

GENESIS

MARCH

2008
VOLUME 12
ISSUE 3

~ OPEN HEARTS ~ OPEN MINDS ~ OPEN DOORS ~

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

A joyful Jesus - Oh, yes!

**Joy in the carpenter shop,
creating new things and re-
storing the broken...**

**Joy in his ministry, giving
people new lives, restoring
the broken ones...**

**Joy in the hope set before
him, giving up his life, be-
coming the broken
one...**

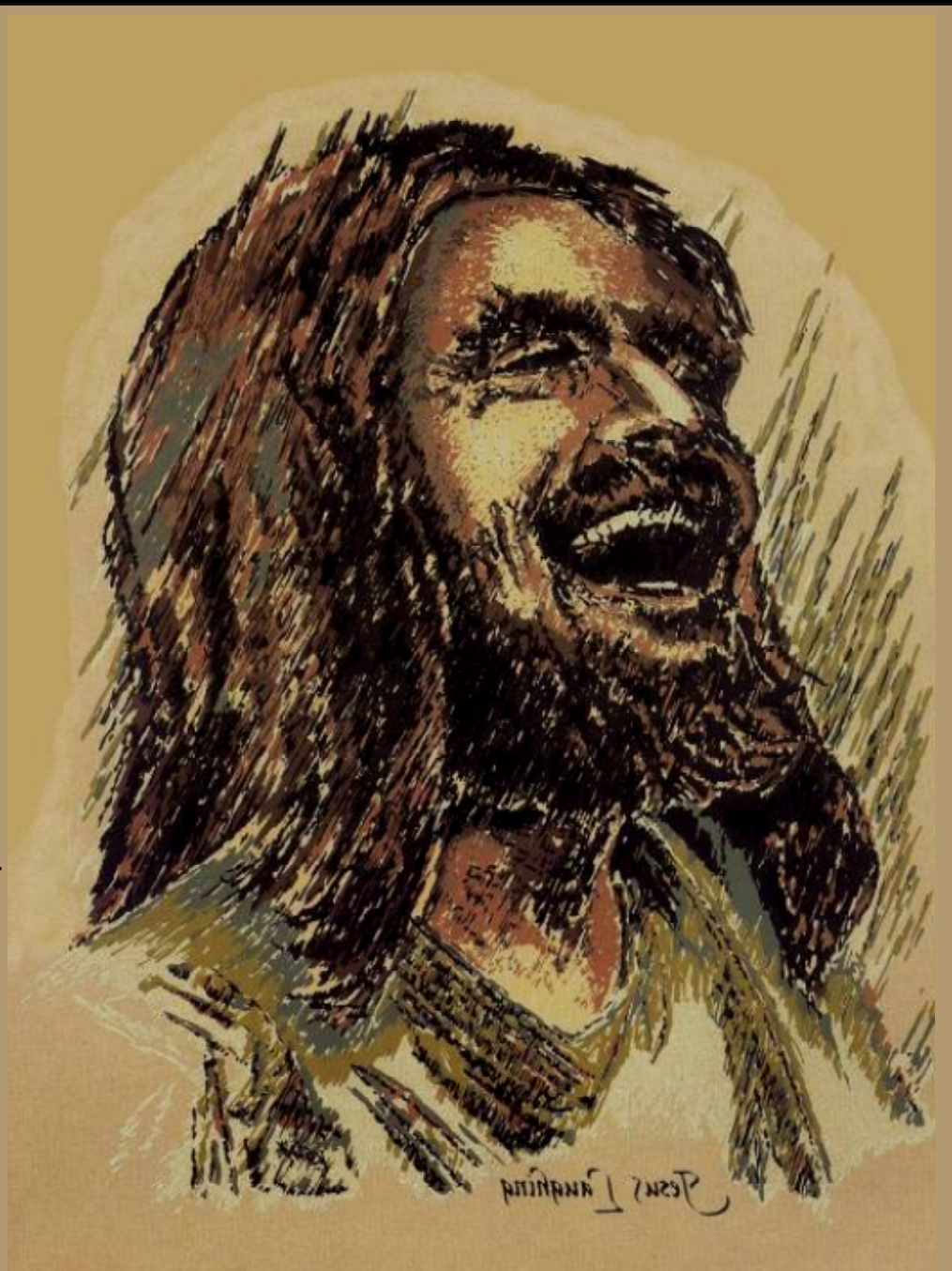
**Joy in receiving new life, a
new body...**

**Joy in hearing the Father's
"well done..."**

**Joy in becoming the way of
salvation for all who would
believe...**

**Joy in hearing this sinner
respond, "Jesus, I come."**

**A laughing Jesus -
Oh, yes!**



E.B.A.D.O.C

"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. All of us need to memorize the mission statement and do all that we can to make it a reality in our lives.



Church Office
 Phone: 352-628-4083
 Fax: 352-628-9086
Website
 www.1umc.org

Senior Pastor
 Rev. Mark Whittaker

Administrator
 Theresa Weber

Bookkeeper
 Sandy Dewart

Christian Education
 Patience Nave

Music Department
 Mary Kay Messenger
 Joy Potts
 Dayna Middlebrooks

Parish Nurse & Visitation
 Sharon E. Smith

Sunday School Superintendent & Nursery Supervisor
 Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator
 Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician
 Sharon Cooley

Night Security
 Michael Rodgers

Custodian
 Dale Evans

Within The Church

- Worship Services
- Music Ministries
 Choir
 Men & Ladies Ensembles
 Children's Choir
 Handbells & Chimes
- Christian Education
- Adult Sunday School
 (5 classes)
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Ministry
- Lenten Soup Supers
- Fine Arts Program
- Prayer Ministry
- UMW Circles
- Tape Ministry
- Blood Bank
- Visitation Care Group
- Parish Nurse Ministry
- Wed. Night Dinners
- Disaster Relief Programs
- Funeral Receptions
- United Methodist Men
- United Methodist Women
- Biblical Travel Ministry
- Counters
- Attendance Tracking

Outreach Ministries

- Parish Nurse
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Shut-in Visitation
- God's Clods
 (Clown Ministry)

- Disaster Relief & Response Team
- Thrift Shop
- Linda's Loaves
- Volunteers in Mission
- Prison Ministry
- Stephen Ministry
- Prayer Blanket Ministry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Knit For Kids Ministry
- Health Related Workshops
 (Diabetes, High Blood Pressure)
- Annual Seminar for Elder Needs
- Men's Monday Morning "Work Detail"
- Men's Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast
- Hugs for Soldiers
- Vacation Bible School
- World Travel Group
- State Travel Group
- Bus Ministry
- Missionaries to Siberia
- Missionaries to Thailand

Small Groups

- Cancer Survivor
- Current Affairs
- Individual Bible Study Groups (Men's, Women's, and Couples)
- Saturday Sisters
- Contemporary Issues
- Bereavement Group
- P.A.W.S.

Discipleship Classes

- Disciple I
- Disciple IV
- Companions in Christ

Benevolences

- Habitat for Humanity
- St. Andrews Mission
 (Feeding the hungry)
- The Heifer Project
- SHARE (Economical food for the church and community)
- Food Pantry with weekly baskets to needy
- Holiday Food Baskets
- Toys for Children (at Christmas)
- Salvation Army
- The Path (Help for local homeless)
- Methodist Children's Home
- C.R.O.P. Walk
- Equipment for Handicapped
 (Wheel chairs, walkers, etc.)

Community Outreach
 (Use of our facilities)

- AA
- Al-Anon
- After-school Tutoring
- Girl Scouts
- Hospice
- GED Tutoring
- Kiwanis Breakfast
- Isaiah's Place
- FCAT Tutoring

An Easter Message From Pastor Mark

**Christ Has Risen!
The Lord has risen indeed!**

Simple, right? They are just words on a page competing with all the other words on this page and in this newsletter.

But these words signal the greatest earth-shattering event in the history of the world going all the way back to the creation.

That event brings the possibility of the power of God moving through our lives, filling us with the amazing sense that we are not at the mercy of time or fate or even the world's power and might. We no longer need to be caught up in the fight of good versus evil that has dominated history for all these centuries. We don't have to be like the one Shakespeare describes - "A fool who struts and frets his hour on the stage and then is heard no more."

Now we have the real thing, the ability to really live. We have the promise, guaranteed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that assures us eternal life is available to us. We realize that even in our failures to do as God calls us to do, we can be justified - made not guilty before God - by the life and death of Jesus.


Easter inspires our hope, stirs our joy, and strengthens our sense of assurance.

Because Jesus is risen, death has no power or control over our future. This knowledge and assurance, this astonishing revelation, changes everything about our lives. For believers, hope comes alive, and with hope we approach life and the future differently.


In addition to this good news, there is something more - a reason to change the way we see things. Our vision changes from myopic near-sightedness that can't see beyond ourselves and our time, beyond what is important to us, to embrace a larger view. Jesus Christ helps us to have a vision that looks across the hills of time and allows us to walk toward the unknown future with confidence.

This is what we are about as Christians, this is the Good News we want to send resounding around the world - "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"





**March 16
Palm Sunday**



**March 23
Resurrection Sunday**


Service of Shadows
March 20 at 7 PM

Maundy Thursday is four days before Easter and the church for centuries has observed a time to remind ourselves of the gift that Jesus shared with us so we might share with him in resurrection life.

The service will be on March 20th this year, when we will be reminded once more of the passion of the Christ

The sanctuary starts fully lighted, but as we go through the service, as we hear the word of God and are touched by the depth of the music, we are drawn deeper and deeper into the suffering that Jesus endured for our sakes. After each reading, after each offering of music, some lights will go out enveloping us in greater darkness. And then a candle will be extinguished. At the last, we will have only enough light to read and sing by, and then it is put out. All that is left, all that we have to hold on to in the midst of the darkness of the grave and our hearts is one candle, and then it is extinguished.

It is a deeply moving service and one that touches peoples lives year after year. Come and share in this Service of Shadows so that on Easter Morning you may rejoice in the Light.



Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

THE JOYS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our son struggled with college studies. For three years he had periodically flunked out, worked at some hands-on job and then gone back to school again. We decided to tell David he did not have to finish college on our account in spite of the money we had invested. It had become obvious he enjoyed learning hands-on projects much more than he liked book-learning. So we had a serious talk. At the end of our discussion, David got up to leave, turning back just long enough to say, "I think it would be foolish to quit after I've come this far." He went to summer school, the fall semester and graduated in December.

The joy we felt at our son's decision turned past times of discouragement, frustration and disappointment into faint memories. David's joy at having gained a degree from a leading engineering school gave him the courage to go job hunting with confidence. This kind of joy - that comes after and, sometimes, as the result of struggle, pain, disappointment, seeming failure - is a part of discipleship. And, as was the case with David, it is a family thing. Both our heavenly Father and we who are his children share in the joy.

The first time we experience this "family" joy is when someone acknowledges he is a sinner, repents and receives the salvation purchased for him by Jesus Christ. In Luke 15:10, Jesus, talking about the joy of the woman who finds her lost coin, says, "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one who repents." Not only do we who are in God's family rejoice at the addition of a new member, but there is a party in heaven to celebrate. The joy of the one being welcomed stirs a family joy, which results in laughter and tears of rejoicing.

Once we are in the family of God, we are trained in the ways of the family, of the Kingdom. In Proverbs 10:1, we find "A wise son brings joy to his father...."

What do you think of in your life that would bring joy to your heavenly Father?

The words of Jesus to his disciples give us insight into what it means to be a child of the Father. Jesus said, "but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." (John 14:31) Our example to others as we are obedient disciples brings our Father joy.

How will knowing this help us to obey?

In Hebrews 12:2, we find these words: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, *who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,* and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What gave Jesus the strength to endure the pain and shame of the cross?

To hear his Father's "well-done" was Jesus' first joy. But another part of his joy is explained in Hebrews 2:10-11. In bringing many sons to glory, it is fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author [Jesus] of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

Through obedience to his Father, through the pain of the cross, Jesus anticipated the joy of bringing many brothers (and sisters) into the family.

Why would this bring him joy?

In Acts 5:41 we find the disciples reaction to having been arrested and beaten for their faith: The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name [of Jesus].

Why were they joyful?

Would we consider that an occasion for joy?
Why or why not?

James writes, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." (James 1:2)

What is one of the times a true disciple will know great joy? _____

Have you experienced it? _____

THINK ABOUT IT:

Jesus prayed for all his followers - "that they may have the full measure of my joy within them." (John 17:13b)

If Jesus prayed for us to have joy, is it available to us? _____

Where will we find it? _____

**ARE WE, AS DISCIPLES,
LOOKING FOR JOY IN THE WRONG PLACE?**

Who Is Jesus?



The Waterfall



Last Supper



Stripped



Nailed To The Cross



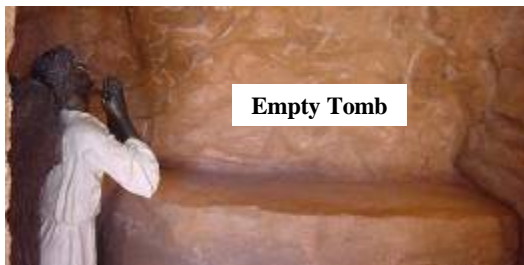
Simon Helps Jesus



Groom Cross



Empty Tomb



Empty Tomb

- Who is Jesus? HE IS JESUS.
- IN CHEMISTRY, HE TURNED WATER TO WINE;
- IN BIOLOGY, HE WAS BORN WITHOUT THE NORMAL CONCEPTION;
- IN PHYSICS, HE DISAPPROVED THE LAW OF GRAVITY WHEN HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN;
- IN ECONOMICS, HE DISAPPROVED THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURN BY FEEDING 5000 MEN WITH TWO FISHES & 5 LOAVES OF BREAD;
- IN MEDICINE, HE CURED THE SICK AND THE BLIND WITHOUT ADMINISTERING A SINGLE DOSE OF DRUGS;
- IN HISTORY, HE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END;
- IN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THAT HE SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, PRINCE OF PEACE;
- IN RELIGION, HE SAID NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH HIM.

SO. WHO IS HE? HE IS JESUS!

The Greatest Man in History.

Jesus had no servants,
yet they called Him Master.

Had no degree,
yet they called Him Teacher.

Had no medicines,
yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army,
yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles,
yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime,
yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb,
yet He lives today.

I feel honored to serve such a
Leader who loves us!

Rising 190 feet above the vast Texas panhandle plain east of Amarillo stands a monument to the suffering and sacrifice of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Groom Cross is located between Interstate 40 and old Route 66 going west out of Groom, Texas. It was built by Steve Thomas of Pampa, Texas in 1995. Mr. Thomas, disgusted with the huge billboards advertising XXX pornography locations along I-40 wanted to make a public profession of faith along the Interstate. Originally he wanted to put up his own billboard with Bible verses but could never find the appropriate verse. Instead, inspired by a cross built by a rancher in Ballinger, Texas, Mr. Thomas knew that he would build a cross. Life-size bronze sculptures depicting the twelve stations of the cross circle the base of the monument. Built on private property donated by Chris Britten to avoid legal issues with the ACLU, at a height of 190 feet, the Groom Cross is reported as being the biggest cross in the northern hemisphere.

Submitted by Joe Ann Gidlow

Offering a piece of bread and a welcome...

Several years ago one of our members who has now moved was committed to putting together a place where people could come and receive a free meal.

Sometimes the people needed the meal because it would be the only one they got that day. Sometimes they just need a place to go and people to talk to.

That vision has stayed with us long after Rose has moved away, but we have never been able to fulfill that goal because our current kitchen was inadequate for the Health Department. So for several years now we have been waiting for the new building so we could develop this ministry.

We now know when the old building is coming down, and it will be less than a year when the new one is expected to be ready. We want to be ready to start some new ministries when the building is completed, not a year later, and so I am seeking the help of several people who will take this ministry and make it theirs.

We are looking for a group of members who would be willing to develop and run a weekly Fellowship meal that is open and free to anyone who would come.

This will be a time for food and fellowship and outreach for the church. It will be a big job but one that can be done if we work together.

If you are interested in helping families, singles, and children have a hot meal once a week, then please get in touch with me so we can begin the planning process. This way we will be ready when the building is completed.

Pastor Mark

Education and Ministries

Patience Nave

Every month I try to give you an update on my areas of responsibility. This month I want to talk about something else.

Three of our members - Sharon Smith, Ann Eckman, and I - leave on March 24th to go to Haiti. This is our first short-term mission team to go out of the country. We've done lots of things *in* the country, but now we venture *out*.

We have accepted for ourselves the cost of the trip, paying our own way and buying most of what we need. The mission committee is supplementing the cost of supplies. What we need from you is more than money. We need your prayers.

- ✓ Most of us have seen serious poverty but nothing compared to what we will see. *We need your prayers* for wisdom and for emotional strength to deal with what we see and feel.
- ✓ All of us will take necessary precautions - shots and pills to guard against germs we may encounter. *We need your prayers* to keep us safe from the unexpected and from our own impetuous actions that could expose us to disease.
- ✓ All of us are aware that we must eat and drink with care - even when we are hot, thirsty, or hungry. *We need your prayers* to keep us cautious.
- ✓ Most of us are accustomed to the heat of Florida's summers, but we are going to an unfamiliar culture. *We need your prayers* for stamina and endurance.
- ✓ All of us are aware that the needs before us may be staggering. *We need your prayers* that we will be persistent, help the full-time missionaries, open doors for the future, make a difference in even one life.
- ✓ All of us are praying, ever aware that God has led us to commit to this experience and that he is our strength and our protection. *We need your prayers* that we will be faithful, and will represent him and you well.

Any time you get together, now or when we're gone - as a group, for dinner, in classes, in committees - please remember *we need your prayers!*

For a long time I have been praying that our church would come to a new realization of the importance of what I call "corporate prayer." We do pray, and many pray often. We even have some whom we would consider "prayer warriors." I'm praying that having this team go will awaken us to the importance of joining together in common prayer, praying as a church, for any task to which the Lord calls us.

God has asked the three of us to go. I believe he is asking everyone to pray.

On the Sunday following our return, April 6, we will speak at all three services, telling you the result of our work and your prayers.

PRAYER CORNER



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our medical mission team to Petit Goave, Haiti, (Sharon Smith, Patience Nave, and Ann Eckman from our church.)

Health and safety for all 15 on the team.

For many to come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ and for a healing touch from our Lord through the medical team.

- Each of us as we continue our journey through Lent.
- All those involved in music ministries and worship as they prepare for the celebration of Easter.
- The building committee and all those working with them to get things underway - may the Lord grant them extraordinary wisdom and endurance.
- All who use the church facilities as we adjust to things being different - may our love for one another shine through.
- Our Pastor and Staff - daily, especially through Lent and Easter.

Vacation Bible School

Calling all volunteers from last year and people interested in volunteering this year.

Sign up as a Vacation Bible School volunteer and you will be promised an incredible week of "Fun in the Sun" as you help our children Surf Through The Scriptures and develop new Beach Be-Attitudes.



"He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18: 2-5

Follow the words of Jesus. Become like children and learn, laugh, and have some fun. Volunteer and have the time of your life surfing the scriptures.

- "Hang Ten" for "Be Obedient"
- "Catch a Wave" for "Be Kind"
- "Wipe out" for "Be Forgiving"
- "Surf's up" for "Be Bold"
- "Cowabunga" for "Believe"

Would you like to spend a **WHOLE** week this summer (daytime) at a huge **BEACH PARTY** complete with surfing lessons, great beach music, beachcombing adventures, and so much more?

Call Kim Bennett at 382-3941 today to volunteer. See Theresa Weber in the church office to begin the approval process you need to work with the children. Thank you in advance for your help and support of our VBS program.

Wonderful Wednesdays to Resume in April

Good news! Our popular Wonderful Wednesday dinners and programs will resume after Easter and will continue during the spring, fall, and winter while our new Fellowship Center is under construction.

We have arranged to hold these church programs in the *Remember When* restaurant at the Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park. The restaurant can accommodate up to 200 people in their handicapped-accessible facility.

As a special service to our church, the staff will prepare buffet-style dinners, similar to the ones we are used to, for \$5.00 per person. Each meal will consist of meat or chicken, potato, vegetable, bread or rolls, beverage, and dessert. To make it more affordable for families with children, we will charge a maximum of \$10 per family, and the church will subsidize the difference.

Reservations for each meal may be made through the attendance pads on Sunday mornings and by telephone to the church office on Mondays. We will inform the restaurant of our guaranteed number on the Monday afternoon preceding each Wonderful Wednesday event.

The spring dates have been set for April 2, April 16, April 30, and May 14. Programs will be listed in the next issue of Genesis and announced in Sunday bulletins. If all goes well this spring, we will resume the program on October 8 for the fall series.

The *Remember When* restaurant is open daily from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. On the days we have scheduled Wonderful Wednesdays, they will post a closing of 5:30 PM in order to prepare for us. We expect to eat promptly at 6:00 PM. The program will begin at 6:30 and we will adjourn at 6:50 PM or shortly after. Choir members may slip out a bit early if necessary.

At its January meeting, the Church Council voted to proceed with plans for this alternate site to hold meals and fellowship events while our new Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and Youth Center are under construction.

When you have occasion to visit *Remember When* restaurant, be sure to express appreciation to manager Chris Brown and his staff for their willingness to create this "partnership" with us during our construction period.

EBADOC ACADEMY THANKS

A very special "thank you" from our children to all who have donated items for our new EBADOC Academy: Myrna Evans, Pat Blake, Ruby Raymond, Lee Knerr, Angela & Todd Weiser, and Carol & Bob MacKenzie.

In Christ,
Kim Bennett

TREASURER'S REPORT

This is the first of what I hope will become a regular series of reports on the operating finances of the Church. By operating finances, we mean the income received and the expenses incurred to support the day-to-day running of the Church. This includes the costs incurred in running the various Boards, Commissions, work areas, and the programs which they operate, the Church's programs and support ministries, outreach, missions, community support, salaries and benefits, utilities, equipment and supplies, and things of that nature.

We now have available the results of the full year 2007, and it is wonderful to be able to begin on a positive note. For much of the year, our operating income was running below our expenses, sometimes well below it. As we entered December we were still running a deficit of nearly \$9,000 for the year, and I, for one, was not confident that it could be eliminated (despite the faith and encouragement of Pastor Mark, who was sure it would be).

Want to guess who was right? You've got it - Pastor Mark. He obviously knows this congregation and its very deep love for this Church extremely well. In the month of December, the members and friends of FUMC Homosassa showed their love again in a wonderful demonstration of Stewardship. We gave back to God, out of His enormous bounty to us, contributions that not only wiped out the deficit but also enabled us to add over \$12,000 to our reserves for replacement. These reserves are set aside to help us meet the cost of replacing expensive equipment (such as air conditioning) as it wears out.

So will the whole congregation please thank God and each other for such bountiful offerings. As we continue to grow and to expand the number and extent of our programs, we can do so with a confidence that whatever challenges the future may hold we will deal with them.

Below is a summary of the key operating figures for the month of December and the full year 2007.

	<u>December 2007</u>	<u>Full Year 2007</u>
Operating Income	\$ 56,434.69	\$ 510,323.74
Expenses	\$ 35,236.53	\$ 498,117.47
Net Income	\$ 21,198.16	\$ 12,206.27* added to reserves

Anyone wishing to get a copy of the full, detailed report for December, may obtain one by emailing me at dunromain@hotmail.com

Bob Gidlow,
Church Treasurer

AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

The Board of Trustee's recently discussed the need to insure operating efficiency by maintaining constant temperature settings throughout church buildings. Many areas are served by more than one air-handler, making it very important thermostats remain at uniform settings.

Thermostats control temperatures in selected large areas within the Sanctuary, Education, and Administrative buildings. Individual rooms within each area may not adjust as rapidly to changes in the environment such as outside temperature changes, number of persons occupying the room etc.

The Sanctuary because of the large volume of space generally takes as much as two hours to stabilize to changes. The Sanctuary is also serviced by two very large air-handling units which must be kept in balance. this makes it more difficult to maintain a comfortable range for a variety of reasons. For example, when the sun comes through the windows, the temperature in the Sanctuary may rise significantly. As the number of parishioners increases, the temperature also increases. Between services all the doors remain open causing the loss of heating or cooling. All these factors affect the ability to maintain a constant ambient temperature.

The Board of Trustees established a policy to maintain all thermostat settings at constant temperatures and authorized the installation of new thermostats programmed to cool air at temperatures above 73 degrees and initiate heating at temperatures below 69 degrees. All buildings will have locked thermostats to prevent temperature adjustments.

These settings are selected as most likely to satisfy the needs of the most individuals at a given time while maintaining operating efficiency.

The Board of Trustees will survey the Church Council to determine if other temperature settings are more appropriate.

Dean Moore,
Board of Trustees

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

"I will love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, and my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies."

Psalm 18:1-3 NKJ

These days I find great pleasure in picking up one of Wallace's Bibles and looking at the places he marked when he was here. Often those marked places give me comfort and encouragement; sometimes they just lead me in one way or another to a passage I need to see. The above scripture is such a passage.

There are so many things in these three verses worthy of careful attention, but for today let's look at only one. Let's look at the tense of three verbs.

"I will love," "I will trust," "I will call." As I read this passage, I see a huge resolve by the psalmist - not just a stating of what *is* in his life, but a determination concerning what is to be in the future. I guess that speaks to me because I am still living on the edge of my own grief of Wallace's departure to be with the Lord. Sometimes I feel as if I cannot manage all the emotions, and then I read something like this and great strength rises up in me. *I will*. Not just I'll try, but *I will!*

In between those verbs lie the wonderful adjectives describing who this incredible God is that I will love, trust, and call on. He is my strength, my shield, my fortress, my deliverer. My spirit may be weak, but my God is not. Even the psalmist had to remind himself of the wonder of God. Even the psalmist had moments of weakness when he needed to resolve - to *will* - to go on. He determined to go on in faith as an act of his own will.

Prayer: Father, how we praise you that you know us, know the desires of our hearts, know the weakness of our flesh, and that you love us anyway Though we struggle to do what we want and often fail, you deliver us from our own inadequacy and help us love you and serve you as we are created to do. Thank you for being our strong and wonderful God, worthy to be praised. Amen.



Easter Lilies

The decorating committee will once again be decorating the church with lilies and spring flowers for our Easter Sunday services.

We will be taking orders on three Sundays:

March 2ⁿ,
March 9th
and
March 16th

As we have done in the past, you will need to fill out the envelope order form completely and place a check or cash in the envelope.

The envelopes will be available on a table in the narthex.

Please make check out to UMC.

Place the envelope in the OFFERING PLATE.

The plants will once again be \$10.00 each.

You may pick up your flower after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our church extra-special for Easter!

With appreciation,
Your Decorating Committee



Monday, June 23, 2008

Play golf on the prestigious

Black Diamond Quarry Course

Don't miss your chance to experience the magnificent Quarry Course at Black Diamond during the 3rd Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Regional Golf Classic. Proceeds from this one-day corporate golf tournament and silent auction will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Pinellas, Hernando and Citrus Counties.

Format: four-person scramble
Individual player: \$375 Team of four: \$1,500
Entry fees include: Respective sponsorship benefits (call for details), green fees, golf cart, lunchtime cookout on the course, gift bag, and closing ceremony with awards, recognition and heavy hors doeuvres

For more information, please contact:
Big Brothers Big Sisters at 352-344-0400
or Sheree Monroe at 352-422-2779





YARD SALE SUCCESS

Thanks to all the helpers, workers, and BUYERS, who helped make our January 17, 2008, Yard Sale a HUGE SUCCESS.

Without everyone's help, we wouldn't have had such a success. Our profit was \$1,300 plus!

Thanks again.
Pat Blake,
President - UMW



IN MEMORIAM
The old Thrift Shop served us well.
Anxiously looking forward to PHASE III!

Arts & Crafts Workshop Every Thursday ~ 2 PM TO 5 PM Room 111

We have combined our regular UMW Bazaar Workshop with Kim Bennett's Arts & Crafts Bible Study.

The arts and crafts will begin at 2 PM with Pat Blake and will continue during the Bible study instructed by Kim Bennett at 3 PM.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.
ALL are welcome!

How Special A Child Feels When Given A Hand-knit Sweater!



Donations of worsted yarn are being sought by the ladies who participate in the "KNIT FOR KIDS" program that supplies sweaters to needy children all over the world. Any color except black is used for these sweaters.

Money to buy yarn will also be accepted. Either donation can be given to Pat Blake or left with Theresa Weber in the church office.

YOUTH GROUP: ENTERTAINMENT, EDUCATION, & SERVICE

Our Youth Group has been quite busy lately, but that's not unusual. They have enjoyed an afternoon treat of lunch (at CiCi's Pizza) and a movie ("The Water Horse") in January. The following Sunday, our discussion on the topic of "Sunday Clothes" revealed a variety of viewpoints and beliefs. On another occasion, we explored the role of "salt" in the Bible and ancient cultures as compared to today. (Have you ever earned a "salary"?)

Their outreach project for February was making Valentine's Day cards for residents of two cottages at the Key Training Center and for the visitation committee to take to shut-ins. (A big "THANK YOU" to Linda Gordy for providing us with clients' names, and to Wayne & Krissy Brown for getting the project underway.)

Another afternoon was spent cleaning the church bus to ready it for the Bok Sanctuary trip. Of course, the biggest project has been their participation in the annual CROP Walk, for which they solicited donations to feed the hungry in Citrus County and overseas.

Future plans include an afternoon of bowling and pizza, an investigation (and sampling!) of honey and its importance in the Bible, and a time of making Easter greetings for shut-ins.

Anyone who is interested in participating or assisting is encouraged to come to the Fellowship Hall (or Room 106 after the demolition) following the 11:00 AM service each Sunday.

REACHING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Do you know a student between the ages of 12 and 18 who would enjoy the types of activities our Youth Group pursues? We would very much welcome new participants who want to be part of an active group of teens; who are interested in exploring Biblical, spiritual, and personal issues; and who wish to engage in service projects to benefit others.

It is not required that students be members of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa. So if you have a son or daughter, nephew or niece, grandchild, cousin, or neighbor who might be interested, please let us know.

The Youth Group leader, "Mrs. B,"
can be reached at 621-3736.

Neretta Brobst

5th Dimension Society Luncheon

The annual Appreciation Luncheon for the members of the *5th Dimension Society* will be held on Thursday, March 13. Invitations will be mailed in early February.

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 generosity in arranging a deferred gift to FUMCH from their accumulated assets.

Ms. Suzanne McGovern, Associate Vice President for Planned Giving of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, will be the guest speaker.

A growing number of church members have shown interest in arranging a "planned gift" to FUMCH. 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. Donors 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 all those who qualify as members of the *5th Dimension Society*, we may not know about some. If you have named FUMCH in your will, trust, or other deferred gift (and have not already let us know), please call Pastor Whittaker or Rev. Evans today.

We do not need to know 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 to invite you to our annual luncheon. If you are considering a planned or deferred gift to FUMCH, call the church office for information on various possibilities - or talk with any member of the Permanent Endowment Committee.



Check out our EBADOC Academy!





Look For Construction Soon!

We have just learned (as this is being written on February 1st) that our application for a construction loan and mortgage has been approved by the Florida Methodist Foundation.

The only remaining clearance we need is the issuance of the several building permits required by the County and State. All of these were submitted months ago and have been progressing through the system without major problems, so we still anticipate the start of actual construction sometime during the first half of March.

Since you will receive this newsletter about the first of March, you can look for the initial work to remove the existing fellowship hall and kitchen to begin very soon.

We are grateful for the faithful and generous support of our membership over these many years as this final phase of our building program has progressed from early dreams, through several plans and delays, and now finally to fruition.

God has truly blessed us all, and we look forward to these new facilities that will surely enhance our many ministries and advance our goal of helping "Everyone Become A Disciple Of Christ."

Dave Marquis, Chairman
Building For Tomorrow Committee

"Love and Thankfulness"

The dictionary defines love as "a feeling of warm personal attachment for a friend," and "affectionate concern for the well being of others."

The apostle Paul appeals to us in Hebrews to "keep loving each other as brothers."

Love permeates this congregation and manifests itself in care for the less fortunate and concern for one another. Truly Jesus Christ is in this place!

As a result, we have chosen "Love and Thankfulness" to be the theme of this year's Stewardship effort.

Volunteers with various gifts will be needed to make 2008 a joyous success.

I look forward to working with all of you in extending His Kingdom that we may show our thanks for His abundant blessings.

Your Brother in Christ,
Jim Roth
Stewardship Chairman

Practicing HIS Presence

Marilyn Watson

It seems no matter where I turn, this theme or phrase appears. The Women's Retreat at Leesburg focused on this subject.



Our keynote speaker said it was their goal to give us tools to help us be so in tune with God that, when trouble comes, we won't have to go searching for Him. Prior to the retreat our Companions In Christ spiritual formation group had been exploring different ways of studying Scripture, the last few of which were ways of meditating on God's Word. There is no way I know of to do that without being in His presence, and, if you weren't aware of His presence when you began to meditate on His Word, you certainly become aware of His presence as you continue your meditation.

I've not seen practicing God's presence listed as a spiritual discipline, but I consider it one because of what the Lord has shown me and because practicing His presence is related to other spiritual disciplines like guidance, meditation, prayer, silence, solitude, study, and contemplation.

Among the many spiritual classics, any of which could be a blessing on your spiritual journey, is a tiny book by Brother Lawrence compiled from his writings of about 300 years ago titled The Practice of the Presence Of God. In it he says, "The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God." By that, he is referring to having constant pleasure in God's company, talking humbly and lovingly with Him all the time. Brother Lawrence defines the presence of God as "the concentration of the soul's attention on God, remembering that he is always present." As Brother Lawrence lived this life, he wasn't practicing God's presence in a chapel somewhere, he practiced God's presence as he went about the menial tasks of keeping things running, like while he washed the dishes and scrubbed the pots and pans.

So how do you get quiet and listen to God? Do you have a special place where you sit with your Bible-study materials already laid out? Do you light a candle as a reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence? Do you have a place where you watch the sun rise or set or where you particularly marvel at His creation? Maybe it's all of these or something totally different. Perhaps you're like Brother Lawrence and you are always aware of His presence and talking humbly with Him at all times in all circumstances.

Women and Heart Attacks (Myocardial Infarction)

Here is the story of one woman's experience with a heart attack.

"I had a completely unexpected heart attack at about 10:30 pm with NO prior exertion, NO prior emotional trauma that one would suspect might've brought it on. I was sitting all snugly & warm on a cold evening, with my purring cat in my lap, reading an interesting story my friend had sent me, and actually thinking, 'A-A-h, this is the life, all cozy and warm in my soft, cushy Lazy Boy with my feet propped up.' A moment later, I felt that awful sensation of indigestion, when you've been in a hurry and grabbed a bite of sandwich and washed it down with a dash of water, and that hurried bite seems to feel like you've swallowed a golf ball going down the esophagus in slow motion, and it is most uncomfortable. You realize you shouldn't have gulped it down so fast, should have chewed it more thoroughly and not used a glass of water to hasten its progress to the stomach. This was my initial sensation---the only trouble was that I hadn't taken a bite of anything since about 5:00 p.m.

"After that had seemed to subside, the next sensation was like little squeezing motions that seemed to be racing up my SPINE, (in hind-sight, it was probably my aorta spasming) gaining speed as they continued racing up and under my sternum (breast bone, where one presses rhythmically when administering CPR). This fascinating process continued on into my throat and branched out into both jaws.

"AHA!! NOW I stopped puzzling about what was happening - we all have read and/or heard about pain in the jaws being one of the signals of an MI happening, haven't we? I said aloud to myself and the cat, 'Dear God, I think I'm having a heart attack!' I lowered the foot rest, dumping the cat from my lap, started to take a step and fell on the floor instead. I thought to myself, 'If this is a heart attack, I shouldn't be walking into the next room where the phone is or anywhere else...but, on the other hand, if I don't, nobody will know that I need help, and if I wait any longer I may not be able to get up.'

"I pulled myself up with the arms of the chair, walked slowly into the next room and dialed the Paramedics. I told her I thought I was having a heart attack due to the pressure building under the sternum and radiating into my jaws. I didn't feel hysterical or afraid, just stating the facts. She said she was sending the Paramedics over immediately, asked if the front door was near to me, and if so, to unbolt the door and then lie down on the floor where they could see me when they came in.

"I then laid down on the floor as instructed and lost consciousness, as I don't remember the medics coming in, their examination, lifting me onto a gurney or getting me into their ambulance, or hearing the call they made to St. Jude ER on the way. I did briefly awaken when we arrived and saw that the Cardiologist was already there in his

surgical blues and cap, helping the medics pull my stretcher out of the ambulance. He was bending over me asking questions (probably something like 'Have you taken any medications?') but I couldn't make my mind interpret what he was saying, or form an answer, and nodded off again, not waking up until the Cardiologist and partner had already threaded the teeny angiogram balloon up my femoral artery into the aorta and into my heart where they installed 2 side by side stents to hold open my right coronary artery.

"I know it sounds like all my thinking and actions at home must have taken at least 20-30 minutes before calling the Paramedics, but actually it took perhaps 4-5 minutes before the call, and both the fire station and St. Jude are only minutes away from my home. My Cardiologist was already to go to the OR in his scrubs to get going on restarting my heart (which had stopped somewhere between my arrival and the procedure) and installing the stents.

"Why have I written all of this to you with so much detail? Because I want all of you who are so important in my life to know what I learned first hand.

1. Be aware that something very different is happening in your body, not the usual men's symptoms but inexplicable things happening (until my sternum and jaws got into the act). It is said that many more women than men die of their first (and last) MI because they didn't know they were having one and commonly mistake it as indigestion they take some Maalox or other anti-heartburn preparation and go to bed, hoping they'll feel better when they wake up....which doesn't happen. My female friends, your symptoms might not be exactly like mine, so I advise you to call the Paramedics if ANYTHING is unpleasantly happening that you've not felt before. It is better to have a 'false alarm' visitation than to risk your life guessing what it might be.

"2. Note that I said 'Call the Paramedics'. Ladies, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! DO NOT try to drive yourself to the ER - you're a hazard to others on the road and so is your panicked husband who will be speeding and looking anxiously at what's happening with you instead of the road. Do NOT call your doctor, he doesn't know where you live and, if it's at night, you won't reach him anyway, and, if it's daytime, his assistants (or answering service) will tell you to call the Paramedics. He doesn't carry the equipment in his car that you need to be saved. The Paramedics do, principally OXYGEN that you need ASAP. Your Dr. will be notified later.

"3. Don't assume it couldn't be a heart attack because you have a normal cholesterol count. Research has discovered that a cholesterol elevated reading is rarely the cause of an MI (unless it's unbelievably high and/or accompanied by high blood pressure.) MIs are usually caused by long-term stress and inflammation in the body, which dumps all sorts of deadly hormones into your system to sludge things up in there. Pain in the jaw can wake you from a sound sleep. Let's be careful and be aware. The more we know, the better chance we could survive.

Ann Morrison &
Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse

Thoughts on the Mission Trip To Haiti...from Pastor Mark

On March 24th (the day after Easter) three of the members of the church are going to head out on a Medical Mission trip to Haiti. Sharon Smith, Ann Eckman, and Patience Nave will be going to share themselves and their love of Jesus with a group of people that are struggling for their vary existence.

The trip is going to be difficult in a lot of ways. Just getting there will be a major problem; they are looking at a five-hour bus trip just to get 15 miles down the coast. Disease (Pink eye is spreading like wildfire right now.), including A.I.D.S., is a daily reality. They will also be seen as rich Americans in a society where, as the newspaper said last month, people mix a little vegetable oil with mud and bake "cookies" in the sun to sell to others who are starving.



For the women to make it through the emotional and spiritual upheaval that will be their daily lives they will need to be surrounded in prayer the whole time they are there.

So I would like to ask the church to pray for this mission. Please pray for the people of Haiti and for our people as they reach out in the name of Jesus to provide a little respite, a little joy, a little health for those who need so much.

Every time you get together as a Sunday School class or a committee or small group, please include the trip and all who are taking part in it in your prayer. This way we can make sure that God will shine through them as they share the love of Christ with everyone they meet.

THREE WOMEN VOLUNTEER FOR HAITI MISSION TRIP

Three women from our congregation will be part of a mission team that will leave March 24, 2008, to provide medical assistance to the impoverished nation of Haiti. They will return April 1, 2008.

The women are: Sharon Smith, our Parish Nurse, Patience Nave, and Ann Eckman. Our Missions Committee is providing \$500 for medical supplies.

The conference asked Mrs. Smith to lead the group. She will be assisted by Kay Wingard of the Covenant United Methodist Church of Port Orange, Florida. This program is the result of a covenant agreed to by the Florida and Haiti Methodist Conferences. Our conference agreed to provide whatever assistance it could to the West Indies island country. This is the first medical mission to go under that agreement.

The fifteen-member team will include nurses, an emergency medical technician, social workers, and Chairperson for Volunteers in Mission Ministry in Florida, Reverend Milord, a United Methodist Pastor in the Miami area. He is also a native of the area where the medical team will serve in Haiti. The team will be joined by a Haitian doctor.

Team members ask for our prayers as this will be a very challenging adventure in an extremely poor nation. At first our conference planned to send a work team, but the Haitians requested a medical team because their medical needs are so great. The team will be serving in Petit Goave.

Jack Radabaugh,
Missions Chairperson



Dried mud cookies for sale in a bucket in Cite Soleil in Port-au-Prince, Nov. 29, 2007. (Ariana Cubillos/ AP Photo)

State of Emergency

Just as our medical mission team is preparing for Haiti, a report hits the American newspapers..."poor people in Haiti are eating dirt cookies to survive."

Food prices around the world have spiked because of the higher prices for fertilizer, irrigation, and transportation. The problem is particularly dire in the Caribbean, where island nations depend on imports and where food prices are up 40 percent in some places.

Still, at about 5 cents apiece, the cookies are a bargain compared to food staples. About 80 percent of the people in Haiti live on less than \$2 a day, and a tiny elite controls the economy.

Assessments of the health effects are mixed. Dirt can contain deadly parasites or toxins. Haitian doctors say that depending on the cookies for sustenance risks malnutrition.

A woman sells the cookies in a market to provide for her seven children. Her family also eats them. "I'm hoping one day I'll have enough food to eat, so I can stop eating these," she said. "I know it's not good for me."

From Citrus County (FL) Chronicle, 1-30-2008

Stephen Ministry

"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

~ Galatians 6:2

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, or if you wish to talk to a Stephen Minister for spiritual and/or emotional guidance, contact:

Diane (382-7242),

Kay (382-4908),

other Stephen Ministers, or the church office for more details.



United Methodist Women Of Homosassa Unit Meeting
March 18, 2008

10:00 AM Refreshments & Fellowship

Hostesses: Faith Hope Circle

Call To Prayer and Self Denial



The FUMCH has a time-share that was donated to the church that we would like to sell. It is a two bedroom, 2 bath condo at the Ocean Reef Yacht Club in Freeport, Grand Bahama. It is a Gold Membership and allows use with reservations any week of the year except Easter, Christmas and New Year.

We have it advertised for \$5000 purchase price and the annual maintenance fee is \$380.

Interested persons can check out the Ocean Reef Yacht Club at www.oryc.com.

The For Sale ad is posted on www.sellmytimeshares.com.

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the church office.



The Yulee Drive Absolute AA Group meets every Thursday at 8 to 9 p.m. in Room 114.

An open meeting for men and women of all ages who want to stop drinking, or have stopped drinking. For more information call George at (352) 503-3961.

Al-Anon (Courage Family Group) Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. in Room 102.

This is for spouses, relatives, and friends, whether or not your loved one is still drinking. For more information call Robbi at (352) 270-3827.

HELP WANTED - Drivers to assist with transportation of members of the church family to and from appointments.

Applications accepted 24/7 from now to eternity.

Contact the church office at 628-4083, or Pat Cram at 746-9263.

NEEDED: The Parish Nurse Ministry is in real need of some R.N.-type nurses to help. It is not a big assignment, but it is varied, interesting, challenging, and FULFILLING. The request is for 1/2 to 1 day per week, from Tuesday - Friday.

Are you a "pew-sitter" with gifts, experience and skills that could be shared? Please come talk with Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse.

NOTICE: There has been a request arising thru the Aging Matters Seminar to start an exercise class meeting a couple times a week here at church.

We will need two people to act as leaders. If you are interested in the class and/or in helping with leadership, please contact the church office.

Sharon E. Smith,
Parish Nurse

LITURGISTS NEEDED! Did you know that each volunteer liturgist reads the liturgy for the service they usually attend? Did you also know that the volunteer commitment is only 1 month at a time?

If you would like to be a liturgist, or need more information please contact Krissy Brown at 503-5410

Dear Praying Friends,

Praises ~

Our family attended the week-long Pioneers Asia conference in southern Thailand. We were thankful for the opportunity to worship and study the Word daily with about 450 other m's working throughout southern and mid-Asia and for the great children's programs, which Brittany, Justin, Caleb and Jamie greatly enjoyed.



At FYI, the theme for the conference was "Hope 2008," which comes from Romans 15:13 (while the anchor image on the conference T-shirt that Caleb is wearing comes from Hebrews 6:19).

At the conference, Caleb was baptized during a group baptism at the hotel pool. Praise God! He has been thinking about taking this public step of faith for awhile and felt like this was the right time. Caleb was nervous but very thankful to have gone through with it.



Jamie has mostly recovered from his spill into a cactus plant last month, although he still has a few pricklers making their way out and/or dissolving. He also has decided that his teeth, which are coming in and out at a rapid pace, make him look like a rabbit.

Justin has had a good start to his JV basketball season at Grace International School (Justin is the tall guy wearing number 50 in the background.) This is his first year on an organized team, so he has a lot to learn, but he has done a great job of focusing and improving. In the game pictured, Justin came in with his team down by 2 and scored 6 quick points, grabbed a rebound and blocked a shot to regain a lead the team never lost. Go, Justin!



Prayers ~

We just received the sad news that a sister church in Lamphun Province, which borders Chiang Mai, was attacked by more than 10 people on Sunday.



Phadaan Baptist Church had received threats from anti-Christian neighbors over the past year. The attackers threw rocks and set fire to the church, causing severe damage. The church is one of 15 Thai congregations in the Siam Baptist Group, of which our Cool Shade of Life Church is also a member.

Please continue to pray for fruit from our discipleship efforts, as Joe works through his series of teachings during adult Sunday School and Elaine hosts a women's Bible study at our home every first and third Friday of the month. Joe is currently teaching on spiritual disciplines, while Elaine is working through a book on worship.



This month's cultural photo is "Shrine prayers"... which shows Thais performing rituals at a Buddhist shrine.

They will pray, make offerings, and pay homage to Buddha, usually in an attempt to gain good luck and prosperity or make merit (build up good that helps them or their dead relatives in this life or subsequent lives). They also go to pray for an upcoming event, such as a test, marriage, or move to a new house. When requesting a favor from the Buddha, Thais bring three items: three incense sticks (which represent the Buddha, the Buddha's teachings, and the monkhood), a flower (which represents the purity of Buddhist teachings), and a candle (which represents enlightenment).

Please continue to pray for our mission agency's registration papers to be approved by the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand. EFT committees are continuing to process the paperwork.

The Thai baht hit a 10-year high against the U.S. dollar this week and has gained 20% in value since the beginning of 2006. For us, that means we have lost 20%, or \$560, in spending power from our monthly "paycheck" in just two years. Also, while the dollar falls, consumer costs in Thailand are rising because of the economic problems here.

Please continue to pray for wisdom in financial belt-tightening for American missionaries around the world who are losing a lot of spending power to the plummeting dollar in the U.S. and a higher cost of living in their host countries.

In a bit of good financial news, our Pioneers support account has officially returned to positive status thanks to many generous regular supporters and one-time donors. Thanks for your faithfulness. Please pray that this will be a smooth, negative-free year for our finances.

Until all have heard,

Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie

We have updated the church Web site with new photos, new pages, and new financial opportunities. Please visit <http://www.ourchurch.com/member/h/HenryThailand/> to get a closer look at what's happening here.

*The Wooster's Journey To Siberia
A Third Millennium
Pilgrim's Progress*

January 26, 2008 ~
Dear Family & Friends,

To say THANK YOU for all the prayers, words of encouragement, meals, finances, and the 'little things' so many have done for our family these past 16 months...just doesn't seem like enough to say.

We have been overwhelmed with the responses for Laura's knee.....PTL it's 100% better. She still has a brace on it so she doesn't twist things around again, but the swelling is gone, there's no pain, and it's getting stronger each day. God is so good!

We're finishing with our packing today (Saturday), tying up loose ends and checking that "list" one more time.

Even Nika (our dog) knows that something's up. (If she only knew she has a 19-hour flight ahead!)

We will be in touch from Moscow and eventually from Siberia. We feel abundantly blessed because of all of you in our lives. We're excited to see what the Lord has planned for us and even more excited to see who will come to know the saving grace of Jesus in Siberia.

Joshua 1:9 ~ "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Psalms 117 ~ "Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD."

January 30, 2008 ~
Dear Friends and Family,

We arrived safely in Moscow Wednesday afternoon and will continue our journey onto Siberia on Monday, February 4th.

It's good to be back and a bit strange being here without our guys.

Again we can't say it enough...THANK YOU! We so appreciate all that you do for our family and are humbled by the immensity of it all. Our next update will be from Siberia sometime next week. We still don't have a definite "yes" on an apartment, but are certain that will be resolved before we arrive.

PS. Nika did well on the trip and is going through jetlag too. We think she just really misses her boys.

February 4, 2008 ~
Greetings from Moscow....
Dear Family & Friends,

In just a few hours, we'll be on the final leg of our journey back to Siberia. We've had five great days in Moscow repacking what we brought over with the few things we had left here, getting things shipped out by train, buying plane tickets and trying to spend some time with friends and fellow workers.

We have an apartment when we arrive and are anxious to see our new home. It will be in a different location and closer to the forest.

THANK YOU once again to all who have written with love and encouraging words. We'll write once we arrive and with more detail when we're settled. We are blessed because of all of you...and we are Siberia Bound!

February 6, 2008 ~
Greetings from the other side of the world!

A quick note to let all of you know that we've arrived safely in Siberia. It's a bit 'cooler' than what we were reading over the internet...Minus 31Celcius...BRRRRRRRRR! It gets warmer during the day...Minus 20Celcius, but nights are back down to around Minus 30Celcius. Good thing is that the days are getting longer and the temperatures will get warmer.

Our flights were great and our short time in Moscow was VERY busy but productive. We were able to visit with a few friends, buy tickets, get our belongings that had been left in Moscow, shipped them by rail and repacked the bags we left the States with because of different weight limits here in Russia.

In any case, the flight to Siberia was smooth and we're getting settled into our apt. We're getting adjusted to the time changes and finding out where all the best buys for food and items are located. So much has changed, yet much stays the same. We're grateful to be back and to be a part of what's happening herein our adopted home.

My (Laura) hope is to get something out at least twice a month for now, but that will most likely change as we spend more time outside the city. Thanks to all who have written and continue to remember us. We are truly blessed.



IN MEMORIAM

Mattie
Wallace

February 8, 2008



In Memoriam

Rene Dube
December 28, 1925
To
February 10, 2008

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 en-
courages and strengthens
their Christian walk.

✦ GLORIFY God by be-
ing one of His instru-
ments of communication
at FUMCH and wherever
else He may choose to
spread the Word through
this publication.

IN MEMORIAM

Todd W. Little

February 7, 1937
To
February 1, 2008



In Memoriam

Roy Olson
January 3, 2008



In Memoriam
Frances Ericksen, 92
Jan. 28, 2008

March Birthdays

1 Glenn Harwood Stan Sobolak	15 Gerry Green
2 Gladys Bevan Cecelia Bledsoe James Haskell Larry Stainton Helen Vaught	17 Pat Burns Barbara Gilbert
3 Henry Mangels	18 James Graham Pat Kern Jerry Winters
5 Frances McCrady	21 Blanche Ashlock Charles Paters Shelby Weingarten
6 Eleanor Bennett Ida Bradley Priscilla Oleson Janet Watson	22 Linda Clawson Brenda Loper Wendy Miles Ed Wrenn
7 Pam Cleary Shirley Dunkle Alan Shimp Fran Smith	23 Zip Bender Jim Price
8 William Busby Edna Forney Glenda Gable	24 Emily Walker
9 Margo Blum Dolores Briggs Pat Rada Margaret Woods	25 Vera Irish Gene Ludlow Bill Yuhasz
10 Richard Barrett	26 Jerry Cole Mary Jane Houchins Barry Reichard Janet Tanner
12 Shirley Cromer Rolland Custer William Squires	27 David Benthusen Ernest Miles Ray Ritter Timothy Sunderland
13 Pat Barton John Guthrie	29 George Cole Judy Lee
14 Nan Lawrence Mary Lee Millikin Lorraine Wood	30 Larry Rogers
	31 Peter Magamoll

March Anniversaries

5 Jackie & Sheldon LaMountain ~ 15 ~ years
9 Dayna & Ron Middlebrooks ~ 12 ~ years
10 Jill & Jim Wickliffe ~ 35 ~ years
11 Lavonne & Kevin Brennan ~ 2 ~ years
12 Joyce & Robert Leaming ~ 17 ~ years
13 Mary & Fred Casper ~ 54 ~ years
14 Colleen & Richard Bellville ~ 5 ~ years
17 Jeri & Ed Wrenn ~ 4 ~ years
Susan & Jay Helfman ~ 31 ~ years
Sandra & Donald Tam ~ 6 ~ years
18 Nell & Bill Lent ~ 59 ~ years
20 Ann & Donald Parkinson ~ 4 ~ years
23 Faye & Donald Schmitt ~ 62 ~ years
24 Pat & John Rada ~ 57 ~ years
27 Janet & Pete Magamoll ~ 65 ~ years
30 Regina & William Parks ~ 64 ~ years
B.J. & Duane Smith ~ 61 ~ years
Barbara & Robert Bellcase ~ 50 ~ years

Members Residing In Long Term Care as of 2-4-2008

- BARRINGTON
Ken McGuire
- BRENTWOOD
Evelyn Bash
Teresa Davis
Del Parker
- CEDAR CREEK
Bud Jenks
- CRYSTAL RIVER
HEALTH & REHAB.
Robert Smith
- CYPRESS COVE
Elta Whilden
- DIAMOND RIDGE
Jean Buzby
Marjorie Cook
- NATURE COAST
LODGE
Betty Duncan
- SUGARMILL MANOR
Grace Payne
Shirley Hart
Charlie Walker
- HUNT HOME
(Williston)
Bill Marquis

Torn between a tragedy
Can't help gravity,
Pulling me back and forth
'Til I got shoved
In a fleeting motion
Stumbling to fall,
Falling to be caught,
Caught by an angel,
An angel or
An angel not at all,
A bit of a lash,
A rose colored cheek,
A sharp breath,
A vow of silence,
A tear of joy,
A sound of bliss,
All because of you,
The angel in the mist.

Submitted by
Leslie Montgomery,
FUMCH Youth

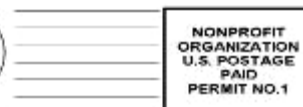
January Joiners

Thomas and Maureen Grimes
656 W. Doer Path
Hernando, FL 34442
From: Michigan



March 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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



We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

**Visit our Web Site ~ www.lumc.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

Submissions to Genesis:
Judith Huffer, Editor
Jan Wise, Copy Editor
Mary Lee Millikin, Editorial Assistant
Photography: Neil Kline & Judith Huffer
Email: judithann@tampabay.rr.com
Soli Deo Gloria

