GENESIS NEWSLETTER

HOMOSASSA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8831 W. Bradshaw Street - Homosassa, FL 34448

Phone: (352) 628-4083 Fax: (352) 628-9086

Sunday services: 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Kip Younger, Pastor



ADMINISTRATOR

Theresa Weber

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MUSIC

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Joy Potts (Organist/Pianist)

Becky Kirksey (Music Assistant)

PARISH VISITOR

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SOUND TECHNICIANS

Sharon Cooley

Ron Hesketh

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

& NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Sandra Tam

CUSTODIAN

Dale Evans

NIGHT SECURITY

Randy Weber

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Cor. 5:17

I grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Now I don't know if you remember this, but there is a long and beautiful beach that runs along the entire coastal area of Ft. Lauderdale. Do you know what is built along this beautiful beach? Hotels--lots and lots of hotels!

After several of my friends and I got our drivers' licenses, and then our own cars, we started driving out to the beach. Our plans usually came together during school on Friday afternoons. We would agree who would drive, and where we would meet. Then we were off to the beach.

There was one particular road that became a dead end on the side of a huge hotel. So, on Friday nights, we would drive to this dead end. Then we would strip down to our bathing suits which we wore under our clothes to conceal them from curious parents.

Next we would simply walk onto the beach and turn in the direction of

the hotel. Once we were behind the hotel, we would make our way up the beach and into the back entrance of the hotel's pool. Once safely inside, we were now guests of the hotel where we made ourselves at home. Many times these Friday night visits would lead to our meeting guests who were really from "out of town," and these meetings greatly intensified our fun.

Now some folks might have called our friendly beach-side visits "trespassing," but we never saw it that way. We simply considered our visits a privilege of living where we lived. We never caused any trouble, never created any vandalism nor hindered the vacation fun of the real guests. We were simply dropping by.

As we grew older, our lives changed, and the Friday night hotel visits came to an end. We grew up. We matured. We recognized the wrong in what we were doing and stopped it.

What really happened? We became different guys. What used to be an exciting way of life, no longer was so.

You may know by now that 2 Corinthians 5:17 is one of my favorite scriptures. It is a favorite because it just lays out the truth so plainly that no one can deny it.

People who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior are supposed to be new creations. That means that they are not the same as they once were. If they are the same as they once were, then it is obvious that they are not fully in Christ Jesus, if at all, because a new person lives a new life. The new creation, according to Paul, is revealed to us because the old ways have passed away, and we are living for new things. Of course, the new things are the new aspects of our lives that honor and glorify our Lord and Savior. It's simple enough. If the old is still there, and the new is not there, we are not new creations, which interprets as not being in Christ.

In a few weeks, we will be in a new year. With a new year comes opportunities to intentionally focus on new ways of living life and honoring God--a time of allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal to us areas where we are still visiting as trespassers in a part of life we thought we had left.

As kids, if we had had enough sense to know just how much trouble we could have gotten into, and how that trouble could have impacted our lives, maybe we wouldn't have trespassed into the back of so many hotels and did the things we did there. Maybe.

Here's the reality. You and I are no longer children or even foolish

teenagers. Those years for most of us are long gone, and thank goodness they are.

Only a person of a childish mindset would think it possible to declare one life style while living one that contradicts. As adults we know that can't be We are either new creations in Christ, or we are not. We are either trespassing in dangerous place in our lives or we Children are not. attempt rationalize how and why they should be able to have it both ways. New creations in Christ quickly learn that they can not.

There are challenges ahead in this new year that will be great and some will be demanding. New creations in Christ will realize that success in these challenges will not come of our own abilities but only through our surrender to the Holy Spirit.

As I look back, I am so thankful that I made it through those younger years of my life safely and that they are indeed in my past. As a new creation, I know that the future is going to be even more fulfilling, and there will be no need for my old habit of trespassing. New Creations live in the excitement of the new persons they have become through the grace of God. There is no longer the need to live as the "old" beings we once were.

God Bless—Pastor Kip



Weekly Email

Pastor Kip sends out a weekly email every Friday which includes important announcements, information about the coming week's scripture, and usually some things to think about as you prepare for worship on Sunday. If you want to receive this weekly email, please email Theresa in the office at: **theresa@1umc.org**.

New Member Classes

New member classes will be taught by Pastor Kip Younger, 3 times a year, for anyone who is considering becoming a member of First United Methodist Church or would like to learn more about our Methodist beliefs. The membership classes will be four, 1 hour sessions, on Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in room 306. We will receive our new members on the following Sunday. The three opportunities to join the church in 2014 will begin on 1/8, 5/7, and 9/3.

Membership Transfers

Membership transfers for people who want to transfer their membership from another Methodist church will be held the fourth Sunday of every month. If you are transferring from another denomination or any other church, you are encouraged to attend the new member classes.

If you are interested in exploring membership, have any questions about which category to join by, please contact Pastor Kip, Theresa in the church office at 628-4083, or indicate "wish to join" on the pew pad on Sundays.

Need to update your records!

If you have changed any of your contact information, please call Nicole after 12:30 p.m. in the church office at 628-4083. Not a member yet but attend regularly? We want you to be included in our Circle of Friends list. Please use the pew pad on Sunday to record your contact information (name, address, & phone number). Please print clearly and include your email. All of this information is vital and will help connect us to each other as the body of Christ. Provide your information with confidence-we will never distribute, sell, or otherwise use your information for anything other than church business.



Within the Church

Attendance Tracking Audio-Video Ministry

Biblical Travel Ministry Christian Education

Communion Stewards

Counters

Disaster Relief Programs Flower Arranging Ministry

Folding & Mailing Committees Funeral Receptions

Genesis Newsletter

Greeters

Holiday Prison Ministry

Lenten Soup Suppers Library

Monday Work Crew Music Ministries

Online Picture Directory

Parish Nurse Ministry

Prayer Ministry

Stewardship

United Methodist Women

UMW Circles

Ushers

Visitation Care Group

Wednesday Night Dinners

Youth Ministry

Outreach Ministries

Bus Ministry

Disaster Relief & Response Team God's Clods (Clown Ministry)

Health Related Workshops

Hugs for Soldiers Local Travel Ministry Men's Wed. Morning Prayer Breakfast Missionaries to Siberia Nursing Home Ministries Prayer Shawl Ministry Shut-In Visitation Stephen Ministry

Thrift Shop Tuned To Revival Ouartet Vacation Bible School

Welcome Bags

Small Groups

Cancer Survivors Memory Lane Respite Men's Serendipity

Saturday Sisters

Women's Serendipity

Support Groups

Alzheimer's Support Cancer Support Diabetes Support

Bible Study Groups (various classes & times)

Benevolences

CROP Walk Equipment for Handicapped Food Pantry Methodist Children's Home Salvation Army SHINE The Path

Community Outreach

Blood Bank

Camp-E-Nini-Hassee

Hunger & Homeless Outreach.

9/16/13



Friday, FEBRUA



Happy New Year. Thanks be to God for yet another year to serve and honor Him. We have not had many changes in our Christian Education classes, groups or Bible Studies recently, but there is always a spot for everyone in one group or Please just look for another. something that peaks your interest and begin the new year with hope and joy.

Last month we took a look at why people no longer want to go to church. This month I would like to offer more food for thought for us. with some ways to welcome new people. I have been researching for two years and these are the proven ideas I have found repeated in numerous articles and well different researched by many churches. So here goes.....

Station greeters entrances, even in the parking lot or entry walks. Provide your greeters and ushers with special badges or name tags so visitors can easily identify them. Escort newcomers to Kay

the nursery, classrooms, coffee hour etc. Don't just point the way. Do not ask visitors to stand and identify themselves. 70 percent negatively about being recognized in that manner. They do want you to be friendly. Ask outgoing friendly church members to sit in pews where visitors most commonly sit, usually in the back or close to the exit. Post someone at every exit to shake hands and thank people for coming. Sing at least one hymn every week that is well known outside the church, i.e. Amazing Grace. How Great Thou Morning Has Broken, etc. announcements, especially Limit about "family" business. Encourage visitors to get connected with activities and groups we offer. Most of all, smile be friendly and interested in our visitors

There are many more, and some of these we are already doing, I just want you to keep in mind our mission as a Church is to "Disciples of Christ Through God's Grace" every day. And Sundays are certainly our best opportunity to practice.



In the December Genesis introduction of Manuel (Manny) and Michelle Coimbre and children, I made an error by referring to their "daughters". It should have said the "Christening of their daughter Isobel 6, and their son Theo, 9 months. I deeply apologize for the error.

Mary Lee/Editor



Antibiotic Resistance

Antibiotics are life saving in treating bacterial infections, but.... overuse or misuse has contributed to phenomenon known as "antibiotic resistance" Resistance occurs when potentially harmful bacteria change and the antibiotic is no longer effective. Each year more than two million people in this country alone contract drugresistant infections and approximately 23.000 die. Dr. Frieden of the CDC (Center for Disease Control) says "Many bacteria are making dangerous advances against antibiotics, which are increasingly ineffective against lifethreatening infections.

Patients and health care providers can play an important role in this fight against antibiotic resistance. Antibiotics should only be prescribed to treat infections caused by bacteria, not viruses. If you are told you have a virus, don't push for an antibiotic but ask how to reduce or relieve symptoms. Usually symptoms of a cold start to decrease after about a week, but if you develop a fever or other symptoms you will need to contact your health care provider.

If you are prescribed an antibiotic, it is important to take the drug as directed. **Always** complete the entire course of the medication. Stopping the drug when starting to feel better may not kill all the bacteria and you may become sick again. This time the antibiotic may have become resistant to the bacteria. Remember

never skip doses, save antibiotics, 7 or take antibiotics prescribed for someone else. And always ask your health care provider any questions regarding side effects or other concerns.

The CDC has identified eighteen of the most drug-resistant "superbugs". Most of us have heard about MRSA (methcillin resistant staphylococcus aureus). MRSA was once only a concern for hospitalized people, but there is a newer form that is causing infections in healthy people outside the hospital. Below are listed the three scariest "superbugs" identified by the CDC, and MRSA is not one.

C.difficile: This causes life-threatening diarrhea and usually targets people who have had recent medical care and antibiotics and who most likely are either in, or were recently in, the hospital.

CRE (Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae): These are described as Nightmare bacteria that are nearly resistant to most antibiotics. Drug-resistant Neisseria gonorrhoeaeis a sexually transmitted disease that is highly contagious and resistant to many types of antibiotics. It may cause pelvic inflammatory disease which is a major cause of infertility.

The FDA (Federal Drug Agency) is partnering with the CDC on a campaign called "Get Smart: Know Work", When Antibiotics www.cdc.gov/getsmart/. This is campaign that offers internet information, brochures, fact sheets and other sources for pubic awareness and education. The FDA is also changing labeling on prescription bottles to encourage proper use and is continuing to encourage development of new antibiotics



THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM by Jan Wise

As January is the beginning of a new year, Genesis is the recorded beginning of all beginnings—"In the beginning God...." How often do we remember the one who is the beginning of all things, the one who is the beginning of our beginning?

How about when we wake up in the morning, before our feet touch the floor? We could start the beginning of a new day with, "Good morning, Lord. This is the day you have made, and I thank you for promising to go through it with me."

What about at the beginning of some big project planned for the day? "Lord, as I begin this project, I'm asking you for wisdom and guidance to do it in a way that will please you." That's the way the decorating committee prayed before we began doing the Christmas decorations for the church. How exciting it was to see how well each group had done its part when we viewed the finished project.

How do you start out a trip? When beginning your travel, how about taking time to pray, asking God to guide and keep you safe. I do that because I need to—both for my sake and the safety of others on the road! Sometimes it's hard for good drivers or seasoned travelers to feel

the need to pray at the beginning of a trip they are very confident they can handle. Perhaps it would be wise for them to pray for God's protection from some of the rest of us who will be not-so-confidently traveling at the same time.

Then there are church committee meetings. It seems taken for granted that we pray to "open" the meeting and pray again to "close" it. For some reason, even as a child, I thought it sounded like prayer was a zipper used to make sure the meeting was properly wrapped in God's blessing. Wonder what would happen if each time we met we consciously thought about God's being the beginning of our meeting-recognizing him as the one calling us together with his plans for us to discover and follow?

Pastor Kip always acknowledges his need of God's direction for himself and his congregation as he prays at the beginning of the worship service and then at the beginning of his sermon. His recognition of God's being the source of all we do in our services guides us to the same awareness—"Please, Father, oh my goodness, we really need your help this morning..."

At this beginning of a new year, why not make it a habit to consciously think of God in all your "beginnings." Honoring him in the beginning will bring blessings in the end.



There is no way we can begin to express our appreciation to all the caring and loving members of FUMC of Homosassa, for all the cards with well wishes, flowers, prayers, and concerns for both of us for my cancer surgery.

I am so awed that so many sent so much love our way. Upon entering the OR for that very long ordeal, I was told to think happy thoughts as I drifted off. I took all the prayers from everyone with me and when I awoke, many hours later, I had a comforting feeling that I was in God's hands and all was going to be alright.

I was so delighted when a member of the Visitation Care Group visited us and brought me the most beautiful, soft prayer shawl. I wear it every morning for my devotion time and I feel the love it has knitted into it.

As I write this, the end of November, I am just starting my radiation and chemo treatments and I am keeping the love I feel from your prayers with me. I do feel the prayers. We both thank you and pray that you may feel the love we send to everyone of you.

Mary Ellen and Frank Wais





Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be, In working, or in waiting, Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace; Another year of gladness In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress, Another year of praise, Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, Of witness of Thy love, Another year of training For holier work above.

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be On earth, or else in heaven Another year for Thee.

-- Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

(This is from Judith's January 2010 issue of Genesis and I found it very fitting to reuse it for 2014.) ENJOY!! ML

10 LOVE AND LAUGHTER HEAL ALL WOUNDS

(Starting the 22nd year of Bereavement Support in Homosassa)

by Anne M. Schuknecht

Thursday, August 1992, 20, 1:00p.m. the door to St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Hwy. 19 in Homosassa opened and one new Hospice-trained volunteer stood in the parking lot patiently waiting and nervously hoping some "grievers" would come. In the blink of an eye, there was a veritable traffic jam in the parking lot; thirteen people arrived. By September, three new Hospice-trained volunteers were added to the staff and we were going full tilt.

Thursday, August 22, 2002. 1:00p.m. the door to St. Thomas the Apostle Church opened and several Hospice-trained volunteers welcomed all who came. Ten years have gone by and not much has changed. We're always open never missed a Thursday in ten years, including Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve. Many years ago on a Thursday, all the doors were locked. No problem - we sat down on the floor of the front porch and met (Getting up was another story!).

It's difficult to write about a bereavement group. What happens? Why do people go? Does it really help? So, I asked sixteen people at one of our meetings to say three things about our group - good and bad. The one I liked best was "This group is so helpful. At first, I didn't

think so." Another poignant remark was "I hated to come; I'm so glad I did. I have friends now. I can cry and not be alone. I have someone to with." Someone laugh commented "I feel better knowing I'm not the only one. I'm not alone. I'm learning good things from other peoples' experiences." The pastor of St Thomas Church. Fr Marecki (The Smiling Pastor), said, "I encourage many people to come. This group is a good and helpful experience."

"GRIEF IS WORK!!!"

After 19 years, we can say this is our motto. Each week we hand out an up-dated telephone directory and encourage calling and just chatting. It's a real boost to the ego to get a call from a group member somebody liked me enough to call. We don't necessarily do the same thing every week. What we do and how we are depends on how the week went, the number of people at the meeting and what people are feeling at the moment.

We usually start the meeting with some great jokes! It's wonderful to be with people who don't want to forget how to laugh and enjoy – even if they feel a little or a lot guilty. By the way, many group members cast aspersions on our jokes! It seems they're either really funny or groaners and

moaners. Members e-mail many of the jokes to help out.

We work at understanding the intellectual side of grief. We cover such topics as one day at a time, attitude, sorrow, loneliness, aloneness, anger, guilt, making a happiness, God, life. new stress. depression, acceptance. drugs, living alone, dating, sexuality, friendship, living with someone, giving, finances, moving and health insurance. During this learning time there is lots of sharing. hugging, kissing, touching and praying - some of the many "ings" necessary to living a full and happy life - to becoming a free and independent person - single married

We do "Homosassa Stuff" like going out to eat after the meeting, getting together on Sunday afternoons, going to the movies, regular trips to the Dairy Queen and "malling". We also quietly step into the church at Christmas to look at the baby angels. Sometimes group members step into the church with each other for a little quality quiet time with the Lord. We have found Jesus in all of our hearts.

At the end of a meeting, 11 we feel touched by God. We feel better, lighter, younger, happier, more loved and more liked. We feel these things because we are more! We are more because of the unconditional love that is given so freely and so generously. Each one of us is precious in the eyes of God and in each others' eyes. Love makes the world go round (especially in our group) and it makes (creates) each one of us.



Join us and be created more! Welcome! And MORE Welcome! XXXOOO!

Anne M. Schuknecht 382-1932 - H 352-220-1959 aschukne@tampabay.rr.com



Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this devil stuff?'

The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad.'

"Beginning"

You may think I'm going to talk about this being the beginning of the new year and beginning all over again. Thankfully we don't begin all over again. I think most of us would rather not have to learn the lessons of the past again. This is about beginning where we are right now.

It is quite amazing that our Lord accepts us as we are – no, more than that *He loves us just as we are*. We don't have to change first! He accepts us and loves us where ever we are on our journey with Him. He then helps us grow to be more like Him. It is a lot easier if we cooperate in this growth process!

I believe there are things we can do daily on our spiritual journey which cooperate with what the Holy Spirit wishes to do in our lives. John Wesley called these things "means of grace." Others call them spiritual disciplines. When we practice these things we put ourselves in a position/or posture to experience the love and grace of God. Prayer is one

of the means of grace. I'm sure any prayer will put us in that position, but I think the kind of prayer that John Wesley and others refer to as a means of grace is a two-way communication with God where we actually listen and wait before God for what He may be communicating to us. This may require some of what many of us avoid – silence.

Another of the more common means of grace which most of us practice is personal Bible study. The kind where we read the Scriptures deeply and let the Holy Spirit reveal their meaning to us personally. For me prayer and Bible study go hand-inhand; I can't deeply study Scripture and let the Holy Spirit reveal things to me without praying. I know many of us attend Bible studies and it's essential to study Scripture together and have someone help us learn the history and meaning that we may not understand. That, however, is not the personal Bible study which I'm referring to as a means of grace.

I hope that if these are not part of you daily practices that you will begin this new year making them a priority.

Marilyn Watson



Thank you so much for Dolores visiting me, and for the flowers from the altar the week after I broke my arm.

Love, Carol & Floyd Sims



happy anniversar

Patti & Steve Griffith

 $\sim 22 \text{ years} \sim$ 10

Erin & Thomas Kimble

 ~ 14 years \sim

Gail & Walter Rudolph

 ~ 11 years \sim

15

Karen & Neil Kline

 \sim 42 years \sim

Kathy & Bill Yuhasz

 \sim 26 years \sim

17

Joan & Art Carnevale

~ 55 years ~

Gloria & Zane Megos

 ~ 45 years \sim 31

Gerry & James Graham

 \sim 16 years \sim .

BOLD = 50 + YEARS

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would vou A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed think silence, I'd throw up."



(as of 12/11/13)

BRENTWOOD

Gene Harry Joyce Minnicks

CEDAR CREEK

Lois Schoch

CR HEALTH/REHAB

Nancy Pearo

CYPRESS COVE

Elly Case

SUGARMILL MANOR

Dorothy Atwell Marge Dilling Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS

Helen Labeau Joan & Jack Ness Helen Vaught Catherine Wisehart

SUNSHINE GARDENS

Pete Magamoll

SUPERIOR RESIDENCE

Hazel & Conrad Keniston Hank Pouderoyn

TIMBER PINES RESID.

Abbye Jean Richner

WOODLAND TERRACE Barbara Sunderland.



"Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections."

Wednesday 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY **OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Weight Watchers 10:00 LaMountain Bible 10:00 Siegel Bible 7:00 Women's Bible

Thursday 2

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 2:00 Green Team

Friday 3 **GENESIS DEADLINE**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 7:00 Inv. NT

Saturday 4

8:00 Saturday Sisters Bible 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 ZUMBA 10:30 God's Clods 3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 5 **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship 9:20 Discovery Class 9:30 Sunday School (all) 9:30 Traditional Worship 10:45 New Beginnings 11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 6

8:00 Work Crew 8:30 SHINE 8:30 Tracking Committee 9:30 Visitation Committee 10:00 Sacred Hour 1:00 ML Respite 6:00 SMW Civic Assoc.

Tuesday 7

9:30 Arthritis Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 UMW Exec. Comm. 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministers 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 8

7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Weight Watchers

9:30 "Come See"

10:00 LaMountain Bible 10:00 Siegel Bible

1:00 Shawl Ministry

3:00 Creative Worship

5:15 Music

6:00 Bells

6:30 K-New Members

6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Women's Bible

Thursday 9

9:00 Backpackers 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:15 Ruth Circle 9:30 Arthritis Support

Friday 10

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 2:00 Cancer Support 7:00 Inv. NT.

Saturday 11

8:00 Serendipity Pancakes 8:00 Saturday Sisters Bible 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 ZUMBA

1:30 Winterjam

3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 12

Discretionary Sunday

8:00 Traditional Worship 9:20 Discovery Class 9:30 Sunday School (all) 9:30 Traditional Worship 10:45 New Beginnings 11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 13

8:00 Work Crew 8:30 SHINE 8:30 Tracking Committee 9:30 Visitation Committee 10:00 Sacred Hour 10:30 Fight Team 1:00 Caregivers Support 1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 14 9:30 Arthritis Support

9:30 Helping Hands Circle

10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Dorcas Circle 1:30 Diabetes Prevention 3:00 Serendipity Bible 5:30 Weight Watchers **5:30 WW PREP** 6:00 Diabetic Support 6:30 WOW 7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 15

7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 "Come See" 9:30 Weight Watchers 10:00 LaMountain Bible 10:00 Siegel Bible

1:30 Transfer Orientation 2:00 Staff/Parish Relations

5:15 Music

5:30 WW dinner

6:00 Bells

6:30 K-New Members

6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Women's Bible

Thursday 16

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Arthritis Support 3:00 Missions Committee 3:30 Trustees Committee

Friday 17 **COUNCIL REPORT DUE**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 7:00 Inv. NT.

Saturday 18

8:00 Saturday Sisters Bible 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 ZUMBA 3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 19 PANTRY SUNDAY

8:00 Traditional Worship 9:20 Discovery Class 9:30 Sunday School (all) 9:30 Traditional Worship 10:45 New Beginnings 11:00 Traditional Worship 3:00 CONCERT

Monday 20

8:00 Work Crew 8:30 SHINE 8:30 Tracking Committee 9:30 Visitation Committee 10:00 Sacred Hour 1:00 ML Respite 6:30 Girl Scout Leaders

Tuesday 21

9:30 Arthritis Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Stephen Ministers 2:00 Finance Committee 3:00 Serendipity Bible 3:00 Stephen Ministers 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 22

7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 "Come See" 9:30 Weight Watchers 10:00 LaMountain Bible 10:00 Siegel Bible 1:00 Shawl Ministry 1:30 Transfer Orientation 5:15 Music 6:00 Bells 6:30 K-New Members 6:30 Youth Group

7:00 WOMEN'S Bible

Thursday 23

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:00 LABEL GENESIS 9:30 Arthritis Support 3:00 P. E. C. 7:00 Council

Friday 24

9:00 Thrift Store 10:00 Wise Bible 7:00 Inv. NT.

Saturday 25

8:00 Saturday Sisters Bible 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 ZUMBA 3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 26 TRANSFER SUNDAY

8:00 Traditional Worship 9:20 Discovery Class 9:30 Sunday School (all) 9:30 Traditional Worship 10:45 New Beginnings 11:00 Traditional Worship 1:00 FRIENDS OF CR

Monday 27

8:00 Work Crew 8:30 SHINE 8:30 Tracking Committee 9:30 Visitation Committee 10:00 Sacred Hour 1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 28

9:30 Arthritis Support 10:00 Staff Meeting 3:00 Serendipity Bible 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 29

7:00 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Weight Watchers 9:30 "Come See" 10:00 Grief Journey 10:00 LaMountain Bible 10:00 Siegel Bible 5:15 Music 6:00 Bells 6:30 K-New Members 6:30 Youth Group 7:00 Women's Bible

Thursday 30

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 9:30 Arthritis Support

Friday 31

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store) 10:00 Wise Bible 7:00 Inv. NT.



WEEKLY <u>YMCA</u> CLASSES (352) 637-0132

Mondays 9:30 Cardio 10:30 SS/Strength/Range

Wednesdays 9:30 Pilates 10:30 SS/Strength/Range

Fridays 9:30 Cardio 10:30 SS/Strength/Range



April Collins John Collins **Dawson Gunter** Barbara Hartley Joyce Stone John Cooley Marian Sandlas Carol Eriksson Ann Iddings Gloria Marquis Jan Morrow James Stoneman Linda Izaguirre Joe King Grace Robitaille Barbara Bellcase

Sue Kuntz Eileen Procunier Amy Roberts 10 Joan Carnevale 11 Edith Ament Carolee Gettings Jeanette McDougall Bill Morrison 12 Myrna Evans 13 Iris Whittaker 14 Annie Carl Buz Chadwick Evelyn Knight Mary Severance



Stan DeClue Marilyn Grime David Marquis Elwin Mosier 17 Ann Ice Thomas Kimble Harold Swinson Bill Williamson 18 Russell Pick 19 Robert Grafton Glen Gunderson 20 Pat Archer Paul Patton Jr. 2.1 Colleen DeClue 22 Agnes Brickmeier Jane Hamilton

William Simmons

Bruce Stull Beverly Wagner 24 Elly Case Randy Weber Don LeFave William Waters 28 Rita Backhurst Stephen Csont Joe Johnson Phyllis Konitshek 29 Lois Pohlman 30 Kathy Betsko Len Cromer 31 Earl Speicher.

- PRAYER CORNER

 Please pray for:

 all those who come to our church -- may they find the love of Christ shining through us.

 our pastor and church staff and their families.

 all of us to begin this new year well.

 each of us to be aware of whom the Lord would have us invite to worship and the courage to extend the invitation.

JUST CHECKING IN TODAY!

A Minister passing through his church In the middle of the day, decided to pause by the altar to see who came to pray. Just then the back door opened, and a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw the man who hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was torn and shabby, and his coat was worn and frayed. The man knelt down and bowed his head, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed at precisely noon, the preacher saw this chap, each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear, he decided to stop and ask the man, 'What are you doing here?' The old man said he was a factory worker, and lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power. I stay only a moment because the factory's far away, and as I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

<u>T JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.</u>
<u>DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS BEN, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'</u>

The minister feeling foolish, told Ben that it was fine. He told the man that he was welcome to pray there anytime. 'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said as he hurried to the door. Then the minister knelt there at the altar, which he'd never done before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, as he met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed down his cheeks, he repeated old Ben's prayer:

'I JUST CAME by TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. I DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.'

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Ben hadn't come. As more days passed and still no Ben, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill. The week that Ben was with them, brought changes in the ward. His smiles and joy contagious, changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Ben could be so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had. The minister stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern. No friends had come to show they cared, he had nowhere to turn. Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up and with a winsome smile; 'the nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, HE'S been here all the while.' Everyday at noon HE comes here, A dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right down and takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

I JUST CAME BY TO TELL YOU, BEN, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN. I THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS AND I LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY, AND SO BEN, THIS IS JESUS, JUST CHECKING IN TODAY.' from Bob/email

18 IT'S TIME FOR A NEW YEAR AND A SELECTION OF NEW BOOKS

The following are books for your reading enjoyment:

"Small Miracles for Women", Extraordinary Coincidences of Heart and Spirit, written by Yitta Halberstam and Judith Leventhal. Women are the recipients of many of life's miracles,. As daughters, sisters, friends, lovers, mothers, wives. grandmothers, and aunts, we move from blessing to blessing. It is the small and often joyous coincidences that remain among our special memories. Whether these miracles come in a time of crisis or a moment of joy, they offer an extraordinary opportunity for all women to experience the wonders life has to offer.

"The View From The Lighthouse" by Melody Carlson. When Diane Spencer moves beautiful Marble Cove, Maine to start a new life and to write that novel she's always dreamed about, she meets three women who have all survived a miraculous brush with death and have been given a second Is this just a chance at life. coincidence or has God brought them together for a reason? lighthouse in Marble Cove has always been a fixture but it's been deserted for decades. Diane thought she was seeing things when she saw flash from Orlean Point Lighthouse. Her friends see the mysterious light, too, and when it flashes at exactly the right moment to help save a man's life, they all begin to realize that God has a plan for them that they are only beginning to imagine.

"Jesus Life Coach" – Learn from the Best – by Laurie Beth Jones. In the game of life, only one coach will do. The author has written a motivational book and lays out a faith-based program to get your whole life in shape – with Jesus as your personal trainer. She says that the secret to success can be found in the man who changed the world like no other – and by using Scripture and thought-provoking questions, there are practical instructions on how to get your life in high gear.

"This Scarlet Cord". the love story of Rahab, by Joan Wolf. Hidden within the battle of Jericho is the story of Rahab, a beautiful and brave young Canaanite woman who aided the Israelites by hanging a piece of scarlet cord from a window. This act of faith changed her life by placing her in the genealogy of Christ. Sala, an Israelite boy who had once saved Rahab from being kidnapped, is in love with her. She admits her love for him also but their different religions make marriage impossible. It's only when the One True God of Israel comes into Rahab's life that she and Sala can come together.

"The Tail of the Dragon", a novel by Robert L. Wise and William Louis Wilson, Jr. follow Dr. Greg Parker who is head of the National Security Agency's Geological Research Department. He discovers that the CIA is using technology to manipulate earthquake tremors in Jerusalem and in

America. His daughter, Sharon, finds that these events fit a pattern amazingly parallel to predictions found in Scripture. Father and daughter quickly learn that they must overcome their estranged relationship and learn to trust God against all odds if they are to expose the government's sinister plan.

"The Wonder of Your Love", a Land of Canaan Novel, by Beth Wiseman . Katie Ann lost the love of her life Then God offers her a new beginning in Colorado. At forty, Katie Ann is widowed and lives in the small Amish community of Canaan, Colorado and is raising her baby Jonas. wonders if it is really God's plan for her to be a single parent. Then Eli Detweiler arrives in town for a long vacation. Following his young wife's death, he has raised six children and is finally an empty nester. When Katie Ann and Eli meet, there is an instant connection but both acknowledge that a romance would never work. He is done parenting while she has just begun. As their friendship blossoms, they question if the plans they made for themselves are in line with God's plans.

Terri Blackstock, prolific author of novels, gives us a change of pace with her 3-book Cape Refuge series. Murder has been committed in Cape Refuge (Book 1) – and two of its most beloved citizens victims. Thelma and Wayne Owens ministered to the seamen prisoners just out of jail, taking some of the "down-and-outers" into their home to help them return to useful, Christian lives. When they are found shot to death after a heated public argument with son-inlaw Jonathan, he is arrested for their

murders. Morgan and Blair, 19 daughters of the murdered couple, are convinced that he didn't and launch their do it investigation to help find the real killer. A raft of suspects keep the plot twisting and secrets of the Owen family are revealed – and the mystery of God's grace in even the most tragic situations.

"Southern Storm" is Book Two in the Cape Refuge Series. First there is a dead stranger, then a missing Police Chief. Did Chief Cade run off to elope or has he met with foul play? Authorities discover the victim's name, and the woman Cade was last seen with turns out to have been the dead man's wife. Speculation abounds but Blair Owens doesn't believe the rumors. Saving Cade's life will take faith in a God whom Blair has always doubted but He may be her only hope.

"River's Edge" is Book Three of the Cape Refuge Series. Ben Jackson is sure to beat Jonathan Cleary in Cape Refuge's mayoral race until his wife turns up missing. Police Chief Cade suspects foul play. A psychic's "vision" points police to the riverside – and Lisa's The case escalates into a national media circus amidst Blair Owen's and Chief Cade's investigation that is uncovering a bunch of dirty secrets and more than one person with a motive for murder.

HAPPY READING in 2014 from Barbara Jackson, Helen Lefave, Ann Ice and Pat Barton

Greetings Dear Friends,

It's a new year – 2014.... this begins our 18th year in Siberia, Russia. We've been so very blessed to partner with the folks of FUMCH. You've been with us from the beginning sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Siberia. We pray you have been blessed over the years through our stories and pictures. We look forward to the coming year and are eager to see what the Lord is going to do in a little village, in the middle of Siberia.

Men making decisions to change!

We have written in the past as to how different the work in the village is from the work in the city. We were surprised that the similarities to the work in the city are few; but from the beginning a major similarity has been the lack of men attending church. On our last trip, we were amazed to see that there are several men regularly coming to the weekly services. This is great news for the fellowship in the village because men have taken a step to at least come and hear the truth. In our village we are called a sect by those who do not understand. Therefore. when it's known that a person is attending the fellowship they chastised or shunned. For men to attend is even more a big deal. These men have all had some very rough lives; many have been alcoholics for years and a few have served years in prison. What we do know is that they seem to have a real interest in changing the way they have been living and are looking at what our little fellowship has to offer

them. They are seeing there is a difference in the lives of those that are committed to Him compared to those in our village that are just living to please themselves. Please continue to lift up the need for committed men to help change this part of the world for Him.

A new arrival.... In August of 2012, Kevin had the privilege of performing the wedding ceremony for a dear friend of ours. In November of this year, a son was welcomed into their family. It's a tradition/suspicion in our part of Russia that the newborn can't be seen or held by anyone other than grandparents for 40 days after their birth. We're certain there may once have been a good reason, although we've yet to find someone that actually knows. We were blessed to hold and spend a couple of days with the family and their new arrival; it was an



honor to be a part of those first days at home. Another generation will now be raised to love the Lord and serve others with love!

Sweet sixteen....the youngest daughter of the pastor (our Buriat teammate) from the church turned 16 in November. She has been with our youth group for four years and in the past year has been a vital part in playing the piano for Sunday services. She has only one more year of school in the village, and then she will move to



the city to continue her education. Our prayers are that she be a witness of the love of Christ to young girls at school and continue to be a light when she begins to attend university.

In closing we want to share with you a huge answer to prayer. First of all you may have noticed in one of the above articles we spoke of "our last trip". Over the past several months, we have made two trips back to Russia while spending a majority of our time here in Florida. Our youngest son was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in 2011 when he was injured during predeployment exercises. For reasons we still don't quite understand; he was eventually released from the Army in 2012 and came back to Florida to what he believed would be therapy or surgery to repair his damaged knee. On December 6th of this year, he finally had surgery to repair his knee and will have his back checked as well to see if any permanent damage has been done due to walking incorrectly for almost 3 years. The answer to prayer is that the VA stepped in and quickly did their job. We have met so many who have waited for several years just to be seen by a doctor or receive approval to get into the VA system. We hope that our son will be walking without a limp by the time you're reading this and his goal is to run a marathon before 2015! The journey has been long and without

our persistence and **countless** trips 21 to the VA office, our son would be homeless and just waiting. (Because of his injuries he is barely able to work 30 hours/week.) We ask for continued prayer as he can now move forward and once again be a productive part of society.



May the coming year be filled with many blessings and the love of Jesus!

Kevin & Laura





To the faithful at Homosassa United Methodist Church:

I (Britt) am a Florida native; I grew up mostly in Orlando, where my family moved the summer I turned 10 years old. Nurtured in the youth programs and mission experiences of St. Lukes UMC in Windermere, I entered college years with a desire to serve God with my life. At the time, I anticipated that I would serve the church as a layperson, as my interests in math and science were leading me toward a career in engineering.

After a few years working for Caterpillar, however, I recognized that God was drawing me to explore a different path. Through partnership that St. Lukes UMC had with the Methodist Church in Ireland, I ended up serving for over two years as a volunteer youth worker at East Belfast Mission This was a time of expanding horizons for me. We were called to vouth work with from the community as well as the church, and I encountered young people facing poverty, abuse and neglect. I realized that the Scriptures God's great resonated with compassion for humanity, especially

for those who are vulnerable and marginalized.

Meanwhile, Alison also happened to be living in Belfast during this time. She grew up in County Fermanagh, two hours drive west of Belfast. Though her family had occasionally attended church, it was through friendships in university years that she came to know the depth of God's love for her. A student organization called IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) had been instrumental in teaching her the love of Christ.

Though Alison's degree was in teaching, she also heard a call that led her to a different path. After one year in the classroom, she began to explore what it would be like to give back to the IFES movement with a year long internship. This led to six years as a staff worker for IFES, giving guidance and counsel to student leaders on multiple campuses.

In the autumn of 2001, Alison and I met one another while both attending a Friday morning listening skills class at Belfast Bible college. We started dating in the spring of 2002, just a few months before I was set to begin seminary at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. After another year of transatlantic courtship, we were married in a small Methodist church in Alison's home village of Tempo, Co.



Five days later, lives. flew we life together so from far had met - and from Alison's

home, history, and friends.

Next month, we will share a bit more about the journey we have been on the last ten years, and how we came to arrive back in Belfast with GBGM. For now, though, it would be good to share a few brief updates and prayer requests with vou.

As you read this newsletter in January, our congregation will be preparing for a 'vision day' on 19 January where we discern how God is leading us for the year. Please pray we will hear God's Spirit together.

The winter months can be especially difficult for people with depression. If you think the January days are short in Florida, come visit us in Belfast where the sun sets **3:30pm!** Alison and her colleagues who are counselors are constantly meeting with people who have deep depression and suicidal thoughts. Please pray for Alison's own rejuvenation during this time, and also for her clients, that they would

Fermanagh. know a spark of hope in their 23

North Carolina, In December, Britt and a couple of starting a new others led some evenings (dinner and discussion) that invited people the not attending any church to come place where we and share questions about faith. We were open with some of our own struggles and doubts, and sought to communicate that the church is a place where people can come with their honest struggles. On the first night, one person was open about a recent relationship heartbreak, and another shared of their wrestling



with deep depression. Please pray for this on-going ministry of sharing faith and the love of God.

> Peace. Britt, Alison, Ellie, Emily, and Jake

Contact Information: britt.gilmore@gmail.com allygilmoregirl@gmail.com www.gilmoresinbelfast.com (blog) 33 Knockvale Park Belfast BT5 6HJ

United Kingdom

Come Along! Savannah and St. Simons Island.....in the Spring March 18-21, 2014



Join Rev. Richard Evans on a 4 day/3 night escorted motor coach tour of historic Savannah and St. Simons Island in SE Georgia from Tuesday through Friday, March 18-21, 2014.

On **Tuesday** we will travel from Homosassa to St. Simons Island where we will eat lunch and check into our hotel at Epworth by the Sea. During the afternoon, enjoy exploring the grounds of this beautiful Methodist resort and conference center overlooking the Marshes of Glynn. And we will catch a glimpse into the Gullah-Geechee Afro-American culture still preserved along the coastal islands.

On **Wednesday** morning learn about the history of St. Simons Island as part of the Georgia colony and of the presence of John and Charles Wesley there in 1736-37. During the afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the island with stops at Fort Frederica, Christ Church, and the island village.

On **Thursday** we will travel to Savannah. After a guided tour of this historic seaport city, enjoy lunch in one of Savannah's fine restaurants. Stroll along streets of cobblestone which were once ballast stones in mighty sailing

ships. Explore the many shops that line the streets and tempt you with bargains from all over the world before returning to Epworth by the Sea for dinner.

After breakfast on **Friday**, we will head for home, stopping for several hours at a premier outlet mall near St. Augustine where those who want to may do some serious shopping.

The cost of the trip is \$365 (dbl. occ.) Single available for \$115 more. The price includes comfortable motor coach transportation, 3 nights in one of the hotels at Epworth by the Sea, all meals (except lunch in Savannah), all programs, admissions, guided tours, and tips (except for the bus driver).

Contact Dick Evans (through the church office) with any questions. Register with Jess Mackey at J & L Travel (352-382-7708). \$100 deposit required with your registration; the balance will be due by February 28.

Some walking, although not strenuous, will be necessary. And at some stops, persons may remain on the coach if they prefer.



Pick up a flyer in the office.

Invite family & friends to join you.

All are welcome!



Parish Nurse Happenings

Starting in January, for six weeks Patti and Steve Griffith will again be conducting their exercise workshop for us in Room 105 from 9:30 to 10:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is a very light program designed for seniors to strengthen and improve balance. This year they are also going to have a "Yoga for Seniors" following the exercise workshop from 10:45-to noon. Both programs are free but you need to register by calling the church office: 628-4083

HPH Hospice willing be conducting their eight week "Grief's Journey " program in the parlor, starting 29th from 10-11:30. January Anyone interested should call the HPH office to register: 527-4600.

Family and Friends CPR anvtime a program is sponsored by the American Heart Association. It is meant to brought into every home as a way to teach hands only CPR to family and friends. It does not require certified instructor, nor does it give a certification; but it will teach you potentially lifesaving skills. parish Nurse will be available to attend your meetings and demonstrate.

January 14th 1:30 in the media room the YMCA will be doing a second presentation on the Diabetes **Prevention** program they hoping to hold at our church. Come and listen on how you can prevent type 2 diabetes. If you have been told that your blood sugar is higher than normal but not high enough to be called diabetes this is a program designed for you! One out of three Americans has "pre-diabetes" but only 10% are aware.

Certified CPR and First Aid: Hoping to schedule another program for the end of January, so watch the bulletin for more information.



I would like to thank everyone for their support and participation in our recent outstanding bazaar. Final results have not been compiled, but watch the February issue of Genesis for the complete UMW news and bazaar profit report.

Pat Blake, Chairman

A Little Poem -So True It Hurts!!!

Another year has passed And we're all a little older. Last summer felt hotter And winter seems much

There was a time not long ago When life was quite a blast. Now I fully understand About 'Living in the Past'.

We used to go to weddings, Football games and lunches. Now we go to funeral homes And after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers, From parties that were gay. Now we suffer body aches And wile the night away.

We used to go out dining, And couldn't get our fill. Now we ask for doggie bags, Come home and take a pill.

> We used to often travel To places near and far. Now we get sore butts From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs And drink a little booze. Now we stay home at night And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is, And now my tale is told. So, enjoy each day and live it up...

Before you're too "darn" old!!

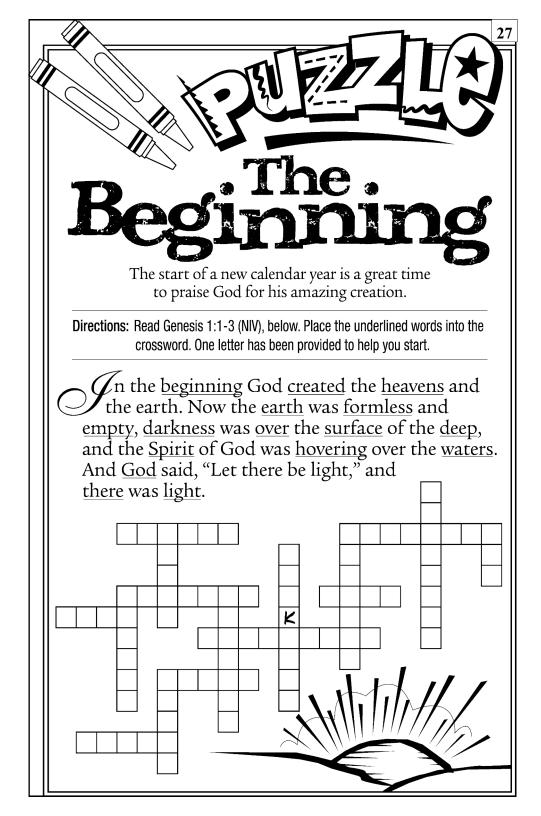






If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?





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