

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

NOVEMBER 2012 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 9

Lord of the Harvest



JOHN 4:34-36

ADMINISTRATOR

Theresa Weber

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(open position)

BOOKKEEPER

Sandy Dewart

bookkeeping@1umc.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kay Bast

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PARISH NURSE

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YOUTH COORDINATOR

Wayne Brown

MUSIC

Dixie Lay

Joy Potts

Dayna Middlebrooks

PARISH VISITOR

(open position)

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Sharon Cooley

Ron Hesketh

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
& NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Sandra Tam

CUSTODIAN

Dale Evans

NIGHT SECURITY

Randy Weber

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26

Wow! Can you believe that it's almost Thanksgiving time? I know that this time of season many folks become focused on turkey and dressing and other fine foods. Some folks focus on family and will make extra special efforts to connect with family members. And others enjoy getting away with just their closest friends or family, others love the parades on television and others love the sports on television on that day. There are many traditional family aspects of this wonderful holiday.

Probably one thing we should always remember is the origin of the holiday. It commemorates the celebration of the pilgrims after their long and deadly winter in their new land. We try to envision what it must have been like in 1620 when William Bradford came to shore in the Mayflower at what has historically been noted as Plymouth Rock.

Sometimes I wonder if such explorers or their crews really knew what they were getting themselves into when they set off on such journeys. How long would they be at sea? What would the conditions of the sea travel be like? What would they find wherever they landed? How many would die in the journey? Needless to say, one had to be fully committed to the journey from the beginning. There would be no turning around, nor were these seen necessarily as “round trip” fares. Once you signed up to go, that was it.

Actually what these brave men did was more than commit themselves, they invested themselves into the journey and all that it would offer them; be it good or bad. To “invest” is to become fully involved or engaged; to pour 100% of one's self into the chosen endeavor. I would think that such investing was not done light heartedly. I would think that one would give such investing much prayer and thought. This seems obvious because again, the cost and risk are high at times and the future not fully known.

In the scripture above from the Gospel of John, Jesus is stating the same idea concerning investing ourselves. The opening line; “Whoever serves me must follow me” lays the ground work. As Christians we fully understand that our place is to serve our Lord, as he served his father. And I believe that we have a notion as to what he means by “must follow me.”

However, this could be a problem area. We may not fully get this part. Or perhaps we do, and we simply chose to water down its full meaning. To “follow him” is to do just that; follow him or his guidance as we are led by the Holy Spirit to do so. It means that we go where he leads us and we do what he reveals to us. Sometimes this takes us to fun and exciting experiences. Other times, maybe we'll be led to experiences that are not so exciting and fun. It is interesting that the quality of the

experience is not in the formula between serving and following him.

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The second line makes it a little more clear and perhaps for some of us a little more anxious; “Where I am, there my servant will also be.” Well, if he’s speaking of going with him to the wedding in Cana of Galilee, that might be ok. If he’s speaking of going to meet the woman at the well in Samaria, that could be a little intimidating. And if he’s speaking of going to Golgotha, we may start to rethink what we have gotten ourselves into. Because we will remember that it was at Golgotha that he died. This does not sound nearly as inviting as a wedding does it? Perhaps the third line is the best and maybe should have been said first to ease the shock of the other two lines. It reads; “My Father will honor the one who serves me.” Now that sounds more like it, doesn’t it? We like to be honored. And we would love to be honored by God. But there seems to be condition stated also – that being honored follows our investment through service. Darn, there’s always a catch.

When we think about it, our Christian journey is all about our personal investment. And, our service to Jesus is usually about 99.99% accomplished through his church. This seems to indicate that our call, if we are choosing to serve Jesus, means that we will follow him, and following him will take us to wherever he leads us; regardless of our personal preferences. This is not easily accomplished with a frail hearted commitment. This is only accomplished through our personal investment of our spiritual lives to the Holy Spirit which lives within us.

Our church’s mission statement focuses on making disciples. This is good. It is also hard. It is also demanding. It is also challenging. And yes, it is also the call of God upon every Christian’s heart. It can be heard as a modernistic expression for serving and following Jesus. Where else would Jesus want us to go with him, but to make disciples for him? Is our church willing to make the investment? There are two possible answers. I think you know what they are. We can only answer “yes” when the hearts of the folks who make up the Body of Christ are willing to make that personal investment. If we fail to personally invest, then the resounding answer will be “no”.

I hope that you will take the above scripture seriously. I hope that you will ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if you are invested and to what degree. I hope that you will allow personal reflection to develop the courage to answer “YES!”. The response of God through our church will be incredible. How incredible? We don’t really know (read 1 Corinthians 2:9). The vast future which God alone holds for our church is just waiting to be revealed and released as we continue to invest ourselves into his son’s church. I pray that you will join me and others as we try our best to be investments for God. God Bless – Pastor Kip



*Please join us for
Thanksgiving dinner!*

*Thursday, November 22,
dinner served at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall*

Turkey, coffee, and tea will be provided, as well as home-made pumpkin pies from the kitchen of Mary Lou & Lou Wade, even though they cannot attend.

We are asking that you bring 2 of your prize winning dishes to share. All individuals and families are welcome. Bring your out-of-town guests, and don't forget neighbors that you know might be spending this day alone, they are welcome also.

If you don't wish to cook the traditional feast, this is where you need to be. Come and share with family and friends in this joyous meal served this Thanksgiving Day, and be thankful.

We look forward to hearing from you!

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL:

CAROL ERIKSSON at home 503-6109

**Don't forget to tell her how many people you are bringing,
as well as the 2 dishes you are providing!**

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12TH

HOLIDAY REMINDER!
SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

Sign up for the Bell Ringing will be
November 4th & 11th
 in the Narthex between services.
 We will be ringing at the Sugarmill Publix

11/23 through 12/24

If you would like to pre-register,
 call **Tammy Borrás 382-3729**

“JUST A REMINDER”

**TWO DAY FALL HARVEST BAZAAR, Friday & Saturday,
 November 2 & 3 from 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM at FUMC of Homosassa.**

TWO days of exciting shoppes: Craft, Kitchen, Bake Shoppe & Cookie Walk. Look in the Hidden Treasure Shoppe for gently used items. Thousands of books at our gigantic book Shoppe and an enormous Christmas Wonderland Shoppe. NEW! this year; Plant & Garden, Technology, Man Cave, and Silent Auction. The United Methodist Women and Serendipity Men of the Church thank you for your support with the Bazaar; proceeds benefit local and worldwide charities.

www.lumc.org

**Don't forget to buy your tickets early for the luncheon on Saturday!
 Please call the office at 628-4083.**



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Thank you to the congregation for your support of the children as they participate more in the Sunday service at 9:30. They really like to be involved and it is a wonderful opportunity for them to share their skills and learn from us.

Last month I tried to fill you in on the various Sunday school classes so this month I want to let you know about our many Bible studies taking place throughout the week.

On Tuesday the men's Serendipity group meet at 3:00 in room 114/112, contact Jim Potts for information.

Also on Tuesday an evening session of Serendipity meets at 7:00pm, also in room 114. Contact Don Bates for information.

On Wednesday at 10:00am there is a Bible study at the home of Jackie LaMountain. This study is led by Jan Wise, you may contact either one for information.

You may also like to participate at a Bible study at the home of Marilyn Siegel. That study

begins at 10:00am also. Contact Marilyn for more information.

Also on Wednesday Peggy Benson leads a Bible study in room 306 at the church. They are beginning a new study using "A Life Well Lived" by Charles Swindol. It would be a wonderful time to start with this new study. Just come by any Wednesday, or contact Peggy for information.

Additionally on Wednesday at 7:00pm, there is a women's study in the parlor. Contact Theresa or Kay for information.

On Thursday (first and third Thursdays) there is a women's Serendipity group meeting in the parlor. Contact Neretta Brobst or Laurie Stainton for information.

Marilyn Watson is also seeking to begin a Companions in Christ group at 3:00pm in the parlor. Fridays at 10:00 Jan Wise holds a Bible study in her home. You may contact Jan for more information.

As you can see, there are many choices for studying God's word throughout the week. AND, if anyone is interested in beginning a new study just come by and I will help you select materials and give you any support you need.



**Prayer
Shawl**
ministry

If you have a loved one or a friend who might receive comfort from the gift of a Prayer Shawl, please contact:

Althea Stuckey (382-2599),
Lyn Wolf (382-1173), or
Ann Morrison (382-2923).



November-National Diabetic Month

Have you been diagnosed with Diabetes or told that you are “Pre-diabetic or borderline? How much education have you had about Diabetes? If you have been diabetic for awhile have you updated your information or shared it with others?

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Two thirds of those people with diabetes will die of heart attack or stroke. New cases of type 2 diabetes doubled in the 30 years between 1976 and 2007 among middle-age Americans.

With all the health care changes coming our way it is more important than ever to become more responsible in managing your own health. In some cases, such as diabetes, it comes down to money. Roughly 1 in 5 US dollars is spent treating someone with diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is one of the chronic conditions where 30% of the population contributes to 90% of health care costs. This amount is approximately 1 in 10 dollars attributed to diabetes.

Less than 10% of type 2 patients have succeeded in managing the 3 major risk factors of diabetes; A1C, blood pressure and cholesterol. These factors contribute to longer hospital stays and great number of complications.

Once upon a time if you were newly diagnosed with diabetes while you were in the hospital, you were not discharged unless you had received a dietary consult with the hospital

dietitian and extensive education 7 from the nurses in checking and monitoring your blood sugar, and how to actually give yourself insulin if prescribed. Even your visits to the doctor provided additional education, but these visits are now time limited. You were also referred to a support group. Not any more.

It should seem clear to everyone that learning how to manage your diabetes is essential to improving your personal health and decreasing the number and severity of complications. How, is the next question? There are wonderful resources available in hospitals, medical offices, bookstores, libraries, and on the internet, but where do you start? Believe me, healthcare professionals know people listen to instructions they give, but ultimately act on their own conclusions.

There is huge power in speaking to someone in your same situation. The American Diabetic Association has always been a major source of information. Recently they have partnered with several other companies to produce a program called Conversation Maps. This program acknowledges the principals that people learn by hearing, seeing, discussing and doing. They reinforce the importance of behavioral changes, assuming responsibility, and goal-setting as a way to live healthier and to improve outcomes.

The Conversation Map program is available to you and anyone in the community through our church, free of cost. If you are interested in participating please call the Parish Nurse at 352-628-4083 or sign up in the main office.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:27



**“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
(Isaiah 55:8 NIV)**

I hate to fail. In my thinking, it’s a sign of weakness, of failing to do my best. Because of this attitude, I struggle with God’s view that my failure can become *his* victory—a plus in kingdom-of-God strategy.

Remember those words of Paul: “...for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong”? (2 Corinthians 12:10) The idea that my weakness might be more valuable to the work of the kingdom than my strength is totally unreasonable in my human thinking. But the Word of God confirms there is potential in my weakness, for there God can show *his* strength.

Paul’s thorn in the flesh could have been a person, an on-going situation, or an illness. I believe he omitted the cause of his “thorn” to emphasize that *any* weakness gives God an opportunity to show his strength. But we struggle with yielding to God’s power, wanting to overcome our weakness in our own strength.

When our son was learning to tie his shoes, he would push my

hands away when I tried to help him. His attitude? “Me do it—me can!” So I’d go about my work and let him struggle. Then would come the tug on my shirt and the tearful words, “You do it; me can’t.”

I read this advice from the Lord in Sarah Young’s *Jesus Calling*: “Accept your weakness as a gift from me, knowing that my power plugs most readily into consecrated weakness.” We think we bless the Lord by consecrating our strengths, but could it be that consecrated weakness provides him an even greater way to build our faith and the kingdom?

What comforts me when I face a humiliating weakness in my life is this from Paul: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) Even the “not-so-good” parts of my life, when entrusted to the care of my loving Father, can become vehicles of good through his mercy and grace.

How about consecrating your weaknesses and failures to God and letting him work his good work through them? Paul experienced the joy of consecrated weakness, and so can we.

Father, please help us see our weaknesses as valuable assets to be consecrated to you, allowing your power to flow through them.



PRAYER

Are You Listening??

What do you think when you hear someone say, “God said ___”?

Perhaps you think they’re trying to impress you or perhaps you wonder if they are hearing voices and are a little – well, off balance. If you hear that from several people and you don’t hear God speaking, you may begin to think there’s something missing or something wrong that you don’t hear God speaking. Most people don’t mean they hear an audible voice but rather they mean they are discerning in some way God’s guidance. Scripture says God will guide us in the way we should go and it says if anyone lacks wisdom to ask and He will give it generously. When the Prophet Elijah was at the mountain of God and the Lord was passing by, God was not in the great wind, nor in the earthquake, nor was He in the fire which followed. Then there was a sound of a gentle blowing and out of it Elijah heard the voice of God. (1 Kings 19:11-13). This is often referred to as a “still small voice.”

Now that brings us to another question, “How do you go about hearing God’s *still small voice*?” You might start by being still or you could try turning off

some of the noise. The noise 9 might be actual things like the TV or it might even be the noise within which we try to drown out. Some of us are so used to something going on all the time that we have the TV on even when we’re not watching. Yes, I’m suggesting that we try turning off some of the noise. Perhaps you don’t want to turn off the noise all the time, but you might start by trying it once in a while. You might notice other noises like the birds chirping or squirrels chattering. In the space between the chirping there is quiet where you can hear your thoughts and maybe even hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to *you*. The sounds of God’s creation often draw us closer to that “still small voice.” Basking in God’s creation is a place where I “hear” God.

Silence, solitude, fasting, and reading and meditating on Scripture can be parts of prayer or lead us into it. The place where I “hear” God most clearly is when I am deeply reading and meditating on Scripture. When a phrase or a word grabs my attention or seems to mean something different than the last time I read it, then I believe the Lord is trying to tell me something. I know I should really pay attention and spend more time with that Scripture and “listen” to what He is showing me.

I don’t know about you, but when God is speaking to me I think it’s a really good idea to listen!



FUMC Youth Rocked the Universe

On Saturday, September 8, 2012, 7 youth and 4 adults went to Orlando to attend “Rock the Universe”; an annual 2-day Christian Rock Concert hosted by Universal Studios from 4:00 pm to 1:00 am. We left the church parking lot in 2 vans at 12:30 pm Saturday afternoon and returned at 3:20 am Sunday morning. The 7 youth who went on the trip were: Alex Weber, Brittany Touchton, Dominique Platt, Kayla Micali, Kendra Mathesonne, Morgan Heckman, and Paul Micali. The 4 adults who accompanied them were: Krissy & Wayne Brown, Theresa & Randy Weber.

Rock the Universe is an annual event in September that the Youth Group members look forward to attending. Due to the changing of the position of our church's Youth Programs Coordinator over the summer, the trip was in limbo for a few months until Wayne Brown was confirmed in the position in August.

From that point, it became a scramble to pull the trip together. The cost of the ticket price was going to be a burden for some of the adults and Youth to be able to afford to go. Following much prayer and work by Kay Bast, Pastor Kip Younger, and Sandy Dewart, the cost of the trip was reduced from \$53.00 per ticket per

person plus food and any souvenirs, to \$10.00 per ticket per person plus food and any souvenirs. This assistance from our church made the trip affordable to everyone attending and was an awesome outpouring of love and support for our Youth Ministry.

On the way to Universal Studios, we stopped at Golden Corral to eat a meal before entering the theme park with their higher prices for food. While at Golden Corral we did the snapping fingers song we learned during this past Vacation Bible School for our grace before eating. The chocolate fountain and cotton candy were big hits with both the Youth and the adults.

We arrived at Universal Studios a little after 4:00 pm and received our group leader bracelets for the adults that identified us as the adult leaders from FUMCH, which allowed us access to the Youth Leader Lounge, where we could get information, meet backstage with some of the bands, and get free refreshments. We then proceeded into the park where we all received bracelets that identified us as participants of Rock The Universe. The rules were simple for inside the park: stay in groups no smaller than 2 Youth each, each group must have someone with a cell phone, and meet every 2 hours in front of the Shrek ride. If a group of Youth was going to be late to the meeting place (due to stuck in line at a ride, etc.), they were to call or text one of the adult leaders to let them know. As it turned out, the Youth stayed in 2 groups, a group of 3, and a group of 4, throughout the whole night.

The Christian Rock Bands' music was awesome and the messages and witness they presented to the

audience during the concerts were God inspired. There were 3 music stages at various locations in the park with music happening at 2 or more of them at all times throughout the evening and night. The theme park rides available were great fun for all of us too.

Krissy and I were very nervous as we planned for this trip. This was the first big outing we had done with the Youth Group, and also our first time to Universal Studios. Krissy told me she wanted to wrap all the youth in bubble wrap to protect them. Luckily she decided that might hinder movement a bit too much, so instead she made an individual small square of bubble wrap and attached a piece of paper on each side of the bubble wrap. The paper contained a graphic of a cross and the youth's name, along with a bible verse. She presented each person going on the trip with their individualized token of protection prior to leaving the church parking lot. We prayed for God's guidance and protection for the youth and the adults. And I bet you know what happened; God came through for each of us!!

The trip was a huge success for everyone who attended. Krissy and I have gone to theme parks and music concerts before, but the crowd at Rock The Universe was the most polite and respectful crowd of people we've ever encountered at any large park or concert in our experience. You could feel God's presence and see Christian values reflected in almost everyone at the event.

Next Year? Well, of course, ALL the youth want to attend Rock The Universe, but instead of cramming all the music concerts and rides into a single day, they are pushing to attend

both days, which would mean an 11 overnight stay in Orlando on Friday night. We would leave Friday evening, and return Saturday night or (hopefully earlier) Sunday morning. The cost per person for tickets and overnight stay for a 2-day trip will be more expensive, so we will continue to pray for God's guidance and our church members' support throughout this coming year as we look forward to what God has in store for us in September, 2013.

The Youth Group and the adults all thank God and the First United Methodist Church Leadership and all it's Members for the opportunity to experience God's gift of music and fellowship at this event.

UMC Children's Home & Youth Sunday

Sunday, September 30, 2012 was a 5th Sunday in the month. That only happens 4 or 5 times a year. On those 5th Sundays a special offering is taken up to support United Methodist Children's Home which supplies a loving and supportive home for children in need up to age 18 (or graduates from high school). Children in need are cared for until they can either return home or find an adoptive family. Their stay may end up being short term or long term. They depend on support from United Methodist Churches like ours to provide the resources needed for these children in need. There are so many children in need right here in Florida that the Children's Home is planning an expansion site in northern Florida. They will need a lot of financial support to make that project a reality.

~ see next page ~

12 Along with the special offering to support the Children's Home, the FUMC Youth Group also assisted in the 9:30 am Worship Service, and will continue to assist in upcoming 5th Sunday Services. On September 30, 2012, the following Youth Group members assisted during the 9:30 am Worship Service: Alex Weber, Dominique Platt, Kayla Micali, Michael Conner, Morgan Erlundson, and Morgan Heckman. They filled and supported many roles during the Service including: assisted greeting people as they entered the sanctuary, assisted leading songs during the service, leading the stand and greet people next to you at the beginning of the service, read the Invocation, lead the Affirmation of Faith, lead the Lord's Prayer, read the Offertory prayer, read the Scripture Readings, and was prepared to read the Benediction (but oops, Pastor Kip forgot and did that).

The youth, along with Pastor Kip, rehearsed prior to the service, but we didn't practice in the Sanctuary with the microphones in advance. We apologize if of the speaking parts may have been hard to hear, we have learned from that and will rehearse using the microphones prior to the next opportunity to assist in the Worship Service coming up on the 5th Sunday in December.

The Youth Group is beginning to plan for a weekend work outing early next year to go to the United Methodist Children's Home to assist with site work that needs to be done and can be accomplished by volunteer youth. The weekend dates haven't been picked yet, but since the bunkhouse on site is not handicapped accessible, Krissy and I will be looking for other adult

volunteers to accompany the Youth during this project. Please contact Theresa Weber, Kay Bast, or Wayne Brown for more information when you feel God telling you to volunteer to go.

The Youth Group thanks God and Pastor Kip for the opportunity to serve the church on the 5th Sundays celebrating and supporting the United Methodist Children's Home.

FUMC Youth Group Fund Raiser: 2013 Calendar Sales

The Youth Group is offering beautiful spiral bound 2013 wall calendars and handy 2013 pocket calendars with notepad to people attending church between each service. The calendars are \$6.00 each and the money raised will go into our Youth Fund to support future projects and activities. Please look for the youth in front of the Education Wing of our church campus to purchase our 2 calendar types, and watch our progress on our fund raising thermometer at the table and on the screens prior to service. We will accept cash or checks for payment for the calendars. Thank you all for your continued support for our Youth Group.

Acolytes Are Back

October, 2012, the 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service once again saw Acolytes bring the light of God into our Sanctuary, onto the altar candles, and later returning to carry the light of God from the altar candles out into the world at the close of service. The Acolytes are from the church's Children Sunday School and Youth Sunday School (and Youth Group). Please pray for our young people as they assist with this important aspect of our Worship Service.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Soldier stood and faced God,
 Which must always come to pass.
 He hoped his shoes were shining,
 Just as brightly as his brass..
 'Step forward now, Soldier,
 How shall I deal with you?
 Have you always turned the other cheek?
 To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
 'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
 Because those of us who carry guns,
 Can't always be a saint.
 I've had to work most Sundays,
 And at times my talk was tough.
 And sometimes I've been violent,
 Because the world is awfully rough.
 But, I never took a penny,
 That wasn't mine to keep...
 Though I worked a lot of overtime,
 When the bills got just too steep.
 And I never passed a cry for help,
 Though at times I shook with fear..
 And sometimes, God, forgive me,
 I've wept unmanly tears.
 I know I don't deserve a place,
 Among the people here.
 They never wanted me around,
 Except to calm their fears
 If you've a place for me here, Lord,
 It needn't be so grand.
 I never expected or had too much,
 But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
 Where the saints had often trod.
 As the Soldier waited quietly,
 For the judgment of his God.
 'Step forward now, you Soldier,
 You've borne your burdens well.
 Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
 You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown~

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Saturday, December 8th

dinner and evening performance of the
Christmas Show at Word of Life, Hudson

Cost: \$41.00 (includes bus, dinner, & show)

Bus will leave the church at: **4:30 p.m.**

Call Ann Morrison 382-2923 for reservation.

Hi Lord, its me! We are getting older and things are getting bad here. Gas prices are too high, no jobs, food and heating costs too high. I know some have taken you out of our schools, government and even Christmas, but Lord I'm asking you to come back and re-bless America . We really need you! There are more of us who want you than those who don't!

Thank You Lord, I Love you!

PLEASE GIVE!



O U R F O O D
PANTRY is in need of financial help to continue our successful program of supplying holiday turkeys to the less fortunate.

In the past we have offered a complete dinner for each of the holidays, **this year our holiday gift will be**

limited to a turkey for either Thanksgiving OR Christmas. Our pantry is making every effort to continue serving our community with one bag of groceries each month, but as the costs rise we find we have to economize in some areas. By giving away 50 turkeys at Thanksgiving and 50 at Christmas we will reach out to 100 families in Homosassa.

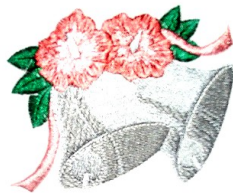
Our congregation supports the food pantry during the year with their donations of time, money and food, making this ministry possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Sign ups for a turkey for either holiday begins on November 1st at 9:00 a.m. in the church office.

Thank you, Ed Loper
 Food Pantry Coordinator



- 4 Ann & Jack Fasnacht ~ 62 years
- 6 Barbara & Gene Lantz ~ 58 years
- 7 Marge & Walter Dilling ~ 54 years
- 8 Shirley & William Dunkle ~ 54 years
- 10 Ruth & Larry Healy ~ 67 years
- 11 Joan & Robert Clanfield ~ 6 years
- 13 Edythe & Richard Shaffer ~ 58 years
- 16 Pat & Jim Archer ~ 8 years
Helen & Albert Lefave ~ 61 years
- 20 Jeanne & Harvey Comfort ~ 67 years
- 22 Hilda & Marcel Theriault ~ 68 years
- 23 Mary Joy & Earl Speicher ~ 44 years
- 24 Elaine & Glenn Harwood ~ 47 years
Ann & John Mayles ~ 62 years
- 26 Anna & John Cooley ~ 59 years
- 27 Sally & Dean Moore ~ 36 years
Joy & Jim Potts ~ 19 years.



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(as of 10/17/2012)

BRENTWOOD

Joyce Minnicks

CEDAR CREEK

Wilbourn Fowler

Lois & Jack Schoch

DIAMOND RIDGE

Betty Duncan

LIFE CARE

Richard Elsea

Don Snedecker

SUGARMILL MANOR

Marge Dilling

Joanna Miller

Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS

Ruth Eaton

Joan & Jack Ness

Catherine Wischart

SUNSHINE GARDENS

Pete Magamoll

TIMBER PINES RESID.

Abbye Jean Richner.

WANT TO BE QUALIFIED?

FUMC will host a First Aid, CPR, and AED certification class on Saturday, November 17th. There will be a morning and afternoon class. Will need a minimum of 15, and a max of 20 for each class. The cost is \$30 per/person. The program is an American Heath Association program.

Thursday 1

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 BAZAAR SET-UP
9:00 TURKEY SIGN-UP
 1:30 Serendipity Women
 2:00 Green Team
 6:00 Sugarmill Chorale

Friday 2**GENESIS DEADLINE**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00-3:00 BAZAAR
 10:00 Wise Bible
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 3

8:00 Saturday Sisters B/S
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00-3:00 BAZAAR
 10:30 Bereavement
 10:30 God's Clods

Sunday 4**TIME CHANGES*****COMMUNION SUNDAY***

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

Monday 5

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 SHINE
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 10:00 ELECTION SET-UP
 10:00 Sacred Hour
 1:00 ML Respite
 4:00 Stephen Ministers

Tuesday 6**5:30 ELECTION DAY**

10:00 Staff Meeting
 10:00 UMW Executive Mtg.
 1:30 Stephen Ministers
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministers
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 7

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 LaMountain Bible
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 3:00 Benson Bible
 4:00 Intercessory Prayer
 5:00 Stephen Ministers TR
 5:15 Music
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir
 7:00 WOMEN'S B/S

Thursday 8

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:00 Backpackers
 9:00 Fold/Mail
 9:15 Ruth Circle
 2:00 Cancer Support
 6:00 Sugarmill Chorale

Friday 9

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:00 Our Father's Table
 10:00 Wise Bible
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 10

8:00 KIWANIS breakfast
 8:00 Saturday Sisters B/S
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 11***DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY***

7:45 BLOODMOBILE
8:00 Traditional Worship
9:30 Sunday School (all)
9:30 Traditional Worship
10:45 New Beginnings SS
11:00 Traditional Worship
12:00 Charge Conference

**Monday 12**

8:00 Work Crew
 8:30 SHINE
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:00 AARP Safe Driving
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 10:00 Sacred Hour
 1:00 Alzheimer Support
 1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 13

9:00 AARP Safe Driving
 9:30 Faith Hope Circle
 9:30 Helping Hands Circle
 10:00 Staff Meeting
 1:00 Conversation Maps
 1:00 Dorcas Circle
 2:00 Stewardship
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 6:00 Diabetic Support
 6:30 Semi-Circle
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 14

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 LaMountain Bible
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 1:00 Creative Worship
 1:00 Shawl Ministry
 3:00 Benson Bible
 4:00 Intercessory Prayer
 5:00 Stephen Ministers TR
 5:15 Music
5:30 POTLUCK Dinner
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir
 7:00 WOMEN'S B/S

Thursday 15

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:00 FOLD/MAIL
 1:30 Serendipity Women
 3:00 Missions Committee
 3:30 Trustees
 6:00 Sugarmill Chorale

Friday 16

COUNCIL REPORTS DUE
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:00 Wise Bible
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 17

8:00 Saturday Sisters B/S
8:30 CPR Class
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:00 Turkey Delivery
10:30 Bereavement
11:30 CPR Class

Sunday 18

PANTRY SUNDAY

Stephen Minister Comm.
8:00 Traditional Worship
9:30 Sunday School (all)
9:30 Traditional Worship
10:45 New Beginnings SS
11:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 19

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 SHINE
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
10:00 Sacred Hour
1:00 ML Respite
4:00 Stephen Ministers
6:30 Girl Scout Leaders

Tuesday 20

10:00 Staff Meeting
10:00 UMW Unit Meeting
1:00 Conversation Maps
1:30 Stephen Ministers
2:00 Finance Committee
3:00 Serendipity Bible
3:00 Stephen Ministers
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 21

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 LaMountain Bible
10:00 Siegel Bible
2:00 Staff/Parish Relations
3:00 Benson Bible
4:00 Intercessory Prayer
5:15 Music
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir
7:00 WOMEN'S B/S

Thursday 22

THANKSGIVING
OFFICE CLOSED

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
1:00 Thanksgiving dinner
6:00 Sugarmill Chorale

Friday 23

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:00 Wise Bible
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 24

8:00 Saturday Sisters BS
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 25

UM STUDENT DAY

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

Monday 26

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

Tuesday 27

10:00 Staff Meeting
1:00 Conversation Maps
3:00 Serendipity Bible
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 28

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 LaMountain Bible
10:00 Siegel Bible
1:00 Shawl Ministry
3:00 Benson Bible
4:00 Intercessory Prayer
5:15 Music
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir
Women's B/S

Thursday 29

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
6:00 Sugarmill Chorale

Friday 30

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:00 Wise Bible
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal



WEEKLY YMCA CLASSES

(352) 637-0132

Mondays

9:30 Cardio
10:30 Stab/Strength

Wednesdays

9:30 Pilates
10:30 Stab/Strength

Fridays

9:30 Pilates
10:30 Cardio

Newsletter
DEADLINE

FRIDAY, 11/2
for
DECEMBER



1 Judy Bunting Jan Wise	13 John Austin Adam Will	20 Roger Kirby Carol Sims
2 Robert Severance Catherine Wischart	15 Martha Dorrell Joan Eyster	Helen West Jeri Wrenn
3 Bob Specht	Ann Mayles	21 Stacey Justice
4 Marion Herr	16 Velma Mason Dan Nygaard	22 Charles McCreery Angie Watson
6 Hershel Fogleman Oriole Turnbull Frank Wais	17 Wes Harris Joan Ness	Lowanda Wells 23 Cecelia Woodward
7 Dorothy Aberle Shirley Phillips	18 Beverly Calkins Joan Danzey Sue Norman	25 Marcia Bader 26 Anna Cooley
9 Dottie Baker Fern McWilliams Jo Ann Ryan	19 Geraldine Frenz Ruth Rittgers	27 Betsy Dulaney Lyle Lee
11 Jeanne Balmer Emily Merson		28 John Dewart Samantha McCallister
12 Gunter Fahl Gloria Megos		29 Helen Bachman
		30 Charles McWilliams.

CONFUSION

There was a bit of confusion at the store this morning. When I was ready to pay for my groceries, the cashier said, "Strip down facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to my congressman about Homeland Security running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to my credit card.

I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future. They need to make their instructions to us seniors a little clearer!

FUN and REWARDING and NOT DIFFICULT—The Decorating Committee is a great team of people who work together to prepare the sanctuary for each season. For Thanksgiving we plan to decorate **November 17 at 9:00 a.m.** If you wish to be part of the decorating team join us. To see the completion of the decorations is rewarding. If you would like to become part of the Decorating Committee and bring new and creative ideas please call the church office or Judy Powell at 503-3977.

Wanted: Your Favorite Veterans' Photos

On November 11th, the chancel choir will present a musical Veteran's Day tribute at all three worship services, with photos of military veterans on the video screen.

This special program, honoring friends and family who have served in uniform, has been a moving and memorable one. We will be using photos submitted in the two years' past, as well as new ones added this year. (A separate program is presented on Memorial Day, when we remember veterans who have died.)

If you have not already submitted a photo of your special veteran to be included in this program, **please bring it to the church office by November 2nd**. Our A/V tech, Sharon, will scan the photo and return your original to the office again, where you may pick it up. Be sure to include the veteran's name, as well as your own name and phone number.

“Bikes for Tykes and Teens” is spearheaded by Jerry Tanner, and is a ministry of interest and need. This is a program to supply a bike or tryke to children and adults in the county. Used bikes will be repaired by volunteers from Nature Coast Ministries before being donated to any recipient. If you have a bike that you no longer use and wish it to go to a good cause, please contact Jerry Tanner at 503-3848. He will arrange for pick-up. Currently, Jerry has 39 small bikes and 11 adult bikes being readied for giving to someone in need. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and help defray the costs of parts or new bikes. This program is on-going, but certainly more needed as Christmas approaches. Thanks to all who are or have helped.

From The Henry's

Dear praying friends,

“It’s time to go ...

or send someone who will.”

As I (Joe) stared at that quote on the wall outside the office of Pioneers US director, I was struck by how much Elaine and I still want to be active in the first part of that quote – going – but also by how clear God has made it that we must now transition to being involved in the second part – sending.

This monthly prayer bulletin will be a little different than usual because we want to more fully explain two things to you, our cherished prayer partners: 1) what I will be doing now that our ministry time in Thailand is over, and 2) how strange and sad this new reality is for us.

1) What will I be doing? I will serve as a “Candidate Coordinator” on the PI-US Mobilization Team. That means I will be one of the “gateways” through which hundreds of long-term missionary applicants annually enter (or don’t) into a ministry relationship with Pioneers. It will be my job to determine in part whether applicants are “Pioneers material”; how ready they are to serve overseas in church planting; where they might feel led to go in the world and perhaps even what team(s) might be a good fit; and what their future ministry might entail. Playing detective and casting vision are two big components of my new role. Of course, my experiences overseas will be very helpful in seeking to mentor people on

their new journey to life and ministry overseas.

As Elaine says, she wouldn’t want this responsibility because I’ll be making tough decisions on who joins and who doesn’t. “What if you reject someone God wants to serve?” she asked me. Good question! Thankfully, we serve a big God who can overcome my foolish mistakes. Also, thankfully, we serve a God whom I trust will speak to me clearly and will use me to spiritually and vocationally mentor dozens or even hundreds of possible new workers wisely every year.

For her part, Elaine is managing homeschool and home for the boys (Caleb and Jamie, who turned 14 and 12 in late September). She is enjoying homeschooling so far – a lot more than cleaning. ☺

It will take time for them to fill their schedules, but for now the three of them like being the ones who get to stay at home every morning while I leave (the opposite of our experience for the past eight years in Thailand). Of course, Elaine also keeps us in close contact with Brittany, 22, and Justin, 19, a senior and sophomore at Columbia International University in South Carolina.

2) We are honored to be serving in these capacities – but we would be deceiving you if we didn’t admit that it is strange and sad to be in this situation.

Strange because it just feels like we are on home assignment and will be heading back to Thailand any day now. I’ve never understood what people meant when they said, “This just doesn’t seem real.” But now I do. We own a house for the first time ever? We don’t have to pack up again next week?

Everyone speaks English? We have a dishwasher – besides the kids? We have numerous food stores and dozens of restaurants and a huge library and the pizza delivery guy and 5 Baptist churches (etc., etc.) all within a few miles? We can run AC all day and not sweat to death? Very strange indeed.

Secondly, it's sad to be in this situation because we feel like we belong in Thailand. This isn't home. This isn't living on the edge for God. This isn't hard. This isn't strategic. This isn't risky. All those thoughts have run through our heads, and while we know they are silly, they're there. We miss our church, our friends, our house, our life, our thriving ministries, our co-workers, our service, our "aliveness" as we led a team and an area and a foundation into an exciting future for Pioneers work in SE Asia.

However, as God so often does, he checks our selfish thoughts – rapidly. A couple weeks ago at the office, an Indian pastor who serves in Toronto came to speak for a bit of a mini-spiritual retreat. One of his main thrusts involved how self-centered we humans can be and how easily our service for God can become about us instead of about Him. While highlighting how quickly (one week!) Saul went from a promising start to a rapid decline into impatience and self-absorption, the pastor talked about "embracing a ministry of obscurity" – as in anonymity. Hmm. Obscurity, eh? But, Lord, we treasured being SiAM Area Leader and directing the Kingdom thrust into two unreached countries! But, Lord, we were fulfilled being The HOME Team Leader and expanding work into numerous locations across Thailand that previously had no Gospel

witness! But, Lord, we were **21** excited to begin a foundation in Thailand that was serving the people while providing reliable visas for workers! But, but, but... Obscurity, eh?

Okay, okay, we admit that maybe our motives weren't all pure, but it felt like we were making a difference for the Gospel in a strategic and needy part of the world. So, why did you allow Elaine's health to get/stay worse than ever so we had to leave? Why did you allow our Thai friends' hearts to be broken as we walked away from them in an airport terminal – likely never to see them again this side of heaven? Why did you close the door so hard on all the ministries that we had spent years of sweat and tears building? Why?

We don't know the answers yet, but we do know that God has definitively called us to this season of life. To closer contact with children, parents and others for a family that had to leave their "adopted" relatives half a world away. To better medical care and conveniences for a wife/mom/teacher who lives with too much pain and discouragement. To homeschool and active church life for two boys who need to bond with their "new" country and peers. To mobilization work for a church planter who needs to recover from exhaustion.

And to glorious obscurity in Him alone. ***"Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."*** – Colossians 3:2-3

Until all have heard,
***Joe, For Elaine, Brittany,
Justin, Caleb & Jamie***

22 GIVE THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

The following are some books that are relevant to today's headlines and others that are written by favorite authors but all will give you many enjoyable reading hours.

"The Tehran Initiative", a novel by Joel C. Rosenberg, one of the most thought-provoking novelists of our day. What if Tehran were set to launch a genocidal war against Israel? Would Jerusalem launch a massive preemptive military strike against Iran or would Washington order the CIA to intervene before events in the Middle East spin out of control? This is a most exhilarating political thriller, full of international intrigue that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

"Texas Angel" by Judith Pella. There are two novels in this one volume and includes "Heaven's Road". These are historical fiction tales of betrayal, revenge and redemption. "Texas Angel" is the story of Elise Toussaint Hearne who thought her secret was safe, but when her true identity is uncovered by her husband's family, Elise and her baby are disowned, abandoned and headed for the Texas frontier – as slaves.

"Heaven's Road" tells the story of Micah Sinclair who is driven by revenge after the death of his beloved uncle and he sets out to destroy the Mexicans responsible. Lucie Maccallum tries to reach his haunted heart but her Mexican heritage and secret ties to a bandito threaten to sever the tenuous bond between them.

"She Walks in Beauty" by Siri Mitchell. The story is set in New York City, 1891, during the opulence, the splendor and the excess of the Gilded

Age. Clara Carter is the social season's brightest star – but at what cost? The game is played amid banquets and balls. The prize is a lifetime of wealth and privilege. The rules will test friendships and the desires of a young woman's heart.

"Maryland Brides" by Tamela Hancock Murray. This book has three stories set in bustling Baltimore and also in the beautiful countryside of Maryland. Each story is about a woman stuck in a difficult situation and she's not sure how to get out. Eleanor Kerr is a lowly seamstress who is courted by a rich and handsome man, but is a future possible when he believes that she would demean his family name?

Katherine Jones had a friend who wrote to her pen pal and misrepresented Katherine's abilities. When the pen pal comes to town to court her, what will happen when the truth is revealed?

No one shows any interest in Vera Howard as she sees her childhood friends marry. When flirtatious Byron arrives in town, Vera trusts him while others question his motives. Will Byron's past end any hopes for his and Vera's future?

"Cages on Opposite Shores" by Janset Berkok Shami. The author was born in Turkey. The novel is set against the conflicts and tensions of modern-day Turkey. Meral's search for identity and renewal, after leaving her husband of eleven years, leads in unexpected and painful directions. Meral finds her mother's diary, begun as a young girl, and realizes for the first time her part-Armenian heritage. Each reading increases her knowledge of herself.

“Turner’s Crossroads”, a novel by Penelope J. Stokes. This collection of stories goes far beyond a nostalgic look at a simpler lifestyle and unsophisticated people. It probes beneath the surface of the spiritual life of a small town – where folks who have known each other all their lives finally get a glimpse into one another’s hearts, where choices are made, for better or worse, that will change the course of their lives forever. There is Mansfield Fisher, whose unorthodox evangelism shakes the foundations of his community. There is Sister Gertrude, an unconventional nun caught in the web of prejudice. There is Verlys Bakke, an Elder in the Lutheran Church, who makes a fresh discovery about confession and forgiveness.

“Fatal Convictions” by author Randy Singer who is compared favorably with John Grisham. The wife of a prominent Muslim leader is brutally murdered shortly after converting to Christianity. Is it a coincidence, or has honor killing reached the resort towns of America? Attorney Alexander Madison isn’t interested in taking the case that other lawyers are running from, but deep down he believes the accused imam is innocent and decides to defend him in the biggest murder case Virginia Beach has ever seen. When the imam’s beautiful daughter arrives from Lebanon to help with the case, Alex is torn between his feelings for her and the fight of his career – and his own life may be in jeopardy.

“Journey to the Well” by Diana Wallis Taylor. She went to the well for water. What she found there would change her life forever. The story of the Samaritan woman at

Jacob’s well is one of hope, redemption, and a life changed in an instant through a remarkable encounter. Jesus told her “everything she’d ever done,” but we are left to wonder at the circumstances that led her life on such a tragic path to begin with. From the creative mind of the author comes the full story of the woman at the well. This is a well-researched portrayal of a woman’s life in the time of Jesus and opens the window into a fascinating world. The descriptions of the landscapes, lifestyles and rituals mesh easily with the emotional and very personal story of one woman who desperately seeks to rise above the difficult circumstances of her life.

“A Reluctant Queen”, the love story of Esther, by Joan Wolf. She was a simple girl faced with an impossible choice. He was a magnificent king with a lonely heart. Their love was the divine surprise that changed the course of history. The beloved story of Esther springs to fresh life in this inspired novel that vibrates with mystery, intrigue and romance.

“Sarai” a novel by Jill Eileen Smith. When Abram finally requests the hand of his beautiful half-sister Sarai, she asks one thing – that he promise never to take another wife as long as she lives. Even Sarai’s father thinks the demand is restrictive and agrees to the union only if she makes a promise in return – to give Abram a son and heir. Certain she can easily do that, Sarai agrees. But as the years stretch on and Sarai’s womb remains empty, she becomes desperate to fulfill her end of the bargain, lest Abram decides that

~ continued next page ~

“LIBRARY” FROM PAGE 23

he will not fulfill his. The author’s vivid storytelling brings to life the beautiful and inscrutable Sarai in this remarkable story of love, jealousy and undaunted faith.

“Blind Sight” by James H. Pence All Thomas Kent wants is to die but a mysterious email and a voice from the past stir him to fight for his life and the lives of a family he doesn’t know. The leader of a powerful and dangerous cult threatens the country’s future and Thomas holds the only evidence for its destruction. As the cult’s plan enters its final phase, Thomas must cast his fear aside and act before it’s too late.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING from the Library Staff – Barbara Jackson,
Ann Ice, Helen Lefave and Pat Barton**

**HELP SWEETEN CHRISTMAS FOR INMATES
AT LANCASTER AND CITRUS COUNTY**

In what has become an annual event the Missions Committee has been asked to provide 1,100 candy bars for the inmates’ Christmas packages at Lancaster Correctional Institution, and 700 for Citrus County Detention Center.

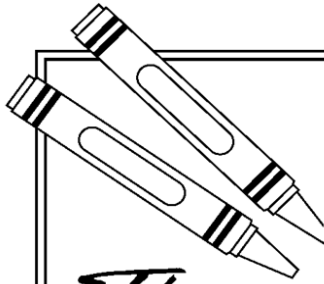
The Committee is asking the congregation to bring standard size **(2.07 oz.)** Snickers Candy bars to the church services on Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9. Officials point out it is very important that all bars be of the same size and kind to insure that everyone knows they are being treated equally.

A box in which to place the bars will be located in the church Narthex. Cash donations will be welcomed. Businesses in the area will be asked to assist.

Each candy bar will be wrapped with an appropriated message written by our pastor. Prison chaplains have stated these modest gifts are important to the inmates because it shows that people on the outside do care.

The Missions Committee would welcome volunteers to help wrap the candy bars at 3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12.





Just for KIDS

The purpose of the gospel

The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.



Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

"... e ie e hat es u s

is th es iah, the S n

of od, nd th by

be ing ou m y

ha e lif i hi na e."

JOHN 20:31, NIV

Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Just Believe!

Greetings Dear Friends ----- from Sunny Siberia!

Even though this IS Siberia, we're blessed with almost 300 days a year of sunshine! Of course many of those days the outdoor temperature is a little colder than those sunny Florida days. J However, on Dec. 3rd 2012, we'll also have the opportunity to enjoy that Florida winter weather! After spending two weeks in southern California with our oldest son, Joshua, we fly to Florida for a five month home assignment. We are presently making plans and will be in Homosassa in Jan. 2013 for a time of fellowship and updates of the work in Siberia-we look forward to seeing you then!

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” Hebrews 12:28

She's only ten years old but Natasha's love for her little brother and those around her are obvious! She's been coming to the fellowship for several years now with her Grandmother and brother as well as coming to our house for help with English homework. With drunken parents who often forget to feed or care for the children, home life is **not** normal – she would tell you it is. Over the past year, Natasha has

been asking more questions and earnestly seeking answers; in October, she became a member of the kingdom family! She lives this verse, showing her thankfulness and worship to the true Father who loves her unconditionally!



For the third year, we've celebrated the end of fall with a Harvest Sunday. Unlike most places in the US, the folks here actually grow a majority of their food for the winter months. They cut hay for their livestock and bring in multiple loads of wood to be cut and stacked for their wood burning stoves. The word 'harvest' has quite a special meaning for these people. On Oct. 7th, we once again celebrated with fellowship, a message from the Word, a fantastic meal, and prizes! (It was decided that a prize should be given for the biggest vegetable grown, for creativity, and for the



best 'canned' item. Kevin was given the honor of sharing from the Word; it was a simple message of two kinds of harvest. No one could have imagined how the Father would work in that service!



If you read last month's update or read our blog, you may remember we've been a bit discouraged lately. Along with our fellow workers, we've been lifting this area and the work in prayer knowing the enemy is not willing to give this area back to the Creator. With people leaving instead of more coming to our little fellowship we were feeling defeated. However, our Father's timing is always perfect and He chose Harvest Sunday to remind us of that fact. After the message, Kevin asked if anyone wanted to make a decision that would change their lives or was



there anyone needing to 27 rededicate their lives. The answer was amazing! Several came forward asking for prayer so they would be bolder in sharing their faith. Then two older ladies came forward and asked to pray to receive the free gift of salvation!!! Thank you Lord for answered prayers "*since we (they) are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.*" Now the real work begins as we study His word together and these ladies grow in their new walk in life.

There is still much to be done here. In a 'village' of 8,000, our small fellowship averages 30 people plus children. PLEASE remember these folks and the region. Matthew 9:37 reminds us that people ARE ready to hear and believe but WE need to share and there is ALWAYS a need for more workers! THANK YOU for standing with us and being a huge part of this work...what a enormous blessing. Until we see you in January, may you be blessed abundantly.

Serving Together in Siberia,
Kevin & Laura

Skype: klwooster
Blogspot: klwooster@blogspot.com
Email: klwooster@aol.com



Through Serendipity, the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things.

Continuing through the summer and present, funding by Serendipity supports The Sanctuary and Grace House in Homosassa (note the attendance every 4th Sunday of 20 or more persons at the 11:00 service and at Jan Wise's Sunday School class) and the Nature Coast Ministries in Crystal River. Both agencies serve clients from all walks of life with extremely diverse and critical needs. Our monthly pancake breakfasts are our main source of funds to allow our help, so we stress the need for attendance at these events. We thank all who support these breakfasts monthly but look for new attendees each time. Have you noticed the more recent attempts to keep meals warmer and allow more time for socializing – by our “meals to order” program? We look forward to greeting each of you monthly.

Our most recent new Serendipity member is Alan Kemper. A long-time resident in Central Florida, Alan came looking for a men's group study of the Bible and a Christian brotherhood in which he felt comfortable. He looks forward to attending one of our Sunday morning services. Welcome to Alan.

MAN CAVE: For some, including this writer, the term needs to be defined. In this case, it is an area of interest designated more specifically for men . . . men, hopefully, who might attend the UMW bazaar Nov. 2nd & 3rd. However, we hope that you women will visit the Man Cave also, perhaps looking for some gift that your man might like to own. Serendipity men have been collecting articles of all kinds that you may purchase. Sporting goods, home tools, gardening equipment, mechanical items for car, truck, RV, etc., yard



maintenance items, office furniture, exercise equipment, and even some kitchen items --- all in either new or slightly used condition. The photo below shows just some of the items for sale. By the way, additional items are wanted. Do you have any similar items that you would like to get out of your garage

or storage? If so, please call Paul Herr, 503-2810; Nelson Bell, 503-7601; or Jim Potts, 382-1842; and we will arrange to have them picked up at your convenience.

SILENT AUCTION: In addition to the Man Cave, Serendipity will also hold a silent auction in which you will have an opportunity to bid on various items of value and excitement. Would you like to try a balloon ride? A photo safari? Would you enjoy expense-paid golf at World Woods or other golf courses? Do you need home maintenance or furniture arranging and accessorizing services? Special gift items of interest to men and women are included. You might just find a real treasure here. Plan now to visit the Man Cave and to take part in the Auction. Set aside the dates: November 2 & 3.

Men of FUMC, friends, and residents of our surrounding community are all invited to join us on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m., or Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.. Won't you consider joining us in our wonderful Bible discussions and study and in supporting our ministries? Serendipity information, call Jim Potts.

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for:

- all of us to know where the Holy Spirit is calling us to volunteer.
- our pastor and church staff, daily.
- us, as a church, to listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- the Fall Bazaar to be well attended and for the United Methodist Women as they host the event.
- those families and individuals who struggle to make ends meet, that we may help to meet their needs.
- smooth transitions to continue.
- us to become a connection for families and God.
- the Nominating Committee to be guided by the Holy Spirit to
- those people whom He would have serve.

COMPANIONS in Christ[™] A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation

Companions In Christ, a small group experience in spiritual formation, is forming. The Scripture readings are short with reflection questions to guide you. We will have lots of fun experiences in the two-hour class which meets for six weeks, with follow-up sessions of the same length. More information is on the Spiritual Formation Bulletin Board and in the Narthex. We'll start with a sample class so you'll know more about this type of learning experience before we begin. For more information talk to or email Marilyn Watson at mwatson48@tampabay.rr.com

I'll be in the Narthex between services. Please call the church office if you're ready to sign up!

WALKING!

- My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where he is!
- I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
- We get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and **I'm sticking to it!**

Jeremiah 17: 7-8

“But blessed be the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

**Geraldine McClellan - Keynote Speaker**

Rev. Geraldine McClellan, a returning favorite is, a native Floridian, graduated from Bethune-Cookman College and Gammon Theological Seminary with a Masters of Religious Education and a Masters of Divinity. Ordained a Deacon in 1980, she was the first Black woman ordained in the Florida Conference. Now an ordained Elder (Florida Conference), she has served as a campus minister and a District Superintendent. Geraldine is a certified Clinical Counselor with the Association of Pastoral Care and Counseling and a certified Chaplain with the VA Hospital. With a pastor's heart and unlimited love for God's people, she currently serves at Mt. Pleasant UMC in Gainesville.

**Kelly Dixon - Bible Study Leader**

“Kelly Dixon is a motivational speaker whose desire is to inspire you to draw closer to Jesus. She loves to share God's Word so that others not only learn it but experience it deeply. She teaches in a clear, precise, and concise way so that you understand what it means to "deepen your walk with Jesus." Having received and accepted the call to motivate other Christian women toward a deeper relationship with Christ, she began the Ladies for Jesus ministry; a ministry of many ladies who love the Lord and share in this desire. Kelly is married to Kermit Dixon, and they have two beautiful girls.”

Music Leader - Samantha Cannon

Enrichments - include a concert by Sue Sommer, Make-It-Take-It, Sing Along with the Andersons, and more.

Come and join us at the Life Enrichment Center on the shores of beautiful Lake Griffin in Fruitland Park. This weekend offers a time for Bible study, enrichment and craft sessions, music, fun, fellowship and food! Spend the weekend in a way that is meaningful to you – bring a friend, bring a group of friends or come and make new friends. For more details see the bulletin boards, the poster in the Narthex, go to www.flumcwomensretreats.org or contact Marilyn Watson at mwatson48@tampabay.rr.com You may register online or pick up a registration form from the bulletin board; various payment plans are available. Complete cost for motel type room (double occupancy) and all meals is \$155. Other options, including camping are available.

Christmas Toys - The "EBADOC Tree"

FUMC will again sponsor our "EBADOC Tree" for Christmas 2012. This project was a great success in 2011 and with your help we look forward to another wonderful season. We will start sign ups on October 31st and continue until we have taken the names of 50 children from Homosassa. This means that when you participate you will know that the children being helped are our neighbors here in Homosassa.

The "EBADOC Tree" will have small gift boxes on it and will be in the Narthex on Sunday November 11th and November 18th. You can select a child by; taking a box from the tree, locating the number on the box and putting your name and the box number on the sign out sheet. Inside the box will be the name of a child and their "wish list" to aid you as you shop. **Your unwrapped gifts must be back to the church by December 9th and please be sure to tag each item with the child's name and number.**

As in the past the lady's golf leagues of Sugarmill Woods and Southern Woods will also support our efforts with donations to our pantry and toys for our EBADOC Tree. Together we will put smiles on the faces of 50 children this Christmas. And, as always, we will invite them and their families to join us for worship. If you know a local child in need here is the information for sign ups.

To qualify:

1. You must be a resident of Homosassa.
2. Your ID must show a street address (**No P.O. Box please.**)
3. The child must reside with you.
4. You may not sign up a child at more than one location in the county. (Your child's name will be submitted to the county coordinator for verification.)

Please be prepared to provide:

1. The child's name, address and date of birth.
2. The child's size for pajamas, shirts, pants, socks and shoes. (Example: If the size is large is it an adult size large or a child's or a toddler's.)
3. Important—Please bring a detailed list of gift ideas for your child. Include the things they like or need in the order of importance to them.

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



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**NOVEMBER
2012**

