

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 the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Philippians he tells them, "I thank God every time I think of you." (Phil. 1:3).

Every time his thoughts went back to Philippi, every time he thought about the people there and what they had been through together, he stopped for a moment of joy and praise and remembrance.

The people of Philippi were a trigger to Paul.

They were a trigger for praise and joy and memories of the time that they had shared together.

He was reminded of the good work they had done and all they had been through - including jail.

Have you ever had a trigger like that - something that is deep inside you and when you touch it you have a memory, a feeling, an emotion bubble to the surface?

It can be an odor. You smell bread baking, and suddenly you are carried back to your mother's or grandmother's kitchen and the sense of

peace and comfort you felt there at her table.

It might be a flower or a church building that reminds you of the death of a loved one.

Perhaps, like Paul, a certain trigger may bring a memory of shared joy and excitement that brings both laughter and tears to your eyes.

What are the triggers that get you praising God?

What is it that calls up from within you a sense of the power and presence of God?

What reminds you of the day when you knew God loved you and you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord?

Perhaps it is a miracle remembered. You recall a time when you experienced first hand the power and presence of God in your life - maybe in a way you never expected.

For me, I remember the Christian Education Director at Winter Park First Methodist Church (it was before we were "united") who put together the winter retreat where God called me into the ministry.

I smile, and sigh, when I think of an early evening when I went to the chapel at the Youth Camp in Delongia, Georgia, and felt the hand of God touching me and encouraging me as I faced a new church and new responsibilities.

So many triggers. Some bring good memories and some bad, but they all remind us of the presence and power of God in our lives.

We are always adding new triggers, and, with a little thought, we might become a trigger for someone who will smile every time they think of us and thank God.



Mark



We are a
Stephen Ministry
Church

TRUTH ~ "In it's purest form, truth is not a polite tap on the shoulder. Truth is a howling reproach. What Moses brought down from Mount Sinai were not the 10 suggestions." ~ Ted Koppel

"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.

“Study and show thyself approved unto God.”
2 Timothy 2:15

People have often looked at the Bible as a gigantic encyclopedia that nobody ever wants to wade through. It’s a big book, but no bigger than many other best sellers of our time.

It should not be our goal to learn the Bible as we learn Algebra. Nor do we read a book of scripture as we would read a detective story or novel. Rather we listen while reading as the Holy Spirit helps us understand eternal, universal truths.

Discipleship is about growing and maturing - it is the process of becoming like Jesus Christ. Growing is not easy; it takes work and commitment. It requires us to examine and change the way we think, feel and act. Thankfully, HE also gives us HIS Spirit and HIS Word to transform us into the image of Christ. Additionally, GOD uses other people and circumstances in our lives to help us grow through trials, temptations, and troubles.

“The Message Bible” paraphrased Jesus’ words to his disciples: *“I’m telling you these things while I’m still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I’m leaving you well and whole. That’s my parting gift to you. Peace. I don’t leave you the way you’re used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don’t be upset. Don’t be distraught.”*
John 14:25-27

Many of us have time and obligatory restraints in our lives that make us unable to commit to a regimented “Disciple Study” requiring at least two hours of daily independent study and preparation, plus two class hours each week for 34 or 36 weeks in a weekly group meeting.

To help those of us who are unable to commit to an in-depth study, but want to explore what it means to be a disciple, “Genesis” will offer a short Bible study each month.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Judith and Jan

Attention
Youth & Parents!



Check Out
Page 9...

Wise Discipleship

By Jan Wise

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

1) The dictionary defines a disciple as “one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another.”

A) What two actions describe a disciple?

B) Why is the order in which they occur important?

Ed doesn't believe the 25 mile-per-hour speed limit for his street is necessary since all the other streets in his development allow 30 miles per hour. So he tells new residents, “The speed limit here should be 30 miles per hour like the other streets. Just ignore the signs and stick to the 30 miles per hour and you'll be fine.”

Does the fact that Ed doesn't believe in the need for his street's 25 mile-per-hour limit change the fact that such a limit exists?

What happens to the new resident who gets a ticket for doing 30 miles per hour on Ed's street? Can he be excused from responsibility if he tells the arresting officer what Ed said ?

Why or why not?

What happens when a disciple shares the doctrine of his teacher with others, but adds or changes certain parts so the teaching becomes more like what the disciple thinks it should be?

Is he a true disciple? _____
Why or why not, according to the dictionary definition of disciple?

If our church's aim is to help everyone become a disciple of Jesus Christ, what are we asking each person to do about Jesus and his teachings?

2) Read Matthew 4:18-22. What did Jesus call these men to do?

What did he promise to do in return?

A tennis pro encouraged his young student. “I want you to become part of a special group I'm training. If you will follow my instructions faithfully, I can make you a tennis star. I'm willing to do my part; are you willing to do yours?” Who is to do what in this arrangement?

3) In John 1:43, who does Jesus find and what invitation/command does he give?

In Mathew 9:9-12, to whom does Jesus extend a specific invitation? In verse 12, who does he say he came to call?

Jesus knew he could make a sinner into a disciple if only the sinner were willing to do what?

4) If we faithfully follow Jesus, he tells us he will make us into the disciple he wants us to be. We don't have to be concerned about how we can make our life count for God. It is Jesus who will make our life matter.

THINK ABOUT IT: Jesus' pattern of discipleship is the same today as it was when he walked on the earth. First the invitation---”Come, follow me”. Then the promise of results: “I will make you.....” Where do you consider your self in the process?

- Hesitating to come - too big a commitment or too hard, or:

- Following off and on, depending on what's happening in your life, or:

- Following from afar, not wanting to get too involved in something that demands a complete loyalty but still wanting to be considered a follower of Jesus...

- Trying to make yourself a disciple by working hard to do and say the “right thing”...

- Following the Holy Spirit's lead daily, trusting Jesus to do the “making” as you do the “following”.

None of the above? Then, where are you?

COMPANIONS *in Christ*

**God of the heights and depths,
we open ourselves to an outpouring of Your grace.**

**Move among us and place in Your people
a desire to enter into a closer walk with You.
Set our hearts on fire with longing to dwell in Your
holy word and deepen our prayer.**

**As we thirst for You, O God,
raise up a group who will be our
Companions in Christ
and be a witness to Your presence in all of life
and especially in our community of faith.**

**God of the heights and depths,
bless our congregation with a new group of faithful
disciples...Your companions on the way.
Amen.**



MEN PREPARE TO PARTICIPATE

A group of men from 1st UMC are preparing to participate in the 2007 Leesburg Men's Retreat.

They will be traveling together for a weekend of spiritual renewal, uplifting music, marvelous speakers, and jovial camaraderie.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they prepare, and pray for the weekend of the retreat October 12 – 14.

Passionate Spirituality

By Marilyn Watson

What are you passionate about? Do you have an immediate answer to that question? Is your passion a person or a cause? I've discovered my passion is passionate spirituality. I wasn't really aware of that until I was asked to work in this area for our church. Once I start talking about passionate spirituality, it's hard to stop. I think one of the reasons for this passion is my desire for others to experience God's presence, to know Him and to love Him.

I heard that same kind of passion expressed recently by someone who knows God's presence and power and wants this knowing for others who don't know Christ at all. It was a wonderful thing to hear her express this passion. I'm not sure, but I think her passion is for others to know Christ personally.

I'm sure you've heard Pastor Mark talk about the spiritual disciplines as ways to draw closer to Christ, *to feel His presence and His grace.* (As I wrote I realized the words in italics are used in a song I dearly love.)

We can *feel* His presence, His power, and His grace when we draw closer to Christ. For some of us it's through our daily devotions, prayer, Bible study, worship, or music – or maybe all of these. Sometimes other practices move us deeper or give us a jolt out of the ordinary. Some of these deeply moving experiences may be just what we need to provide a fresh breeze.

They may make some a little uneasy because they've never participated in that particular spiritual discipline before. It just may be that by partaking of something new and different, those who thought they would be uncomfortable will be surprised by what a wonderful experience they have and how close to Christ they feel.

I was studying recently about different forms of prayer. You may have participated in all of them – some of them I had not. (I hadn't even heard of one of them and another I couldn't pronounce.)

Given the opportunity to experience these, I was deeply moved by each of the forms of prayer – especially by the ones with which I was most unfamiliar. So I've learned the unfamiliar may be just what the Holy Spirit is leading me to experience.

What about you? Are there spiritual disciplines you haven't explored? Have you prayed more than one type of prayer? Would you ask the Lord if He would have you participate in something different this year, to explore something unfamiliar?

At the Florida Annual Conference held in Lakeland this year the Florida United Methodist Foundation honored our own Dick Evans with the Robert C. Holmes Award presented annually to a clergy member who has advanced the cause of planned giving in his local Church. Dick has worked diligently over many years to set up our endowment fund and to encourage members of the church to participate in the "Fifth Dimension Society" that allows our members to remember the church through planned giving instruments.

We are pleased to join with the foundation in our appreciation for all that Dick has done for the church.

**ROBERT C.
HOLMES
AWARD**

Built on a Rock – Stewardship 2007

By Sally Ann Moore

I love singing in the choir! Whether it's a popular praise song, a heartfelt hymn, or an arresting anthem, I love praising God in music.

So I'm excited about our upcoming stewardship campaign – *Built on a Rock*.

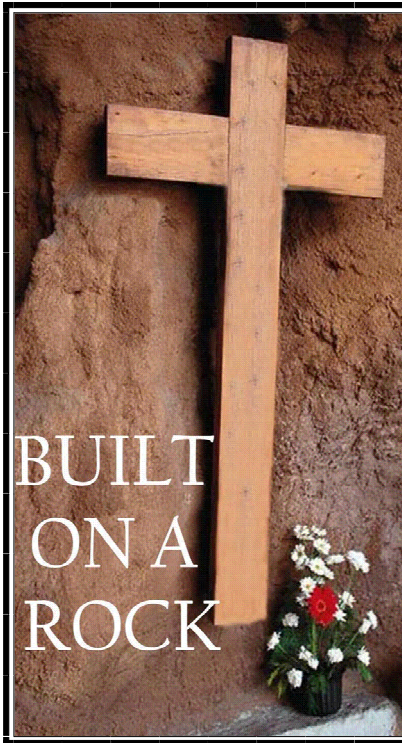
Why? Because this year we're planning a joyous musical thank-you. No dessert extravaganza, no ministry/mission fair – just an enthusiastic Sunday morning celebration of our gratitude for God's glorious generosity.

Along the way we'll provide a little stewardship food for thought, just to make sure you have all the energy you need to share in our celebration of gratitude.

This month's energy bar comes from Ephesians 2:19-20: "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone."

What does it mean to be a member of God's household? For me it's reminiscent of my childhood home where respect, love, obedience, and responsibility shared space with joy and laughter. A similar picture comes to mind when I think of the foundation left to us by Jesus and the apostles.

But any way I look at it, living in God's household means stewardship to me – the sharing of all the gracious gifts he has given me with those around me.



As a member of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa household, how do you respond to God's call to stewardship? Perhaps more importantly, what effect does your response have on your relationship with Jesus as you journey with him in faith?

During the next month, I encourage you to join me in prayerfully seeking God's answers to these questions. The result may surprise you!

In the meantime, let me leave you with a song:

Built on a Rock
By Jay Althouse

Built on a rock, the church will stand even when steeples are falling.
Built on a rock, in ev'ry land, Christ our Lord is calling.
Calling to the young and old to rest, calling to the souls of those oppressed.
Built on a rock, the church will stand. Christ our Lord is calling.

This is a house of living stone built for God's habitation.
He is a rock on humble throne, granting us salvation.
Wherever two or more come to seek his face, God will be among them to show His grace.
He is a rock and this His place, granting us salvation.

Built on a rock, the Church will stand, firmly on one foundation.
Built on a rock in ev'ry land, this God's new creation.
Together we have come for to give and receive.
In Christ our Lord we do believe.
Built on a rock, the church will stand.
This God's new creation.

God's Love in Action

Back to school, back to the office, back home from vacation. September brings much "busyness" to our lives.

Even kind and loving folks, who have great intentions, often become consumed by what is happening under their own roof.

Then they learn that a Christian brother or sister in faith is facing a tough time.

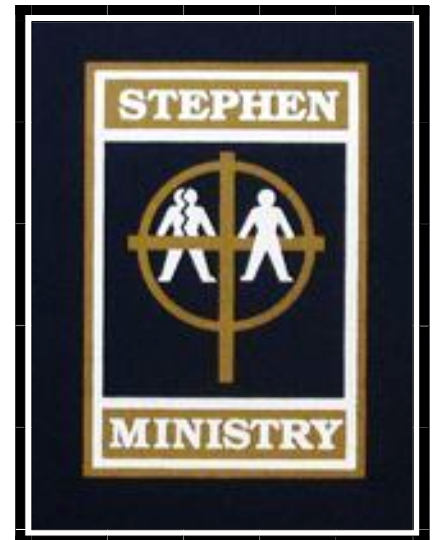
What is a great way to help a hurting friend? Encourage that person to call a Stephen Leader or the church office. He or she may find it difficult to

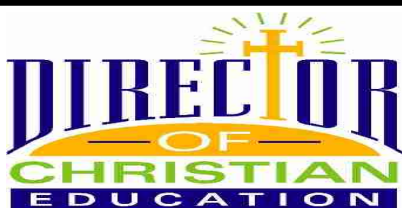
make that initial contact, so with permission, anyone can seek information on having a Stephen Minister assigned.

Stephen Ministers are humble volunteers, with training and continuing education, who await the opportunity to assist others to experience God's love in action.

If you would like to request a Stephen Minister, who will respect confidences and provide weekly visits plus phone support, contact:

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





Education and Ministries
Patience Nave

My role at the church has changed, and I am pleased to tell you about some new responsibilities that Parish Relations Committee has asked me to assume.

Beginning July 15, they expanded my responsibilities to include coordination of programs for youth, children, and small groups, as well as assistance to the Pastor for the work of ministries. This broadening of my job comes at a good time. I am already busy at many new tasks.

I will be at the church all day every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, plus other times as specific needs arise. I welcome your visit to tell me of things that you think we might consider for church outreach—in any of the areas of my responsibility. Please stop by when you are in the church.

Several things you'll be interested in knowing:

- Three new small groups are beginning, possibly four. You'll hear more about them in the bulletins in coming weeks.
- The new directory is well underway. A committee met and designated Life Touch as the supplier of the directory, and they will guide us through the entire process. Pictures will be made about the middle of October, will be ready for you to use as Christmas gifts, and you can order Christmas cards for this year if you like. The new directory should be ready in early December. You'll hear more about the directory in the next two months.
- A Youth Council has been organized to listen to our young people and determine how we can help them find a more vibrant role in the church.
- Our nursery population and children's Sunday school are growing, and it is exciting to see many happy little people there on Sunday morning.

The Samstag Chapel is open for prayer all day, every day. Specific needs of our church are listed in a prayer journal on the altar, and I encourage you to stop by often to spend a few minutes in seeking the Lord's guidance for our growth, programs, and outreach. Also, every Thursday at 2:00 you are invited to join others in the Chapel for an hour of worship and corporate prayer for the church.

Our fall schedule is pretty full. We are blessed to be members of a vibrant and lively church fellowship. Let me know any time I may be of help to you in planning projects or in getting materials you need.

WE'RE ROLLING ALONG...



Bus Ministry

The inaugural trip of the newly-instituted Bus Ministry was a great success. On Tuesday, July 10, twenty enthusiastic Methodists and friends boarded our "church bus" and headed for Gainesville. Our driver, Bill Brobst, delivered us directly to the door of the Museum of Natural History and issued our passes.

For the next five hours we were able to experience the Butterfly Forest, explore the exhibits of early Florida settlements and other interesting items in the museum, and examine the various displays in the Museum of Art. Most of us also enjoyed a relaxing lunch at the cafe in the museum complex, and many of us enriched the coffers of the gift shop by purchasing unique items (gifts for grandchildren, of course).

Upon our return, we unanimously agreed that it had been a delightful day, and we are looking forward to subsequent adventures.

The August trip, scheduled for Tuesday, the 14th, was to the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, and included an eco-tour of Tampa Bay on the aquarium's tour boat. (At press time, this trip had not yet occurred, but we expect it will be very enjoyable.)

On September 23, we will be attending a matinee performance of Moon over Buffalo at the Ice House Theater in Mt. Dora, with dinner to follow at the lovely Lakeside Inn. This trip sold out within days of it being announced, which seems to indicate a definite interest on the part of the congregation in "going places and doing things."

So, get out your calendars! We are pleased to announce the following plans:

Monday, October 15: Cypress Gardens (in Winter Haven) \$45.00 (includes cost of admission and bus; lunch, on your own, will be available at various sites within the park). Departure from FUMC at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, November 16: Silver Springs (in Ocala) for the Native American Festival. \$35.00 (includes admission and bus; lunch, on your own, will be available at various sites within the park). Departure from FUMC at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 12: Christmas Musical Revue Matinee at Show Palace Dinner Theater in Hudson. \$55.00 (includes buffet lunch, show, and transportation). Departure from FUMC at 10:30 a.m. (Since this is a special holiday program, we will have a larger – 55 passenger – bus, so many more of you will be able to participate.)

To register for any of these jaunts – or to get more information – please contact Bill or Neretta Brobst at 621-3736. We look forward to hearing from you.



NEW BOOKS FOR A NEW SEASON

Following are books that will make good Fall reading:

1. **“Dragonwell Dead”** by Laura Childs. A Tea Shop Mystery that includes recipes and tea time tips. Tea shop owner Theo is promoting her latest concoction, Dragonwell Sweet Tea. As she pours, one of the town’s most established residents suddenly dies – then commodities broker Mark Congdon drops dead. Theo suspects it’s more than a heart attack, but who would want him dead? Many in town would, including Theo herself, who actually poured the poisoned brew.

2. **“Kingdom Come”** by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. This is #16 in the Left Behind series and tells how the earth itself is transformed as believers all around the world enjoy a newly perfected relationship with their Lord.

3. **“Get Out of That Pit”** by Beth Moore. Straight talk about God’s deliverance and what happens when we invite God’s power into our pain. No matter how you got stuck in a pit, no matter how long, whether you think you deserve it or not, your Redeemer is waiting.

4. **“Sprirt of America”** is a book of beautiful color photos of America with comments by Dr. Robert Schuller.

5. **“Amazing Grace of Freedom,”** the inspiring faith of William Wilburforce, the Slaves’ Champion, written by Ken Wales. It tells of the impact the movie “Amazing Grace” can have on today’s culture and gives an inspiring look at the influence of William Wilburforce on lives and ministries today.

6. **“Marley & Me”** by John Grogan. This is a #1 New York Times bestseller of life and love with the world’s worst dog, a heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family in the making and the wondrously neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life.

7. **“Suzanne’s Diary for Nicholas”** by James Patterson. Katie wonders who Nicholas is and why Matt had sent her this diary. There is a note from Matt apologizing for falling in love with her and explaining that the diary is about his wife and son, and himself. And Katie turns the page and starts to read.....

8. **“When the Heart Cries”** by Cindy Woodsall. Fans of the Amish way of life will enjoy this story of Hannah Lapp, a young girl who was raised in a traditional Old Order Amish family and is going to marry outside of her community. On the evening of her engagement to Mennonite Paul Waddell, tragedy strikes. Hannah finds herself entangled in questions that the Old Way of her people cannot answer and she faces the possibility of losing her place in her family, her community, and in the heart of the man she loves.

9. Gilbert Morris, prolific author of strong characters, has written two new books. **“Santa Fe Woman”** is the story of 22-year old Jori Hayden whose family has lost its fortune and they must venture west along the Santa Fe Trail in search of a livelihood. It’s a journey marked by unsavory characters and dangerous conditions at every turn, where unexpected romance, undaunted faith, and a family committed to each other, may prove to be the greatest fortune of all. Next is **“The Miracle,”** #3 of the Singing River series. The story continues with a a young woman’s struggle during the Great Depression to uphold her faith, family, and dreams of becoming a writer.

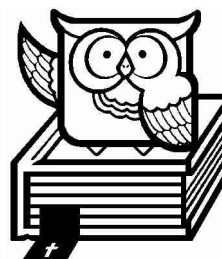
10. **“Sunrise”** by Karen Kingsbdury. This is the first book in her brand new series but it picks up where the Redemption series left off. There’s a lot going on in the lives of the characters you’ve come to know and love in the Baxter family. There’s never a dull moment.

11. **“The Mitford Bedside Companion”** by Jan Karon, a treasury of favorite Mitford moments, Jan Karon recollects for her fans all the good times in Mitford.

12. **“The O’Malley Chronicles”** by Dee Henderson, three bestselling novels in one book. The O’Malleys are a close knit clan of seven men and women who as children living in an orphanage formed an alliance and adopted each other and took the surname of O’Malley. For over two decades they’ve held together against all obstacles by depending on one another. Each has successfully taken on the changes of a high-risk profession, heroically dealing with life and death situations every day. Kate is a hostage negotiator, Marcus is U.S. Marshall, Lisa is a forensic pathologist, Jack is a firefighter, Rachel is a trauma psychologist, and Stephen is a paramedic.

Also, check out our expanding Audio and DVD selections.

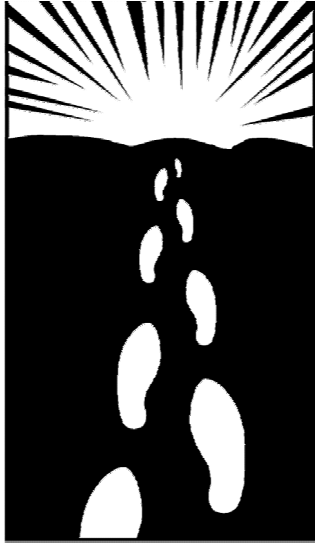
Your Library Staff,
Barbara Jackson and Helen Lefave



Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." (Ephesians 1:17)



The Ephesians to whom Paul was writing knew the Lord, but Paul was not satisfied. He wants them to go further. He wants them to know God *better*. As I read this, I wondered about how one can go about knowing God better, for, of course, that must be what we all want to do if we are to be truly his disciples, his learners.

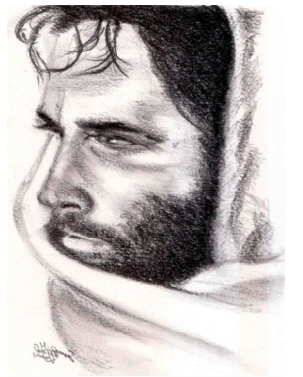
I think I began to learn when a couple in the church invited me to their home for dinner. We sat together for about an hour in their lovely dining area, enjoying a beautifully prepared and presented meal. We chatted about all kinds of things. Family, theirs and mine. Life experiences, theirs and mine. Travel, theirs and mine. Then we moved to a quiet nook in their sunroom and continued our conversation over a final cup of coffee. I stayed way too long, but I just got so comfortable that I didn't want to leave. As I drove away from their home, I felt so content. I also suddenly knew what Paul means in this scripture.

I have known this couple for a long time, have often served with them on committees, see them regularly as we move about the church. But that night as I was leaving their home, I had a wonderfully warm feeling because I now know them in a much more intimate way. Our talk had not been superficial. We had shared some important things in our lives, even some things that hurt. And I realized I am beginning to really know this charming couple! I went home that evening thanking God for a special evening.

I also began to wonder how long it has been since I just sat and enjoyed God as I did this couple. How long has it been since I let him tell me what He is thinking instead of always telling him what I am thinking. I wondered how much attention I pay to the things that make Him smile as well as the things that cause Him pain. Surely that must be what Paul means when he says to the Ephesians that he prays for them *"to know [God] better."* Maybe I need to invite God to dinner, well-prepared and just for him, so we can have a long, quiet visit together.

Prayer: Father, I want the blessing that Paul prayed for the Ephesians to be applied to my life. I want to know you better - to know you much better. Bring that to pass, please. Amen

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection?



The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

1. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
2. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!"
3. Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see.
4. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first.
5. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.
6. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there,
7. While the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Is that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. In those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm done". But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, "I'm not finished yet." The folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!"

He is Coming Back!

Yes, Virginia, There IS A Youth Group At FUMCH!

By Neretta Brobst

Energetic! Enthusiastic! Perservering! Creative! Dedicated! These adjectives can all be used in describing the members of our Youth Group.

In June they did a wonderful job preparing props and decorations for Bible School, and they eagerly participated in the events of Bible School Week.

In July they willingly agreed to clean the interior of the church bus, prior to the trip to Gainesville - and what a job they did!

In August they accepted responsibilities on two church committees: Jenelle Behuniak was the month's representative to the Creative Worship Committee (a different youth will be chosen each month) while James Beuhniak will be the representative on the newly formed Youth Council.

It's not all work for these young people. They've had an outing for a picnic and activities at Manatee Springs State Park in July, and on August 19th, an afternoon at Wild Waters Park at Silver Springs in Ocala. We are planning other trips and activities, aiming for one per month.

The Youth Group currently meets on Sunday, from noon until 2 PM, under the guidance of Mrs. Neretta Brobst, who also teaches the Youth Sunday School Class. Meetings consist of a light lunch, a business portion, and an activity or game linked to the topic or issue or concern. Future activities may involve letter-writing projects, craft projects, visiting nursing homes, using the computer lab, and, of course, keeping that bus clean!

We invite other interested youth to join us for fellowship and fun, and we welcome the input of other adults who have advice, skills, interests, and talents to share with our young adults.

The statement may be overworked, but it's true -
 "IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD."

Thank You For Your Generosity! **TOOLS FOR SCHOOL!**

Pastor asked, "If you're shopping for school supplies yourself, or just doing your usual errands, you can help local kids by picking up a few extra school items to donate and help children in Homosassa Elementary School start the school year with supplies.

Your donations filled up the whole back-cargo area and inside passenger-side of our custodian, Dale Evans, truck.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.



SAFE DRIVING CLASS

Want to improve your Driving Skills?

Learn how Electronic Stability Control and other Vehicle Safety Features can assist you in preventing a deadly car crash.



**An AARP Safe Driving Class is scheduled for:
 September 19th-20th , 9AM to 1PM
 in the Fellowship Hall.**

Class size is limited, so register early with Frank Tobin at 628-3229

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will begin both circle and unit meetings in September.
September Circle Duty for The Thrift Shop: Mary Martha Circle



Sunday, September 16, 2007 ~ United Methodist Women's Sunday

UMW will be serving as ushers & liturgists.

Rev. Sheryl Phillips, Chaplain of Citrus Hospice will present the sermon.

Being Pantry Sunday please bring donations for our Food Pantry.

Monday, September 17, 2007 ~ Executive Committee Business Meeting

10:00 AM in Room 114

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 ~ September Unit Meeting

~ Pot Luck Luncheon ~

11:30 a.m. in Shively Hall

~ ALL WOMEN INVITED TO ATTEND ~

Please bring a dish of your choice to share.

Hostesses are the Helping Hand Circle, and they will provide the beverage.

Following lunch, Walter Hagan, Chaplain for the Christian Motorcycle Association, will speak on communities of bikers following the command of God that implores all of us to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). Christian Motorcycle groups take this calling seriously as the lifeblood of their existence and passion. Their ministry and sole purpose is to equip the saints to engage in practical ministry opportunities.

Through these ministries bikers and others are learning about Jesus Christ and receiving His awesome gift of salvation and eternal life in Heaven with Him. People with bikes, who may not normally step foot into an organized church or Bible study, are being reached. It's putting rubber, as well as shoe leather, into the Gospel message.

Come to our Pot Luck Luncheon! This is an excellent way to make new friends and learn about the organization of women known as United Methodist Women (U.M.W.).

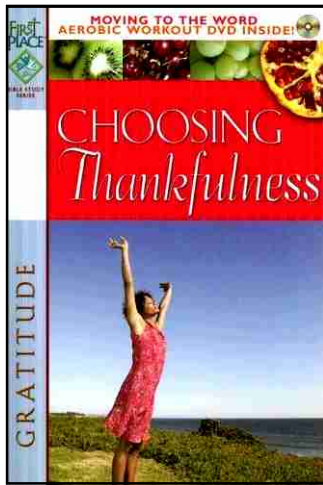


Our Circle members' project of the month will be filling ditty bags, Maureen Samstag has been busily sewing, with health and practical items for use after hurricanes and other stressful events. They will be brought to the Annual District Meeting of the U.M.W. and distributed as needed to adults and children.



Starting September 27, 2007, crafters will be meeting in Room 106 at 10 AM every Thursday to work on projects for our annual bazaar which is Saturday, November 3, 2007. *Be sure this date is on your calendar.* Many of our members have been sewing and making crafts throughout the year for this event. If you are working on bazaar items at home please contact Maureen Samstag or Patricia Blake to let them know what and how many items you have. The bazaar is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please come and lend your hands and talents. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make for light work."

For further information, call Patricia Blake, UMW President, @ 628-6602



“FIRST PLACE” also called “The Divine Diet”

**A New Class Will Start
Wednesday
September 19, 2007
10:30 AM in Room 106**

“Choosing Thankfulness” is a comprehensive Bible study by the biblically-based organization, First Place. The course offers a productive "reader friendly" guide for daily Bible study. The guide includes ten weekly studies with a preparation process, motivational spiritual practices with scripture memory verses, wellness worksheets, personal commitment records, two weeks of menu plans, as well as an accompanying "Moving To The Word" aerobic exercise DVD for personal fitness.

“The workout DVD that's included in the book is presented by Body and Soul ministries in conjunction with First Place. The workout is 30 minutes and is predominantly cardio work. If you're a veteran of workout videos, this one may seem to be quite simplistic to you. The set dressings and routine are very simple, the leader's moves are a bit robotic and the sound isn't great, but there are some good things about it. Because of its simplicity, there's no extra equipment required. This would be great for anyone - like someone who's new to working out, or an experienced person who just needs a simple routine, possibly even to take on the road with them. There are 3 cast-members on screen, each doing a different level of difficulty. This is great to tailor the workout to your level. The soundtrack is comprised of memory verses that members learn in the First Place classes. This not only breaks up the routine nicely into short segments, but it also was great to recite powerful scripture during the workout. *“When I am weak, HE is strong!”* One of the neat features of the DVD is a track where the leader, Jeannie Blocher, takes you through all of the different steps to help you learn them. While an experienced person might see these moves as elementary, this track is wonderful to have for the novice participant. Kudos to First Place for producing yet another tool to help their participants see success!” ~ L. Hartness, Vero Beach, FL

“Choosing Thankfulness” is very highly recommended reading, especially for those Christian readers with out-of-control eating habits who are searching for God's promise and unfailing love and in need of a definitive collection of healthy and effective strategies for weight-loss and fit body workouts.” ~ Midwest Book Review

Transform your life with the Bible’s way to weight loss through this Christ-centered health and weight-loss program for men and women of all ages.

God knows where He needs to work first, and it isn’t always in the weight-loss area of the program. There might be emotional or spiritual healing that needs to be addressed before weight-loss occurs.

Giving Christ first place in all things in our lives creates a daily thanksgiving that brings hope and healing that lasts into eternity.

To sign up, or for more information, contact:
Diane Gibbs, or Patience Nave.

Small Groups to Begin in the Fall

The following small groups will begin early in the fall. Call the small group leader listed or the church office if you are interested in participating in one of these groups. The time and dates will be announced later, depending on the space available on specific days.

If you would like to lead a small group or if you have an idea for a group, call Patience Nave at the church. We want to add new groups depending on need and interest.



<u>Group</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Bereavement -----	Peggy Benson
Cancer Support -----	Anna Cooley
Current Affairs -----	Bill Ackerman
Decision-making Made Easy -----	Patience Nave
First Place -----	Diane Gibbs
Living in Community - -	Jan Wise
Saturday Sisters -----	Sally Moore
Scrapbooking -----	Kim Bennett



Wonderful Wednesdays

We are planning to begin our Wonderful Wednesday dinners October 3rd. We anticipate continuing the dinners through December as long as Fellowship Hall is not effected by the construction of Phase Three in our building program. Watch for more information on the dates, speakers and entertainment in the bulletins to come.

July 31, 2007

Dear Church Family:

My recent hospital stay made me realize the heart in my Methodist Brethren. Visits and prayers by Pastor Mark, Gene Lantz, Sharon Smith, and others, were a healing tonic. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Bill Richner

I wish to thank all friends and members of FUMC for your many cards and prayers during my recent illness.

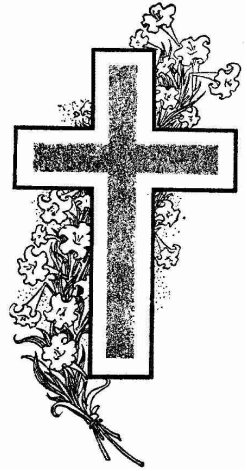
Prayers and caring people truly do help.

Valerie Harris

**IN
MEMORIAM:**

Edith Frances Adams
("Frankie")

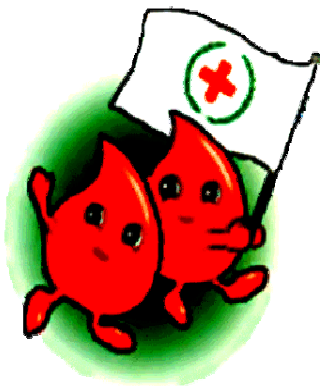
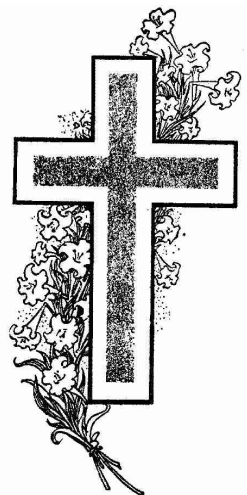
August 30, 1944
to
July 16, 2007



**IN
MEMORIAM:**

Kenneth Smith

April 17, 1933
to
May 9, 2007



**Give Life!
Find A Blood Drive!**

"The life of the flesh is in blood"
Lev. 18:11

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

LifeSouth Community Blood Center is desperately seeking donors in Citrus County to help make their quota required to meet the needs of both Citrus Memorial and Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center.

State that your donated blood be accredited to The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa, and it will be available for members of our church's congregation when needs arise.

Barbara Jackson

September Birthdays

2
Raymond Clemans
Jennifer Gibbs
3
Elta Whilden
Edward Calkins
4
Exie Ochier
Carolyn Marvel
Gene Lantz
Sandy Catania
5
Rebecca Austin
6
Barbara Jackson
7
Jo Ann Precious
Cheryl Smith
Angie Snodgrass
Melinda Bassler
8
Barbara Toole
Carroll Lunceford
Danny Jackson
9
Ruth Oblinger
Henry Heesemann
Brittany Hornsby
Harry Preston
10
Lisa Stocker
11
Beth Cilwa
Jaime Merson
Brandon Martin
Rilie Scont
12
Alma Kadel
Donald Holcomb
JoAnn Wilson
Sarah Hodges
Dustin Will
14
Virginia Kirby
Molly McCreery
Lynn Shuten
Sandra Garner
Ed Loper
15
Ruth Healy
Kim Bennett
16
Bill Lent
Dick Otto

17
Edna Schneider
Nelva Clemans
Julius Kertesz
18
Carol Manser
Patricia Cram
Robert Mott
19
Donald Stohrer
Carol MacKenzie
Sean Verlee
20
Helen Schwebes
21
Harold Layman
Joyce Smith
22
Virginia Tompkins
Ralph Pohlman
Walter Rudolph
Carrie Staton
23
Oliver Bronn
Marie Archambault
Dorothy Peterson
L. M. Downs
Jill Wickliffe
24
Lorraine Tollefson
Kathy Yuhasz
25
Marge Swinson
Kay Bast
Annie Preston
Lori DeClue
26
Helen Zack
Shirley Shrader
Charlene Murray
27
Burnie McGee
28
John Cole
Pat Hoar
Gretta Marshall
Jim Wickliffe
Christine Akkasian
Helen McCallister
29
Louise Ozee
Evelyn MacDonald
30
Harvey Comfort
Sharon Deutsch
Mary Hand

September Anniversaries

1
Wanda & Russell
Chapman ~ 61 years
Judy & Lyle
Lee ~ 51 years
Wendy & Miles
Ernest ~ 18 years
2
Ester & William
Waters ~ 46 years
3
Willy & Hendrik
Pouderoyne ~ 54 years
4
Arlene & Donald
Stohrer ~ 59 years
Gini & Harold
Slusher ~ 65 years
Marlene & Henry
Kaiser ~ 21 years
7
Joan & L. M.
Downs ~ 43 years
Linda & Ray
Ritter ~ 45 years
Margo & Robert
Blum ~ 40 years
10
Eleanor & Chuck
Hoeffler ~ 58 years
11
Priscilla & William
Oleson ~ 58 years
12
Shirley & Len
Cromer ~ 55 years
15
Molly & Charles
McCreery ~ 56 years
Lois & Bernhard
Diedrich ~ 51 years
17
Bess & Don
Hoes ~ 52 years
Barbara & Bill
Gilbert ~ 42 years
18
Dolores & Joe
Henry ~ 59 years
Carol & John
Manser ~ 15 years
Rebekah & Stephen
Csont ~ 3 years

19
Wanda & Gordon
Ashley ~ 32 yrs
27
Rebekah & Stephen
Csont ~ 3 years

Members Residing In Long Term Care
As of September 7, 2007

NURSING CENTERS

BARRINGTON
Ken McGuire

BRENTWOOD
Evelyn Bash
Rene Dube
Del Parker
Ann Specht

CRYSTAL RIVER HEALTH & REHAB.
Robert Smith

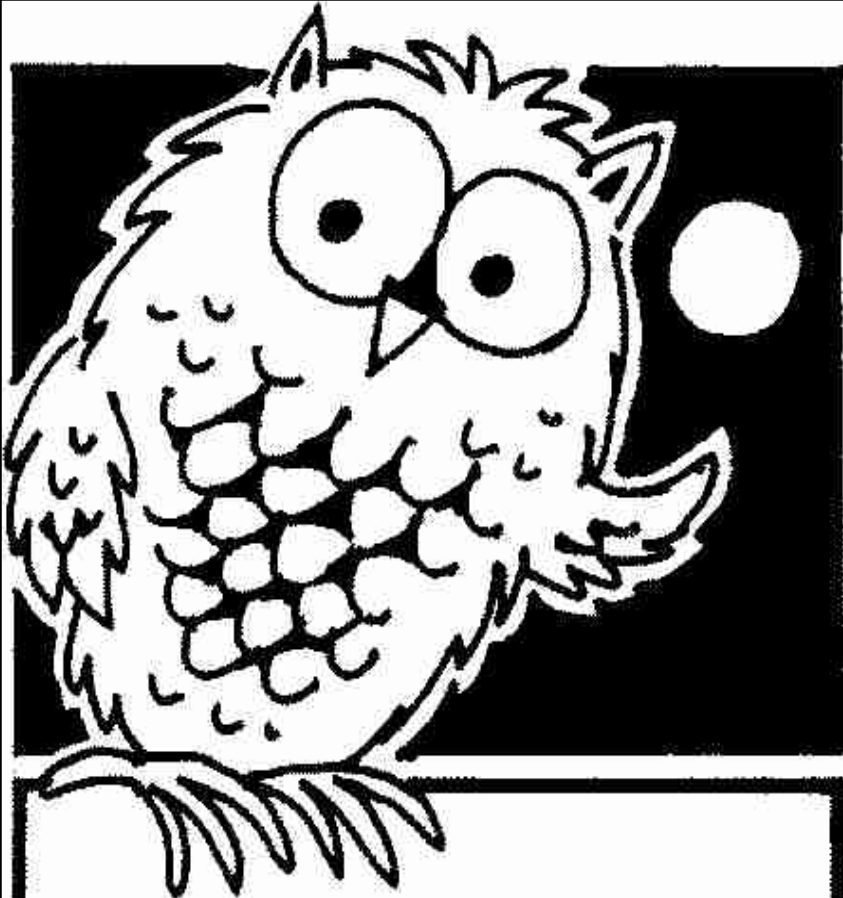
CYPRESS COVE
Jack Mallett
Linda Schrock
Margrurite Seely
Elta Whilden
Julia Wilkinson

DIAMOND RIDGE
Marjorie Cook
Maddie Wallace

NATURE COAST LODGE
Betty Duncan

RICHLAND OAKS
Bill Marquis

SUGARMILL MANOR
Grace Payne



Security at FUMC Is Important!

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

~ IF YOU OPEN IT ~ LOCK IT.

~ IF YOU TURN IT ON ~ TURN IT OFF.

REMEMBER:

STOP!

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

LOOK!

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

LOCK!

LOCK the doors!

Thank you!
Michael Rodgers,
Night Security

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

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.

Tips on using and selecting sunscreens from your Parish Nurse, Sharon E. Smith



1. Use a sunscreen that contains zinc oxide, titanium dioxide or avobenzone.
2. Apply sunscreen 1/2 hour prior to working in the sun. Most sunscreens work by reacting with the skin, so they do not start absorbing damaging rays right away.
3. Use at least 2 tablespoons of sunscreen each time you apply. If you use less, your SPF factor decreases by 2/3. (A 30 SPF will give protection of a 10.)
4. Reapply every 2 hours while working or perspiring.

Do wear sunscreen on a cloudy day, as you can still absorb damaging rays.

PROTECT YOUR SKIN – IT'S THE ONLY ONE YOU WILL EVER HAVE!



Florida
United Methodist
Children's Home
Located in Enterprise since 1908

*Touching
The Future ~
One Child
At A Time*

Think how much work it is (or was) to get your children ready for a new school year.

Now consider what it would be like getting approximately 88 girls and boys equipped to begin school.

Each year it is a monumental undertaking for the Children's Home to prepare so many young people to begin a new school year.

They must make sure all current and new residents are registered for school. The boys and girls must pick up class schedules, meet new teachers and attend orientation.

They also must make sure each resident has new school clothes, books and adequate school supplies. Many must be prepared emotionally to start in a brand new school.

"The Children's Home would like to thank all the churches, organizations and individuals who donated school supplies and funds for school activity fees. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and saved the Children's Home a great deal of time and expense.

"We also thank our great Homosassa Methodist Church for being so generous in their giving to this most worthy cause."

Our next Fifth Sunday offering won't be until the end of October, but you can send donations at any time during the year.

Florida United Methodist Children's Home
51 Main Street
Enterprise, Florida 32725
Phone (386) 668-4774
Fax (386) 668-4486

We want to get these children off to a good start. September is a wonderful month for new beginnings.

I thank each of you!

~ Marsha Bader

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

Be Part Of It...

And make the world a better place.

Back in the fall of 2000, there was a meeting at the church to set up a program called SHARE. Many volunteers were there to work the program when and if it started.

Only one thing was missing - a chairman to be in charge. No one wanted to be obligated to a new program and committed to running it. Nancy and I were at this meeting, and it seems something was telling us, "You're needed." So, after talking it over with each other, we decided to give it a try. It was better than seeing what looked like a good program end before it even got started.

That was almost seven years ago and now SHARE is helping families and individuals every month to put more food on the table. This is not because we took on the job of co-chair but because of the love and fellowship shown every month by the volunteers who get the job done.

The work includes taking orders, picking up the food in Ocala, setting up the tables, counting and placing all the food and doing the distribution. Then the tables are reset and the room cleaned. Nancy and I may be "in charge," but we could never even begin to do SHARE without all these wonderful volunteers.

We only wish more members of our church would take advantage of the program and come in to order. Sales are down, and we are not doing the volume we should.

Help a neighbor or someone you know who may be having trouble making ends meet. Come in and order them a Basic SHARE Package and tell us who they are. Give them the order slip and let them know where and when to pick up their food. We will help them with their first order and show them how easy it is to become involved with SHARE. They may even become a volunteer.

October starts our eighth year, and we have sold almost \$90,000 in food. That's at least \$180,000 in value. We hope to keep the program going for a long time, but it will only work if we have the volunteers. In the near future, we may need people to do some of the more involved work. I may have to go away for a few months for medical care, and these jobs need to be done.

Please call if you think you can help.
Thank you,
Tom & Nancy Pearo
352/382-1034

Dear praying friends,

We have arrived safely in Chaing Mai and are attempting to settle back in at home, school, and church.

We received a very warm welcome on our return, with many people meeting us at the airport and several missionaries providing meals and food. What a blessing and encouragement that was.

We are looking forward to returning to Cool Shade of Life Church this coming Sunday. While we were gone, three new people became followers of Christ, one couple had a baby girl, two Bible School graduates joined the church and will assist for up to two years, and two members began their second term at Bible School. Praise God!

We left Chaing Mai on June 9th with plans to visit family, from Florida to Pennsylvania, speak at least five times at churches, visit two colleges of interest for Brittany and Justin, see the fireworks in Washington, D.C., etc..

We spent our first two relaxing weeks with Joe and Dolores Henry, Sr. in Homosassa, Florida. We made stops at friends in Jacksonville, FL, and traveled on up the coast to visit family in Virginia. We finally arrived at Elaine's family home in Pennsylvania for two weeks.

A generous donor provided us with enough money for a rental van during our state-side visit.

The First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks in Florida opened the doors to it's clinic for agency-mandated physical exams.

We had great tours at Columbia International University in South Carolina and Liberty University in Virginia. Please pray for wisdom on where our children decide to continue their education in the future.

We couldn't thank everyone we saw in The States for all the encouraging words, and for the financial assistance, but you can be assured that you all are in our hearts' prayers as we cherish the unique times we had this summer.

PRAYERS:

- Please pray for Elaine and the children as the new year begins at Grace International School. Elaine is feverishly preparing her room with lots of help from Brittany and Justin. This year Brittany will be in 11th grade, Justin in 9th grade, Caleb in 4th grade, and Jamie in 2nd grade.
- Pray for Joe as he seeks to get the house and mounds of business/personal paperwork back in order after two months away.
- Please pray for Elaine's health. We finally learned this summer that most of her health problems stem from severe anemia.
- Continue to pray for our recovery from jet lag. The rule is "one day per time zone," so that's 12 days until we feel normal...only eight days to go!

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you..."

God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of His Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you." ~ Romans 1:8-10

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



Pennsylvania Family Photo



July 21, 2007
Potluck Dinner for our Thai Missionaries, The Henry Family.

70 people attended the dinner. A Power Point presentation of what the Lord has been doing in Chaing Mai, details of financial needs, the needs of the church, and of personal struggles of language and culture was given in both English and Thai, set to the soundtrack of Thai Christian music.

Joe and Elaine discussed the bondage of darkness that prevails in this society, and the people's daily battle against superstition, fear, bad karma, spirits, and luck.

Thai children begin school as soon as they can walk...to sixth grade. From there they are on their own. A test must be passed to continue on with higher education that is personally financed by the individual.

There is only one seminary in Thailand. Joe is working on a program for Discipleship, to educate more ministers to move out into communities, plant more churches, and develop "more lights for Christ."

Elaine asks for prayers to help her create a program for women that would be held in homes. She told of the beatings women get if they attend a church service.

The Thai society is a society that passes on history and teachings orally. Preaching has a much different style than what we know. Understanding of an elementary level of Biblical teaching is basic: Jesus Christ equals Salvation. Asian Christians state that what is most important in their Christianity is "Peace"!

Keep praying for guidance and protection for the Henrys as they help the Thai people grasp and cherish the peace of Christ.

~ Judith Huffer

IRELAND --- Here We Come! May 24 - June 7, 2008



A 15-day trip to the Emerald Isle, with an itinerary that includes the best of the Republic and of Northern Ireland, was arranged by CIE Tours who are experts on Ireland, and J & L Travel of Homosassa (who will donate a portion of the proceeds to FUMCH). You will be escorted by Dick and Myrna Evans who are experienced group travel leaders.

Highlights:

- In Dublin, a city tour, and Powerscourt Gardens.
- From Limerick, travel to Blarney & Cork, the Dingle Peninsula, and Adare Village.
- On the way to Galway, see the Cliffs of Moher. Enjoy Galway and a special tour to the Aran Islands.
- In Northern Ireland, tour the ancient city of Armagh and the newer city of Belfast. See the Giant's Causeway and Derry, St. Patrick's Centre in Downpatrick, and the Celtic high crosses at Monasterboice.

There will be ample leisure time and time for shopping throughout the two weeks. There will also be opportunities for Sunday worship on May 25 in Dublin and June 2 in Galway (either a Methodist Service or Roman Catholic Mass).

The tour price will include:

- Motor coach transportation from Homosassa to Orlando and return.
- Direct flights on Aer Lingus from Orlando to Dublin and return.
- 13 nights in 3 and 4 star hotels.
- 3 nights each in Dublin, Limerick, and Galway, 4 nights in Armagh).
- Full breakfast and dinner each day.
- Deluxe motor coach and guide in Ireland.
- Admission at all sightseeing locations.
- Hotel portorage, service charges, and taxes.
- Travel protection insurance.

The per person cost will be a maximum of \$3,315 (dbl.occ.) if 20 passengers travel and only \$2,880 if 45 persons travel. So invite your friends, neighbors, and extended family members - and lower the price for all! Single room supplement: \$550.

Pick up a flyer at the church office and register now in order to secure your place on this exciting trip.
Your \$900 deposit includes your airfare and will "lock in" the current price regardless of future increases.
Call the church office at 628-4083 or Dick Evans at 563-5833 with your questions.



Bus Ministry

Transportation to and from church on Communion Sundays is available to those who wish to come to church but are unable to do so because of the lack of transportation or the inability to drive. If you are interested in being picked up for church, or know someone who is, you can get more information by completing the following sign-up form and returning it to the church office or by contacting Bill & Neretta Brobst at 621-3736.

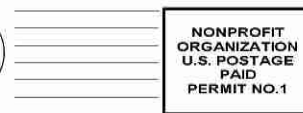
A qualified driver will pick you up at your home between 9:00 am and 10:30 am for the 11 am service and will return you to your home afterward. Please be ready to leave so there is no delay getting to the next pick-up. The bus has a lift, so even if you have difficulty with stairs, we can accommodate you. Due to the varying number of riders each month a definite pick-up time can not be scheduled. Don't be shy – give Bill a call.

YES I am interested in being picked up for church the first Sunday of the month
for 11AM Communion Service. Please call me to make arrangements.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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



Neil Kline, Web Master

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

Rev. Mark Whittaker
Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM
Nursery at all services
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM
Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM

Office Hours: Weekdays
8:30AM to 4:30PM
Office Telephone: 628-4083

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Soli Deo Gloria



HURRICANE SEASON 2007