included) not just during this month but throughout the year!

You know, there's also another love that's incomprehensible to me....God's love.

Romans 5:8 says... "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Wow! How can any other love compare to that? When we didn't deserve anything, while we were drenched in sin, Christ came to earth and died so that I, all of us, could have a hope of eternity with the Father in heaven. A love so deep it can't be measured by mankind.

Our prayer is that this love is real in your life today and if it's not, that the Lord would bring someone into your life to share the hope and love we have in Christ Jesus!

What happens when the love of Jesus gets a hold on someone's life?

Almost ten years ago, a young college student came to work at our summer camp on Lake Baikal. Maya was a translator for us and after several weeks understood the importance of having a relationship with a living God, not an

idol or some abstract spirit. By the end of that summer, she had introduced her two best friends to Jesus...and so began the long journey of a new church.

Throughout this journey, the people of the Buriat region in Siberia have been a witness of what the love of Christ can do in your life.



Maya giving her testimony at the 8 year celebration.



The Good News Church of Ulan Ude celebrating their 8 year anniversary.

Their love, generosity and joy of the Lord are so evident that lives are being taken from hopelessness and despair.

We give God all the praise for the faithfulness of the saints who continually pray for the people of Russia and the church as they continue to reach out into the community and the region.

We anxiously wait to see where they will go next as they take the verse found in Acts 1:8 to heart and reach their "Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Praise:

- Time we've had with Joshua while on his break.
- Time spent with friends from Russia.
- God's continued blessings in

prayer and finances from the body of Christ.

- We will also continue training for Biblical Counseling and TESOL classes (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages). These classes are wonderful and we can see how they will be a huge blessing in the future work in Russia.
- We're excited about some new ideas for ministries in Russia and look forward to sharing them as the details come together.

Prayer:

Wisdom on how to spend our time wisely as we prepare for the next step in our ministry.

Continue to pray for the exact place God will have us go into Siberia!

Our lives would show the love of Christ.

Kevin and Laura will be sharing at conferences and churches across Florida in the coming year.

Thank you for all the prayers and support that made it possible for the Wooster Family to be a part of God's work in Russia.

Serving Together in Russia, Kevin, Laura, Joshua, and Corey



To contact the Woosters:

U.S. Address & Phone:
315 Bobby Jones Road
Sarasota, FL, 34232
(941) 377-3014

Email:
klwooster@yahoo.com



**CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF
BLOOD IN CITRUS COUNTY!
Donors Desperately Needed!**

The Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot,
under the trees facing Bradshaw on:
March 11, 2007
7:45am to Noon

On any given day, an average of 38,000 units of red blood cells are needed for blood transfusions.

Blood transfusions are necessary for trauma victims, heart surgery, organ transplants and for patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer, and other diseases.

Our church, in partnership with LifeSouth, invites you to save up to three lives in just under an hour. The Citrus County Blood Mobile processes donations that are credited to our church and are available for our congregation's medical needs. Donations received from our church members can be accredited to our church, also, if the donation is collected at locations other than our campus.

When you go to the hospital, be it for either emergency illness or trauma, or planned surgery, you will be eligible to withdraw units of blood from the FUMC's donations.

It takes a whole community to save a life. Blood donors connect our community because each life saved by a blood transfusion is someone's child, family member, friend or co-worker.

From donation to transfusion, many hands take part in the lives saved by blood donors and thereby touch the very heart of our community.

Donors will receive a recognition item and a cholesterol screening.

For more information call: Barbara Jackson at 382-2705 or LifeSouth at (888) 795-2707. Visit www.lifesouth.org online for indepth material on blood donating.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more, and have a valid photo I.D.

The Winds of Forgiveness

When someone does something to harm you, write your hurts in the sand. A parable for today.



Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything wrote in the sand:

Today my best friend slapped me in the face.

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning—but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near-drowning, he wrote on a stone:
Today my best friend saved my life.

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone. Why?"

The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.

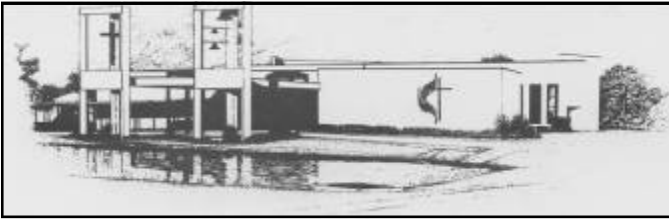
Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

<http://www.beliefnet.com/nllp/Inspiration>.
date=01-13-2007



**First United Methodist Church
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**A Stephen Ministry
Church**

**We Are On
The Web:**

www.1umc.org

**Neil Kline,
Web Master**



**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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