

**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**

**DECEMBER 2012 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 10**



ADMINISTRATOR

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(email to be announced)



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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

**Christmas Message**  
*From*  
**Pastor Kip**



*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:18-21*

We all realize that there are many different aspects to the birth story of our Lord. There is the story of Mary and her dedication to God in her service to give birth to God’s Son. There is the image of the Son of God being born in a manger. Then following the birth there are the stories of the Magi and the Shepherds. And obviously there is also the story of Joseph.

I always liked the story of Joseph and his role in the birth of Jesus. I like it because it reveals the true depth of Joseph’s character. Joseph was a Jew who not only followed the law, but appeared to understand not only the need for the law, but also understood the impact the law could have on people’s lives. He knew that he could divorce himself of Mary for obvious reasons and remain well in his rights as per the law. Yet he also knew what this could do to Mary. His decision was to follow the principles of the law, only to do so quietly, thus saving Mary from any harm.

He was also a man of God. This too is revealed in his obedience to the religious aspects of the law. He was engaged to Mary but did not take any actions towards her that would have violated the religious aspect of the law. These things would wait for after the marriage.

I think the greatest sign of his character was his obedience to the Word of God as spoken by the Angel Gabriel. Joseph received clear instructions as to what he was to do concerning the child Mary was carrying. He was told

that the child she carried was conceived through the Holy Spirit. **3**  
Gabriel also told Joseph what to name the child and why. His name was to be Jesus, for He was sent to save the people from their sins.

Following the instructions of the angel changed Joseph's and Mary's lives. Following the instructions of the angel allowed God's plan to come to fruition. Following the instructions of the angel allowed God to enter into our world as God had never entered before. It changed not only Joseph and Mary's lives, it changed ours as well.

This Christmas season, it stands to reason that not many of us will hear from the Angel Gabriel. However, we do know that hearing from God through the Holy Spirit is very likely and very probable. In fact we not only hope to hear from God in this manner, we expect it. What we do with what we hear will reflect the depth of our character, just as it did with Joseph.

**Now may the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you richly during this wonderful Christmas Season. God Bless – Pastor Kip**

A red Christmas Eve Services poster with white text and a nativity scene illustration. The text reads: "CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES", "December 24, 2012", "6:00 p.m. (Candlelight)", and "8:00 p.m. (Candlelight)". The nativity scene illustration shows a stable with a star above it, and figures of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus with a manger and animals.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
December 24, 2012  
6:00 p.m.  
(Candlelight)  
↓  
8:00 p.m.  
(Candlelight)



## CHURCH MINISTRIES

### Within the Church

Greeters  
 Ushers  
 Music Ministries  
 Attendance Tracking  
 Biblical Travel Ministry  
 Christian Education  
 Communion Stewards  
 Counters  
 Disaster Relief Programs  
 Flower Arranging Ministry  
 Folding & Mailing Committees  
 Funeral Receptions  
 Genesis Newsletter  
 Library  
 Lenten Soup Suppers  
 Online Picture Directory  
 Parish Nurse Ministry  
 Prayer Ministry  
 Stewardship  
 Audio-Video Ministry  
 United Methodist Women  
 UMW Circles  
 Visitation Care Group  
 Wednesday Night Dinners  
 Youth Ministry

### Outreach Ministries

Annual Seminar for Elder Needs  
 Bus Ministry  
 Disaster Relief & Response Team  
 God's Clods (Clown Ministry)  
 Health Related Workshops  
 Hugs for Soldiers  
 Local Travel Ministry  
 Men's Monday Morning Work Group  
 Men's Wed. Morning Prayer Breakfast  
 Missionaries to Siberia  
 Nursing Home Ministries

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
 Holiday Prison Ministry  
 Shut-In Visitation  
 Stephen Ministry  
 Tuned To Revival Quartet  
 Thrift Shop  
 Vacation Bible School  
 Welcome Bags

### Small Groups

Bereavement Group  
 Cancer Survivors  
 Individual Bible Study Groups  
 PAWS

Saturday Sisters  
 Men's Serendipity  
 Women's Serendipity

### Support Groups

*Alzheimer's Support*  
*Diabetes Support*  
*Memory Lane Respite*  
*Stroke Support*

### Discipleship Classes

(various classes & times)

### Benevolences

CROP Walk  
 Equipment for Handicapped  
 Food Pantry  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Holiday Food Baskets  
 Methodist Children's Home  
 Salvation Army  
 St. Andrew's Mission  
 The Heifer Project  
 The Path

### Community Outreach

AA  
 Al-Anon  
 Blood Bank  
 Camp-E-Nini-Hassee  
 Hunger & Homeless Outreach  
 Kiwanis Breakfast  
 Our Father's Table.

7/7/12



NEWSLETTER  
**DEADLINE**

**FRIDAY, 12/7**  
**for JANUARY**



plan to attend. We will be **5** inviting their parents also, please welcome them if you have the opportunity.

This week we begin the season of Advent. May your hearts be filled with Joy and Peace and Love for our fellow man.

Our young people are enjoying being a part of the Sunday services and I trust you enjoy seeing them. Please tell Laurie Painter and Sharon Miller and Sandra Tam and Wayne and Krissy Brown how much you appreciate all their efforts and the kindness and gentleness they shower down on the young people. It is not an easy task to be there each Sunday, sometimes for all three services. They are very appreciated and loved and need to hear that from the congregation.

The children are planning a small presentation at Wonderful Wednesday in December so please

Many people have requested an opportunity to be a part of another short term Disciple class. We have classes planned to begin the first week in February and will be finished in time for Easter. One class will be held in the daytime and the second will be held on a Friday night, that way anyone who works or someone who might enjoy an evening session will be able to attend. Watch for more information in January. If you have any questions before that please ask me.

Don't forget you are very welcome to attend any of our Sunday school classes, and if you have young ones, those groups always have a wonderful time and we would love for your children and/or youth to come join in.

*Kay*



### **PRAYER CORNER**

- the light of Christ to shine through us in all we do especially during this busy time of year when so many need to see the difference in us,
- smooth transitions to continue.
- those families and individuals who struggle to make ends meet & that we may help to meet their needs.
- each of us to use every opportunity this season to invite others to join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior.
- our pastor and church staff, daily.
- us to become a connection for families and God.





### ***National Safe Toys & Gift Month 2012***

December has been designated as safe toy and gift month. This is a project led by Prevent Blindness America. The group hopes to educate not only parents but also those buying gifts for children as to their safety and suitability. This affects all of us as we prepare to buy for our children, grandchildren and also a family choice from the EBADOC tree. Hundreds of children have been injured or poisoned by poorly made items or the misuse of these items.

Toys are meant to be used as developmental tools as well as for recreational activities, and not cause harm. Since 1995 the U.S. Product Safety Commission (CPSC) closely monitors and regulates toys made in or imported into the United States. The CPSC has a toll free number: 1-800-638-2772 ext. 650 or website: [www.cpsc.gov/](http://www.cpsc.gov/) where you can check for toy recalls or report an unsafe item.

#### ***Buying steps for safe purchases:***

##### **Step One:**

Buy age appropriate toys. We seem to think that buying toys that are meant for older children indicates somehow that we think the child is already smarter than their

age group or “will grow in to it”. Toys are graded for not only safety but to prevent frustration.

##### **Step Two:**

Read the warning and safety precautions accompanying the toy. Toys for small children may be inappropriate due to small pieces which could be a choking hazard. Some toys may be fire hazards, especially if there are open fires or radiator heaters. Fabric items should be labeled non-flammable or flame resistant... Evaluate toys for sharp edges. Art supplies should be labeled non toxic. Crayons and paints should say ASTM D-4236 on the package which means they have been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials. Be aware that “fake food” could also present problems for children who might mistake it for real.

##### **Step Three:**

Avoid buying anything that has excess string, or cords. Be aware that BB guns or toys that shoot or send off small pieces, fireworks, sharp scissors, and even un-inflated balloons can be a danger.

*God loves a cheerful giver. Just make sure you are doing it wisely when it comes to his children.*





## THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM

by Jan Wise

**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)**

The prophets spoke the truth: The Messiah would be born of a virgin, of the line of David, in Bethlehem, with no beauty nor majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him, a man of sorrows.

The people of Jesus' time argued their facts:

When Jesus preached in his hometown, the townspeople said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers....Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us?" (Matthew 13:54-57) In the certainty of their facts, they missed the truth. Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, had grown up in their village and was offering them the opportunity to receive him as their Messiah.

After Jesus spoke at the Feast, some said "Surely this man is the Prophet," others, "He is the Christ." Then came their facts: "How can the Christ come from Galilee. Does not the Scriptures say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived." Jesus did come from Galilee at that time because he had moved there from Nazareth. BUT Jesus *was* born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem, living there briefly with his parents.

We can become so intent on our physical facts, or what our tradition

has made to be facts, that we miss 7 spiritual truth. I read this week: *There are facts and there are facts; but then there is truth.*

When we gather around the baby in the manger, do we think about the truth that Jesus, now King of Kings, is coming again? Although Jesus never asked us to celebrate his birth, we have created a celebration of our own design. There was no star over the stable, no wise men there either and only one gift graced the birth place—God's gift of his only Son. In our zeal to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the manger has become a "mecca" for the unbelieving world—a money-making, Santa-touting, excuse-for-a-party time of year.

Does the fulfillment of the prophetic truth of Jesus' first coming remind us of the truth of his second coming? We are told we live in a post-Christian era where Christianity is a crutch for those who can't face reality, and we must face new truth in our changing world.

Jesus said, "Watch out that no one deceives you....You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, for the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pangs. (Matthew 24:4-8)

***Take it from one who knows—when birth pangs begin, they will come faster and harder until the expected one arrives. Perhaps it's time to spend less time at the cradle and more time preparing for the coming of our King.***



## “HOME FOR CHRISTMAS”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2012 - 3:00 P.M.

FUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

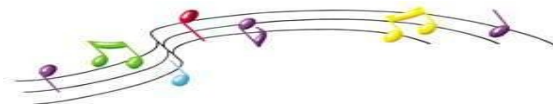
General Admission - \$12.00 each

Reserved seats (1st 5 rows) - \$18.00 each

The Ditchfields are from Sarasota and are known as one of America’s most versatile family ensembles. They have provided countless audiences with unforgettable entertainment experiences. They are a professional group composed of eight outstanding voices, each capable of solo performances.

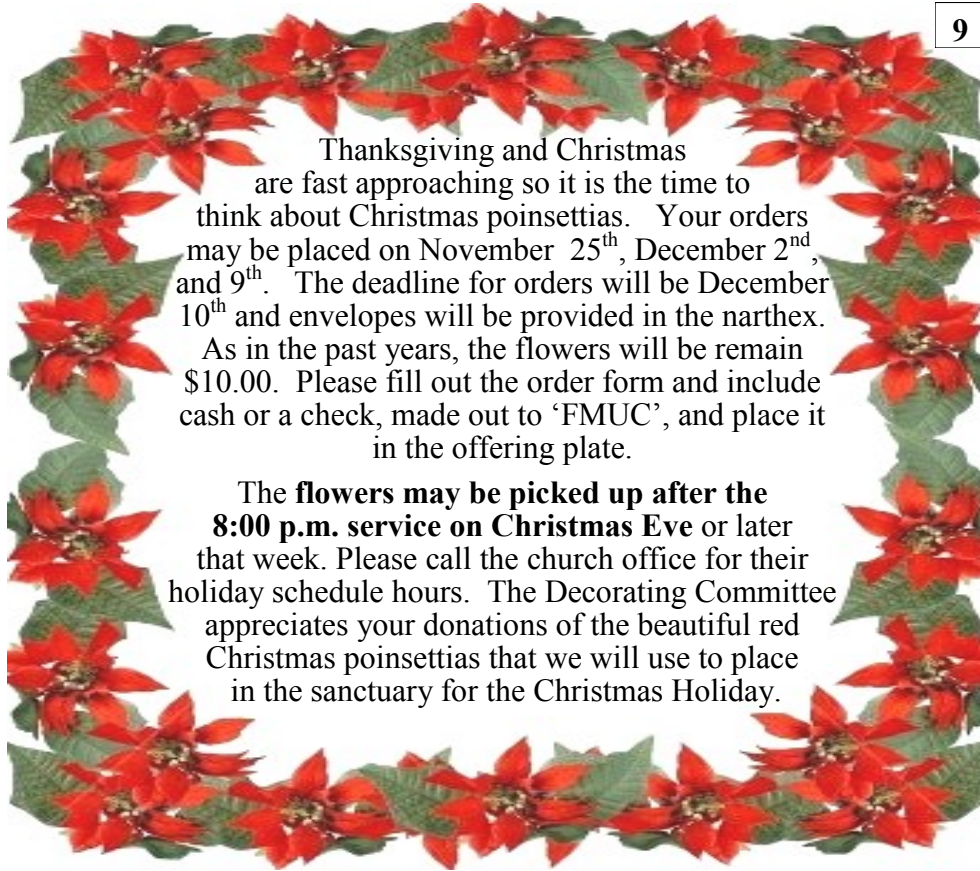
This is an encore performance, as the Ditchfields’ performed a concert of popular music, Broadway hits, and inspirational numbers at our church last year. They enjoy and appreciate being a family -- singing together, praying together, staying together, and having a lot of fun building happy memories for their audiences, and themselves.

For tickets, or further information, contact  
Jim Love 746-3674 or Jim Potts 382-1842



<http://www.ditchfieldfamilysingers.com/>





Thanksgiving and Christmas are fast approaching so it is the time to think about Christmas poinsettias. Your orders may be placed on November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for orders will be December 10<sup>th</sup> and envelopes will be provided in the narthex.

As in the past years, the flowers will remain \$10.00. Please fill out the order form and include cash or a check, made out to 'FMUC', and place it in the offering plate.

**The flowers may be picked up after the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve** or later that week. Please call the church office for their holiday schedule hours. The Decorating Committee appreciates your donations of the beautiful red Christmas poinsettias that we will use to place in the sanctuary for the Christmas Holiday.



**February 15 – 17, 2013**

**The retreat weekend is filling fast.  
Don't delay – sign up today!!**

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](http://www.flumcwomensretreats.org) or contact Marilyn Watson at [mwatson48@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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.



## PRAYER

### What Opportunities Do You Have To Pray?

There are always opportunities to pray, but sometimes they are missed in the busyness of life – even in the good things.

What do you think of when you read about an opportunity to pray? When we think of prayer, many of us think of it as needing to be done in the way we were taught. Most of us were taught that we “should” have a quiet time to start our day, so when we think of praying that is when we pray; and if we don’t pray then the opportunity in our day is lost. We also think of it as “quiet time” so we naturally expect quiet and probably also make it reverent and just naturally close our eyes. When our pastor leads us in prayer during worship, we may consider that an opportunity to pray. Those who receive requests on the prayer chain probably think of it as an opportunity to pray each time a request is received.

Here are a few opportunities for prayer we have at church:

Sacred Hour, Mondays from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary -- a time for silent prayer;

Men's Prayer Group, Wednesdays at 7 a.m. in the Chapel;

Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the Parlor -a time to pray with others;

Sunday in the Sanctuary when you arrive for the worship service (especially after the bells chime);

At the prayer rail or in your pew after you have received Communion;

At the prayer rail or in your pew at the end of the worship service;

At the end of the worship service someone is available to pray with you at the left end of the prayer rail (open hands with palms up indicates this desire);

In the Chapel anytime (unless it's being used).

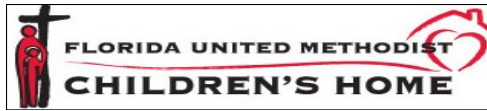
Now that I've mentioned some of the opportunities to pray at our church, I'll bet you've thought of more. If you can think of prayer in other settings and postures than those mentioned above, the opportunities are endless. You can pray as you walk, as you gaze at God's beautiful creation, or when you see someone you think needs prayer or a blessing. Anything, anytime, and anywhere gives us an opportunity, a reason, a motivation to pray.

Remember our loving God is ever more ready to listen than we are to pray and does not care what form our prayer takes or if it has a form at all.

May you each have a blessed Christmas, *Marilyn*

*This Christmas give yourself a marvelous gift, one which will last long after Christmas – the gift of a prayer partner!*





Many of us have such fond memories of our childhood. They might be of a kindly relative who, although of a generation far removed from our busy lives, always had time for our latest discovery, usually very common place to the listener, or our endless questions, "WHY?" Most children in the care of our FUMCH have never had what most of us would define as a "normal" childhood. One such child, we'll call her 'Cindy', a little five year old with a smile that could light up a room, came to The Children's Home after concerned residents contacted authorities, because she was discovered wandering around their neighborhood wearing no shoes, with bruises across her body. She was removed from her home after her parents admitted they were addicted to numerous illegal drugs, as well as a number of prescription pain medications.

Hundreds of children are removed from their homes each and every day in Florida. Can you imagine their pain, and fear, and loneliness? There is a way that you can personally affect their future. By giving on our Fifth Sunday offerings in support of FUMCH, you can reach out and touch that hurting heart. On September 30, 2012, this congregation reached into their pockets and generously gave

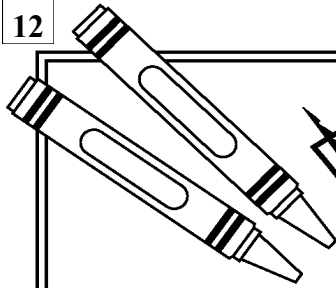
\$1,755.80 to help mend hurting hearts. For the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, let me say "Thank You."

On December 30, 2012, we will have our last Fifth Sunday offering for FUMCH. It falls between two BIG holidays, and I'm concerned that it might get overlooked. Many of you will be out -of-town and we have all heard the saying "out of sight, out of mind". Please make plans to participate in this Fifth Sunday offering by writing a check for the children's home before you leave or doing it as one of your first gifts of Christ for 2013.

The Children's Home needs \$25 gift cards for individual children on their birthdays. On the average, every four days some child is having their birthday at FUMCH. You can donate a gift card and receive a blessing any day you wish. Each of the 14 homes has a special Christmas Day meal. To share the responsibility that the houseparents have daily in preparing home cooked meals for each separate home, FUMCH is requesting sponsoring congregations to donate the cost of a prepared meal from one of the supermarkets, (\$100). Individuals can do this, or this could be a project of a Sunday school class or our many Bible study groups.

On behalf of the FL UM Children's Home, celebrate the season of our Lord's birth and have a God Blessed New Year.

Don Bates  
Children's Home Coordinator



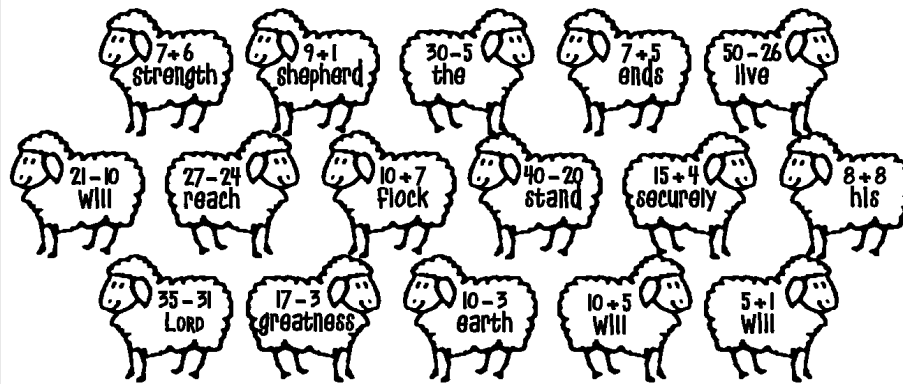
# PUZZLE



## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 and 10 his 17

in the 13 of the 4 .... And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

**DECEMBER 2012 ANNIVERSARIES**

8  
Michelle & Ryan Selby  
~ 10 years ~  
12  
Joan & James Eyster  
~ 59 years ~  
Joyce & Jim Winder  
~ 53 years ~  
14  
Grace Lam-Sheikh & Nasir Sheikh  
~ 28 years ~  
17  
Judith & William Busby  
~ 29 years ~  
Phyllis & Charles Dixon  
~ 24 years ~  
18  
Martha & Ernie Dorrell  
~ 52 years ~  
19  
Donna & Bud Ludwick  
~ 53 years ~  
20  
Carol & Reginald Brandt  
~ 33 years ~  
Carole Deyo-Fahl & Gunter Fahl  
~ 26 years ~  
Laurie & Larry Stainton  
~ 53 years ~  
21  
Jeannine & Jim Love  
~ 54 years ~  
22  
Kathy & Stephen Betsko  
~ 22 years ~  
Lee & George Knerr  
~ 57 years ~  
Marge & Harold Swinson  
~ 67 years ~

27  
Cheryl & Tom Smith  
~ 47 years ~  
28  
Kay & Lee Bast  
~ 56 years ~  
Judy & Bob Bunting  
~ 52 years ~  
Dee & Jim Green  
~ 17 years ~  
29  
Cranie & Kenneth Koellhoffer  
~ 45 years ~  
30  
Cee & Carl Merritt  
~ 40 years ~ .

**IN OUR PRAYERS**  
(as of 11/7/2012)

**BRENTWOOD**  
Joyce Minnicks

**CEDAR CREEK**  
Wilbourn Fowler  
Lois & Jack Schoch

**DIAMOND RIDGE**  
Betty Duncan

**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.



## Saturday 1

8:00 Saturday Sisters B/S  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:00 Decorate Sanctuary  
**9:30 ZUMBA**  
 10:30 Bereavement  
 10:30 God's Clods

## Sunday 2

### *COMMUNION SUNDAY*

**8:00 Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 Sunday School (all)**  
**9:30 Traditional Worship**  
**10:45 New Beginnings SS**  
**11:00 Traditional Worship**  
**3:00 Ditchfield Singers**

## Monday 3

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

## Tuesday 4

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

## Wednesday 5

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  
 5:15 Music  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir  
 7:00 WOMEN'S B/S

## Thursday 6

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 1:30 Serendipity Women  
 6:00 Sugarmill Chorale  
 7:00 COUNCIL

## Friday 7

### **GENESIS Deadline**

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

## Saturday 8

**8:00 Serendipity Pancake**  
 8:00 Saturday Sisters B/S  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
**9:30 ZUMBA**  
 10:00 UMW Unit Meeting  
 10:30 Bereavement  
**4:30 BUS TRIP**  
**7:00 Sugarmill Chorale**

## Sunday 9

### *DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY*

**8:00 Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 Sunday School (all)**  
**9:30 Traditional Worship**  
**10:45 New Beginnings SS**  
**11:00 Traditional Worship**  
**2:30 NCCB CONCERT**

## Monday 10

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



## Tuesday 11

9:30 Helping Hands Circle  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 12:00 Faith Hope Circle  
 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 12

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  
 5:15 Music  
**5:30 POT LUCK**  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir  
 7:00 WOMEN'S B/S

## Thursday 13

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:00 Backpackers  
 9:00 Fold/Mail  
 9:15 Ruth Circle  
**3:00 SNICKER WRAP**

## Friday 14

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
 2:00 Cancer Support  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

## Saturday 15

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

**Sunday 16**

**PANTRY SUNDAY**

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

**Monday 17**

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 18**

10:00 Staff Meeting  
10:00 UMW Unit Meeting  
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 19**

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 20**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
9:00 FOLD/MAIL Genesis  
1:30 Serendipity Women  
3:00 Missions  
3:30 Trustees

**Friday 21**

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

**Saturday 22**

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

**Sunday 23**

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

**Monday 24**

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 Christmas Eve (candles)**  
**8:00 Christmas Eve (candles)**

**Tuesday 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

3:00 Serendipity Bible  
5:30 Weight Watchers  
7:00 Serendipity Bible

**Wednesday 26**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

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  
7:00 WOMEN'S B/S

**Thursday 27**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)

**Friday 28**

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

**Saturday 29**

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

**Sunday 30**

**CHILDRENS HOME**

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

**Monday 31**

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



*Happy New Year*

**Tuesday, Jan. 1**

**OFFICE CLOSED.**

**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**

1 Doris Kertes Bill Strimska	10 Mary McCrea Glenn Seiler	21 Jessica Cocking Don Hand
2 Martha Formender Rusty Harry Ron Phillips Phillip Rittgers	11 Tom Williams	Malcolm Whetsone Lois Young
4 Bess Hoes Dorothy Nobles	12 Betty Boekholder Carolyn Bright Buddy Hansen	22 Sue Cloyd David Kegley Jim Potts
5 Fred Casper Susan Dean Zane Megos	13 Imogene Burnett	23 Mary Ellen Wais
6 Charles Dixon Elizabeth Gaines Betty Huffstutler Dorothy Jones Melissa Pezzuti Vicky Post	14 Wanda Ashley William Little Richard Shaffer	24 Ted Archambault Ron Scheetz
7 Marybelle Baker Willy Pounderoyne	16 Maureen Guthrie Kenneth Will	25 Carolyn Huggins Kathryn H-Powell
8 Ruth Anderson Abbye Jean Richner Jeana Stansbury	17 Betty Davis Sandra Dewart	27 Natasha Dawson Bill Gilbert Sasha Shuart Theresa Weber
9 David Pirkle Marie Witham	18 Edith Keilt Parker	28 Brian Bunbury Judith Huffer
	19 Marjorie Beaman Phyllis Dixon	30 Charlotte Gable Sebastian Kimble
	20 Marilyn Wells	31 Lisa Bentley Noel Bentley Dorothy Graham Sally Moore.



After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

## ALTAR CLOTH COLORS

### What do the colors mean?

“The Christian year contains two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent -Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus, there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white, and green in that order twice each year.”

*(United Methodist Book of Worship, Copyright © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House, page 226)*

- Purple, traditionally represents both royalty and penitence, is used during Advent and Lent.

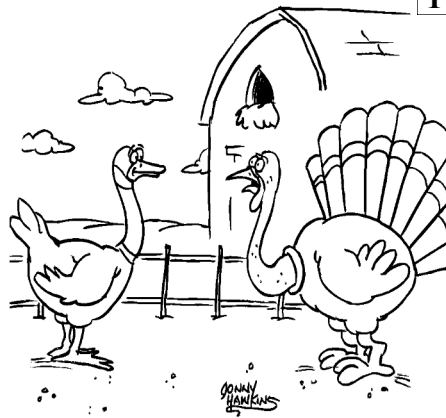
- Blue symbolizes hope and may also be used during Advent.

- White and gold are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.

- Red symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ. Red is also used for ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances such as Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.

- Green represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost.)

17



“I’m praying they opt for fast food...  
or that they pray and fast.”

### **Being a good person is like being a pumpkin.**

**God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all of the yucky stuff -- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.**

**Then He carves you a bright new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. This was passed on to me from another pumpkin. Now, it is your turn to pass it on to a pumpkin of your choice. Have A Happy Fall!**

### **CHANGE YOUR CALENDARS!**

**12/12/12 WILL BE POT LUCK**

**1/9/13 WILL BE WW DINNER**

18



We want to thank our prayer partners, and our church family and friends for the prayers, cards, and phone calls.

Bill and I are feeling better, and we know the prayers are working.

God Bless all of you, Barbara & Bill Gilbert

# DON'T FORGET

**The Bell Ringing  
At SMW Publix**

**11/23 through 12/24**

**Please sign up now ---  
call Tammy Borrás 382-3729**



**We are pleased to welcome** our new Stephen Ministers from the class of 2012. Congratulations for completing 50 hours of training. We welcome -

**Krissy Brown  
Jackie LaMountain  
Judy Powell  
Sandy Tremblay**

They will be proudly be wearing the blue name tags.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas Day brings memories  
And kindest thoughts untold,  
Of friends we may not often see  
But hope to always hold,  
So may this greeting be a link,  
In friendship's precious chain,  
And may there be a Christmas Day,  
When we shall meet again!







Yes, we need your help in our recording of two of **19** the five Vital Signs of a Healthy Congregation. The two areas we need are Intentional Discipleship and Salty Service. Here is how you can help.

**Intentional Discipleship:** If you lead a small group of any type – Sunday School class, bible study, prayer group – any small group of any type of discipleship, please contact Kay in our office by phone or email, and inform her of the number of persons attending your group session, on a weekly basis. We need to record all the numbers of persons attending any small group session.

**Salty Service:** We are required to record the number of PERSONS who are involved in any community ministry or outreach of any type. We are not recording the number of hours invested, just the number of persons investing their personal time in community service of any type. So, if you serve for at least one hour, in a single event, turn in one Salty Service card. If you have served in more than one service or ministry during a week, turn in a card for each event. Again, we are measuring the number of persons involved in community service events each week. There will be “Salty Service” cards located in the pews to use for this recording. Simply remove the needed number of cards, and place them into the offering plates. Thank you so much for your help in this area. The measuring of these areas of ministry are critical for our church.

Thank you, Pastor Kip

**THANK YOU  
FROM THE BAZAAR COMMITTEE!**

**We would like to thank everyone for their support and participation in our recent outstanding bazaar. Preliminary results are \$6,700.00, but watch the January issue of Genesis for the complete UMW news and bazaar profit report.**

**Pat Blake, Chairman**

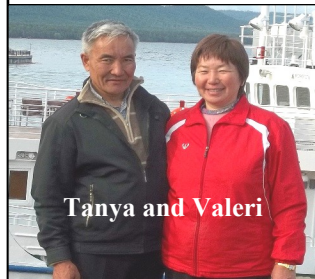
Greetings Dear Friends!

By the time you read this update, we'll be in Florida or on our way north to visit Laura's family. We pray your Thanksgiving holiday was filled with His blessings and time with family and friends! We now look forward to the true blessing and miracle of Christmas – remembering the real “reason for the season”!

**After waiting a month**, Kevin received a call from a local government office with project ideas through our organization. This office handles social services for the region, so we are very excited that they called back and are more than interested in our help. They aid 340 children of extreme poverty, 90 handicapped children under the age of 18, and 380 elderly people that live alone; some of these have no living relatives or family that live in other parts of Russia. When this agency learned we are a 501C3 organization, they about jumped out of their seats! There are thousands of dollars in grant money available in Russia; however, as a government agency they can't access those funds. We will partner with the agency as they help us apply for grants so we can better help this group of people! Having control of the funds will better insure that they go where there are 'true' needs.

There has also been a **project 'in the works' for a school in the next village**. The entire student body only numbers about 40 students but they have a chemistry 'lab' that is in dire need of a ventilation system and a safe cabinet in which to store their chemicals. Our pastor's wife began teaching this year at the school and immediately thought of us to help with

such a project. The school's budget is minimal at best and their idea of a great donation was \$100 from a local farmer. This is actually an exciting opportunity for us as we would never have seen nor known of the needs of this school had Tanya not begun teaching there. Of course we're hoping for an opportunity to build a relationship with the school's



Tanya and Valeri

director and perhaps even some of the teachers as well. We ask that you remember the pastor's wife....so

that she would be a Godly example to those around her. That there will be chances to show His love not only to her students but the parents as well!

**Little Aleena (she's five) has always been a joy** and we've been close to her and her mother for quite some time. Over the past two months that relationship has changed in a dramatic way because of a very trying time in her mom's life. Sveta is a young single mom whose husband was killed by her brother several years ago. She has worked off and on over the years but mostly lives on a pension she receives for her daughter. Like most young girls, she wants a family - a husband to care for her. Not getting into details, Sveta fell into a very deep depression a few months ago and considered suicide. We've been slowly working through the problems and seeking His will and as well as reading through the Word for strength. So where does our little 'joy' come in? Aleena has become quite bold in

sharing her love for the Lord! Not only has she been a huge encouragement for her mom, but also for her grandparents as well!! (They both are alcoholics but

Aleena sees past their faults with child-like eyes.) She has quite openly asked them both where they will be spending



eternity. (How often we adults seem to think we should wait for the perfect time??!!) As we prepare to leave, we see anxiety building in their eyes – so please keep them both in prayer. Our fellowship will and has stepped in but counseling is often a long process and requires not only time but lots of patience. This little family has become what Paul says in 1Thes. 2:20 “Indeed, you are our glory and joy.” We place it ALL in His hands!

**While we are in the states,** please remember our partners that we work with. We are so blessed to have such great people working with us in the middle of Siberia! If you have followed our blog you will remember the picture of us together at a local

café. They will be doing all the projects as well as all the teaching in small groups. There is also the Sunday program while we are away. One of the families is the Agnor’s. Doug is from the US, he grew up in Oregon; his wife Margarita is Russian. They have five children, four are still at home. The other family is a national; his name is Valeri and his wife is Tanya. They have three daughters with one still living at home. Please lift them up in prayer – so that they would continue to seek Him in **all** they do as they work together in this village. The winters can be very long and VERY COLD. By mid Dec. the temperatures will probably be around – 35 C...with the really cold weather coming!

As we close this update and for the year 2012, I (Laura) try to see what is the one thing that ties all of these stories and projects and trips across the globe together.... Of course there is only ONE golden strand that binds all things in pure joy and LOVE...Jesus! The ONE who left his glorious place in heaven, to be born a man, and then died for us ALL on a cross so that we might LIVE!! May this month and the coming year be one of abundant blessings because of HIS love!

*Merry Christmas Dear Friends!  
Kevin & Laura*



**Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

*Happy Birthday Jesus*

We come together now and sing  
Happy Birthday Jesus  
Glad tidings of great joy we bring  
Happy Birthday Jesus

Spread the News to every land  
And let the people know  
His Birthday Party's just at hand  
As candles burn and glow

God sent His Son, His Special Gift  
To bring us Hope and Peace  
To give our lives a marvelous lift  
His wonders never cease

This Baby born in Bethlehem  
Is God in human flesh  
He came to save and not condemn  
Our souls He will refresh

His Party is the best in town  
And you have been invited  
Come be with Christ who wears the Crown  
And let's just get excited

Let's sing again those songs of old  
Which stir us in this season  
And gladly share the truth we hold  
That Jesus Is The Reason !!!

© Jim Lake



***Prescription for the Blues***

When you are discouraged,  
Don't sit down and frown;  
Just get a piece of paper  
And write your blessings  
down! ~from Mary Lou Fisher

**GOD GAVE YOU  
A GIFT OF  
86,400  
SECONDS  
TODAY.**

**HAVE YOU USED  
ONE TO SAY  
"THANK YOU"?**

- WILLIAM A. WARD

from: Mary Lou Fisher

I wish that every deafened ear  
Could hear it once again  
The angel chorus, the whispered hope  
Of peace on earth - good will to men.

I wish that every eye could see  
The goodness over wrong,  
Behold the sight forgiveness brings,  
How it helps to make us strong.

If all my wishes, tiny seeds  
Were planted on life's way  
They'd bloom to bring to all the earth  
More happiness each day.

All these wishes, how I wish  
That they would all come true.  
You see the reason why I say,  
One wish would never do?

But if I could only have one wish  
I'd wish that all might see  
The love laying in a manger bed  
Then nailed to a cross at Calvary.



He lived all alone  
In a 1 bedroom house  
Made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney  
With presents to give, and to see  
Just who in this home did live.

I looked all about,  
A strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the mantle,  
Just boots filled with sand, on the wall  
Hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,  
And awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought came through my mind.  
This house was different, it was dark and  
dreary, I had found the home  
Of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent and alone,  
Curled on the floor in the 1 bedroom home.  
The face so gentle, the room in disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?  
I realized the families that I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers,  
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate,  
A bright Christmas Day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of  
the year, because of the soldiers,  
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder  
How many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve,  
In a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened,  
I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice.  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God's,  
And my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I wept for hours, so silent and still,  
Both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave that cold dark night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over,  
With a voice soft and pure, he whispered  
**"Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day,  
And all is secure."**



One look at my watch, I knew he was right.

**Merry Christmas my friend,  
And to all a good night!**

~ author unknown ~

## *Thank You*

I want to thank all of you who have prayed for me, for the cards, calls, and good thoughts during my recent eye trauma. I'm doing much better now and I know God helped me through this. Mary Lee



## HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGH READING

**“Mark’s Story”**, a novel by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. On Jesus’ last day alive as a man, a young boy – Mark – is about to witness firsthand some of the most pivotal events in all of human history: Judas Iscariot’s betrayal; Peter’s denial of his Master, and Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection as the risen Lord. In the years after, following in the footsteps of his friend and mentor, Peter, Mark becomes an ardent follower of Jesus and a devoted disciple of Christianity, spreading the Gospel outside the boundaries of Jerusalem and into the world. Mark listens to Peter recount the stories of Jesus’ time on earth and compiles what becomes canonized as the Gospel of Mark.

**“June Bug”** by Chris Fabry. For as long as she can remember, June Bug and her father have traveled the back roads of the country in their beat-up RV, spending many nights parked at Walmart. One day, as she walks past the greeter at the front of the store, her eyes are drawn to the pictures of missing children, where she is shocked to see herself. This discovery begins a quest for the truth about her father, the mother he rarely speaks of, and ultimately herself. When her father’s past catches up with them, forces beyond his control draw them back to Dogwood, West Virginia, down a winding path that will change their

lives forever.

**“A New Chapter”**, a Secrets of Mary’s Bookshop book by Kristin Eckhardt. Mary Fisher’s dream has come true. She’s finally about to open Mary’s Mystery Bookshop in her beloved hometown of Ivy Bay, tucked away on beautiful Cape Cod. But weeks before the grand opening, her shop is broken into and torn apart. Mary is shocked, but she’s even more stunned to discover that the only thing the intruder took was an old, dusty photograph of the storefront. Who would have taken it and why? Using skills, learned from decades of reading mystery novels, Mary uncovers some intriguing clues – including a strange book – that lead her closer to the truth about the break-in but also to unsettling secrets in her family’s history.

**“Rewriting History”** by Vera Dodge, a book that tells the secrets of Mary’s Bookshop. This Mystery Bookshop is hosting a very special guest, beloved mystery author, Addison Hartley who gives an intimate reading to the fans gathered in the store. Mary’s eyes are drawn to a familiar face, her best friend from childhood, Claire Wilkes. When Mary moves to greet her old friend, she disappears. No one else seems to have recognized her and Mary begins to doubt herself. There are eerie parallels in Hartley’s new novel with Mary’s own history. Terrible rumors begin to circulate about a secret relationship between Claire and

Mary's husband John, making Mary more determined than ever to track down Claire.

**"Blood Brothers"** by Elias Chacour, the true story of Middle East unrest. This is the moving story of Elias Chacour, a Palestinian Christian who has a deep love for Jews and Palestinians alike. As he recounts his life story, he combines the history of Christianity in the Middle East with a new perspective on Bible prophesy and the Zionist movement. He offers a gripping true-life account of what really happened at the birth of modern Israel.

**"A Tale of Three Kings"**, a study in Brokenness, Submission and Authority, by Gene Edwards. All over the world, Christians have taken to heart this simple, powerful and beautiful story of David, Saul and Absalom. You will want to join the thousands of other people who have been profoundly touched by this incomparable story. Ministers have read the entire story from the pulpit to their congregations. All across the land Christians have been helped, comforted and healed from the pain, loss and heartache they have experienced as a result of unfair treatment at the hands of other believers.

**"Christmas Remembered"** by Ron DelBene This is a collection of stories that touch the heart – the kind of stories you will want to share with your family and friends. It will put you in touch with Christmas memories you thought

you had forgotten. Reading 25 these stories is like being ushered into the private den or sunlit porch of these persons' minds and hearts.

**"Simple Abundance"**, a daybook of comfort and joy, by Sarah Ban Breathnach This is a book of 366 essays – one for every day of your year – written for women who wish to live by their own lights. They will show you how your daily life can be an expression of your authentic self . Every day your own true path leads you to a happier, more fulfilling and contented way of life – the state of grace known as Simple Abundance.

**"Necessary Deception"**, a novel by Laurie Alice Eakes. When young widow, Lydia Gale, helps a French prisoner obtain parole, she never dreams she will see him again, but just as the London Season gets under way, the man presents himself in her parlor. While she should be focused on getting her headstrong younger sister prepared for her entrée into Society, Lady Gale finds herself preoccupied with the mysterious Frenchman. Is he a spy or a suitor? Can she trust him, or is she putting herself and her family in danger? Discover a world of elegance and intrigue, balls and masquerades as the author whisks you into the drawing rooms of London Society on this exciting quest to let the past stay in the past – and let love guide the future.

**Merry Christmas from your Library Staff, Barbara Jackson, Helen Lefave, Ann Ice, and Pat Barton**

**2012 UMC FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENT  
June 13 to 16, 2012 - Lakeland, Florida**

**Attendees: Rev. Mark A. Whittaker, Iris Whittaker & Bernhard E. Diedrich, Lay Delegate for the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa, FL, Gulf Central District**

**LAY DELEGATE REPORT**

**THE THEME: "Transforming the World by Being United in Christ"**

**This is the fourth of four themes set by Florida Conference Leader Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker in 2009. Each year the theme begins with "Transforming the World by..." and is supported by national and international guest speakers to determine the best ways to succeed in each of these important endeavors.**

**This 170th UMC Conference was attended by approximately 2000 clergy, laity, guests & youth, all excited about doing the Lords work and enjoying the camaraderie & inspiring music. Our focus was and is about this years theme on "Being United in Christ", both home and abroad, along with all of the other important duties of Annual Conference.**

**June 13th consists primarily of Workshops, Registration and the Ministry Expo.**

**June 14th (10 am): I attended the Annual Conference Laity Session conducted by Conference Lay Leader, Sharon Luther, who served her fourth & last term. Russ Graves will be our new Lay Leader for 2013. This was an informative session that prepares us (Lay Delegates) for this conference. Conference Treasure Mickey Wilson presented his Annual Report and projections for the future, which despite current economic conditions are very positive for the Florida Conference.**

**June 14th (1:30 pm): Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, 'Disciple of Christ' Clergyman, educator, ecumenical leader and retired General Secretary of the National Council of Churches spoke about the importance of unity among all Christians and denominations of faith as central to God's plan of salvation. We also had speakers, including Beth Fogel Miller and others concerning the purpose of The Strategic Leadership Team, which is to clarify the vision of Annual Conference, ensure that this vision of all Annual Conference resources and ministries are in alignment..**

**June 14th (7:00 pm): Bishop John F. White who has served well in many capacities, was assigned at the 2008 General Conference to the Office of Ecumenical & Urban Affairs and agent for Chaplains. Bishop White preached and then assisted Bishop Whitaker in the service of Holy Communion. Included Annual Conf. Offering.**

## 2012 UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT PAGE-2

June 15th (8:30 am): Plenary Session began with many topics discussed. We were honored to have two Guest Speakers: Rev. Russell L. Meyers (ELCA), a Lutheran Pastor who is currently enrolled in the Doctorate of Ministry track for Ecumenical Dialogue & Inter-Religious Relations at Wesley in DC and Rev. Newton Williams (AME), who first served in Jamaica, West Indies Government Service and then had a calling to become a Methodist Pastor, where he served three churches in Florida and others duties for 42 years. He is retiring at this Annual Conference (2012). Rev. Meyers spoke about the importance of furthering the Ecumenical trend, which the UMC and the Lutheran ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) have been engaging in for some time. Rev. Williams preached during our "Service of Remembrance".

June 15th (1:30 pm): Plenary Session, this included Church Clergy Anniversaries, Celebration of Retirements, Alfalit: 50th Anniversary, Trustees/Ministry Protection, Pensions & Health, Financial Services and Resolutions.

June 15th (7:00 pm): Bishop Edward R. Benoway (ELCA), served as a Lutheran Pastor in Tennessee and three parishes in Florida and now as Bishop. BP Benoway was our Guest Speaker & assisted our Bishop with the Ordination, Commissioning and Licensing of 7/Elder in Full Connection, 2/Deacon in Full Connection, 10/Provisional Membership-Elder, 3/Provisional Membership-Deacon & 9/To be Licensed as Local Pastors (if appointed).

June 16th (8:30 am): Plenary Session, which addressed Inclusivity Training, Childhood Hunger, Blessing of Appointments and a Farewell Tribute to Bishop Timothy and Melba Whitaker. Bishop Whitaker has provided our Conference with great love, exceptional leadership and direction...we will miss him greatly! Rev. Gesner Paul, of the Methodist Florida-Haiti Covenant, serves all the circuits of Haiti and as its Conference President since 2009. Rev. Paul was our final Guest Speaker and Bishop Whitaker closed our 2012 Annual Conference with a prayer.

This is my fifth Annual Conference and I had the honor of presenting our FUMC 100th Anniversary Celebration Banner to all who attended this Conference. Once again, it was my pleasure to serve with Pastor Mark & Iris Whittaker for their final Conference as a church pastor. Also, FUMC met it's 100% Apportionments. Pastor Mark, along with others & myself spent a day at the 2012 UMC General (Worldwide) Conference in Tampa, Florida on April 24, 2012.

Respectfully submitted in His Name,



Bernhard (Bern) E. Diedrich, FUMC Lay Delegate to Annual Conference.

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa  
8831 W. Bradshaw Street  
Homosassa, FL 34448  
*CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED*



We Are A Stephen Ministry Church  
“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

**Rev. Kip Younger, Pastor**



Marsha's Prayer Chain Email:  
[ricmar@infionline.net](mailto:ricmar@infionline.net)

~ Visit our Website ~

**[www.1umc.org](http://www.1umc.org)**

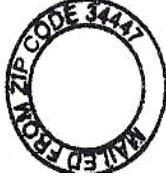
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