

GENESIS

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

Open Hearts ~ Open Minds ~ Open Doors

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In 1 Corinthians 3:10, Paul tells us that by the grace of God he was able to lay a foundation for others to build upon.

One of our responsibilities as Christians is to make certain we have a firm foundation laid for our faith. We are also to help those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord to come to know him, teaching them the importance of building a firm foundation for their new faith.

The process of foundation-building doesn't happen overnight. It takes patience and a willingness to experience occasional failure as we put together the necessary building blocks for faith and understanding to develop.

Because a foundation must be able to withstand a great deal of stress, it needs to be strong and well-built or what is built upon it will collapse.

Paul goes on to tell us we need to build with "good stuff" rather than "junk," in order to be able to stand against the testing that will come.

One of the things needed to build our base so it will withstand any test the world throws at us is the foundational stone of thanksgiving.

We need to be thankful first to God for he is the

Creator. We would be nothing, the world would not be, without God choosing to speak into the chaos, bringing order and purpose to the void.

We are thankful he sent his only Son to live and die for us that we might have eternal life.

We are grateful God has provided a means for us to be reconciled with him and to receive his promise of forgiveness.

We also can be thankful for all those who have touched and influenced our lives, helping us build on our foundation.

There was a Mr. Baker, who was my teacher in the sixth grade. He convinced me that I could succeed if I would only try.

Then I'm thankful for Mrs. Parrish, who was the director of Christian Education in Winter Park when I was in the 10th grade. She put on the youth retreat where I heard God's call to the ministry.

We can also be thankful for all we have of the good things of this earth.

We are blessed with food and clothing and things that would have made a ruling king of Jesus' time envious.

We have enough and more, and we need to acknowledge our thanks for what God enables us to receive.

We can also be thankful for the opportunity to serve,

to reach out and touch another life with the love and grace of God. We are given the privilege of making a difference in the lives of others for no other reason than that God loves them.

Thanksgiving is only one of the foundation stones needed to build our faith, but without it our foundation will not hold up.

Let's make this Thanksgiving a time of shoring up our foundations with thanksgiving memories from the past, appreciation for the present and praise for the eternal future our God has provided for us.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; he love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)



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.

That I may know him



Philippians 3:10, KJV

The Purpose of Genesis is to:

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

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

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

Stewardship Spirit

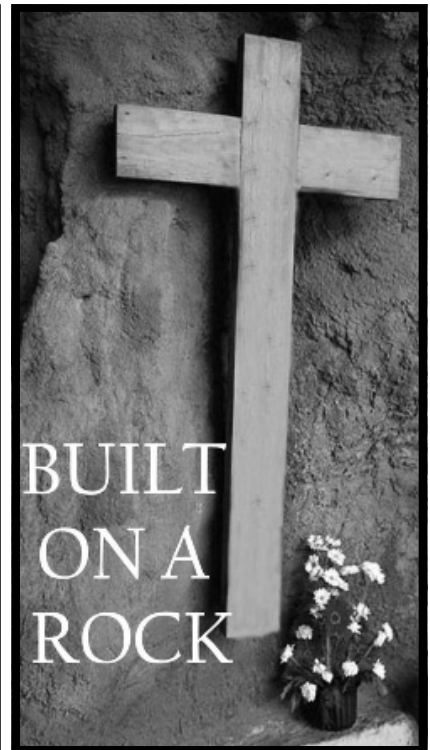
When I was a child my family would take our annual day trip to Hampton Beach. We would load the station wagon with the beach supplies, and my parents, two brothers and I would take off. My brothers and I couldn't wait to get into the water. We would run like crazy and jump into the freezing, cold water...all the while my mother yelling, "Watch out for the undertow." I can remember several times being dragged under by a fierce wave and thrashing around, hoping to come to the surface. While I always made it, it was frightening. I had no plan on how to deal with the undertow.

That childhood experience came to mind when I was asked to write about stewardship. I thought it would have been nice if I had a plan to deal with the undertow instead of being afraid and not knowing what to do. Today, I am glad I have my faith in God to help me through life. Yes, I may become frightened, worried or distressed. But, I know God is with me, and He is my aid and comfort. I have a plan. But my faith in God did not happen overnight.

Being part of a church family is important in building our relationship with God. We attend Sunday services, Bible studies, Sunday school. We do mission work, sing in choirs, participate in prayer groups, work groups, committees and on and on and on. We are a family working together, building our faith.

"Built on a rock, our church will stand," the song says. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for this year's stewardship campaign. "Each person should give what he has decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."—2 Corinthians 9:7.

Yours in Christ,
~ Jill Wickliffe



"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:23-25



LOVING AS A DISCIPLE

Have you ever said, "I never will" and then found yourself doing exactly what you were never going to do? When Tom and I visited Florida briefly over twenty years ago, we said, "We will never live in Florida - too hot, too humid." Now we are in our ninth year as northern transplants.

1) The disciple Peter had a "never will" experience. In Mark 14:27-31, Jesus tells the disciples they will all "fall away" or leave him. Peter declares, "Even if all fall away, I will not." But Jesus, knowing the limitations of human love, responds, "I tell you the truth...today - yes, tonight - before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times."

Peter, sure of his love and loyalty to Jesus, insists emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

The next sentence in that passage receives little attention because we focus on Peter. But following Peter's declaration, we read, "And all the others said the same."

Do you think Peter really meant what he said to Jesus?

Did he fully intend, with all his heart, to stick with Jesus no matter what might come? _____

How about the rest of the disciples? _____

2) Read Mark 14:50. How many deserted Jesus and fled?

Now read Mark 14:66-72 to see what happened to Peter. Did Jesus know the limitations of his followers better than they knew their own limitations? _____

In Acts 1:24, as Peter speaks to the those in the Upper Room, he makes a statement he has learned is truth: "Lord, you know _____'s heart."

3) Jesus taught much about being a disciple. One of his teachings that seems hard and even unreasonable to us is found in Luke 14:25-27. "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

He is not telling us not to love those dear to us nor for us to

hate the very life God has given us. But as disciples we are called to love Jesus far more than we love these, and he uses the love/hate exaggeration to make his point.

4) The relationship love Jesus is asking for in this discipleship requirement is not based on our human love, not on the kind of love Peter and the other disciples were exhibiting as they swore to never leave Jesus. The love he is seeking from a disciple is a God-given love, available only through an intimate relationship with himself and the Father. 1 John 4:19 says it this way, "We love because _____."

Who starts the love cycle? _____

5) Read John 21:15-22 to see how Jesus brings this realization to Peter. How many times does Jesus ask Peter if he loves him? _____

Peter answers with all his heart, but still out of his human love for Jesus. It seems Jesus is asking Peter if he is willing to love with the kind of love necessary to be a true disciple, to be one who has both the God-love and the God-willingness to care for those who will become followers of Christ. In Verses 18-29, Jesus tells Peter what it will cost him to answer the call to discipleship. How does this relate to Jesus' teaching about loving him enough to "hate" one's own life?

6) In Acts 2:40-41, we see Peter, having received the Holy Spirit, preaching to a large crowd, many of whom participated in events leading to Jesus' death on the cross. As he warns and pleads with these "sheep," how has he changed?

What happens? _____

7) The Bible teaches that everyone who receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, receives his Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5:22, what is the first fruit of the Spirit listed?

The Lord does not ask us to love with the sacrificial love of Christ without planting the seed of that love within us. It is a love which operates far beyond the limitations of human love.

What Jesus requires for his disciples, he provides for his disciples.

THINK ABOUT IT:

If you have invited Jesus Christ into your heart and life, his Holy Spirit now lives in you, bringing with him the fruit of the God-love Jesus requires of his disciples.

•So are you are equipped to say "yes" to Jesus' call to discipleship? You are enabled to love him beyond any love you have for the dearest people in your life, beyond the selfish desire to preserve your own life. Yet your love for others will not be diminished but will be enlarged as it grows beyond the selfish limitations of human love.

•How will you choose to respond to the invitation of Jesus from Luke 14, "If anyone comes to me....."?

Holiday Food Baskets

Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas the community comes together, and, working through the church, reaches out to the people in our area that are struggling to make ends meet, people who don't have the extra we take for granted to make a joyful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Each year during November we ask the congregation to help with the funds for a Thanksgiving celebration.

We purchase 50 food packages from S.H.A.R.E. and supplement that with a gift card from Sweet Bay so the recipients can get milk and eggs, etc.

At Christmas we do it again, plus we work with the Women's Golf Associations at Sugarmill and Southern Woods to provide an abundance of toys for the children.

For many years the members of the church have given freely to make sure we have the resources necessary to purchase the food for these two important holidays.

We will provide offering envelopes for this gift in the pews, as well as in the mail, during November. We hope that you will be as generous as you have been in years past so we can share God's love with our community.

~ Pastor Mark

2008 Couples Spiritual Retreat Our Weekend March 14 - 16

Speakers:

Rev. Riley Short

Rev. Candace Lewis

Rev. Charlie Reeb

Rev. Debbie Mak - Rev. Don Taylor

Music - Worship Leaders

John & Margie Anderson

So mark your calendars. If there are enough of you, we can reserve the bus. Let's get a move on; with these speakers, it will fill up fast! The brochures aren't even out yet, but we have the information for you – see how special you are? Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

~ Marilyn Watson



In my zeal, I prayed,
"Teach me a prayer
that will change the world."
He replied,
"Pray a prayer that changes you;
Then you will have changed the
world."

Janice Wise

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS December 2

Pardon me if you think I'm pushing the Christmas Holidays too soon. It's not even Thanksgiving, and I'm already talking about Christmas gifts!

But, I'll bet the thought has already come to you, too.

You have a long list and very few good ideas.

But please stop fretting; maybe we can be of help.

Through your Church, you can give a gift that will please the recipient, as well as help needy people in our own community and around the world. We will have gift certificates for:

Habitat of Citrus

The Heifer Project

The Society of St. Andrews.

We will supply you a list of the needs for each of these projects and the price of the gifts:

- With Heifer International and friends like you, we can honor people with the gifts of Heifer livestock and training. For more than 60 years, Heifer International and friends like you have been proving that there's no better way to help a family escape poverty and hunger than by providing them with sustainable means of supporting themselves.
- The Society of St. Andrews is a national hunger relief organization that feeds hungry Americans by salvaging nutritious produce that would otherwise go to waste. Each \$10 gift donation to the Society of St. Andrews - announced with an exclusive Christmas card - helps provide about 750 servings of nourishing food, while honoring a family member or friend.
- You may have seen the work in our own community done by Habitat of Citrus. They have many gifts to choose from and you can help by donating these items to help build a home for someone without a home of their own. There are various items to pick from and we will have the prices posted several weeks ahead of time for you all to see and make your decisions.

On Dec. 2nd bring your list from the Nov. 18 & 25, and Dec. 2nd Sunday Bulletins, along with a check book, or filled-out form with check included, and all of your (adult) shopping can be done with one check to one or all of these ministries.

You will be proud of the Christmas certificates that you can send to someone for Christmas, or perhaps put in their stocking. And, I'm sure they will love the gift and the thought that goes with it.

~ Marcia Bader

Education and Ministries

Nothing is as exciting as seeing the Lord work in people's lives. I heard last week someone in one of the groups exclaim, "Oh, this is so exciting."

She was in a Bible study and had caught a glimpse of the breadth of knowledge available to her about God - His person, His character.

At Wonderful Wednesday, another participant in one of the groups told me she read the prescribed reading for the day but got so curious about the whole story that she just kept reading.

The wonder of the Word! How thrilling to be part of a church where disciples are still learning.

Bible Studies:

The new Companions in Christ group met for the first time on the first day of October, and we had a full house. Marilyn Watson leads this group, and she has said she will be glad to offer a second group. If you are interested, call Marilyn or me.

Disciple I and Disciple IV have begun, and a number of people have committed to these long-term, life-changing studies. You would have to play "catch up" if you entered the classes now, but that isn't impossible. The material is really good, and you might be surprised at your own pleasure and growth as a result of being in one of these studies.

Small Groups:

Many people stop by my office to tell me how much they are enjoying their small groups - the fellowship, the activities, and the study. If you are not in a small group, I hope you will think about joining one. Call me and I'll help you think through your options.

The Directory:

By the time you read this, the directory should be in the printers' hands. Life Touch has promised that we will have our pictures by early December and our directory soon after.

A wonderful committee has spent hours working on this, and we hope you will enjoy the finished product.

The Youth:

The youth have been having fun and working hard. They plan to continue these breakfasts - one every six weeks - to help raise the money to go to camp in 2008 at Lake Junaluska. Thanks to all who have support them by eating breakfast on Sunday mornings.

If you have been on one of Bill Brobst's excursions, you must have noticed the immaculate condition of the bus. Bill keeps the outside shining, and the youth keep the inside spic and span. Thanks to both for their hard work.

The Children:

Ruth Eaton, Kay Bast, Kim Bennett, and I visited St. Paul UMC to learn more about a new Sunday school program. We came home so excited about this approach to teaching children, which the Education Advisory Committee has approved. Even with the new construction, we should have a really meaningful and fun program up and running by mid-spring. This is a great program for our children. We hope parents will enroll all children under the age of twelve. You'll hear much more about it as we near January. And by the way, our youth will be assisting, on a rotation basis. So if you are in the teen years, there will be a place for you, too.

I continue to be excited that God allows me to have a part in the leadership of the ministries of our church. I thank Him and you for making every day of my life a precious adventure.

I have long loved Philippians 1:3, and I recently read it in *The Message* paraphrase: "Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart!" That fits my thinking right now.

~ Patience Nave

Open House At Parsonage November 25

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 22, 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



GIVE THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

The books listed each month are just a sample of the many that are on the shelves of the Church Library. You are invited to come in and browse. When you take a book, simply date and sign the pocket card and leave it in the yellow box on the office desk. Library hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and also on Sunday morning.

1. "True Light," by a #1 best selling suspense author: This is the third book in the Christian suspense Restoration series. "Night Light" and "Last Light" are the first two books. Darkness deepens in a civilization now eight months without power. The residents of Oak Hollow grapple with the crippling blackout, the frigid winter nights without heat, and the struggle to survive. The Branning family are the only ones defending a young out-cast, Mark Green, suspected in a shooting. The family is faced with a choice - to hoard their possessions to survive or trust God to provide - as they offer their resources to others while helping Mark find the person who really pulled the trigger.

2. "A State of Grace," one of the Mystery and the Minister's Wife series by Traci Depree: Pastor Paul Hanlon and his wife settle into their new life in Copper Mill, a place of tradition and tranquility. Soon they find that small town life is anything but boring. The mysteries that Kate uncovers are puzzling. As she seeks God's wisdom, Kate begins to see that grace is all around us.

3. "Through the Fire," another Mystery and the Minister's Wife story by Diane Noble: After Kate and her husband arrive in Copper Mill to see the last smoldering embers of their new parish, Faith Briar Church, Kate uncovers some clues that suggest this fire was more than an accident. While she works to solve this mystery, she and her husband also rally the congregation to rebuild their church. Through all this, will Kate and Paul find the strength to stick with their commitment?

4. "Saving Levi," by Lisa Misraje Bentley: Left to die - destined to live, a true story about a tiny baby boy covered with 3rd & 4th degree burns over 70% of his body. He shrieked in agony in a cold village field on the outskirts of Lanfang, China. Horrified villagers gathered around, then walked away, but one older man stayed behind, gathered up the child and went for help. His compassion and courage sparked a momentous chain of events. The author says, "Some saw nothing but problems for this child. I saw nothing but hope." People from different countries,

faiths, and social backgrounds, participated in the successful battle to save his life and secure his future. A wonderful, uplifting story!

5. "Sophie's Dilemma," Book #2 of "Daughters of Blessing" by Lauraine Snelling: Sophie Knutsen is certain she can't live without Hamre Bjorklund and rejects her father's request to postpone her marriage until after graduation. She and Hamre elope and she finds life as a fisherman's wife in Ballard, Washington, is not so great. Pregnant and lonely while Hamre is at sea, she is alone when tragedy strikes. Sophie can think only of returning home to Blessing but wonders if her family will welcome her after the way she hurt them by her defiant behavior. That is Sophie's dilemma.

6. Three novels in one volume of the Women of Faith fiction collection are below:

"Sandpebbles," a story of hope by Patricia Hickman: Recently widowed March Longfellow efficiently commandeers the lives of her son, her pastor father, and the staff of the small town newspaper she owns. When a new pastor comes to town, March finds her life thrust into a new direction - one she cannot control.

"Stranded in Paradise," a story of letting go by Lori Copeland: Tess Nelson feels she can juggle all areas of her life. Then when the rug is pulled out from under her and she loses her boyfriend and a job promotion, she is sent on a trip to get herself together. When a tropical storm hits her island-paradise, Tess meets a fellow traveler who may hold the secret to the peace, inner strength, and courage her soul aches for.

"The Pearl," a story of the heart, by Angela Hunt: Talk-show radio host Dr. Diana Sheldon has suffered a great loss, but a research foundation has contacted her, offering an answer to her family's anguish. Determined to let nothing stand between her and healing for her broken heart, Diana proceeds along a dangerous course where the healing process may prove more destructive than the hurt.

7. "No Eye Can See," by Jane Kirkpatrick, Book Two of the Kinship & Courage Series: A novel of kinship, courage and faith. Widowed during a westward trek with their husbands, twelve women must now press on alone over the Sierra Nevadas and into California. When they settle in Shasta City, California, their lives become even further entwined with each other. Each one has a problem and they band together, caring for each other and shielding one another from harm. They discover that no eye can see all the good God has in store for them. This is a sequel to "All Together in One Place."

8. "A Woman's Place," a novel by Lynn Austin: Under the storm clouds of destruction that threaten America during the early 1940's, this unlikely gathering of women will experience life in sometimes startling new ways as their beliefs are challenged and they struggle toward a

new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly mean. Virginia longs to find a purpose beyond others' expectations; Helen is driven by a loneliness money cannot fulfill; Rosa is desperate to flee her in-laws' rules, and Jean hopes to prove herself in a man's world.

9. "A Tale of Three Kings," by Gene Edwards: A study in brokenness, submission, and authority. All over the world Christians have taken to heart this simple, powerful, and beautiful story of David, Saul, and Absalom.

10. "Eat Cake," a novel by Jeanne Roy: Ruth loves to bake cakes for all occasions, especially to nurture her family. Problems arise when her mother moves in after robbers kick in her front door. Then her father shatters both his wrists and moves in too. Her mother and father hate each other. Add to the mix two teen-agers and a husband who is suddenly without a job. What a delightful and amusing concoction! This is funny, believable, and full of surprises.

11. "Honeymoon with My Brother," a memoir by Franz Wisner: A funny thing happened to the author on the way to the altar. His fiancée dropped him just days before the wedding. With the festivities prepaid and guests on the way, he decided to have his wedding anyway – just without a bride. He then chose to take his brother on his scheduled Costa Rican honeymoon. During the trip, realizing that turning his life upside down wasn't such a bad thing after all, he and his brother quit their jobs, sold their homes, and continued the "honeymoon" for 2 years and 53 countries. This is an inspiring story of escape, discovery, strengthening relationships, and grasping opportunity.

Our newest DVE is the 60th Anniversary Edition of an old movie, "State Fair" starring Jeanne Crain and Dana Andrews. Disc Two is the 1962 version starring Pat Boone.

The following audio tapes are each 6 hours long.

"Overcoming Overload" by Steve Farrar. There's a spiritual solution to the chaotic experience of stress overload. Learn how to trade in the things that lead you to distraction for practices that restore your strength and vitality.

"Gettin' There" by Steve Farrar. Life is a journey and the going gets pretty rugged at times. No matter where you are on the trail, take heart. Discover the footsteps of King David and of the Great Shepherd himself. There's a light up ahead.

FOR THE TRAVELLERS TO IRELAND: We have a selection of magazines about Ireland.



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING
FROM YOUR LIBRARY STAFF!**
Barbara Jackson and Helen Lefave



Divorce Rate A Myth!

In an article published in the New York Times September 29, 2007, called "Divorced From Reality," professors Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers contradict the prevailing belief that over half of all marriages end in divorce. One paragraph in the article says:

"The story of ever-increasing divorce is a powerful narrative. It is also wrong. In fact, the divorce rate has been falling continuously over the past quarter-century, and is now at its lowest level since 1970. While marriage rates are also declining, those marriages that do occur are increasingly more stable. For instance, marriages that began in the 1990s were more likely to celebrate a 10th anniversary than those that started in the 1980s, which, in turn, were also more likely to last than marriages that began back in the 1970s."

This should not be news to you. Look around. We have people in this church who are celebrating their 50th almost every month. We have people who are celebrating 60 and 65 years together every year.

There may be fewer marriages in this moment in time but marriage is not on the rocks, it is not failing, it is and will remain the bed rock of our society.

If you would like to read the whole article the web page is <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/29/opinion/29wolfers.html>

~ Mark Whitaker



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.

We'll start collecting Snickers bars on the first Sunday in December

Thank you,
Missions Committee

Walking on the Path by Patience Nave

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Psalm 119:18 NIV

This psalm intrigues me. The psalmist speaks over and over about the law and always with words of high praise. He surely considers law in a totally different framework than we do! We never - or seldom ever - speak of law positively. We complain about laws that restrict us, make unfair demands on us, or take from our bank accounts. They tax us unfairly, won't let us drive as we please, prevent us from "self expression." Why is the psalmist's opinion of law so different from ours?

Psalm 119 is long - the longest chapter in the Bible - and there's room to talk about lots of things, but the writer stays focused on what he considers to be the incredible attributes of God's law and its benefits to God's people. He says that law keepers don't make mistakes (verse 3), have upright hearts (verse 7), and are as happy as those who have great wealth (verse 14). They view the law as more precious than thousands of pieces of silver and gold (verse 72); they have great delight in just thinking about the law (verse 24). He begins the thirteenth stanza of his poem, "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long." (verse 97)

The words challenge me. Can I learn to contemplate as the psalmist does on this law of God, this great plan for how we should live? Can I learn to find joy in just thinking about it? Can I learn to recognize that the law is not there to make me miserable, to restrict me, impoverish me, but there to bring me joy, enrich me, free me to live to the fullest? Can I learn that remembering and enjoying and obeying this carefully prepared law can bring pleasure and purpose to my life? Can I learn that, as I contemplate God's awesome law, I gain insight into the person of my awesome God? Can I ever reach the place I can say with the psalmist of this law that "was established forever" (verse 152), "My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end, . . . [for] I love your law" (verse 112, 113b).

How grateful I feel to be reminded of the law as one of God's most generous gifts to His creation.

Prayer: Thank you, Father, that You have revealed something of Your very nature in the law that You have given us, to guide us into a full and meaningful life and into relationship with You. Teach us to love the law and to receive it as Your gift. Amen

SEPTEMBER 2007 JOINERS

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Jim & Pat Archer
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"Practicing the Presence"

The Women's Retreats provide women a time to intentionally come away from the responsibilities of their home, children, families, and jobs; to set their feet on holy ground; and to meet Jesus Christ face to face. Each of the attendees will receive every unique blessing of words of encouragement, rest, and renewal for their souls. You will also enjoy fellowship of women from all around the state who have needs just like yourself. Learn through His Word and the praise of His Name what it means how to live day-by-day, moment-by-moment, in His Presence.

~ Marilyn Watson

Reserve your spot for the November and/or December trips.

Friday, November 16:

Silver Springs (in Ocala) for the Native American Festival. The \$35.00 cost will include the bus and admission to the park. Lunch, on your own, will be available at various sites within the park. Departure will be at 9 a.m. from the church parking lot.

Wednesday, December 12:

Christmas Musical Revue Matinee at the Show Palace Dinner Theater in Hudson. The cost for the buffet lunch, show, and transportation is \$55.00. We will depart at 10:30 a.m. Since this is a special event, we'll have a 55-passenger bus, so more of you can participate.

For more information or registration,
call Bill or Neretta Brobst at 621-3736.

Stephen Ministries

Turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie...friends and family members gathered around the table...prayers of grateful hearts lifted in response to many blessings. It's holiday time.



But perhaps there is an empty chair this year. Death or divorce, relocation or relationship changes have suddenly altered long-held traditions. Everyone else seems so happy, so well-adjusted, while others grieve the loss of what used to be.

The holiday season is not all jolly for many folks in our congregation and community. Stephen Ministers attempt to ease the pain by offering weekly visits and telephone support for short-term or longer time periods, walking beside those who seek a trusted companion.

This ministry continues to grow, as men and women are assigned to specific individuals. Stephen Leaders hope to schedule another 50-hour initial training session to interested prospective caregivers after the application and interview process is completed.

If you or someone that you care about would like to connect with a Stephen Minister caregiver, or if you wish to explore becoming part of this lay ministry, contact Diane (382-7242), Kay (382-4908), or the church office.

PRAY FOR SMALL GROUPS



The new Companions In Christ group *requests* your prayers for His guidance as we meet each Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Please pray for the new DBSI group each Tuesday when they meet at 9:30 a.m. and for the DBSIV group each Thursday at 7 p.m.

Continued prayer for the formation of each of the new small groups is appreciated. Please pray for the Lord to lead each person to the group He intends for them to join.

~ Marilyn Watson

Giving at Year End

Here are some reminders and suggestions for tax-wise Christians who may want to maximize their stewardship dollars before the end of 2007.

IRA Accounts. If you are over the age of 70 ½, you may make a tax free gift to FUMCH directly from your IRA and completely exempt from your income. This 2-year provision is set to expire at the end of 2007 and, so far, congress has not acted to extend it. When you give from an IRA account, under this provision, these funds will never be subject to income or estate taxes. Check with your IRA administrator to arrange for a direct transfer.

If you itemize on your income tax, it may be to your advantage to pay ahead on your pledge to the church Operating Budget or to the Building Fund, increasing your charitable deduction for 2007. As we approach the end of the year and get ready to begin our new Phase 3 construction, it is also a great time to make a special gift to the Building for Tomorrow Fund.

Review/ update your will. If it has been several years since you reviewed your will, now is a good time to do it. You may find that you want to make some changes. And, by naming your church in your will, you can continue your Christian stewardship even after your death.

Consider a Planned/ Deferred Gift. Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts are great ways to give to FUMCH in the future while enjoying a regular income stream during the remainder of your lifetime. Both have some significant tax incentives.

So why not use these last two months of the year to make a gift to FUMCH that will make a difference in our ministry - and also save you some tax dollars?

Information is available at the church office and from Rev. Richard Evans, Chairman of the Permanent Endowment Committee.

“I can delight my Lord;
I can disappoint him.
BUT

I can never do anything that will make him
Love me more or
Love me less.”

Jan Wise

Youth: Helping Ourselves and Others

Our Youth Group again wishes to offer its thanks to all of you who helped to make our Continental Breakfast on October 14th a success. The students enjoyed serving you and are glad everyone seemed to enjoy the bagels, muffins, breads, and other goodies. Your support is very much appreciated and will help the youth toward their goal of raising funds to attend church camp in North Carolina next summer.

In keeping with these fundraising efforts, the Youth Group will also have a table at the UMW Bazaar on November 3rd, and at the Yard Sale on November 10th, offering a number of items for sale. We wish to thank Mrs. Pat Blake and her group for so graciously allowing us to participate.

Lest you think that all of our time and energy are directed to accumulating money, we would like to tell you of two of our other activities. Under the guidance of Wayne and Krissy Brown, we have been using the church computer lab to research career and appropriate web sites to learn more about various fields and professions, to see which schools will prepare us for our chosen paths, and to find financial aid possibilities to assist us in reaching our goals. We hope to use the talents and abilities that God has given each of us to help ourselves and others in the future.

Another activity we have been pursuing is the creation of plaques, with inspirational Bible verses, decorated in autumn colors. When completed, these will be given to the Visitation Committee to take to those members of the congregation they will be visiting before Thanksgiving. Perhaps these small gifts will help to add a bit of cheer to their days and will assure them that we are thinking of them. As we head toward the Christmas season, we will be doing other similar projects with appropriate themes.

We welcome new ideas and opportunities for future activities, so if you are inclined to assist us in any way, please contact Mrs. Patience Nave, who will bring the topic to the Youth Council. Or, better yet, become a member of the Youth Council and help us achieve our goals.

~ Neretta T. Brobst

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

November 14 ~ Habitat for Humanity

November 28 ~ Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park

Watch for details in your weekly bulletins.

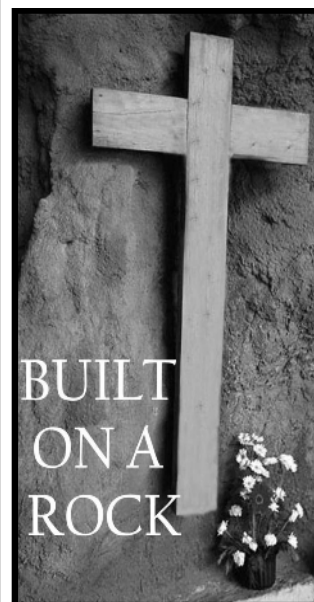
Building Fund Income

We are still ecstatic about the wonderful response of this congregation to our "Time to Build Challenge" this past March. We not only reached, but exceeded, our goal of raising \$200,000. That provided enough cash for the down-payment on a mortgage for phase 3 construction when the time comes later this year.

In the meantime, we continue to monitor the income from our current 3-year building fund pledge campaign. Our financial officers tell us that income has fallen a little below expectations this year. While some of this may be due to the usual summer-time low, it is important that we maintain a steady income level there as well. As we explained during the campaign, the \$200,000 campaign boosted our down payment up above the minimum required; the regular building fund pledge income will cover the monthly payments once we obtain a mortgage. Both are very important. We estimated the size of mortgage we could support from past income received, but if that income drops, the size of mortgage we can afford will have to be adjusted down.

So, if you have dropped behind in the amount you estimated you could give to the building fund on a regular basis, please pray about this, and do what you can to catch up. If you are not contributing to the building fund on a regular basis, please consider doing so now. The current 3-year campaign runs through the end of 2008; pledge cards and envelopes for this purpose are available at the church office. We thank you for your generous support of this important project to enhance our facilities and extend our ministries in this congregation and the community.

~ Dave Marquis



YOU'RE INVITED

to share in a joyous musical celebration of

God's great generosity featuring:
TUNED TO REVIVAL,
JUBLIATION,
and more.

**STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY**

November 11, 2007

8am, 9:30am, 11am
Services



From Your Church Administrator...

Is it November already? October 11th was my one year anniversary as administrator here at FUMC and it has been a great, albeit busy, year. I have always known that God brought me to this church for a specific purpose in his master plan, but I never imagined I would have the privilege to serve Him along side so many wonderful people.

I am still amazed everyday at the love, compassion and talents of the people in this congregation who truly love the Lord. I am just as amazed at the willingness of the congregation to work together to further the teachings that Jesus taught us so many years ago.

Serving the Lord through this congregation has been a blessing to me and my family, and I thank you all for allowing me to do so. Please know that my door is always open, and I welcome you to call on me if you need assistance. Even though most every minute of my day is packed with many things to do, I will always do my best to assist you or at least point you in the direction of someone who can.

I continue to be excited about this growing congregation, and I thank God daily that I am a part of this loving family.

With Christian love,
~Theresa

August 27, 2007

Mark Whittaker, Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
8831 W Bradshaw St
Homosassa, Florida 34446

Dear Pastor Whittaker,

Please tell the congregation of First Methodist that their generous welcome to our seminar guests on August 25 was so very well received. It was such a pleasure to use Room 113 and Room 114 as well as all the equipment that was available.

Dale Evans, the custodian, was helpful the previous week as we looked at the rooms together and then he set them up according to what we had discussed. Judith Huffer added her graphic gifts to a poster to publicize and encourage. Patience Nave met with me to pray. She was a gracious hostess and welcomed each of the guests. Patience also brought a lunch provided by the church and helped us clean up afterwards.

Please tell the Sunday School teachers that we hope all was in order on the following day. Having an opportunity to hold a public meeting in this kind of protected space made the process seem effortless. The support provided by this team of Christians was an added blessing.

It is our hope that good news will always be well received by those who need it. The church's willingness to provide this space was the Gospel in action.

Sincerely yours,
Penny L Phares ARNP/RPT

A HANDY LITTLE CHART from Barbara Smurphat

You say: "It's impossible."	God says: All things are possible.	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired."	God says: I will give you rest.	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me."	God says: I love you.	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't figure things out."	God says: I will direct your steps.	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it."	God says: You can do all things.	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able."	God says: I am able.	(2 Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it."	God says: It will be worth it.	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself."	God says: I Forgive you.	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage."	God says: I will supply all your needs.	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid."	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear.	(2 Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated."	God says: Cast all your cares on ME.	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough."	God says: I give you wisdom.	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone."	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you.	(Hebrews 13:5)



AA MEETINGS

The Yule Drive Absolute AA Group meets every Thursday from 8 to 9 p.m. in our Chapel (accessed from Yule Drive). It is an open meeting for men and women of all ages who want to stop drinking or have stopped drinking.

For more information on this newly-formed AA group, call George at (352) 503-3961.

AL-ANON (COURAGE FAMILY GROUP)

This is for spouses, relatives, and friends and meets on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in Room 102.

For more information call Robbi at (352) 270-3827. Men and women of all ages are welcome whether or not your loved one is still drinking.

AA HISTORY AND STATS

From the beginning of AA in 1935, its members have recognized that word-of-mouth is not sufficient by itself to carry the program's message of hope and recovery to the many people still suffering from alcoholism.

The public media has been a vital part of this effort, and today we estimate that there are more than 2 million successfully recovering members of Alcoholics Anonymous groups meeting in more than 180 countries.

The principle of anonymity is a basic tenet of the AA fellowship. Those who are reluctant to seek our help may overcome their fear if they are confident that their anonymity is respected in AA and Al-Anon family groups.

MASSING OF THE COLORS.



The choir would like to invite everyone in the congregation to a special ceremony on Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 11 at 3 PM. This special "Massing of the Colors" will be held in our sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. Our choir will be featured and will be singing some patriotic selections for the event. This is a community event that is held each year at different area churches. Come out and support our veterans! Hope to see you there.

Veterans Day

~Mary Kay

Church member, Ted Archambault, is Vice Commandant of his Marine Detachment #819 and his members will be taking part in the ceremony. Other branches of the services have been invited to participate. If you need details, please call Ted at 382-0462.

Building Committee Selects Builder for Phase 3 Project

On Monday, Sept 24, the Building For Tomorrow Committee voted to hire Bollenback Builders Inc. of Oldsmar, FL, under a construction management arrangement. Under this agreement, Bollenback will provide some pre-construction services – in particular an early estimate of construction costs, plus some early-value engineering in consultation with the architect. Once the plans and specification are complete, Bollenback will solicit bids for all of the subcontracts and put together a Guaranteed Maximum Price. Bollenback will then serve as general contractor for the construction project. They will work under a fixed fee, and their books will be open to us so that we will know exactly where our money is being spent. Throughout the process, they will be looking for value engineering possibilities – ways to reduce costs without lowering quality or space. It was felt that this arrangement had significant advantages over the usual practice of waiting for the plans and specifications to be completed, then going out for a lump sum bid from general contractors.

Bollenback has built four Methodist churches in our District of Florida alone. Some of you may be familiar with the Nativity Lutheran Church on US 19 in Weeki Wachee – another of theirs. We have checked with all of these churches and find that they have an excellent reputation for quality work at a reasonable price, and we are looking forward to working with them on our Phase 3 construction.

The architect's drawings and engineering specifications for Phase 3 are nearing completion, and we are now making plans for approval of our Phase 3 construction and financing plans. We have scheduled a meeting with the District Building and Location Committee of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church for November 8, at which time we expect to get their approval of our plans, along with the approval of our Pastor. Once we have a firm price on the construction cost, we will be scheduling a Church Charge Conference to get the approval of the congregation. We hope to schedule that in early December, providing us time to submit our loan application to the Methodist Foundation before the end of the year.

~ Dave Marquis



The Columbarium
Niches are available for purchase at \$1,200.

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

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

November Birthdays

1
Judy Bunting
2
Robert Severance
Dave Shores
Catherine Wisheart
3
Bob Specht
4
Helen Hudson
Fred Wheeler
6
Hershel Fogleman
Tom Pearo
Frank Wais
9
Dottie Baker
Theresa Harmon
Fern McWilliams
Marsella Rutter
Jo Ann Ryan
11
Jeanne Balmer
Emily Merson
Shirley Phillips
Rick Workman
12
Gunter Fahl
Gloria Megos
13
John Austin
Adam Will
14
Eleanor Smith
15
Colleen Powers Bellville
Martha Dorrell

Joan Eyster
Ann Mayles
16
Dan Nygaard
17
Wes Harris
Joan Ness
18
Beverly Calkins
19
Geraldine Frentz
Ruth Rittgers
Margrurite Seely
20
Helen West
Jeri Wrenn
22
Charles McCreery
Angie Watson
Lowanda Wells
23
Cecelia Woodward
25
Marcia Bader
26
Anna Cooley
27
Lyle Lee
28
John Dewart
Samantha McCallister
29
Helen Bachman
30
Charles McWilliams

Nov. Anniversaries

4
Ann & Jack Fasnacht
~ 57 years ~
6
Barbara & Gene Lantz
~ 53 years ~
Dot & Jack Reed
~ 64 years ~
7
Marge & Walter Dilling
~ 49 years ~
10
Ruth & Larry Healy
~ 62 years ~
11
Joan & Robert Clanfield
~ 1 year ~
13
Edythe & Richard Shaffer
~ 53 years ~
20
Jeanne & Harvey Comfort
~ 62 years ~
23
Mary Joy & Earl Speicher
~ 39 years ~
24
Elaine & Glenn Harwood
~ 42 years ~
Ann & John Mayles
~ 57 years ~
26
Anna & John Cooley
~ 54 years ~
27
Sally & Allen Moore
~ 31 years ~
Joy & Jim Potts
~ 14 years ~
30
Helen & Marvin West
~ 47 years ~

Members Residing In Long Term Care

As of October 9, 2007



- BARRINGTON**
Ken McGuire
- BRENTWOOD**
Evelyn Bash
Rene Dube
- CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH & REHAB.**
Robert Smith
- CYPRESS COVE**
Elta Whilden
- DIAMOND RIDGE**
Marjorie Cook
Maddie Wallace
- NATURE COAST LODGE**
Betty Duncan
- RICHLAND OAKS**
Bill Marquis
- SUGARMILL MANOR**
Shirley Hart
Del Parker
Grace Payne



We will be taking orders for Poinsettias to use for decorating the church during Christmas.

The price per plant will be \$10.

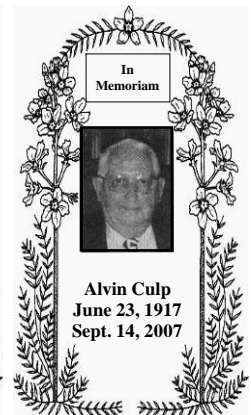
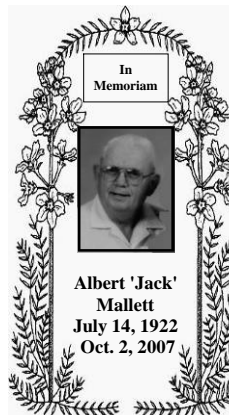
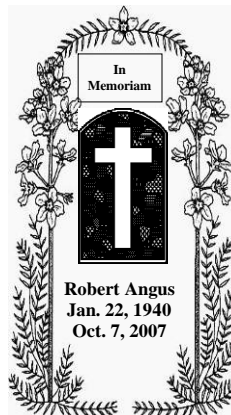
As we did at Easter, an envelope will be provided in the Narthex. Please follow the directions on the envelope and deposit it in the OFFERING PLATE.

We will be collecting on:
November 18th, 25th and December 2nd.

Plants may be picked up at the church AFTER the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve., or Thursday, December 27th.



~ Church Decorating Committee



MILITARY VETERANS' CORNER SALUTE

By Linda Gordy



Featuring Church Member Staff Sergeant Ted R. Archambault, U.S. Marine Corps Serving in Cuba, Pearl Harbor, Guadacanal and other South Pacific battles 1940-46.

In October 1940, at the age of 21, Ted Archambault, number 9 in a family of 11 children, joined the USMC and trained in Parris Island, S.C.

After training in defense tactics while earning \$ 21.00 per month, Ted was shipped to Cuba to help fortify Guantanamo Bay. A year later, he was

shipped to Pearl Harbor just 6 days before the Japanese attacked the city by air.

Ted was a combat veteran of Pearl Harbor, working at the Navy yard where 1,200 lives were lost on the USS Arizona during the December 7th attack.

In the Solomon Islands, Ted survived many ground fire attacks, bombing from the air, insects, extreme heat and wet conditions, and living in foxholes. Ted and his battalion were hit with 14 air raids over a two-day period. He did not escape malaria (twice), jaundice and acute tonsillitis. Ted was treated at make-shift field hospitals. In Ted's battalion, 600 of the 900 men contracted malaria at once. During one two-week stretch, the men survived on peanut butter and hard tack bread. Instead of pastors, the veterans called their chaplains "Sky Pilots" or "Holy Joes." This was a time everyone felt the need of spiritual encouragement.

Seeing President Roosevelt being driven through Parris Island, S.C. grounds was uplifting to the troops, but Ted's most heartfelt memory of the War is the compassion of grateful civilians who helped him handle supplies and equipment in the Solomon Islands and Hawaii.

After the War and missing 5 Christmases at home, Ted returned to Detroit, Michigan, where he went to school and entered the professional world. His career included banking, manufacturing, railroad-ing and information systems. Ted met his lovely wife, Marie Cook, in Michigan. They married in 1950, and recently celebrated their 57th anniversary.

Ted retired to Florida in 1982, where he continues to volunteer with the Marine Corps League, Republican Club, Toys For Tots, our church, Oak Village Association and other civic groups. Ted is Chairman of the 2007 Military Ball.

Thank you for serving your Country, Ted.
You are a true American. SEMPER FI!

ESTER, MY FRIEND

Ester Waters became my friend as we volunteered together for the Pioneer Club, a ministry for children of the church held on Sunday evenings in the late 1990's. Observing Ester as she instructed, corrected, and led the children in grades 1-8 in Bible stories and songs was a pleasure to behold.



Ester was a role model for all of us. She brought happiness to my husband and me by bringing her granddaughters (Sasha, Helen, and Sammie) to show us their costumes for Halloween and to sing carols for us and our neighbors at Christmas time.

Ester was an excellent student of the Bible who passed her knowledge on in a patient and loving manner. She worked with the Children's Choir, Mr. Wesley's Neighborhood, Sunday school classes, the Share food distribution, Vacation Bible School, the nursery babies, Acolytes, the Youth Group, and the Sacred Dancers.

During Christmas Eve 2006 and Easter 2007 worship services, Ester demonstrated her own talent and spirituality as a lovely sacred dancer. In all she undertook, Ester performed countless labors of love with a smile, boundless energy, and a kind word for everyone.

The Lord gave Ester her Angel Wings at age 64 on September 7, 2007. Beautiful Ester, thank you for touching my life and the lives of so many other lucky recipients of your love; we are better people for having known and loved you.

~ A grateful friend, Linda Gordy

GET THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT – IT'S ANGEL TREE TIME!



Registration will be on Sunday,
November 11th, & November 18th
in the Narthax at 9:30 and 11:00 AM.

Volunteers are needed to help with registration. Please contact Priscilla Frederick at 382-0422 or 212-4037 to lend a hand.

~ S.H.A.R.E. ~

Be Part Of It...

SHARE's 18th Annual Holiday Meal campaign is right around the corner. Stay tuned for this years "SHARE the Season" information and start making plans to spread the joy and generosity throughout your community.

Many families all over Florida will celebrate the holidays this year without a special meal. Won't you help? Come sign up for the Christmas Package, a dinner with all the trimmings.

Sign up days are November 28th and December 1st.

By the time this letter comes out, you will have missed the Thanksgiving package. Last sign-up day for that was November 3rd. Wednesday and Saturday sign-up's are always from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall.

If you are going to get in on the Christmas package, you need to come in then. SHARE'S schedule is always posted on our bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall. The sign-up days for November and December are posted all year. You will have to have your order in by December 1st or you will miss out again.

I would like to remind everyone that we will need extra help for November and December on D-Day. That's when we run two lines, one for the basic share package and one for the holiday package. On top of all this, there is a strong possibility that I will be in the hospital for a month or longer, so Nancy, June and Vicky will be keeping things going while I'm away.

October 20th will start a new year for SHARE. We have completed seven years and now starting on our eighth. This is because we have always had the volunteers to do the work. Taking orders, picking up food, sorting everything, counting, giving out the food and cleaning up are only a part of SHARE. All of this labor needs to be

done every month. What keeps it going? The friendship, fellowship and devotion to serving one another form a big part of it - volunteers who show up in good weather and bad, people who care about others.



Tom and Nancy Pearo
(352) 382-1034

Generosity of God

Has God ever used giving to draw you closer to Him? Do you know what God's Word says about money? It says a lot, you know. Giving is the one area where God says to test Him. No, this is not another message trying to get you to give. My "thing" is our spiritual growth personally and as a congregation, so my interest in our giving is in how our giving connects us to God and how it helps us grow spiritually. I can tell you this is true, not because someone told me, but because I've lived it. I've had more than one lesson! It is one of the ways God has used to teach me to trust Him.

I became a single mom in the mid70's; struggling financially was my normal. Every time I learned a new truth about giving, I would be abundantly blessed when I responded in the way God's Word instructs. I had learned bringing my tithe to the storehouse was bringing my ten percent before taxes to the church. I worked in an accounting firm before I began working for a church, so I thought of income as earned income on which you pay taxes. It never occurred to me that my widow's indemnity from the Veteran's Administration was "income" and to be counted when figuring out what my tithe would be. Then the Holy Spirit gently reminded me that HE was the one who provided that monthly "income," and without His provision I would not be able to pay the bills and raise a child. As I struggled with whether this was right, I asked my pastor and he said it was between God and me. God, however, made it perfectly clear, so my tithe almost doubled. That was the same year I'd gone from the outside world to working for the church, and my income had decreased drastically. After making those changes, amazingly there were no bills which could not be paid. My faith and trust in God greatly increased as a result of my obedience in the area of giving.

The more we show our trust in God by giving, the more we experience God's provision in our lives. God doesn't just want our money (although it pays for programs and electricity); what He really wants is our hearts. I encourage you to look up some of the Scriptures about money. One thing you'll discover (or affirm) is that it is all His anyway.

I pray our Lord will richly bless you and you will be drawn closer to Him as you experience His wonder-working power in your lives.

~ Marilyn Watson

"When I have money, I get rid of it quickly, lest it find a way into my heart." -- John Wesley

"If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."-- Bob Hope

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. He also accepteth from a grrouch."--Catherine Hall



Our customized CIE Tour of Ireland, from May 24 to June 7, 2008, will include many of the famous sites you have heard about, along with a few out-of-the-way places. CIE Tours are experts on Ireland and they have provided us with a 15-day trip at a pace that should be just right for our group of mature travelers.

We'll begin with a deluxe motor coach ride from Homosassa to Orlando International Airport and a direct overnight flight "across the pond." Our first two nights in Dublin will be at the Grand Canal Hotel. After resting from our long journey, we'll enjoy a tour of Dublin and will visit Powerscourt Gardens south of the city.

Then it's on to Limerick where we'll stay 3 nights at the Jury's Inn. On the way, we'll visit Clonmacnoice, a 6th century monastic settlement. We'll see Blarney Castle and the port city of Cobh. Shopping opportunities include beautiful woolens and the famous Waterford crystal.

A trip around the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry will offer spectacular views of the Atlantic coast and grand vistas of heather-covered hills. We'll stop in the town of Dingle and at Adare Village, with its picturesque thatched cottages and colorful gardens.

The city of Galway will be our next "home base" with 3 nights at Hotel Meyrick. Along the way we'll view the impressive Cliffs of Moher. We'll tour Galway and will enjoy the downtown location of our hotel.

A day tour to the Aran Islands will give us a glimpse of life among the farms and fishing villages on these isolated islands. Another day tour to the village of Cong will bring to life some of the scenes in the 1952 movie, *The Quiet Man*, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara.

Then we'll go on to Northern Ireland where we will stay 4 nights at the Armagh City Hotel. Armagh has been the spiritual capital of Ireland for over 1,500 years. We'll see both the Catholic and the Protestant cathedrals during our city tour. And we'll tour the city of Belfast, not far from Armagh.

The famous Giant's Causeway, along with the legends that have arisen from these huge rock formations, is on our agenda for another day. We'll also visit the walled city of Derry before returning to Armagh. A visit to the St. Patrick Centre at Downpatrick will review the history of Christianity in Ireland and the establishment of early monasteries following St. Patrick's life and ministry.

And, finally, we will return to Dublin, with a stop at Monasterboice and its famous collection of 5th century Celtic high crosses. We'll stay overnight at the Montrose Hotel, before transferring to the Dublin Airport the next morning for our direct flight to Orlando. On arrival we will be met by our motor coach, and we'll return to Homosassa full of memories of the Emerald Isle.

The tour is a very good value for the money, and the more people we have the less it will cost per person. (\$3,315 if we have 24; \$2,880 if we have 45). Single room supplement: \$485. Breakfast and dinner daily are included in the price. Pick up the information at the church office. Call me (563-5833) if you have questions. Invite friends and family members to join you. Then register with *J and L Travel*. A \$900 deposit holds your place and special airfare. The balance will be due by March 7, 2008.

~ Richard Evans



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The newly formed First United Methodist Church Prayer Shawl Ministry is an opportunity for those who knit or crochet to meet other members and to reach out in prayer and concern to others, some of whom they know well and others they will never meet. The prayer shawl recipients are intended to be wrapped in the warm and loving prayers of a Prayer Shawl and to receive God's love in a touchable way.

Volunteers create and pray over the shawls for the sick and hospitalized. The prayer shawls bring support, prayer, healing, and a feeling of connectedness and caring from the parish family during times of crisis and illness.

The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the church library to discuss present needs and/or future projects. We are interested in getting more members so if you like to crochet or knit we would love to have you join us.

Please contact: Ann Morrison, Chairman, at 352-382-2923

~ Mary Lee Millikin

NUMBERS WOMEN SHOULD KNOW

by Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse

"Know your numbers like you know your dress size." What your numbers should be to stay healthy, according to Citrus Memorial Health System's Heart Program:

Blood Pressure

Systolic: Less than 120

Diastolic: Less than 80

Total Cholesterol

Less than 200

LDL (bad) Cholesterol

Less than 100

HDL (good) Cholesterol

Less than 50

Triglycerides

Less than 150

Fasting Blood Sugar

Less than 100

Body Mass Index (BMI)

Between 18.5 and 25

Waist Size

Less than 35 inches

WOOSTREET JOURNAL



November 2007

Heading back to Siberia.....

Yes it's true; the Wooster's are finally heading back to the cold and ice of Siberia. After 15 months in the U.S., the preparations have begun to return to our first home in Russia. We received the "OK" to return to Siberia and work with another family that has been in a village alone for about four years.

We're very excited this door has been opened for us to return and get involved in a new area and new work. At this time, it looks as if we'll be working with a local birthing hospital to supply pre-natal vitamins and education for the mothers-to-be as well as working within orphanage to help meet their nutritional needs.

We will also be looking at opening a small business to help boost the economy of the village. Unemployment is about 60% in most villages in the area. There are other opportunities; we just don't have the details at this point in time. Our prayer is that we use discernment and remain in His will in each circumstance.



Meeting with director of "Vitamins for the World," with whom we will partner to supply vitamins in the village.

Kevin and Laura recently had the opportunity to attend a one-day training session with Awana (approved workmen are not ashamed). For those of you who may not be familiar with the program, they reach children from age seven to eighteen through games, bible-verse memorization, and practical life lessons using biblical examples. We see this as a tool to help strengthen the work already taking place in Eastern Siberia. Please pray for this to be used effectively.

Family Updates:

Joshua loves California and Biola University. He has been diligently working on his studies and reaching his goal of a 4.0 grade point average. We're sure he would appreciate notes of encouragement and peanut butter,..his favorite thing to eat. You can write him at: Joshua Wooster, 13800 Biola Ave., PO Box 1756, La Mirada, CA 90639. Or you can email Josh at: joshua.wooster@gmail.com . We continue to pray for his finances as he was short in scholarship money this year. We continue to trust the Lord will provide all his needs.

Corey is also doing really well. After a major car accident in August, he is finally healed enough to be back to work.

HOW TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

Spiritual Needs

- . Faithful devotions and Prayer
- . Victory over Satan
- . Awareness of God's leading

Ministry Needs

- . Opportunities for Evangelism
- . Boldness to proclaim the Gospel
- . Wise use of time and resources
- . Ability to communicate effectively

Family Needs

- . Strong, healthy marriage
- . Children's needs
- . Relatives at home
- . Being good examples

Co-worker Relationships

- . Cooperation
- . Learn from each other
- . Being good examples

Place of Service

- . Political/Economic Situation
- . Access to the country
- . Language fluency
- . Cultural sensitivity

Physical Needs

- . Health and safety
- . Loneliness and anxiety
- . Housing
- . Schooling
- . Transportation
- . Finances



First Alliance Church - The Message is Hope

**"Proclaim the good news
By living the good news
So others can hear the good news."
Pastor Mark**

Actually, he has a new job because his boss couldn't hold his job at the cabinet shop. This may seem like a bad thing, but the Lord had better plans. Corey will be starting classes in January at our local junior college. He's decided to attend classes for physical therapy assistant. Corey is also looking for a place to live so please lift this in prayer for him.

Prayer and Praise Requests;

- That God would continue to lead us as we head back overseas.
- Continue to pray for finances for all the upcoming expenses we have with the move back. Currently we are in need of about \$900.00 more in monthly support, or several one-time gifts to make up the shortfall.
- Praise for the time we have had in the states on this furlough.

Serving Together,
The Wooster's
Kevin, Laura, Joshua, and Corey

Dear Praying Friends,

Praises:

There were a couple joyful moments at the church recently that we wanted to share. The first was on Mother's Day, which in Thailand is on August 12, the Queen's birthday. (Father's Day is December 5, the King's birthday.) The children sang a beautiful song about love that had many tears flowing that morning. Also, the church had its first communion service on Sept. 2



It was humbling and encouraging to remember the Lord's sacrifice for us and His soon return as we worshipped with our Thai brothers and sisters.

The Lord has answered your prayers concerning Elaine's health in so many ways that it's hard to know where to begin. We'll be brief: (1) After much prayer, we felt led to consult with a missionary doctor from the States, who has been a tremendous help and has done copious research on Elaine's condition. (2) Blood tests showed that Elaine's iron level is far higher than it could possibly be after just one iron infusion in the U.S. – it is easily in the normal range. The numbers from a fistful of other tests were mostly normal as well. Praise God! (3) Almost all of Elaine's problems lead back to extensive inflammation caused by her autoimmune disease, and there is a very promising medicine that she will begin taking this week. Please pray for improvement; Elaine feels a little better already just seeing that there is hope after a long downward cycle of illness.

Elaine and the children had a good first quarter at Grace International School. Brittany, Justin and Caleb have had to shoulder a heavier workload this school year, while Jamie is starting to settle in after our trip back to the U.S., which left him feeling unsettled.

Caleb and Jamie also had fun celebrating their 9th and 7th birthdays when we invited their classmates over

for parties.

One of the things we enjoy most in Thailand are the creative attempts at English. It is usually good for a laugh... the same kind of innocent laugh we often get when we speak Thai.

Prayers:

Joe's weekly English Bible class at the church has started out very well. There are nine Thai teenagers in attendance, and they are enjoying the curriculum, which is heavy on fun and action. They also have paid good attention to the Bible stories, which Joe explains more thoroughly in Thai. So far, they've heard about sin (Adam and Eve) and sacrifice (Abraham and Isaac). Please pray for the teens to grow in their English skills and in their understanding of Christian truths.

Now that we have returned from the U.S. and *Dtûm* and *Bù* have joined the church as interns, the church will begin having a monthly leadership meeting. Please pray that these times would be led by God and that we would make wise decisions, particularly in the areas of discipleship and outreach.

Speaking of discipleship, the year-long Sunday School discipleship process that Joe has put together for the church continues to go well. *Dtûm* will be wrapping up the first section on "foundations of the faith" this month, followed by Joe and *Dtûm* teaching on such topics as the purpose of the church, spiritual gifts, areas of service, etc. Please pray for these teaching times to help church members to grow in their walk with the Lord.

Several families at the church, including Pastor *Ogaat* and *Dtûm* and *Bù*, are struggling financially at this time. Please pray for the Lord to provide for their needs.

We are moving again this month. We were not planning to ever move again; however a four-bedroom house that is only \$50 more a month became available in our same neighborhood, and we couldn't pass it up. The house is on a very quiet side street and is the last in a row, followed by an empty street and fields, which will allow our very active young men to play frequently, easily and safely. Justin will have his own small bedroom, Caleb and Jamie will have their toys in their bedroom instead of scattered everywhere, and Joe will be able to work in an upstairs office area separate from our living space. The house is also less than 2 years old, and the landlord wants to rent it for a long time, as do we, so it's a perfect fit. Please pray for things to go smoothly as Joe moves things over slowly until our big moving day, Saturday the 13th.

Thanks to all those who have visited our new Web site, which details the current financial needs of the leaders at Cool Shade of Life Church. If you would like to help financially, please visit <http://www.ourchurch.com/member/h/HenryThailand/> and prayerfully consider the short-term and long-term financial opportunities listed for us, Pastor *Ogaat's* family, and *Dtûm* and *Bù*.

Until all have heard,

Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie

**An Invitation To All Church Women & Friends...
JOIN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN – GET CONNECTED – STAY CONNECTED.**

November 20th, 2007
United Methodist Women’s Unit Meeting
 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
 Coffee & Fellowship
 10:00 AM Meeting
 “Pledge & Thank Offering Service”
 Jackie LaMountain, Leader
 Faith Hope Circle, Hostesses

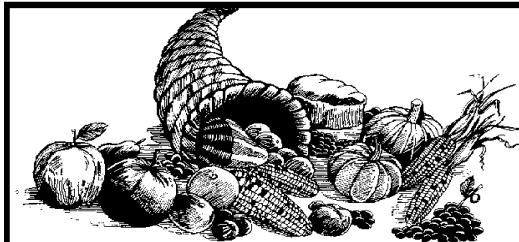


Pledge to Mission

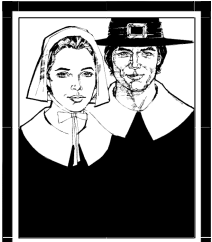
An individual member's pledge to missions is the amount that she decides is her share of the local unit's total budget. A Unit Pledge to Missions is the portion of its budget which is set as a goal to send through District and Conference treasurers to the Women’s Division for support of mission programs beyond its own community. Our Unit Pledge for 2007 was \$2,020.00. The decision about the amount to be pledged is the responsibility of the Unit. That’s why it is so important to attend Unit Meetings; it’s also important for representatives of the Circles to attend Executive UMW Business Meetings.

Pennies And A Prayer

A devotional act that has been practiced for many years here at FUMCH is United Methodist Women saving a penny (or two) a day to thank God for their many blessings. This offering is turned in to our treasurer during the “Pledge and Thank Service.” So, ladies, don’t forget your pennies.



**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 I are among those who are 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 22nd, 2007, 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, 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

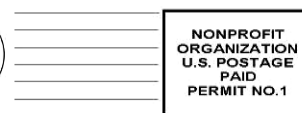
You Can Count On Us For Thanksgiving At The Church

Name: _____

Number in Party: _____ Phone: _____ CeLL: _____

Two Dishes I Will Bring: _____

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



We Are A Stephen Ministry Church

Visit our Web Site ~ www.1umc.org

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: 628-4083

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Soli Deo Gloria



November