

# GENESIS

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

NOVEMBER 2006

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 10 Issue 9

## Church Office

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## Website

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

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## Youth Pastor

Rev. Steven Skelley

## Bookkeeper

Sandy Dewart

## Administrator

Theresa Weber

## Christian Education

Patience Nave

## Music Department

Mary Kay Messenger

Joy Potts

Dayna Middlebrooks

## Parish Visitation

Sharon E. Smith

## Night Security

Michael Rodgers

## Custodian

Dale Evans

## TAKE TIME TO GIVE THANKS

*by Reverend Mark Whittaker*

There are so many things we take for granted...

That our machines will work, especially when we need them most.

That our government will be able to deal with the issues that concern all of us.

That our friends and family will always be there.

Of course, we can't really take any of these for granted.

Our machines—cars and computers, etc.—wear out and have to be replaced.

The government, both local and national, grinds along and hopefully works on things for the common good.

As for family and friends, we all grow a little older each day. Some of us find ourselves searching for something "new" to add zest to our lives. Others of us face the realization that we

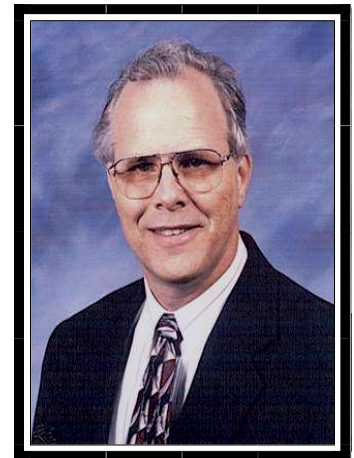
can't be depended on to "get the job done" in the same way we once could.

But Thanksgiving is a time to pull back and appreciate what we have today—to recognize God's goodness in the present, to see how we are truly blessed. It is our time to enjoy family and friends and celebrate all that has happened this year.

There will always be the hard times, but even they can become the challenges that kick us out of our complacency and get us going again.

Instead of taking your things, your friends and your lifestyle for granted, thinking they will always be there, take some time this month to appreciate them. Especially take time to tell your friends and family how much they mean to you.

Take time this month to notice the small things and appreciate them.



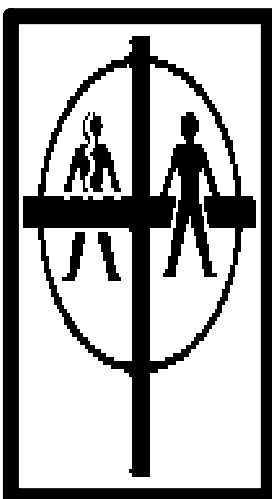
Take some time this month to look at your accumulation of things and make a conscious decision to get rid of what you don't need, so things will not have the power to rule your life.

Take time to say thank you to God and to the people who matter most in your life.

Happy Thanksgiving!



*Mark*



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

## **JUMP RIGHT IN! ~ FALL BIBLE STUDY--"It's Who You Know"**

Jan Wise has been teaching a Bible study Wednesday afternoons, 2-3:30, and repeated Thursday mornings, 10-11:30, beginning the last week in October and running through the first three weeks of November. The public is welcome to sit in at any time.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well..." (Jn. 14:6-7a). He also said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Then Jesus goes on to say that many will try to tell him of the wonderful things they did in his name, but he will tell them plainly, "I never knew you." (Matt. 7:21-23)

How can we tell if we really know Jesus--or if we call him, "Lord, Lord," because it's part of the Christian vocabulary but not an expression of our heart's relationship? The Scriptures tell us that who we know and who knows us is of life-saving importance. If you want to know that you know him--and that he knows you, call the church (628-4083) or Jan Wise (382-5799) to sign up for the classes. Please specify whether you will attend Wednesday or Thursday.

## ~ From Pastor Mark's Desk ~



One of the most satisfying events in the life of the church happens around the holiday season.

It is our opportunity to reach out into our community and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who are hurting and searching for something more.

This is our opportunity to show we mean what we say when we say "I Love you as Christ loves you."

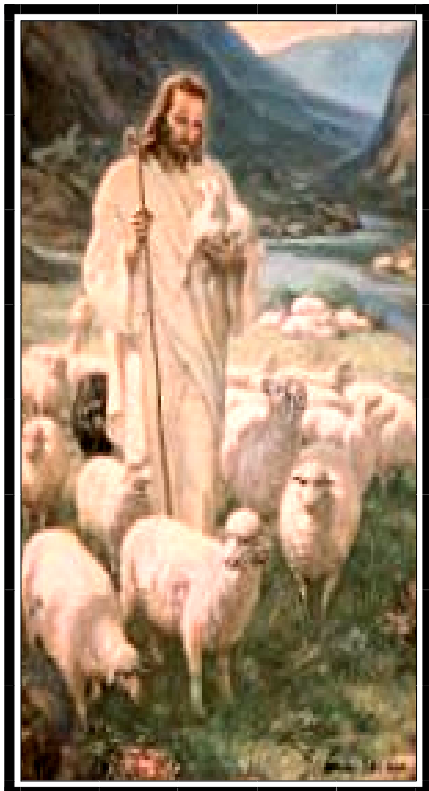
Each year at Thanksgiving and then again at Christmas we put together 50 food baskets for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

It is a great time for us to touch people where they are hurting and welcome them into the house of God.

For many, many years the members of the church have generously given to make sure that we have the resources necessary to purchase this food. We start with a S.H.A.R.E. package (worth about \$35) and then add a gift certificate from one of the local grocery stores for the extras that SHARE doesn't include.

At Christmas we do the same kind of thing with the food, and, because of the generosity of several Ladies Golf Associations from Sugarmill and Southern Woods, we are also able to hand out three or four presents for each of the children.

The offering envelope for this gift will be in the pews, and also in the mail to you soon. We hope you will be as generous as you have been in the past so we can share God's love with those who are hurting in our community.



## ~ Advent (November 26) ~ The Season of Expectation

Each year as we move toward Christmas we celebrate the season of Advent. This is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ.

Advent starts November 26th this year with the scriptures talking about the coming again of Jesus and then moving toward the expectation of the celebration of his birth.

Advent is the time we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. It is a hectic time as we are trying to get ready for the holidays but it can also be a beautiful time if we will take a few moments each day to stop and remember the real reason for the season.

Don't let the coming of Christmas overwhelm you.

***Let Jesus lift you up each day  
so that you are  
strengthened for the tasks ahead.***



## **Open House at the Parsonage Nov. 26th**

One of the holiday traditions that Iris and I enjoy the most is having an open house at the parsonage.

Each year we have invited the church to come and share this time with us.

It is also a great way to get the Christmas tree decorated because we ask everyone who comes to hang one of our ornaments on the tree for us.

We will be getting together on Sunday, November 26, from 2 to 4 pm, and would consider it an honor if you would come and share a cup of punch and a cookie or two (or three).

The parsonage is at 8288 W. Barry Ct.

Come and share the beginning of the holidays with us!

Mark and Iris Whittaker



## **A Time of Celebration! A Time of Gratitude! by Diane Cary**

During this season of the year, when we pause to give thanks for our many blessings, may we also express our gratitude to the mighty corps of volunteers among us who share their time and talents to serve our congregation and our community.



As we celebrate the September commissioning of Kim Bennett, Shirley Dunkle, Joyce Hesketh, Karen Kline, Carol MacKenzie, and JoAnn White as new Stephen Ministers, we would also like to acknowledge the current team of Christian laypersons who provide care to individuals experiencing life challenges. Other Stephen Ministers include Peggy Benson, Ernie and Martha Dorrell, Charles Peters, Jim Potts and Marilyn Siegel. The Stephen Leaders are Kay Bast, Diane Cary, and Bob Bunting.

If you would like someone to walk beside you during a difficult time, contact Diane (382-7242) or Kay (382-4908), or the church office so that one of these trained volunteers can provide a weekly one-hour visit, plus phone support, in a compassionate, confidential manner.



tatoes, carrots or corn to be delivered through your gift to a local food bank where it will be distributed to those who need it the most.

**The Alternative Gift Fair  
will be on  
November 26,  
the first Sunday of  
Advent,  
in front of the  
sanctuary.**

Bring your check book and get all of your (adult) shopping done with one check to one of these ministries.

# ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

One of the things that we know for sure is that Christmas has become too commercialized.

It has fallen into the hands of the merchandisers and is the highest sales time of the year.

Many businesses could not survive with out the hype and the sales around Christmas.

But there is a better way for us to celebrate Christmas. We can give a gift that keeps on giving!

Our Alternative Christmas tables will be up again this year, offering you an opportunity to purchase gifts certi-

ficates for your loved one.

**These certificates are to  
Habitat of Citrus County,  
The Heifer Project and/or  
The Society of St. Andrew.**

Instead of sending another dust catcher or a bad-looking tie or something that won't fit and will need to be returned, give a gift of a square of shingles or a front door.

You can give a flock of chickens so some family will have an income to keep them from starving and enable them to pull themselves out of poverty. Another gift possibly would be a semi-trailer truck load of po-

**ALERT!  
ALERT!  
ALERT!**



Since we bought out every store in Citrus County of the 2.07 oz. Snickers Bar last December, the Mission Committee has asked that folks start purchasing their contributions to this Christmas Ministry early this year.

Thank you.



## Poinsettias For Decorating the Church

We will be taking orders on three Sundays;  
**November 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and December 3rd.**



As with the Easter flowers, you will need to fill out the flower order form that will be by the flower order box in the sanctuary.

Please fill out the form completely, attach cash or a check made out to UMC and place the form in the flower box.

The poinsettias will be \$10.00 each.

You may pick up your poinsettias either after the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve., or Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

~ Thank you, from your Decorating Committee Team



## Columbarium Installed; Garden Constructed

By Rev. Richard Evans

Our new church Columbarium was delivered and installed by the Eickhof Company during the week of September 18. The vault-cabinet, containing 108 niches to hold the cremated remains (cremains) of up to 216 people, was set in place and assembled over several days. The polished brown granite fronts with brass name-plates are surrounded by beautiful limestone end panels and cap.

Then a new Memorial Garden was constructed around the wall-mounted Columbarium during the week of October 2. It consists of a walkway and patio of paving stones, surrounded by a low block wall. The patio has two free-form planting areas, complete with azaleas and boxwoods, along with two urns containing more plants.

Finally, a fence and gate were installed on the wall around the perimeter of the garden during the week of October 9. And a beautiful bronze cross was installed on the church wall above the Columbarium. Two benches inside the fence provide places for family members and friends to "sit for a moment and remember" when

they visit the garden area.

Minor but important additions were added throughout the rest of October in preparation for a Service of Dedication at noon on Sunday, October 29. Dedication of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden will be held right after the 11:00 am Service of Worship. The 10-15 minute service will also include the inurnment of the cremains of several deceased church members whose ashes have been awaiting the completion of the Columbarium.

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden began with an idea back in 1998 but was put "on hold" until the completion of the next phase of our Building for Tomorrow program. Then it was revived almost two years ago and a temporary Columbarium Committee was elected by the Church Council. After many months of exploration and planning, the committee brought a proposal to the Council that was accepted. Late last spring, after the sale of 36 niches, we had sufficient money to place the order.

The committee also planned for the future. The concrete base, on which the

Columbarium rests, was built to accommodate the expansion of 108 more niches—with a total of up to 432 urns containing the cremains of God's faithful here in our own modern counterpart to the ancient church burial ground.

The Memorial Garden was made possible through the generous gift of Lorraine Tollefson, along with other memorial gifts in memory of Jerry Tollefson. And the wall cross was a gift from Marilyn McKown, along with other gifts from family and friends in memory of Jerry McKown.

The temporary Columbarium Committee completes its work with the Service of Dedication on October 29. A new permanent Columbarium Committee, elected at the Charge Conference on October 27, will take over and manage its care and maintenance, along with administrative oversight and the future sale of niches.

Space in the Columbarium is available to church members and families of church members for \$1,200 per niche. Each niche accommodates either one or two urns (included in the price).

There are no further charges for opening, closing, and perpetual care. More information and application forms are available in the church office.

Photos by: Judith Huffer

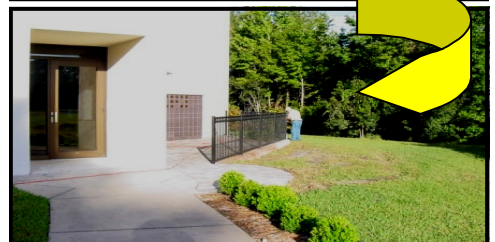


Take a stroll around the East end of the Sanctuary and check out our new Columbarium



"Under Construction" Photos

Ed Messenger working on the wrought-iron fence.



## *Another Story of Stewardship* In the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension

By Rev. Richard Evans

Phil Anthropist and his wife became frustrated over some stock in their portfolio that had yielded only 2% annual income—and sometimes less. These stocks, now valued at \$100,000, originally cost them \$35,000. They were reluctant to sell the stock due to the tax bite on the \$65,000 capital gain. Now retired, they wanted more annual income than the \$1,500-\$2,000 that this portion of their portfolio had been providing.

After consulting their tax accountant and a staff member of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Phil and his wife placed the stock in a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust with a pay out of 6%.

Now their annual income from the \$100,000 is \$6,000, paid to them quarterly. They avoided any tax on the capital gain and they also received a substantial charitable income tax deduction, which they can carry forward for up to five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Anthropist have designated that, at their deaths, the remainder of the annuity trust will be divided as follows:

- 40% to their United Methodist Church in Florida where they have lived in retirement,
- 40% to their United Methodist Church in Michigan where they lived for many years,
- 10% to the Tampa United Methodist Centers for their fine ministry among the urban poor, and
- 10% to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

Phil and his wife now enjoy the additional income and are pleased to know that their charitable gift will continue long after they are gone.

Their story is a fine example of Stewardship in the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension.

For more information about Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, and other planned gifts, call the church office or the Florida United Methodist Foundation (941-363-9673).



### **Holistic Small Group News** **Our Holistic Small Groups are back!**

**Check the church bulletins for dates and times.**  
**If you'd like to be trained to start another Holistic Small Group, please see Steve Skelley at the church office.**

## **Give Life!**



## **Find A Blood Drive!**

*"The life of the flesh is in blood"*

*Lev. 18:11*

We mortals can also minister with the precious gift of our blood.

LifeSouth Community Blood Center is desperately seeking donors in Citrus County to help make their quota required to meet the needs of both Citrus Memorial and Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center. State that your donated blood be accredited to The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa and it will be available for members of our church's congregation when needs arise.

Barbara Jackson

## **Welcome to our Church!**

Please give a warm welcome  
to our newest members.

Elizabeth "Bets" Vaughn  
8929 W Sugarbush Path  
Homosassa, 34448  
from Michigan  
795-2838

Cranie Koellhoffer  
13 Gourds Ct. W  
Homosassa, 34446  
from Franklin Borough, NJ  
382-7403

Bob & Lorraine Angus  
10456 S Little Hampton Terr.  
Homosassa, 34446  
from Watervliet, NY  
382-0921

Hilda Theriault  
15 Judi Ct.  
Homosassa, 34446  
from Stratford, CT  
382-2457

Art & Joan Carnevale  
11941 W Bayshore Drive  
Crystal River, 34429  
Art from Saratoga Springs, NY  
Joan from Purcellville, VA  
563-2121

## **Walking on the Path by Patience Nave**

*"Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29a ASV*

This verse is probably very familiar to those of us who have known what it is to be really tired! We often talk about "laying our burdens on the Lord," or allowing Him to "carry our burdens." Certainly that is a legitimate position to take. Peter clearly tells us that we not only can but should do this, directing us to "Cast all our anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you." (I Peter 5:7) It is a wonderful promise of relief.

Jesus is quoting from Jeremiah, a passage in which the Lord instructs his people to walk in His way that they may find "rest for their souls." Sadly, that verse is followed by these words, "But they said, we will not walk in it."

We haven't changed much, have we? He gives us the perfect way to walk, and we presumptuously think we know better!

But the middle of the Matthew verse gives us the best reason for doing as we are told. It is not just to be relieved of our burden, to feel better! Jesus wants us to come to Him, let Him take our burdens, so we may *learn* exactly what He is like! It is great to be burden free, but it is even greater to know more and more about the One who is the lifter of our burdens.

*Prayer: Father, we are so thankful that You walked here as a man and that You, even though You are God, understand what it is to be weary. We thank You that You allow us to give You the heavy load, including our anxieties. Help us never to refuse to walk Your way. And we pray earnestly that we would not only know the relief of being burden free but that, as we walk with You, we would also experience the joy of knowing You better. Amen.*



**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
at 10:00 a.m.**

The decorating committee will once again be decorating the church for the Christmas Season.

If you are interested in helping us, please contact the church office and leave your name and phone number for Mary Kay.

We need to know how many will be helping so we can assign jobs and helpers ahead of time. Please call by November 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!





## What is Creative Worship?

by Steven Skelley

Michael Shea said, Creativity is seeing something that doesn't already exist. Find out how to bring it into being."

God is the author of creativity. There is variety in His creation.

Creative people choose to follow God's example and seek new ways to communicate and create.

Because people learn and comprehend in different ways, we want to do as many things as we can to help them understand the gospel.

Some people learn best through song, some learn through lecture, some learn through seeing or touching things.

Our goal is to make sure no one is left out and everyone has an opportunity to be reached by God's message.

In the past several months, we formed a Creative Worship team at First UMC.

In the services, you have noticed that we often have something visual or touchable to go along with the sermon.

Our goal is to support Pastor Mark's messages and to help communicate the gospel in more ways than just lecture.

When Pastor Mark spoke about reaching out to others with God's love, we gave everyone a "warm fuzzy" to remind them to be a blessing to someone that week.



When Pastor Mark spoke about the armor of God, we placed a set of armor on the altar representing the armor

spoken of in scripture so that people who learn visually could better understand.

When Steve did the message with the dramatic reading about the school dance, we placed a school desk and chalkboard on the platform.

Just as our altar is just a piece of furniture dedicated to God's use, each of these things became consecrated, dedicated to God and used to reach people with His love and light in a way they can best comprehend.

Do you have ideas for supporting the gospel message shared each week at First UMC?

Allow God's creativity to flow through you and help someone else better understand His love for them.



Photos by Neil Kline  
See more at:  
[www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.org)



### **Youth Ministry Schedule**

**Sunday School**  
**9:30 – 10:30 am on Sundays**  
**Youth Fellowship**  
**12:00 – 2:00 pm on Sundays**

### **Youth Missions**

In the past year, we performed a number of local missions: 2006 Crop Walk, nursing home Christmas caroling, adopt-a-park, hurricane health kits, SHARE help, and sand art for shut-ins.

As we look to the rest of 2006 and 2007, what other missions can we add to our list of good deeds? Bring your ideas and hopes to Steve and let's make them happen so others are blessed.

### **We Need Your Empty Ink Cartridges**

The First UMC Youth Ministry thanks you for bringing in your empty computer printer ink cartridges.

We raise \$30 to \$75 a month through your donations.

These funds support youth ministry and youth missions.

Thanks to you generous donations, we have raised almost \$1000 in the last year!

The collection box is located on the soda machine beside the fellowship hall door.

## **Education Corner** **by Patience Nave**

### **Our on-going need for teachers**

Steve Skelley has been teaching the youth in Sunday school, and he can no longer do that since he has taken on new responsibilities for Sunday morning. We need a teacher in the youth class. This may be your opportunity to fill that special place God has for you as you live for your discipleship. Call me if you would like to teach regularly or if you would agree to substitute in this class.

### **Sunday school**

We have five adult Sunday school classes being taught at 9:30 every Sunday morning.

Bill Baker teaches the traditional International Sunday School lesson.

Martha Dorrell teaches a Bible study class of adults in their middle years.

Jan Wise teaches another Bible study for older adults.

Kay Bast and Patience Nave, between now and Christmas, are leading studies on books by J. Elsworth Kalas, a popular author from Asbury Seminary whose books we have used in Lenten studies for our Soup Suppers.

Kay's class has chosen *OLD TESTAMENT STORIES* from "The Back Side", and Patience's class has chosen *LIFE FROM THE UP SIDE*.

Any of these classes would welcome you to join them as you commit yourself to ongoing Christian growth. My husband has often told me that "education is a life-long process." This is certainly true of Christian education. Join a Sunday school class today—and get on with your education!

### **Hospice of Citrus County**

Wallace and I have been surprised and blessed by the services we have been receiving from Hospice of Citrus County! We had a total misunderstanding about what Hospice is and how they could be of service to us, as I tried to take care of Wallace and keep him home where he wants to be. If you are caring for someone at home and would like to hear first-hand what we have learned about Hospice of Citrus County, please call me. (I can only tell you about our Citrus County Hospice. Hospice itself is a national organization, but the services offered by each unit may differ. Our Citrus County Hospice is amazing!)

Our lives have changed because of this wonderful organization. I will be glad to share with you what I have learned, tell you what they are doing for us, and put you in touch with a professional at Hospice who can explain clearly what services you could receive.

## GATHERING OF THE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

by Marilyn Watson

We were privileged to host a county-wide Gathering of the Emmaus Community on June 9th. According to collective calculations this was the first Emmaus event at our church in at least 16 years. Those of us in attendance enjoyed hosting this event and hope we will be doing so again in the near future.

The evening began at a covered-dish dinner, with much laughter and lots of opportunities to get to know our sisters and brothers in Christ from other churches across Citrus County. The food certainly was good, too. Linda and Jack Schrock took the lead in the kitchen and fellowship hall as we provided our "company" and did the necessary clean-up afterwards. From there we adjourned to the chapel where we were led in spirited singing by Ernie Dorrell – we would have probably sung all night if it weren't for our practical pastor. There were a few testimonies by those who had recently been on their Walk to Emmaus. We were then led in communion by Pastor Mark, followed by our traditional singing of "Bind Us Together." Spontaneous fellowship broke out following the Gathering and continued for many of us (including some folks from other churches) as we cleared away things from the fellowship hall, washed dishes, and tidied the kitchen.

We hope all of you who have been on a Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Tres Dias, etc. will join us at the next Gathering of the Community. If you would like to know more about the Walk to Emmaus, talk to either Marilyn Watson, the Dorrells, Schrocks, or Whittakers; we'll be more than happy to tell you about our experiences.

### HAVE YOU WALKED TO EMMAUS?

Have you been on a Walk to Emmaus or Cursillo? Or any of the other similar 3 day "Walks"? If so, we are assembling a list of names, email address, etc. so we can be in touch with each other.

We would like to keep you all (or y'all) informed of events within the local Emmaus Community. Of course, you don't need to provide any information, but we'd really like to know you've been on a "Walk."

Please let us know by contacting the church office or by e-mailing  
Marilyn Watson at  
[marilynww@netscape.com](mailto:marilynww@netscape.com).

It will be fun to discover how many of us there are in our church who have been on this walk with Jesus.

### ***United Methodist Women's Annual Bazaar November 4 9 am—2 pm***

Under the direction of Pat Blake, Chairman, and Maureen Samstag, Co-Chairman, the United Methodist Women of Homosassa have been working on items for this event all year long.

Come and shop for:

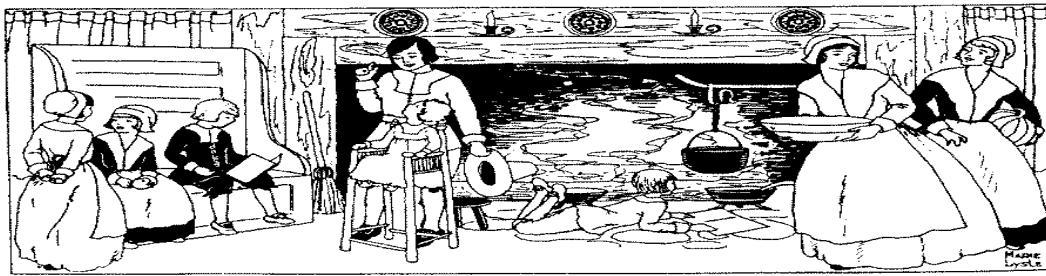
- ~ Specialty Items ~ Dolls ~ Baby Items ~
- ~ Tempting Baked Goods ~
- (Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Pastries, Breads)
- ~ Christmas Items, including  
trees & decorations ~
- ~ Wreaths ~ Hand-made decorations ~
- ~ Trash and Treasures ~
- ~ Knitted Items ~
- ~ Silent Auction ~
- ~ UMW Cookbooks available for \$7.50 ~

#### *Wonderful Wednesday Suppers*

**November 1, 2006** - Barbara Sayles, Regional Director of the Society of St. Andrews, will be our guest speaker. She will be speaking about how this wonderful organization, along with your contributions, helps provide food and hope for the hungry.

**November 15, 2006** - Terry Steele, Executive Director of the Habitat for Humanity, will talk about the extensive work they do locally and nationwide.

**November 29, 2006** - Bess Bussey, Coordinator of Local Church Representative & Volunteer Services from the Children's Home, will speak about the children and bring us up-to-date on their progress.



## **GIVE THANKS FOR OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH LIBRARY**

The following selections are samples of some fine authors and subjects that we have on our Library shelves:

### **MYSTERY:**

The first volume in the Mysteries of Sparrow Island is: "Whispers Through the Trees" by Susan Plunkett and Krysteen Seelen.

When her sister Mary is nearly killed in a car accident, Abby rushes "home" to Sparrow Island to lend her help -- and to reconnect with her aging parents. Abby tries to understand the distance that has grown between her sister and herself. Then strange things begin to happen and as Abby is drawn into a spiraling mystery, she realizes that God's plans for her involve more than the reunion with her beloved family.

The 2nd book is "Flight of the Raven" by Ellen Harris.

It continues with Abby's life who is now working at the Sparrow Island Nature Conservatory. She sees a small plane swerving overhead and later that night learns that the plane is missing. Abby helps in a search that requires her to use her considerable wilder-

ness skills, quick thinking and her trust in the Lord's guidance.

"Night Light" by Terri Blackstock is the second book in the Restoration series.

This sequel to "Last Light" finds civilization entering a new Dark Age. Survival has become a lifestyle. The Brannings struggle to bring their neighborhood together with everyone trying to make their homes ready for winter and fight the crime that's running rampant. Global catastrophe reveals the darkness in human hearts -- and lights the way to restoration for a self-centered world.

"Phoebe", a Novella by Diane Noble.

Faith Green discovers a wooden doll at a secondhand store in 1935 California. She loves the doll and names it "Phoebe". The doll has been cherished by others through seven decades. Phoebe moves through the hands of different owners and as each story unfolds, the mystery of her origin begins to unravel, revealing God's ever-present grace.

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

"George Washington's Sacred Fire" by Peter A. Lillback.

This book was written to answer the question, "Was George Washington a Christian?" Dr. Lillback spent 15 years researching Washington's own writings, journals, letters, manuscripts and those

of his closest family and confidantes. Dr. Lillback reveals a man who faced unprecedented challenges and circumstances with honesty, justice, equity, piety, forgiveness, humility and servant leadership to become one of the most revered figures in world history.

### **GRIEF:**

"The Year of Magical Thinking" by Joan Didion.

The author writes about the year she spent trying to come to terms with her husband's death and daughter's illness. "Life changes fast," she writes. "Life changes in the instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it ends." The magical thinking of denial became her companion. Her book tells us how people try to make sense of the senseless and somehow go on.

### **FICTION:**

"Found" by Karen Kingsbury, the latest in the Firstborn series.

To fulfill his wife's dying wish that they find the firstborn son they had given up for adoption as young marrieds years ago, John Baxter hires a private investigator. There's never a dull moment in this story.

"The Englisher" by Beverly Lewis follows Annie Zook's life.

She has promised her



preacher father that she will abandon her beloved art for six months. She's not sure she can keep her promise. She truly wants to honor her father's wishes and become a member of the Amish community. She's further tempted by the new arrival of a dashing Englisher, Ben Martin. Is it God's plan that she leave the Amish world?

**"A Perfect Day" by Richard Paul Evans.**

This is a novel of love and awakening. Robert Harlan is unexpectedly laid off from his job and his wife encourages him to pursue his dream of writing. When he writes a hugely successful book, Robert is swept into a new world, far from his wife and home, and slowly loses track of the things he loves most. A turn of events makes Robert think he only has months to live and he begins to discover the truth about himself, who he has become, what he has lost and what it will take to find love again.

**"Levi's Will" by W. Dale Cramer** is a haunting story of a fallen man seeking to reconcile the best of the old world with the lessons of the new and in the process building a bridge across three generations.

When Will returns to the Amish farm in Ohio after being away eight years, his father, Levi Mullet, says flatly, "I thought you were

dead." No hug. No party. Where's the fatted calf?

#### **CHRISTIAN LIFE:**

**"A Quiet Place in a Crazy World" by Joni Eareckson Tada.**

Drawing near to God through prayer and praise, God can meet you wherever you are. You CAN find a quiet place in your crazy world -- a life-changing refuge.

Not your ordinary Christian Life Book is **"Christian Caregiving - A Way of Life" by Kenneth C. Haugk**, a pastor, clinical psychologist and founder of the Stephen Series System of lay caring ministry.

Do you ever feel uncomfortable talking about your faith, praying with others or trying to comfort a friend? This book will equip you to care for others in a distinctively Christian way. It has an easy-to-read and easy-to-understand format with tips to avoid clichés and how to minister to the whole person.

#### **DVD's:**

**"The Keys of the Kingdom"**, based on A. J. Cronin's book, the story spans six decades and two continents.

Gregory Peck is Francis Chisholm who joins the priesthood but his unorthodox beliefs lead to being sent to the farthest reaches of China to rebuild an abandoned mission.

**"Places in the Heart"** stars Sally Field, Best Actress Academy Award winner.

Set in the 1930's in Waxahockie, Texas and with a Depression-torn background, Edna Spaulding has an unending struggle against extraordinary hardships. Cast includes unforgettable characters who meet and collide.

**"China Cry" is the true story of Nora Lam.**

In 1941 she is adopted by a prominent family in Shanghai and treated like a princess until the bombs drop and the Japanese seize her house. After Japan is defeated, she joins the Communists. They subject her to excruciating persecution. She calls out to God for salvation. Miracles follow. The Christian Church survived under repressive atheistic communism in China.

**"Lilies of the Field"** starring Academy Award Best Actor Sidney Poitier. He plays an itinerant handyman who meets five impoverished nuns in the Arizona desert. This is a funny, sentimental uplifting film.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

Helen Lefave  
and  
Barbara Jackson,  
Library Staff



**November Birthdays**

1 Judy Bunting	16 Dan Nygaard
2 Catherine Wisheart	17 Wes Harris Joan Ness
Robert Severance	18 Beverly Calkins
Dave Shore	19 Margrurite Seely
3 Bob Specht	Geraldine Frentz
4 Helen Hudson	Ruth Rittgers
Fred Wheeler	20 Helen West
6 Hershel Fogleman	Jeri Wrenn
Frank Wals	22 Angie Watson
Tom Pearo	Charles McCreery
8 Letha Sawvell	Lowanda Wells
9 Marsella Rutter	23 Cecelia Woodward
Dottie Baker	25 Marcia Bader
Jo Ann Ryan	26 Anna Cooley
Theresa Harmon	27 Wallace Nave
Fern McWilliams	Lyle Lee
11 Jeanne Balmer	28 John Dewart
Rick Workman	Samantha
Emily Merson	McAllister
12 Gloria Megos	29 Helen Bachman
13 John Austin	30 Charles Mc Williams
Adam Will	
14 Eleanor Smith	
15 Ann Mayles	
Joan Eyster	
Martha Dorrell	

**November Anniversaries**

4 Ann & Jack Fasnacht ~ 56 yrs	23 Ida & Dick Bradley ~ 23 yrs
6 Barbara & Gene Lantz ~ 52 yrs	Mary Joy & Earl Speicher ~ 38 yrs
Dot & Jack Reed ~ 63 yrs	24 Elaine & Glenn Harwood ~ 41 yrs
7 Marge & Walter Dilling ~ 48 yrs	Ann & John Mayles ~ 56 yrs
10 Ruth & Larry Healy ~ 61 yrs	26 Ann & John Cooley ~ 53 yrs
13 Edythe & Richard Shaffer ~ 52 yrs	27 Sally & Allen Moore ~ 30 yrs
16 Helen & Albert LeFave ~ 55 yrs	Joy & Jim Potts ~ 13 years
20 Jeanne & Harvey Comfort ~ 61 yrs	28 Alma & Lloyd Zimmerman ~ 64 yrs
22 Hilda & Ted Therault ~ 62 yrs	30 Helen & Marvin West ~ 46 yrs

**Nursing  
Centers**

Barrington  
Ken McGuire

Brentwood  
Evelyn Bash  
Rene Dube  
Betty Pettit  
Ann Specht

Cedar Creek  
Bill Marquis

Crystal River  
Health  
& Rehab  
Robert Smith  
Ralph Hudson

Cypress Cove  
Jack Mallett  
Richard Shaffer  
Ruth E. Smith  
Willie Smith  
Elta Whilden  
Julia Wilkinson

Life Care ~  
Gene Lantz  
Betty Farewell  
Evelyn MacDonald

Sugarmill Manor  
Del Parker  
Grace Payne  
Ray Short

Surrey Place  
Marjorie Cook  
Maddie Wallace

Hospice @ Home  
Men's Group for  
Wallace Nave

Homeboound  
Gene Lantz for  
Paul Glenn

Marilyn Siegel for  
Dea Miller

Sharon Smith for  
Dan Oblinger

*I am the good shepherd;  
I know my sheep and my  
sheep know me*

John 10:14



Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to thank you for  
your prayers, memorials,  
cards, and visits for my  
dear Harry.

God Bless You All!

Your Sister in Christ,  
Alma Rogers

A card of thanks to my  
Church Family for their  
prayers and concern  
during the illness and  
death of my daughter  
Mary.

May God Bless you all,  
Louise Brechka  
563-0435



*From Your Editor: My apologies to the two people whose articles I cut out from this spot to include this material that I received the day before publication.*

## COMING IN DECEMBER! DECEMBER SHARE HOLIDAY MEAL

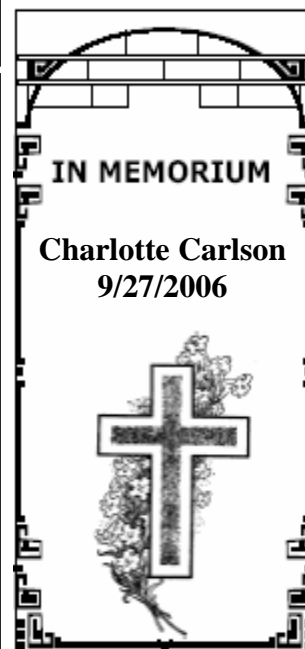
3.5 LB Pork Roast  
Bread Sticks  
Fresh Frozen Peas  
Sweet Potatoes  
Red Bartlett Pears  
Baking Potatoes  
Baby Peeled Carrots



**DO NOT MISS OUT ON THIS SPECIAL DEAL!**

**The sign-up dates for  
December are:  
Wednesday, Nov. 29  
&  
Saturday, Dec. 2**

See Page 18 for more information.



### ***Security at FUMC Is Important!***

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

~ IF YOU OPEN IT ~  
LOCK It.  
~ IF YOU TURN IT ON ~  
TURN IT OFF.

#### **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!

Another reminder ~ With the Holiday Season, keep the doors to your vehicle locked, especially when the car is loaded up with goodies. Keep what you can in your trunk. And, after dark, especially you ladies, have an escort to your car in the parking lot

Thank you!  
Michael Rodgers,  
Night Security

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at:  
[ranch-hand@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ranch-hand@tampabay.rr.com)



Frog adopted from "Made by Mary"  
<http://www.spundreams.com/holiday/adoptafrog.htm>





### **TABITHA GUILD RESTRUCTURES**

Our new plan will arrange for 3 events for the "program year", (Sept. – May).

#### **November 17, "06:**

Christmas Shopping trip to Ellenton Outlet Mall  
We will use the church bus which has space for 20.

Cost - \$10.00 with meals on your own.

Departure: 7:30am with fast-food breakfast stop.

Lunch will be in the Food court at the Mall.

Registration with money is open to all women on a first-come first-serve basis.

#### **January 19, "07 :**

Church Workday – All who are willing will gather to do a "walk-thru" of the church buildings to assess decorating needs and then disperse to organize fabric and costume-related storage areas. We will conclude with lunch together at a local restaurant. Those who are willing will follow up by sewing or refurbishing for the church as needed.

#### **March or April "07:**

A Seminar/class with guest teacher (to be announced).

A steering committee of 4 women, Myrna Evans, Ruby Raymond, Arlene Stohrer & Lorraine Tollefson, will plan these programs. If anyone else would like to join this steering committee, please contact one of the above members.

We would like to maintain a list of people who are willing to sew for church projects when needed. Please contact Myrna Evans to put your name on this list.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will continue to maintain the "free fabric stash" for church and charitable projects in the closet in Rm. 106. Help yourself if you need supplies.

Tabitha Guild Members will continue to serve the church and the community together and individually as we have been doing for the last 8 years.

~ Myrna Evans

### **Our Monthly Missionary Letter from the Henry Family in Thailand**

#### **Dear praying friends,**

Things have settled down here following last month's coup. Thanks so much for your prayers for our safety and for your kind emails. We look forward to what the Lord has for us in the coming month during this unusual time in Thailand!

#### **Praises**

We received substantial gifts for the new church, putting us at almost 40% of our total startup budget. Praise God!

Pastor *Ogaat* and I feel strongly that we can now move forward to open in a rented townhouse and will trust the Lord to provide the remaining funds. Thank you so much to those who have contributed and to those considering a contribution.

We received a surprise financial gift from our home church, Northside Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., for Joe and Pastor *Ogaat* to attend the church's missions conference in late February 2007. The church would like to assist us in making contacts so we can increase our family's monthly financial support. They feel visiting the States would be beneficial since Joe and Pastor *Ogaat* could explain in person what the Lord is doing here in Chiang Mai.

Praise God for Caleb and Jamie, who turned 8 and 6 at the end of last month. We had good family times of celebration with them, and we look forward to how God will continue to shape them into the men He desires for them to be.

#### **Prayers**

Joe has begun teaching "Old Testament Survey" at the Bible school of Chiang Mai Baptist Church and will continue through

November. Please pray for his time writing lessons to be fruitful and for the eight students to more deeply understand the Word of God.

Please pray about plans for the new church. We have tentatively set Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> as "opening day" and have a lot of work to do before then. Also, please pray for God to use His people to provide the remaining startup funds for the new church (about \$4,400) as well as the monthly costs (about \$500 per month).

During Elaine's time of teaching the children of our cell group, she has come to realize that a flannelgraph (felt) OT/NT Bible story set or some other visual illustration system would be a tremendous help. The children here know nothing about the Bible and would be greatly aided by seeing the stories rather than just hearing them. Christian resources are very limited here. Please pray that the Lord would provide this tool for Elaine's ministry to Thai children.

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

P.s. We would like to quickly ask for prayer for an additional item in addition to our regular bulletin sent early last week:

1. Joe and Pastor *Ogaat* signed a two-year lease on a small townhouse last week for the new church. Praise God! The location is a good one...about two miles from our neighborhood, surrounded by other neighborhoods, a public school and many businesses in a rapidly growing area of south *Chiang Mai*. Now come the planning, purchasing, etc., as they seek to begin services on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for all the variables to come together in God's timing.

### From our Russian Missionaries...

**Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!**

**O sing to the Lord a new song,  
For he has done marvelous things  
(Psalm 98:1a)**

Psalm 98 is full of worship. It is true, the Lord has done marvelous things as we have partnered together to take the gospel to the people of Siberia. Let us never stop praising him for the work he has started!

Kevin and Laura are making progress with the Biblical Counseling course they are taking; it took a little time to get used to doing homework again. We have already learned many valuable things that will benefit the ministry in Siberia.

We are also getting involved with a course called Focus. This is a pre-marital course designed to help couples enter into marriage with a better understanding of Biblical marriage. We are hoping that we can learn the material and be able to take it back to Russia to be used in our Church planting ministry in the future.

This month there is a conference going on in Ulan-Ude Siberia; the conference focus will be Church planting. As you recall this is the city we first moved to almost 10 years ago. It is exciting to see that the young churches are catching the vision for the world and are already starting new churches on their own. One of the members of the church in Ulan-Ude who is in Bible College in another country wrote the leadership of the church in Ulan-Ude and asked "What are the most pressing needs you have for teachers, disciplining new believers?" They were looking where they would fit into the body on returning from College. The leaders wrote back and said "All the positions are being met at the present time with the local body." That is for sure an answer to prayer that the church would stand on its own and grow in depth and knowledge.

#### Prayer items:

Please pray for Corey and Joshua as they are still adjusting to life back in America after almost 10 years overseas.

Continue to pray for where we (Kevin and Laura) will be living when we move back. We feel that the Lord is leading us to work with one of following people groups - the Caxa people, the Tuvianian people or the Evenki people. All are located in Siberia.

Pray for finances. We are in need of approximately \$500 dollars a month; we know God will provide! If you would like to help with this, you can mail a check to Pioneers 10123 William Carey Dr., Orlando, FL 32832. For a tax deductible receipt do not write anything on the memo line of the check. Attach a separate note that it is for Kevin and Laura Wooster, account number 10299.

**Serving together:**

*Kevin, Laura, Joshua and Corey Wooster*

## SHARE of Florida: By Tom and Nancy Pearo

It's hard to believe that this October will be the start of our seventh year of serving the community with SHARE. In 2000, our first month, we only sold \$763.90, but the following month we had the highest sale ever, \$2,676.65. Since then, we have had our ups and downs but by September 2006, we sold a total of \$83,844.30. That's a lot of food for a lot of families. The saving in money is immeasurable to say the least. Being able to pick up enough food for a month at one location at a reduced price has made it possible for families to eat well and still be able to meet other obligations. None of this would be possible without the volunteers who come every month to distribute the food - people that use their own trucks to pick up

the food, give out the food and take the orders, count the money and send the information to SHARE. It takes a lot of work and cooperation by many volunteers. Some have been with us from the beginning and still show up each time, some new persons have stepped in to replace those who left for other things and some who come and go. These volunteers have our thanks and appreciation.

### "Tis the Season

.... The Holidays" Everyone needs to be reminded that when you come in to pick up your October order, you will be ordering for Thanksgiving. Yes, folks, it's that time again and the holiday packages will be a little more expensive this year. Besides the basic package, the "Turkey Dinner Special" will be offered again. If you got it last year, you know how good it is, and this year, it's going to be even better but we are asking a little more for it. \$23.00 is the going amount

but you could spend that much on just the turkey. This will include potatoes, vegetables, rolls, gravy and a pie.

And while you're still trying to finish up the leftovers, the Christmas package will be ready for you for \$20.00.

The Basic Package will still be there each month at \$18.00.

So that we can have the food on time for the holidays, we do everything earlier in the month. November's first sign-up day after D-Day is the last day in October.

For December, the first day of sign-up after D-Day is the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. So if you don't want to miss out on these special deals, check the dates, mark your calendars and get your orders in....and don't forget to be there for D-Day to help or just to pick up your food.

Do not let the early November sign-up and pick-up dates get past you.  
GREAT food selections for Thanksgiving!

- SHARE Sign-up Dates  
Nov. 1 & Nov. 4
- Pick-up: November 18

### CONSIDER BUYING A "DONATION."

There is always need for extra food-packs for needy families at Holiday Time.



### NOVEMBER BASIC

2.6 lbs Chicken Thighs

1 lb Fully Cooked Roast Beef

1 lb Pork Sausage Roll

8 oz Chicken Nuggets

1 lb Pollock Fillets

Plus a variety of fruits and vegetables. Basic package Guaranteed Retail Value of \$36 or more.. You pay only \$18.

### NOVEMBER SPECIALS

#### Holiday Turkey Package \$23.00

12-14 lb Turkey, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Sweet Potato Pie, Dinner Rolls, Gravy, plus Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

#### Meat Box \$12.00

2.6 lbs Chicken Thighs, 1 lb Fully Cooked Shaved Roast Beef, 1 lb Pork Sausage Roll, 8 oz. Chicken Nuggets, 1 lb Pollock Fillets

#### Steak Box \$16.00

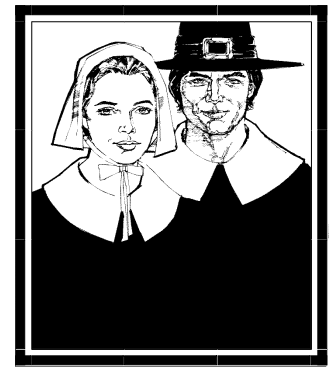
10-15 oz Bacon Wrapped Steaks

For two hours of volunteer service per month, you may purchase as much food as you wish over the minimum \$18 purchase.





## THANKSGIVING



### ~ Spend Thanksgiving With Our Church Family ~

Thanksgiving has always been a family time for us.  
It is a time to gather together with the ones you love  
and share in the bounty that God has provided.  
It is a time for memories and celebrating family traditions.

Of course, not all of us have families near this time of the year.  
My family is scattered (Iris and me being the ones who are among the farthest flung)  
around the state, and Kimberly and Marshall each have their own relationships  
to nurture and establish as they set up their own traditions.

There are a lot of people who have families up North or find they are alone right now.  
So we would like to celebrate Thanksgiving with you again this year,  
sharing together as part of a Church Family.

We will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner in the Fellowship Hall on  
Thursday, November 23rd, 2006, starting at 1 PM.

We will provide the turkeys, coffee and tea, and we are asking that you bring  
two favorite dishes ~ two of your traditional recipes ~ to share with the group  
(one of my grandmother's favorite recipes was Publix's salad.)

Every individual and each family is welcome. If you have out-of-town guests,  
they are also welcome. If you just don't feel like cooking, this is the answer for you.

Come and share the fun, the singing and the games, and, of course,  
some of the best food that will be served anywhere this Thanksgiving.

If you would like to help with the set-up, clean-up, cooking a turkey,  
or decorations, please call Mark or Iris Whittaker.

~ Pastor Mark

#### You Can Count On Us For Thanksgiving At The Church

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

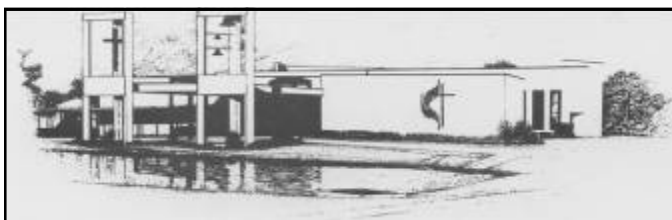
Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ CeLL: \_\_\_\_\_

Two Dishes I Will Bring: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return This Form to the Church Office by Friday, November 17th.

**First United Methodist Church  
of Homosassa**

8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL, 34448



**A Stephen Ministry  
Church**

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

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

**Rev. Mark Whittaker**  
Pastor

**Sunday Schedule**

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

**Nursery at all services**

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

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

**Office Hours: Weekdays**

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

**Office Telephone: 628-4083**

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**Jan Wise, Copy Editor**

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