

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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“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Col. 2:6-7)

Part of Bible study is to take a passage like this and reflect on it, to see where it is speaking to you today. It is an opportunity to hear God’s word for you right now as you open your heart and mind to God’s direction and love.

As we read Paul’s letter to the Colossians, we see he is encouraging them to stand strong in their faith, in what they had been taught and in the assurance of their salvation. Paul uses the interesting metaphor of a tree, to encourage believers to live a life rooted in Jesus Christ.

From this metaphor we find images of nourishment, growth, shade for others, and fruit provided to develop new believers. But it all starts with being rooted in Christ. Like a tree, our roots go deep into the source of life, and we receive exactly what we need to grow and expand

our ministry. So then, if we “are what we eat,” our very beings become one with Christ, and our lives will begin to take on a likeness to his. We will become maturing children of God, brothers and sisters in eternal life. Rooted deeply in a reliable resource, we are able to grow stronger and stronger. Then we can share our faith and confidence with others.

Another image from the metaphor of being rooted in Christ is that, as our roots are sunk deeply into the word of God, we are protected from the storm. The winds of life may howl and lash at us, we may be bent and even have small limbs broken off, but we can take the worst the world can throw at us and still stand strong. We all have hard realities to face in this world - sickness, accidents, disappointments, deaths, to name a few. But, if we are strong in Christ, then we have the greater reality of our eternal salvation and the assurance that God’s promise is sure - we have a place with him for eternity.

All of this leads to our “overflowing with thankfulness.” We are thankful for all

Christ has done in our lives, thankful for a life filled with meaning and purpose, thankful for His direction and guidance to help us focus on what is really important. We can know our lives are not a waste but an opportunity to make a difference. Perhaps, most of all, because of what Jesus did and who He is in our lives today, we are thankful for the gift of hope.

Are you rooted? Rooted in what? Are you rooted in the world? Or are you rooted in Christ?

It makes a difference.



Mark



**We are a
Stephen Ministry
Church**

Pictures will be taken for the new photo directory beginning on October 10. If you have not signed up for your picture, please call Patience Nave as soon as possible. Let's get as close to 100% as possible for representation of membership in our new directory.



"Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ"

The purpose of an organization's mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation. It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future. This mission statement of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was adopted on January 27, 2005.



The Purpose of Genesis is to:

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

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

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Lay Leadership ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Do you have a gift to give to Christ? Do you have a talent, a skill, a passion, or maybe, most important of all, some time that you can give to the work of the Lord through the church?

We are in need of people who will reach out to our world and touch their lives. We need people who will take some time to care and make the world a little better, if only for today. We are seeking people who can assist the church in our worship and ministries.

Are you such a person?

We are in need of several people who will be that warm and friendly voice welcoming people who have come for the first time to visit with us. We want them to know that we appreciate them and welcome them into our community. Linda Schrock had been doing this for many years but now we are looking for several people who will step up and take over the mantle of servant leadership.

We are in need of someone or a couple who will help people find their way into the church. It is always difficult to "break" into a new group, to find your place with people who already have friends and connections. We are looking for someone to be there and help people who want to become members so they know they are welcome and wanted.

We are in need of ushers and counters and liturgists and greeters. We are looking for people to help with receptions and the hospitality on Sunday morning.

We all have these talents and skills for all it takes is compassion and love. We all have a calling to be about the business of the Lord, sharing the good news, not just with words but also with our deeds. For as our Lord said, we will know followers of Christ by the fruit they produce.

If you are willing to share a skill, a talent, a portion of your time with the church, give me a call, and we will talk about where you can make a difference.

~ Pastor Mark

Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

WHY BE A DISCIPLE?

The mother tucked her little boy in bed for the night and went back to the living room. Suddenly she heard a loud thump and then the sound of her son crying. She rushed into his room to find him on the floor between his bed and the nightstand. Picking him up to comfort him, she asked, "What happened, son? How did you fall out of bed?"

The little boy replied sleepily, "I'm not sure, but I think I fell asleep too close to where I got in."

- 1) To review from last month, reread Matthew 4:18- 22. What did Jesus invite the fishermen to do?

What did he then promise to do for them?

- 2) This pattern is repeated throughout the Gospels. Jesus invites us to do something and then he promises a certain result.

He invites us to be his followers and then establishes certain steps of growth for us to take.

If we take them, we can rightly call him Lord, and he will call us his disciples.

Jesus doesn't want us to be like the little boy in the story - falling asleep in apathy or self-satisfaction too close to where we began our relationship with him.

A) In John 8:31, Jesus says, "*If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples.*"

Jesus was speaking to the Jews who said they believed in him.

Notice that he immediately told them the next step they must take if they want to become more than just professing believers.

What does he tell them is needed if they really want to become his disciples?

What does "holding to" his teaching mean to you?

Read Luke 6:46-47. What two things does Jesus say we need to do with his words (or teachings)?
_____ and _____

How do you feel about the word "practice"? What does "practice" say to you?

Sally slammed her hand down on the keyboard. Having just started piano lessons, she hit more wrong notes than right ones.

Discouraged, she whined, "I'm just no good at this. I'll never make a piano player. I might just as well quit. Besides, I hate practicing!"

Her teacher responded, "Sally, when you begin to learn anything new, you get more wrong than you do right. But if you keep at it, the time will come when you are getting more right than wrong - and one day you will play music so well that you'll hardly ever miss a note. Trust me, I know. That's how I got to be a piano teacher."

B) In John 8:32, Jesus makes a promise to those who "hold to" his teachings. He says, "*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

Are we willing to practice ("hold to") the teachings of Jesus until we see the truth of their effectiveness? Why or why not?

THINK ABOUT IT:

We excuse our lack of practicing some of Jesus' teaching by describing them as vague or not pertinent to our times. But what do you think about practicing his clear, for-all-time teachings?

- "...do not worry..." (Matt. 6:25-34) Are you willing to practice replacing worry thoughts with trusting-God thoughts, believing that eventually your first response to a problem will be trust rather than anxiety?

Or do you agree with the man who said, "Even God must worry when he watches the evening news. I *have* to worry when I see what's happening in the world today."

- "...Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28)

Are you willing to ask God how to do good, to bless and/or pray for those who have offended you?

Are you willing to practice this attitude until you are set free from the "poison" thoughts of hate, vengeance, self-pity, etc? "*Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us...*" (Luke 11:4)

Are you willing to practice forgiving those who hurt or misuse you no matter how terrible the offense?

Can you believe that eventually you will become a "forgiver," a disciple who echoes your Lord's prayer, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they're doing,*" even in the most painful times?

How have you moved spiritually since your relationship with Jesus began? Are you in danger of falling asleep too close to where you got in?

~ ~ Walking on the Path ~ ~

By Patience Nave



"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12, NIV

"There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again - it leads straight to hell." Proverbs 14:12, Message

I quoted the proverb above from both the *New International Version* of the Bible and from *The Message*. One seems easier to hear than the other, but I tried to listen to both.

It must be a very important verse, for it is found twice in the *Proverbs*, the second time in chapter 16, verse 25 - in almost the exact words. God must consider it important, for He took time to say the same thing twice in the same book. As I thought about the words, He showed me things about myself that I really don't like.

I don't like to sit around and talk about things; I always want to get busy and get the job done. Committees drive me to distraction, for they usually want to talk and talk, while I want to start doing something - NOW! I want to act on things like building our new addition or starting our new rotation model for Sunday school. Both the new building and the new program "seem right" to me, and I want to move - to dig a hole - to change the class structure for rotation. Let's get going!

But God says, "No." He keeps saying to wait for all the preliminary work. I seem to hear, "Wait until I show you and the committee how I want things done." He seems to say to me, "Your way may look good and right, but be careful that you don't kill the whole thing by not finding out how I intend to do things."

A "way that seems right to man but in the end . . . death." I know God is trying to tell me my way is not always as good as it may seem. He wants me - and all of us - to seek His advice, to ask Him how He wants us to move forward. He wants us to come together in prayer as we seek His way for doing things, whether those things be buildings or programs or our own individual ways. Our way may "seem right," but it may also lead to death - to hell!

Prayer:

Father, forgive us for killing good things in the church because we don't seek your guidance.

Forgive us for not recognizing that you intended people to get together just to pray to find your way - for our lives individually and for the church body.

Create in us a desire to pray alone for guidance for our own personal way and together for the way of your church.

Amen.



Great Is Thy Faithfulness

By: Howard Watson

Every once in awhile, my dad will break out in song with one of his favorite hymns, "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*."

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Refrain

"Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

"Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

"Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!"

Refrain

Its words are as beautiful and powerful as its music. As far as hymns go, it is not an old hymn. The music and words were written in the 1920s. Yet it is enduring, so memorable, positive, and uplifting. The refrain says it all: "*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*"

Our Lord has provided us with all we have needed and so much more. Sometimes we forget that and start to think that we have provided for ourselves.

We are called to be good stewards of our precious earth, our natural resources, our brothers and sisters, our freedom, our faith and our church.

Each of us must decide how to accomplish those responsibilities. With prayerful reflection and scriptural reference, our paths become clear. We do, and serve, and give because we are the stewards of all His hand has provided.

"Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me."

THE PAST AND PRESENT MEET AT CYPRESS GARDENS

Perhaps you recall visiting Cypress Gardens years ago and enjoying the water-ski shows, the Florida Belles, the lovely flowers, and the musical presentations. If so, here's your chance to revisit those memories.

Although damaged by a hurricane a number of years past, the facility has been totally renovated and modernized; they've even added amusement park rides, but the nostalgic elements remain.

If you've never been there, we hope you'll take this opportunity to experience one of Central Florida's real gems. At press time, a few seats remained for this trip. Contact Bill or Neretta Brobst at 621-3736.

Cost is \$45.00, which includes park admission and bus fee; lunch, on your own, will be available at various sites throughout the park. Departure will be at 8 a.m. on Monday, October 15th, from the church parking lot.

~ ~ Day Trips ~ ~

It's not too early to 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. Get into the holiday spirit with this presentation of classic favorites – and perhaps a few contemporary selections. You might even want to sing along, or hum your way home! 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.

More Retreats Coming Soon!

Many of you have asked about the Couples' Retreats and the Women's Retreats. The information will be available soon. Please watch the bulletin boards, Genesis, and bulletin inserts for details. Isn't this exciting – we at 1st UMC are once again going to retreats!!

~ Marilyn Watson

HOMOSASSA COUPLE USE CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES TO ADD TO THEIR RETIREMENT INCOME AND HELP THEIR CHURCH



“Edythe and Richard Shaffer, members of First UMC Homosassa, have provided for their church in their will. In the past two years they each have set up separate charitable gift annuities through the Foundation which will provide lifetime income to themselves, and ultimately provide a gift to their church endowment fund.

“ ‘We did this for several reasons,’ Richard said. ‘First, we wanted to give as much as we could to the Lord, and, secondly, we wanted our money to work hard for us as well. Through our charitable gift annuities, we have been able to accomplish both goals.’

“ ‘During their lifetimes, the Shaffers each will receive regular income payments from their respective annuities, in addition to the income tax deduction they received when the annuities were established. At the same time, they receive the satisfaction of knowing their annuities also are gifts that will continue to give to the church beyond their lifetimes.

“ ‘As a member of the church endowment committee, I have seen what good things can happen when you remember the church in your will or through other types of planned gifts,’ Edythe said. ‘Giving to the church endowment allows us to give in perpetuity.’

“ ‘We can always be sure what will be left in our estate when we die,’ she continued. ‘So we are pleased that through our charitable gift annuities, we can provide for the church, above and beyond our will.’

“ ‘The Shaffers funded their annuities with retirement benefits from former employers, Bell South and Eastern Airlines. According to Richard, they are enjoying an active lifestyle since retiring to Homosassa. ‘Our lives are filled with church activities and a little time for golf,’ he said.’ *

The Shaffers are among more than 25 people who are members of our 5th Dimension Society. These folks have informed us that they have made a deferred gift naming First UMC Homosassa as a beneficiary. We are deeply grateful to Richard and Edythe and to others for their faith, their foresight, and their generosity. Information about arranging deferred gifts to First UMC is available at the church office or by calling me at 563-5833.

Thank you,
Reverend Richard Evans
Chairman of the Permanent Endowment Committee

* Note: The above was reprinted from Foundations, a newsletter of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, First Quarter, 2007.

READING IS FUN

by Helen Lefave

Most of us have known since childhood that reading is fun, so take a look and borrow a book from your Church Library. The following are new selections:

1. "Skipping Christmas," a novel by John Grisham.

This is a classic tale for modern times and not just for the holidays. This is a hilarious look at the chaos and frenzy that have become a part of our holiday traditions. Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded malls, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents. That's just what Luther & Nora Krank have in mind when they decide just this once, to skip the holiday altogether and take a Caribbean cruise. This is a wonderful book to read.

2. "Abraham's Well," by Sharon Ewell Foster.

Inspired by true events, two cultures share their struggle on the Trail of Tears. Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, notes: "It should be remembered that hundreds of people of African ancestry also walked the Trail of Tears with the Cherokee during the forced removal of 1838-1839. We rarely hear of those black people who also suffered." That is, until now.

3. "Where Willows Grow," by Kim Vogel Sawyer.

The Depression and drought have taken everything from Harley and Anna Mae Phipps. They can barely feed their two daughters – and now another baby is on the way. Harley takes a job with the Works Progress Administration hundreds of miles away in Kansas. When no letters arrive and no money, Anna Mae fears Harley may be gone for good. Harley is worried, too. If only Anna Mae would send him a short note to let him know she and the girls are all right. This is a powerful tale of the importance of telling each other the truth about what is going on in our lives and trusting in God for the outcome.

4. "Autumn Blue," by Karen Harter.

This delightful novel tells of single mom, Sidney, with a troubled teenage son and two young daughters. She knows they need a man in their life. Three men are in the picture. Can she do what's best for her children and follow her heart?

5. "Robert Hardy's Seven Days," by Charles Sheldon.

Robert Hardy is a wishy-washy believer who complains about his church and his pastor. He's a successful businessman who neglects his wife and children. He also has seven days left to live – at least that's what he thinks. How will Robert use the time he has left?

6. "Seaside," a novella by Terri Blackstock.

Maggie, professional photographer and mother of two adult daughters, asks them to join her on a vacation in a cabin on the Florida coast. The sisters, both with a frantic drive for achievement, learn from the visit about slowing down and savoring the simple treasures of the moment. It takes a mother's love and honesty to teach her two daughters a

wiser, uncluttered way of life.

7. "Naomi's Joy," by Cynthia Davis.

Naomi lived in the time of Judges and experienced the great events of the Exodus – but peace of mind eluded her in the Land of Promise. When a famine swept through her native Judah, Naomi and her family fled to Moab, where she, Oprah and Ruth, the wives of both of her sons, became widows. Naomi returned to Bethlehem, and Ruth went with her. Back in Bethlehem, Naomi arranged for her kinsman, Boaz, to meet Ruth, hoping to find Ruth a new husband. Naomi's match-making efforts were a success.

8. "The Prophet," by Francine Rivers.

This is #4 in the Sons of Encouragement series. Meet Amos the prophet, a man of great courage who feared no man but only God. Amos left a powerful message that still rings true today. His story will entertain and inspire you.

9. "Freefall," by Kristen Heitzmann.

When a young woman stumbles out of the mountains on the island of Kauai with no memory of who she is or how she got there, Cameron Pierce investigates the case even though he'd rather be elsewhere. It's a tale of intrigue with a twist and a whole lot of Hawaiian flavor.

10. "Summer of Light," a novel by W. Dale Cramer, the author of "Levi's Will."

It wasn't Mick's idea to stay home with the three kids, but he has lost a good-paying job and his wife, Layne, has to work to keep a paycheck coming in. This book is packed with humor, with true-to-life characters, and themes to enlighten the soul.

11. "Follow the Stars Home," by Luanne Rice.

Abandoned by her husband before their daughter, an exceptional child, was born, Dianne Robbins has spent 11 years caring for her child's needs – almost alone. It is her husband's brother Alan, the town pediatrician, who has stood by her. He's also secretly in love with her but Dianne has closed her heart towards men. This is a novel about mothers, daughters, and the courage to live again.

12. "Bel Canto," by Ann Patchett.

Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's Vice President, a lavish party is being held in honor of a powerful businessman. The entertainment is Roxanne Cass, opera's most revered soprano. This perfect evening is interrupted by a band of gun-wielding terrorists who take everyone hostage. The situation slowly evolves as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds. This is a strange story of art, politics, and love.

HAPPY READING!

Helen Lefave and Barbara Jackson, co-librarians



Building For Tomorrow is On Schedule

The summer months have been very busy for your Building For Tomorrow Committee.

We have had consultations almost every week, sometimes several a week, with the various professionals who are converting our design criteria into detailed plans and engineering specifications.

Our architect, Cliff Landress, has the architectural drawings about 80% complete.

We are constantly reviewing those plans with Cliff as they are developed, and he has now provided his drawings to all of the others who must superimpose mechanical, electrical, and plumbing specifications.

The new kitchen design has been completed by Mathias Food Service Equipment Co.

Design and engineering of the various audio, stage lighting, and digital projection facilities are well along at Owens Audio Video Design Inc., as are the site plans at Crystal Engineering and Construction Co.

As we reported at the beginning of this year, we still expect all of these documents to be completed by this fall so that we can proceed with formal approvals, permits, and selection of a builder sometime around the end of this year.

We have been considering the use of a Construction Management firm for the phase 3 construction, rather than a General Contractor. Four years ago, when we selected Caldwell Construction as the general contractor for the education and administrative building projects of phase 2, we arranged a construction management contract with them. That arrangement worked very well, and we may now build on that experience by selecting a construction management firm well before the detailed plans are complete. Bringing them into the project early should provide us with an earlier estimate of the actual construction cost, would utilize their expertise in construction methods and materials working with our architect to achieve some design cost savings, and should significantly increase the amount of competition in sub-contractor bidding, helping us to get the best price possible.

In addition to these advantages, there are some disadvantages to a construction management arrangement, and we are weighing all these factors in view of our particular circumstances here in Citrus County. We have talked with ten different construction management companies,



have interviewed three, and will probably interview at least one more. We have been checking their references, and evaluating their past work on church construction, especially here in Florida. We expect to make a decision on this matter by the time this newsletter is published.

The BFT committee is also coming along with transition planning. As you know, the first construction activity will be the demolition of the existing fellowship hall, kitchen, and adjacent restrooms. In addition,

the library, current thrift shop, and adjacent storage room will be totally renovated, so we will be without all of these facilities for about one year. Those responsible for activities in these areas are busy making plans to locate them elsewhere, or in a few cases, to suspend activity until the new building is open. All furnishings and equipment in these areas will have to be stored for future use, sold, scrapped, or otherwise removed. All parking areas except for the new lot east of the sanctuary will also be impacted by the construction. While we will retain the use of some parking spaces in the western lots, the number of spaces will be reduced and access to those lots will be restricted.

You may be aware that the Trustees have asked all church committees to survey and report on the materials they have in storage throughout the church and to dispose of those items no longer needed. Some of the materials to be kept will have to be moved into other storage areas during the construction period. If you are responsible for any items in storage and have not yet completed your survey, please do so as soon as possible.

We will soon be turning our attention to furnishings and decorations. We already have lists of furnishings and equipment that will be needed for most rooms in the new facilities, but we will be refining and finalizing those lists over the next few months. If you or your committee will be responsible for activities in the new facilities, please make sure that we know your needs for furnishings. You can contact me or any member of the building committee.

A decorating committee will be formed within the next month to select colors, fabrics, floor coverings, decorations, window treatments, and a myriad of other matters that must be decided. If you have talent and experience in this area and would be willing to serve on that committee, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Dave Marquis
Chairman, Building For Tomorrow Committee

Board of Trustees Quarterly Report

(July – September) by Dean Moore

The Board of Trustees has requested that all committees review items stored in various locations around church buildings. We have reminded everyone to review all stored items with an eye toward discarding as much as possible.

During construction of the new fellowship hall, several storage areas will be lost, and there will be a need to rent storage space. Maximizing the existing storage space will help minimize storage costs.

During this quarter, there have been several small repairs done to maintain the air-conditioning system in various areas. Some of the systems were installed when the new sanctuary was constructed.

A new Master Control was installed for the irrigation system. Trustees continue to correct sprinkler-system problems after discovering a sector with little pressure. Volunteers have been troubleshooting the solenoid wiring to correct the problem.

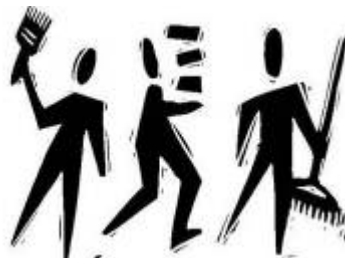
The Bell Choir is now using beautiful new cabinets and counters for storage of the bells. Volunteers completed construction of the cabinets in August.

Electronic switching devices in one of the master lighting panels in the Sanctuary failed in August, resulting in two banks of lights malfunctioning. One series of lights could not be turned off. After Trustees spoke with experts, they ordered and installed new switching devices and successfully repaired the master lighting panel.

The Board approved and purchased upgraded computers used by Accounting, the Genesis Newsletter editor, and the Pastor. The Pastor’s computer was having technical problems, and the other two lacked sufficient memory capability to efficiently perform the work required.

Trustees are pleased to see the Bus Ministry developing in a big way. At the September meeting the Board will consider a proposal for special painting and lettering of the bus to identify it with the Church.

Monday mornings continue to be the most active day for Trustees and volunteers to congregate and complete needed tasks to maintain our church and grounds. As fall arrives, as many as 16 to 20 volunteers will work weeding, planting, trimming, and doing various repairs. Some trustees spend the morning inspecting emergency lighting, alarms, and air-conditioning systems. Also, air filters are replaced on a period schedule and lights need to be replaced as well.



Ireland 2008

By Rev. Richard Evans

Our “big trip” for 2008 will be a 15-day tour of Ireland, with several days each in Dublin, Limerick, Galway, and Armagh (Belfast area). Day trips will take us to many famous sites as well as a few “out of the way” places. We have reserved 3 and 4 star hotels that offer breakfast and dinner daily (included). Getting there and back will be relatively easy with non-stop flights between Orlando and Dublin on Aer Lingus. Travel in Ireland (and between Homosassa and Orlando) will be in deluxe motor coaches.

The all-inclusive price will range from \$2,880 to \$3,315 pp, depending on the size of our group. So invite others to join us and help lower the cost for all. (Single room supplement: \$485). Register early to “lock in” the airfare and protect against future increases! And, if you do not yet have a travel companion, register anyway. We can help you find a roommate.

MORE INFORMATION: Pick up a flyer & a copy of the Detailed Itinerary at the church office.

REGISTER: Call or email J and L Travel in Homosassa (352-382-7708/ info@jandltravel.com).

QUESTIONS: Call Dick Evans @ 352-563-5833.

Ireland Information Meeting

Tuesday, October 9,

3:00 - 4:00 pm,

for all those interested in learning more about the tour of Ireland next May/June.

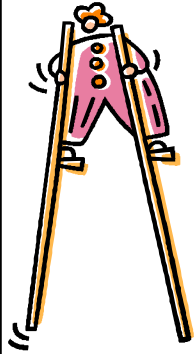


After a video introduction to the Emerald Isle, we will go over the details of the tour and answer questions. Jess Mackey, of J & L Travel, will be present along with Richard Evans, who will lead the tour.

Bob and Jo Ann Gidlow, members of FUMCH who lived in Ireland for 13 years, will also be present to help with interpretation and response to questions.

The meeting, to be held in Fellowship Hall, will be open to those who have already registered as well as to those who are considering this special trip

Stretched a Little Thin



God's Clods, First United Methodist of Homosassa's own ambassadors to the community, are stretched a little thin.

We represent the church at nursing homes, hospitals, the Key Training Center, the West Citrus Elks, and several other places where we bring the joy of God's love through laughter and individual attention.

Sometimes we assist in the worship services to emphasize a specific point or draw attention to upcoming events. We also add a bit of brightness and humor to special events at the church.

Our numbers are diminished. Many of our colleagues have moved from the area or are no longer able to participate in clowning around for health reasons. We are frequently asked to assist with events we cannot cover.

We need your help! No previous experience is required to become one of God's Clods. We will provide all the training necessary. We will help you practice and support you in all your efforts. The requirements are sense of humor, a loving heart and a commitment to Jesus Christ. The ability to do physical stunts is not required.

This is a small group that meets on the first Saturday of each month. We open and close with prayer and sustain each other in times of joy and need. We would love to talk with you about joining our unique group. For more information, please call Iris Whittaker at 628-5281.

Dear FUMCH Family,

Your caring and concern during Charlie's recent illnesses and hospitalizations were very much appreciated.

The cards, phone calls, and food meant so much to both of us. Thanks a million!

~ Bunny and Charlie Wade

Dear FUMCH Family,

Due to health issues I have moved back north to be with family.

It is my sincerest desire to remain in contact with all of my beloved FUMCH family. I can be reached at the following address:

Alma Rogers
87-18 258 Street
Floral Park, NY, 11001

Your sister in Christ,
Alma

Per: Rayna Carlson



The "Footpaths For the Future" seminar presented at the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was very successful.

There were 19 adults attending, some were guardian adlitems, one was from the UF child abuse center and the rest were parents. We also had 4 children, two with autism, that were provided child care by Isaiah Foundation, Inc. respite caregivers.

Seventeen surveys were returned. All attendees felt that the material was useful and presented so it was clearly understood. The information about how the brain works helped them understand themselves and children. Also, the material about infant exposure to trauma and differences between boys and girls was marked as useful. Most all enjoyed the information on the environment and culture.

Isaiah Foundation, Inc. thanks First United Methodist Church of Homosassa for allowing us the use of their facilities free of charge. As a non-profit relying on United Way, area churches and individuals for funding, we appreciate your support.

Thank you,
Dorothy Duran
Executive Director of Isaiah Foundation, Inc.

One Benefit of Small Groups

I'm going to indulge in a personal note about small groups. When I had surgery recently, it was members (& a spouse) from the small groups I'm a part of who stepped in and made sure I knew someone cared about me, who got me where I needed to be, and did what I could not do.

You see in these smaller settings you have an opportunity to get to *really* know people and know what their needs are. These people knew the limitations I'd have being single & facing an extended time of not being able to drive or do much of anything. Without help, they *knew* I'd be doing things I shouldn't and that would not be a good thing.

So one more personal note – thank you for all your concern, your help, and your Christ-like love with skin on.

~ Marilyn Watson

Please keep the men attending the Men's Retreat in Leesburg the weekend of October 12 – 14th in your prayers (as they prepare and as they spend time apart). They are following the example of Jesus and His disciples. Many times Jesus called them away from the crowds for a time apart to be renewed. We pray this will be what our men experience while they are on retreat in Leesburg.





Someone once said that we need to hear something seventeen times before we really hear it. It is not enough just to tell someone a piece of information or to let them know about a big sale you are having because it just doesn't sink in that quickly. That is why we see the same car commercial on TV week after week several times a day. They know that they have to break in if they are to get our attention.

When it comes to learning, the more ways we get the information the better. Just hearing it is good, but when we also see something that goes along with the hearing it is all the better. The best of all, of course, is actually getting involved and touching it or having it touch us.

That is why we have a Creative Worship Committee and the Drama Group. We are trying to help the members of the church connect with the sermon and the idea for each Sunday in more than just one way. We want you to experience the message so that it stays with you longer than your lunch does. To do this we use pictures, symbols and decorations (such as the bread on the altar this Sunday in honor of World Communion Sunday) that we hope will not only speak to you, but will give you something to speak to others about.

The Creative Worship team would like to invite you to come and be a part of our work. We are always looking for people who would like to allow their creative juices to flow, hoping to make worship more meaningful for us all.

~ Mark Whittaker



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.

OUR BUSY YOUTH

by Neretta Brobst

The Youth Group wishes to thank all those who so kindly and generously supported our Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 2.



Through the work of the adults and youth who participated,

more than 90 breakfasts – featuring pancakes, sausage, and fruit - were served. Sufficient funds were raised to enable 10 members of the group to attend the concert in Orlando. We apologize for running out of pancakes, but we seem to have underestimated your response! Next time, we will try to do a better job. Again, thank you for your assistance.

Now, about that concert...On September 8, we traveled to Orlando to participate in the Rock the Universe event at Universal Studios. Numerous Christian singers, performers, and musical groups entertained thousands of youth from throughout Florida (and probably a few other places, too). We were able to enjoy all that Universal offers, as well as the concerts, and we met a variety of folks who shared our enthusiasm and musical interests. It was a long day, but a rewarding and memorable one. (And the chaperones were finally able to remove their earplugs!)

We continue to be involved with the Creative Worship Committee. September's representative was Emma Spencer; October's will be Nathaniel Torres. The youth are looking forward to playing greater roles in the worship services; watch for their increased participation.

The Youth Council has had its second meeting and is working toward developing a mission statement and a long-range plan for Youth Group. A primary goal is to send as many youth as are interested to Church Camp at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina next summer. They are excited about this possibility and are planning numerous fund-raisers to pay the fees. Almost all the money raised for the next six months will be routed into a "Church Camp Fund."

Funds from the soda machine and the ink cartridges, however, will continue to be used to help support children in Latin America. We now help to provide support to buy shoes, clothing, medicine, and educational supplies for 3 children in Latin America.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: On Sunday, October 14, from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m., we will sponsor a Continental Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will include bagels, muffins, doughnuts, Danish pastries, fruit, and beverages.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Education and Ministries

By Patience Nave

We have some wonderful problems here at Homosassa United Methodist Church. We have so many things going on that we do not have enough meeting rooms! Planning a day for a meeting or a study group gets more difficult every week!

But that's not all. Not only have we run out of rooms, but we have also run out of days. The rooms crunch will improve (we hope) when we have the new facility, but we're pretty sure God is not going to give us another day in the week!

Lots of opportunities are coming up this fall to help us to grow in our discipleship. The topics are of current issues, and each study uses Scripture as its foundation. Look over the list below and call the church office to sign up for a study that fits your needs.

- Bereavement, led by Peggy Benson
- Bible Study, Ann Graham Lotz's book, led by Marilyn Siegel
- Cancer Support, led by Anna Cooley
- Current Affairs, led by Bill Ackerman
- Diabetes—What Do I Do Now?, led by Sharon Smith
- God's Clods (Our Clown Ministry), led by Iris Whittaker
- First Place, led by Diane Gibbs
- Knitting and Crocheting, a Shawl Ministry, led by Ann Morrison
- Living in Community, led by Jan Wise
- Pain Management, led by Lisa Specht
- Saturday Sisters, led by Sally Moore
- Scrapbooking the Gifts of the Spirit, led by Kim Bennett

If there is a group you would like to see added, either led by you or by someone else, please call me, and we will try to add it to this list. All groups are based on the Bible as our foundational book and on prayer. Each group is intended to help us grow in our relationship to Christ, in our commitment to His church, and in our fellowship with each other.

Also consider taking one or more of the following long-term Bible studies. You may sign up for these courses by calling the church office:

- Disciple I, led by Patience Nave
- Disciple IV, led by Iris Whittaker
- Companions in Christ, led by Marilyn Watson

Pictures will be made for the new directory beginning on October 10. If you have not signed up for your picture, please call me as soon as possible. We are doing this electronically this year, and I can assign a time to you by phone. We are going to have a great directory! The pictures of our individual members are so important—not only to the newcomers who want to get to know people, but also to all of us. As our growing congregation attends different Sunday morning services, we need pictures to help us know each other. Let's get as close to 100% as possible for representation of membership in our new directory.

The prayer time on Thursdays at 2:00 in the Samstag Chapel continues. The few of us who come pray together for the church each week would love to have others join us. That same room is open every day of the week for individual prayers, and I hope some of you are taking time to go there to pray for our church as it grows. Feel free to add needs to the list in the journal on the altar in the chapel.

The ICE campaign - "In Case of Emergency"

I have an emergency card in my wallet, but I'm not sure anyone would know exactly where to find it. I carry my cell with me when I am out and it's in a handy place easily located by police and/or firemen, but how would they know which one of my contacts to call?

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory, but nobody, other than ourself knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call.

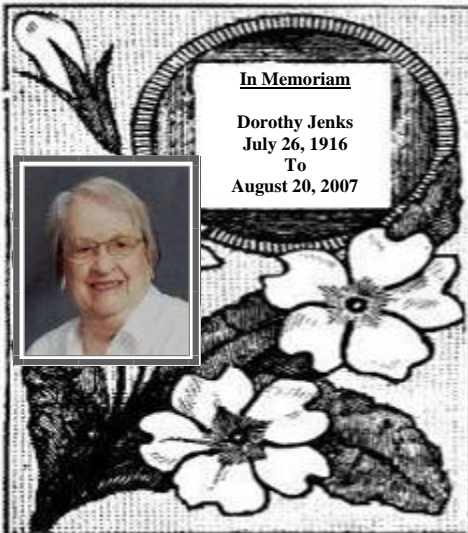
Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the phone number of a contact person/s who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency). For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

The idea came from a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but the paramedics didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE". Spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in your Mobile phones today. Your loved ones may be very glad you did!

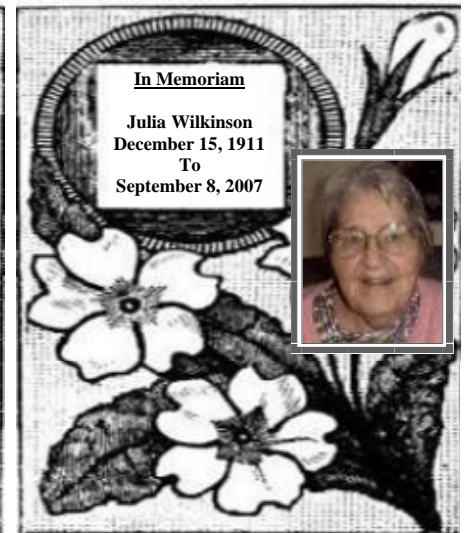
Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse



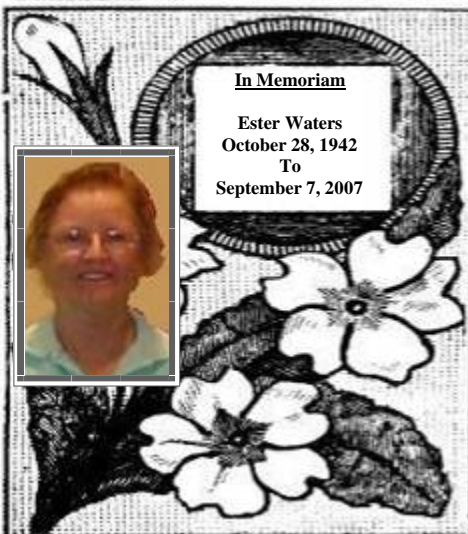
In Memoriam
 Dorothy Jenks
 July 26, 1916
 To
 August 20, 2007



In Memoriam
 Linda Schrock
 May 26, 1928
 To
 August 17, 2007

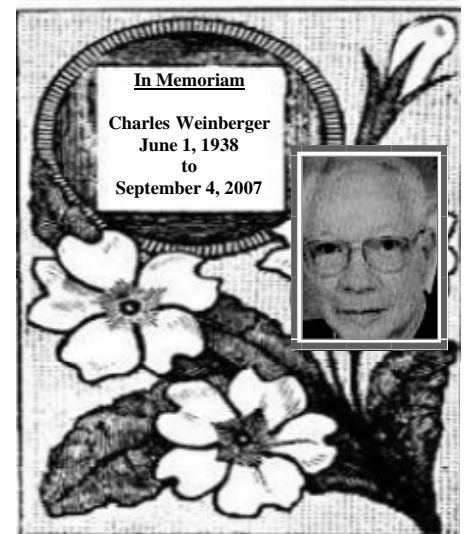


In Memoriam
 Julia Wilkinson
 December 15, 1911
 To
 September 8, 2007



In Memoriam
 Ester Waters
 October 28, 1942
 To
 September 7, 2007

***Joined The Church
 Triumphant***

In Memoriam
 Charles Weinberger
 June 1, 1938
 to
 September 4, 2007

Who's That Knocking On My Door?

Very soon there will be princesses and skeletons, Raggedy Ann and Dorothy of Oz knocking on doors, shouting "trick or treat" or attending community parties. For many, young and old alike, Halloween is a time to try on many different faces and personas.

In our everyday lives, we also sometimes don masks—of indifference, of superiority, of fearlessness—to cover our true feelings of loneliness or grief or anxiety. It takes courage to reveal one's true life challenges, but assistance is available to those who are open to the experience through the Stephen Ministry team.

Contact Diane (382-7242), Kay (382-4908), or the church office if you would like a caring, trained, lay volunteer, who will visit and provide phone support on a short or longer term basis.

We care...
 We are here for you...
Stephen Ministry of FUMCH

I am at loss to find a way to say thank you so very much, that would be an adequate response to the gracious outpouring of love, concern and kindness that each of you have given me and my family during the difficult period of dealing with my wife's death.

Beginning with the Discovery Class's helpful and generous supply of food while our family was here for Linda's Memorial Service and continuing with all the hugs and cards of comfort and encouragement, I want to say thank you. We also appreciated the overwhelming tribute to Linda of numerous donations to the church's building fund.

So to each of you in our wonderful and loving church family, we are deeply grateful. My prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless each one of you, keep each of you and grant each of you His grace and peace.

Sincerely, Jack Schrock

October Birthdays

1
Duane Geiger
2
Eleanor Hittle
Holli Benthusen
3
Dominick Travers
5
Jack Kadel
Connie Barton
John Dean
Robert Russell
6
Larry Healy
Gail Rudolph
7
Carolyn Byington
Faye Schmitt
Sue Harris
8
Elizabeth Ainsworth
Don Hoes
Donald Parkinson
9
Loretta Burcaw
10
Peggy Powell
John Mayles
Patricia Blake
Steven Bassler
11
Jerry Tanner
Kenneth Dent
12
Michelle Selby
13
Art Carl
14
William Baker
15
Alice Wilson
16
Doris Stine
Clayton Spencer
Ann Parkinson
17
George Knerr
Pat Schuessler
18
Bill Richner
19
Lisa Specht
20
Norma Geiger
Mary Olson
Jan Winters

21
Jack Reed
Merlyn Hoar
Joe Ann Gidlow
Barbara Deppner
22
Harry Livermore Jr.
23
Anna Rivells
Erma Kern
Louise Breckha
John Maderia
Ann Fasnacht
Kathi Mansfield
24
Bill Kemp
Sandra Violet DeClue
Thomas Cloyd
25
Mary Valeria Wither
26
Dee Green
27
Virginia Hoadley
Joyce Zawacki
28
Betty Maderia
Terry Adams
29
Jack Schrock
George Marshall
30
Charlotte Brightman
Henry Kaiser
Helen Lefave
Donna Flack
31
Hettie Nevels
Bob MacKenzie



October 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Oct. Anniversaries

1
Betty & Paul Huffstutler
~ 57 years ~
Virginia & John Hoadley
~ 52 years ~
5
Connie & Bill Barton
~ 67 years ~
Joanne & Donald Holcomb
~ 44 years ~
Alma & Jack Kadel
~ 33 years ~
11
Susan & John Dean
~ 20 years ~
13
Virginia & Kenneth Will
~ 28 years ~
16
Katherine & Terry
Cornelius ~ 43 years ~
Barbara & Henry Deppner
~ 48 years ~
20
Pam & Cameron Cleary
~ 4 years ~
Alice & Dan Hurley
~ 39 years ~
Wanda & Fred Wheeler
~ 59 years ~
23
Eileen & Roger Ferguson
~ 53 years ~
24
Marjorie & Thomas Ottman
~ 54 years ~
Cecelia & George
Woodward ~ 29 years ~
26
Debbie & Richard Grafton
~ 27 years ~
28
Geraldine & George Frenz
~ 18 years ~
29
Nancy & Tom Pearo
~ 19 years ~
30
Barbara & Jim Stoneman
~ 53 years ~
Jan & Jerry Winters
~ 31 years ~
31
Sue & Howard Kuntz
~ 54 years ~

Members Residing In Long Term Care

As of September 9, 2007



- Barrington Place
Ken McGuire
- Brentwood
Evelyn Bash
Rene Dube
Ann Specht -
Outreach
- Crystal River Health & Rehab.
Robert Smith
- Cypress Cove
Jack Mallett
Elta Whilden
- Diamond Ridge
Marjorie Cook
Maddie Wallace
- Nature Coast Lodge
Betty Duncan -
Outreach
- Richland Oaks
Bill Marquis
- Sugarmill Manor
Del Parker
Grace Payne



Corn and grain,
corn and grain.
All that falls
shall rise again.

~ Harvest Chant

Every year the Wonderful Wednesday programs unite our congregation through fellowship, good food and entertaining guest speakers. This Wonderful Wednesday tradition will continue as long as possible this year but due to construction of phase three of our building program our dates may be limited after December. Watch for details in Genesis or in the weekly bulletins.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinners



October

October 3, 2007
Tuned To
Revival Quartet

October 17, 2007
Hospice of
Citrus County

October 31, 2007
Jim & Jeannine Love

November

November 14, 2007
Habitat for
Humanity

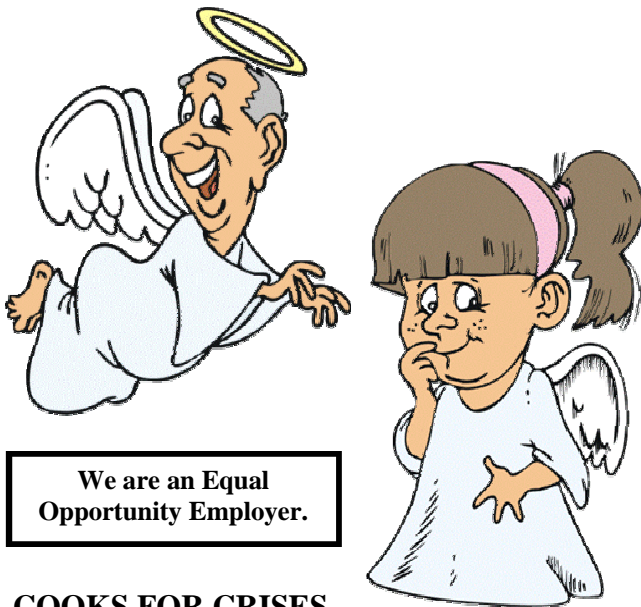
November 28, 2007
Homosassa Springs
Wildlife Park

December

December 5, 2007
Dr. Dodge presents
Methodist work in
Zimbabwe

December 19, 2007
2007 Christmas
Program

In Search of Kitchen Angels!



We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COOKS FOR CRISES

Occasionally one of our families has a difficult situation with which to cope.

At such times the members of the church family try to help by providing meals.

At this time, we are in need of volunteers to provide this service.

If you could be a VOLUNTEER COOK, please call the church office at 628-4083, or Sharon E. Smith, Parish Nurse.

Make the best hour of your week the one you give away!

Big Brothers Big Sisters

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

Call 352-344-0400
Or visit
www.bbbspc.org

Openings available for mentors at
Homosassa Elementary

Big Brothers Big Sisters is seeking members of FUMCH to volunteer one hour a week as a Big Brother or Big Sister in the Site-based program. This program would require "Bigs" to meet with their "Littles" at Homosassa Elementary School for just one hour each week. During that hour, Bigs and Littles would play games, read books, work on school assignments, or just talk!

Big Brothers Big Sisters also has a community-based program, where Bigs meet with their Littles to spend time out in the community doing things like playing catch in the park, bike riding, eating ice cream, seeing a movie, and much more! Community-based volunteers typically meet with their Littles twice a month for a couple hours.

There are dozens of kids on the waiting list for a special friend. So what are you waiting for? Become a Big Brother, Big Sister, or Big Couple today!

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

Be Part Of It...

And make the world a better place.

It may seem too early to be planning for the holidays, but they are coming. If you're having any family gatherings for Thanksgiving or Christmas, remember you can get a complete turkey or ham dinner from SHARE. This will be the eighth year we have had this special offering, and we haven't had a complaint yet. Our church buys fifty each of these meals and gives them away to "Families in need." It's the one time we worry if we will really have enough volunteers, so please come out for November and December's D-Day.

I have heard it said by some that they do not buy from SHARE because it's "too much food." Let me explain something you may not know. We are a select sight. That means you can spend your \$18.00 dollars just about any way you want. Instead of getting the basic package with all the meats and vegetables, order just what you want. There may be a special type of meat or some other item you like; just get several of that item. If that does not work for you, try talking to a friend or neighbor and combine an order. This way, you can just buy a few items as long as it equals \$18.00 or more. All meats leave the warehouse frozen to Zero or colder. When you get it from us, it is still frozen. You can take it home and put it in your freezer and thaw it out when you want. (Isn't that the reason you bought a microwave???)

SHARE food is always good quality and the prices are about half of what you would pay at the local Supermarket. The menu changes every month so if you don't see something you like this month, come back next month. SHARE is a "not for profit" organization and, to make ends meet, we need to keep up our volume. When you buy from us, you help the program survive, save yourself money and help families and individuals who depend on SHARE. It's a win, win for everyone involved, so please consider making that trip to the Fellowship Hall on D-Day a monthly event.

If you need more information or just want to talk about SHARE, call us anytime. We will be glad to explain just how SHARE works.

Upcoming Dates: Very important that you know.

Sign up October 3rd and 6th, D-Day will be October 20th.

Sign up October 31st, and November 3rd, D-Day will be November 17th. (Thanksgiving Dinner)

Sign up November 28th, and December 1st, D-Day will be December 15th. (Christmas Dinner)

To have D-Day fall before Thanksgiving and Christmas be aware that everything is very early in the month.

Tom and Nancy Pearo (352)382-1034



Therapy Dogs International (TDI) lost a marvelous ambassador on August 9, 2007, when Bailey crossed over the "rainbow bridge."

From December 2002, until July 2007, Bailey, a 100 lb. Golden Retriever, made over 200 visits to hospice patients, Key Center residents, and those in area nursing homes.

TDI gives special recognition to dogs after they have made 50 authenticated visits and issues them a certificate of achievement (TDI-A). The highest level is after 150 visits (TDI-AOV). Bailey got both, and kept going.

He loved to visit! He felt it was his calling. My role was simply to get him there. The "work" was his, and oh, how well he did it!

I often wonder... if that is all that it took to brighten the lives of shut-ins, those near the end of life's journey, and those with limited mental and physical capacity, how much more can we (the human kind) do? While it is true that "therapy pets" can at times touch the soul when humans cannot get near, that does not mean we should not try. Just being there is more meaningful than we can imagine.

Whenever I took Bailey for a visit, I always felt I got more out of it than the folks we visited. That was not the purpose, but that is how it works. The hardest part was making those first few visits. After that, it was easy. Bailey even knew where to turn!

I miss him terribly, but my visiting will continue. If you would like to join me, you are more than welcome. It is a wonderful experience, and we will make a difference in the lives of those we visit.

~ Howard Watson

Dear praying friends,
"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you ..."

We feel the same as Paul, as we thank God for those of you who pray for us. And about what is Paul most thankful? The faith in Christ and love for fellow believers that the Colossians display because of their hope in the Gospel, which Paul says is bearing fruit and growing all over the world.

There is no better reason to thank God for all of you and for your sacrificial prayers.

Praises:

•Elaine and the children started out the new year well at Grace International School.



•Elaine has been very busy but is enjoying her new group of 13 students, while Justin has adjusted well to life as a new high-school student.

•Joe was able to attend part of a three-day retreat in Chiang Mai led by the Siam Baptist Group, which is the parent organization of Cool Shade of Life Church.



About 30 church leaders from throughout Thailand were able to hear excellent teaching and discuss future activities.

•We are excited by what the Lord is accomplishing through the members at Cool Shade of Life Church.



They continue to invite friends, relatives, and co-workers to church and are actively sharing the joy they feel through their lives in Christ. The church will be celebrating the Lord's Supper for the first time this Sunday, which should be a very challenging and moving experience for all involved.

•We are also thankful that the Lord has brought us back to Thailand. It is good to again see friends and familiar places...guess that makes this place home.

(FYI, people were so interested in Thai living during our trip to the U.S. this summer that we are going to include a "Thai language" photo in our bulletin each month as a fun and/or informative glimpse of life here. This month's image is from a familiar brown beverage...)



Prayers:

•Please pray for Joe as he begins to implement a discipleship plan at the church this month. The process involves one year of Sunday School classes, during which time he and others will share with Thai believers and seekers about everything from

the purpose and history of the universal church to spiritual gifts, service for God, and Christian ethics.

•Pray for Joe as he also plans to restart his English Bible classes at the church this month. Several of the teens who were his students from April-June and others have been asking when the classes will begin again. Joe plans to use a 15-unit curriculum that includes Old Testament stories about the coming Messiah and New Testament truths about Christ.

•Continue to pray for Elaine's health. It is obvious that her anemia is not improving, so we need to find a doctor here in Thailand who can attack this problem wisely (because of Elaine's intestinal diseases). She continues to struggle with exhaustion and other symptoms because her body absorbs iron so poorly, if at all.

•As often happens in Asia, our cat has disappeared. Sanuk sometimes went on mysterious trips for a day or two or three, but this time he has been gone for two weeks with no sightings in our big neighborhood. We have no idea if he was stolen (not uncommon for Siamese cats), killed, or just went on a permanent vacation. Please pray for the children as they mourn the loss of another pet – this makes seven pets who have died/been given away/disappeared since 2001.



(Above: "Sanuk potty" photo, which proves that our cat is one of the smartest in the world. If only you could have seen him flush with his right ear!)

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

WOOSTREET JOURNAL



October 2007



Greetings from southern California! August 22, 2007

It's true, it *never* rains in southern California....but the evenings are great! (60's) We wanted to send this quick update because so much has happened in the last week. Joshua is settled into his new school at Biola University...thanks so much to all of you who have been praying for a smooth transition. He started classes today and has a full schedule but is very excited about the classes. He has two roommates this year; they all have sports in common and are anxious to get to know each other better. Thanks again for the prayers!

In the middle of all of this...Corey was on his way back from PA and was in a four car accident on I-95 and I-10 above Jacksonville, FL. The truck is totaled and he's doing OK, very sore and bruised but not in the hospital or worse. Kevin's brother was wonderful and drove 4 + hours to get Corey and bring him back home. We are still in CA but will be returning earlier so we can help him get a new vehicle and all those things you have to take care of after such an ordeal. Thank you for those who knew and have been praying and for those of you that have been praying because of our last e-mail. The body of Christ has been an enormous blessing in all of this craziness.

We love you all and are beyond grateful for all the help and prayers we have received. There will be another update after we return to Florida.

Praising Our Lord and King,
Kevin, Laura, Joshua and Corey

Newsletter ~ October 2007

Autumn is here and our friends from the north are returning for a warmer winter. Welcome back friends! With October upon us, we realize that our time in the U.S. is coming to a close and although we've done this a dozen times, we still have much to do before our departure.

This move will be a slight challenge because it's only two of us which means a lot less allowable baggage. We're praying

that we can get everything into four bags (now only 50 lbs each instead of 70). This will make travel easier and more cost effective (extra bags are now \$125 each).

We continue to trust in the Lord's guidance and provisions knowing that no detail is too small or trivial!

We also realize that over the past months we haven't had a great deal of new or exciting news to share. It certainly isn't because God has stopped working in Russia; it has been our experience that sometimes the work comes to a point where it slows down so that all involved can sit back and take a look at the changes which have occurred - to take this "new life" and learn how to *live* what they believe.

We've been privileged to see so many people go through incredible life-changing experiences and suffer through rejection from friends and family and even loss of jobs, yet they persevere, "*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.*" Phil. 3:13 Please continue to lift Russia in prayer.

We have heard from many workers over the last weeks and they have all reported that they are for the most part welcomed into their respective areas and are building new relationships/friendships. There are new languages to learn and cultures to adjust to but the excitement and urgency is in their voices.

Please continue to lift these *workers* in prayer as they "*press toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [them] heavenward...*" Phil. 3:14

There is one specific request that we would like to share. A German family in northern Siberia is in need of a helper/teacher. They have a son who has some learning difficulties, and, although he attends Russian school, he must also keep up with his German studies. Obviously, they need someone familiar with German schooling, but you never know from where the Lord might bring such a person. So, we share the need with everyone we know.

There is also exciting news from the churches "out east." The deaf church is presently going through an evaluation to see if their goals are being met, looking at the overall health of the church and its leadership. They are also discussing future plans for the church and what that will involve for the deaf community. We're anxious to hear the results and even more anxious to see what the Lord will do through these wonderfully loving people.

The "hearing" church continues to grow and the young leaders are doing a fantastic job in their respective roles. THANK YOU for your continued prayers!

We are so blessed to be a small part of the "bigger picture." We are even more blessed by the sacrificial support, in both finances and prayers. It's a joy to serve with each of you!

Serving with Joy and Love,
The Wooster's
Kevin, Laura, Joshua, and Corey

~ Support Your Missionaries ~

William Carey once said, "We will go down to the depths of hell to rescue souls if someone will hold the other end of the rope for us."

Missionaries depend on others to hold the rope financially and in prayer for the furthering of God's kingdom.



MISSION STATEMENT:

"Pioneers mobilizes teams to glorify God among unreached peoples by initiating church-planting movements in partnership with local churches."

Make your check payable to PIONEERS and add a note stating the name of the missionary you wish to support.

Mail it to:

PIONEERS, Attn: Finance
10123 William Carey Drive
Orlando, FL, 32832.

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
supports the missions of:

Kevin & Laura Wooster
(currently state-side from Russia)
315 Bobby Jones Road
Sarasota, FL 34232
E-mail: klwooster@aol.com
Skype: klwooster

&

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

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

~ Team Up To Share Christ In Chiang Mai ~

September 4, 2007

Dear Friends,

We were greatly humbled this summer by those of you who said you pray for us regularly. That is a tremendous encouragement to us and is a big part of the foundation that allows us to serve here in Thailand.

We now want to ask if you would consider a further role in strengthening that foundation, namely financial support. We know that some of you already support our ministry financially, and for that we are grateful.

We presently have 7 churches and 33 individuals/couples who give sacrificially to allow our family to serve

What we want to do is give those who already support us and those who do not a chance to consider the financial needs of all the leaders at the church we helped to open here in *Chiang Mai* just nine months ago, Cool Shade of Life Church.

In order to do that, Joe has created a Web site that outlines seven opportunities to financially support God's work at the church through our family; the family of Pastor *Ogaat*; and/or *Dtâm* and *Bù*, two Thai Bible college graduates who are serving an internship at the church and desire to open their own church after they are married.

There are opportunities to help on a one-time basis and/or on a regular short-term/long-term basis with everything from monthly personal and business support to a vehicle.

Visit our new Web site at

<http://www.ourchurch.com/member/h/HenryThailand/>

to check out what needs are available to support.

*Phra Jâw uay phoon (God bless you),
Joe & Elaine Henry, for Pastor Ogaat, Dtâm and Bù*

Free Copies of Rev. Evans' Book

Two years ago Rev. Richard Evans published a book of personal reflections that he titled *Senior Moments*. In the book Dick shared almost 70 years of life experience, insight, and faith. His reflections introduce readers to members of his family, to a few of his mentors and friends, but—most of all—to himself, along with some of his thoughts, feelings, and opinions. He also comments on some significant social concerns, spiritual issues, and world events.

Dick gave copies to church staff members, and he placed a copy of the book in the church library. Some church members also purchased copies for themselves. Now he has placed several dozen copies in the church office - available free to those who are interested. The free copies are "seconds" according to Dick. Some of the photos did not print well, but the text is exactly the same as the better copies.

If you are interested, just stop in and ask Theresa for a free copy of *Senior Moments* by Richard Lee Evans.

United Methodist Women of Homosassa Countdown To Holiday Bazaar!



Crafters meet every Thursday in Room 106 at 10 AM.

This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Please come and lend your talents.

“Many hands make light work.”

Tick, tock, tick tock, Ladies!

October 2007							November 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

Nov. 3 Bazaar

Nov. 10
Yard Sale

Under the direction of Pat Blake, Chairman, and Maureen Samstag, Co-Chairman, the United Methodist Women of Homosassa have been working on items for the Annual Holiday Bazaar all year long. Dorcas Circle will have the Crafts; Faith Hope Circle - Kitchen Items (Soup Mixes, Jams & Jellies, Homemade Horse Radish); Ruth Circle will present the Bazaar Luncheon; Mary Martha Circle will be in charge of Trash & Treasure; Helping Hand will do the Bake Table & Candy; Peggy Benson will once more assemble her Christmas Shoppe; and Tom Wise will have re-conditioned, second-hand computers for sale.

The success of this year’s Annual Bazaar is going to be even more important than ever to the financial affairs of our UMW Unit due to the Thrift Shop’s closure during Phase III construction for 10 months in 2008. Proceeds from both the November Bazaar and the Thrift Shop go to the United Women’s Channels of Global Ministries; to be used for providing clean water and nourishing foods, paying for medical care, supporting missionaries, printing Christian education materials, assisting in community development, and supporting other responses to human needs.

Start saving your pennies. This traditional event initiates the kick-off of the Church’s holiday season. Many in the area look forward to discovering special Christmas gifts for men, women, children, friends, and even their pets.

Tickets for the Bazaar luncheon will be \$5.00 per person, and can be purchased from Circle members or the church office.

UMW Executive Committee Business Meeting

Monday, October 15, 2007
10:00 AM in Room 114.

October Unit Meeting Road Trip!

Tuesday, October 16, 2007
to
Isaiah’s Place
6210 Harmony Lane
Yankeetown, Fl, 34498

Lunch will be at “Hickory Island Restaurant” where we will hold our business meeting.

Bill Brobst of FUMCH’s Bus Ministry will be driving, and the bus will leave from the parking lot at 10:00 AM.

Leader: Kay Bast, Co-leader Helping Hand Circle

Circle Duties: Thrift Shop ~ Ruth Circle

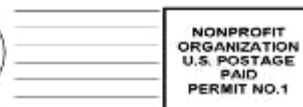
Seeking Yarn Donations!

Knitting Worsted Weight Only.
No black ~ any other color.

The ladies who have knitted hundreds of sweaters for Guidepost’s “Knit for Kids” outreach program at FUMCH, started by the late Fonty Shade, is in desperate need for yarn.

Drop-off to Pat Blake in
The Thrift Shop’s Sorting Room

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



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



October