

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 2014 VOLUME 18, ISSUE 10



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From the Pastor



“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:6-7

Do these verses sound familiar? It is Luke’s retelling of the birth of the baby Jesus, which we typically read only at this time of year.

Remember what happened? Caesar Augustus wanted a census taken of the entire Roman world, so each one had to travel to his place of birth. Therefore, Joseph and Mary leave Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem. Upon arriving, they discover that the little community is filled with people making the same journey for the same reason. Because they arrive after the majority of other travelers, there is no longer any rooms available at the local inn.

Things only get worse because the time has come for Mary to deliver her baby. Since the innkeeper told them they could spend the night in the inn's stable, that is where the baby is born. The text tells us how Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in cloths and placed him in a manger.

Mary had to be so excited. But we can imagine that she was also very scared and very curious. Her curiosity would have been fueled by the manner in which her pregnancy came about. Remember the angel Gabriel? Remember his message to Mary--“The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and you shall have a son.”

While it would have been obvious to all those around her that she was indeed pregnant, to her this would have been the telling moment. Was it truly possible that the Holy Spirit of God could do this? Since it certainly appears as though he could and did, then what would this baby be like?

The rest of the story unfolds through the gospel writers. Eventually Joseph, Mary and Jesus are back home in Nazareth. Joseph is back working in the carpentry shop, and Mary is taking care of the home. Jesus is doing whatever little boys did in Nazareth. So this is pretty much what we would call "the end" of the birth story.

How many Christmases have you celebrated? What is the earliest Christmas you can recall? What memory causes you to recall it? Do you remember where you were--what you received as presents? Who was with you? Were both parents there? Do you remember your siblings being with you? The most important question may be: “When did Christmas become

<p>spiritually important and meaningful to you?”</p> <p>I really can't remember too far back in my youth. Probably the earliest Christmas I can recall is the year I received a brand new bike. Yes, I said “brand new”--a bike that did not belong to my older brother first, a bike that did not come from a local thrift store. This was a bike that had never ridden by anyone before me. It was brand new!</p> <p>We lived in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. Typically, on Christmas morning, the temperatures could be all the way down into the low seventies or maybe even the sixties. Brrrrrr! So there I was, riding my brand-new bike in a pair of shorts and a T-shirt, having a great time showing it off to all the neighbor kids. Just in case you are wondering--no, they didn't get to ride it.</p> <p>So the first Christmas I can recall is the one in which I received a special gift. How about that? My recall has nothing to do with the reason for the giving of the gift except it was “Christmas”. There was no spiritual connection to the memory; it was just remembering what I received as a result of the holiday.</p> <p>I do not remember exactly when Christmas became less about getting stuff and more about understanding the significance of the holiday itself. I do not recall ever hearing much about the spiritual importance in our</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>family. Now, many years and life experiences later, the meaning of Christmas has greatly changed for me.</p> <p>What about you? When did Christmas become important because of what God did through Mary for you? When did you realize that the most precious gift was not one under the tree but the one who died on a “tree” for you? When did the words of all your favorite Christmas hymns take on a totally new meaning as you realized what they were really saying?</p> <p>It is too easy to lose focus on what happened in Bethlehem so long ago. I doubt that Mary ever took Jesus’ birth for granted or as just another “Christmas”. Image the impact of the date of his birth after his resurrection. Image how Mary continued to ponder everything about Jesus’ arrival into our world. Her thoughts must have traveled from Gabriel, to Joseph, to Bethlehem and the cold stable, and then to what she realized after his resurrection and ascension.</p> <p>There is no way Mary could have ever lost the sense of the deep, divine meaning of the birth of Christ. I pray, that as we move into this Christmas, the same may be true for you and me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Christmas! Pastor Kip</p>
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Welcome



Need to update your records!

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

Weekly Email

Pastor Kip sends out a weekly email every Friday which includes important announcements, information about the coming week's scripture, and usually some things to think about as you prepare for worship on Sunday. If you want to receive this weekly email, please email Theresa in the office at: 8831admin@lumc.org.

New Member Classes

New member classes will be taught by Pastor Kip Younger, 3 times a year, for anyone who is considering becoming a member of First United Methodist Church or would like to learn more about our Methodist beliefs. The membership classes will be four, 1 hour sessions, on Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in room 306. We will receive our new members on the following Sunday. The next opportunity to join the church will be in 2015 and will be announced later.

Membership Transfers

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

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

**WITHIN THE CHURCH****ADMINISTRATION**

Church Council
Counting Team
Board of Trustees
Finance Committee
Memorials
Nominating Committee
Permanent Endowment Committee
Scholarship Committee
Staff/Parish Relations Committee
Stewardship Committee

WORSHIP

Audio-Visual Ministry
Communion Stewards
Creative Worship Team
Decorating Committee
Flower Arranging
Greeters and Ushers
Music Ministry

MEMBERSHIP CARE

Attendance Tracking Committee
Christian Education
Disaster Relief Programs
Funeral Receptions
Library
Member Support
Parish Nurse
Parish Visitation
Prayer Ministry
Reception Committee
Stephen Ministry

MINISTRIES & WORK AREAS

Folding/Mailing Committee
Genesis Newsletter
Green Committee
Kitchen Committee
Mission Committee
Monday Morning Work Crew
Office Reception Team
Online Picture Directory
Publicity

Salvation Army Bell Ringers
Welcoming Ministry
Wonderful Wednesday Dinners
Youth Ministry

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Alzheimer's Support Group
Arts Council
Blood Bank
Camp-E-Nini-Hassee
Cancer Support Group
Diabetes Support Group
Disaster Relief/Response Team
Food Pantry
God's Clods (clown ministry)
Health Related Workshops
Holiday Prison Ministry
Hunger & Homeless Outreach
LifeSouth Blood Bank Location
Medical Equipment Loan
Memory Lane Respite (day care)
Men's Wed. Morning Prayer Breakfast
Knit for Kids (World Vision)
Nursing Home Ministries
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Shut-In Visitation
Stephen Ministry
Thrift Shop
Welcome Bags

MISSIONS

CROP Hunger Walk
FL United Methodist Children's Home
Missionaries to Ireland
Missionaries to Siberia
Salvation Army of Citrus County
SHINE
The Path, Sanctuary, & Grace House

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Brown Bible - Friday, 7 p.m.
Come See - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
Guy Bible - Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Meadowcrest Bible - Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Men's Serendipity - Tuesday, 3 p.m.
Women's Serendipity - 3rd TH, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday Sisters - Saturday, 8:30 a.m.
Siegel Bible - Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Wise Bible - Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Women's Bible - Wednesday, 7 p.m.
WOW - 2nd Tuesday monthly, 6:30 p.m..



Karen Kline

RN BSN
FUMC Faith
Community Nurse



Mary's Christmas

Have you ever contemplated what childbirth was like for Mary? What thoughts were going through her mind as she and Joseph set out for Galilee for the census? What did she take with her to prepare for the birth? Not much information is available to answer these questions, and we can only speculate by looking at the overall culture of the time.

Birth labor is mentioned several times in the Bible. When Eve was thrown from the Garden of Eden one of the punishments she experienced was the pain of childbirth. Giving birth was considered hazardous in Biblical times but children were welcomed. A large number of children added a sense of security and family protection as well as more workers to help in the fields or with the herds. Prenatal care mostly consisted of not drinking wine or eating unclean meat.

Women would normally prepare for their labor by collecting soft sea sponges, pieces of wool, strips of cloth, a pillow, oils or ointments, things to smell, a midwife's stool or chair, clean water, a bed and a

"proper room". How many of these items did Mary have with her? Women were not left alone during labor; they received assistance from midwives, friends and relatives. Males usually played a very passive role in childbirth. So, who helped Mary?

Midwives were very significant figures in ancient times, although their duties were not as clear cut as those of midwives today. They were expected to provide comfort, pain relief and encouragement, assist with the birth and supervise the aftercare of mother and baby. After the baby was born he/she was washed with salt and wine for antiseptic reasons, oil was rubbed on the baby's skin and they were wrapped in swaddling cloth.

How trusting in God were Mary and Joseph to accept their role in God's plan. Their lives were turned upside down, yet they remained faith to God. Can we, in our day to day life attain such a level of faith?

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to each of you and your families.

Karen



Something about “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” brings tears to my eyes year after year. Without failure, by the time of the year we get to sing it in church, it has been a L-O-N-G year, much life has happened, the fresh optimism of New Year’s Eve a distant memory. Those well-intended resolutions have gotten lost in the shuffle of life and living, illness and celebrations, expenses and deadlines.

Advent comes at a time of year when the days are shorter and the pages on the calendar are fewer. It is not difficult to relate to “captive Israel mourning in lowly exile.” Does anyone else feel weary by the time the Thanksgiving dishes are cleared away? How will we make it to Christmas?

Advent has taken on special significance for me as an adult. It causes me to slow down and focus on my need for the Child in the Manger. I might have started the year off with the best intentions, but somewhere along the way weariness sets in. Advent reminds us that God wants more for us than weariness, frenzy and despair. Emmanuel in the manger gives us peace, hope and a reason to rejoice: God loves us and he sent his Son to save us. This is the Good News of our faith! Even

when we feel far away from God, or even like we are in “exile” from His presence; He is near and is extending us the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace through Jesus Christ.

This Advent Season, let’s focus on the gift we’ve been given and share it with the rest of the weary world. Invite your weary friends and family to be uplifted by the message and music at church. The stores have been playing “White Christmas” since Halloween; let’s make our own joyful noise!

This Advent Season, let’s reconnect with our Lord in a meaningful way; double up your prayer efforts on behalf of those who mourn, are sick or are poor.

I wish you a Merry Christmas, but even more, I wish you a meaningful and refreshing Advent Season that will deepen your faith and make your Christmas joy even more complete.

Faith, Hope, Love and Peace through Christ,

Deb

“The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; for those who live in a land of deep darkness a light will shine...For a child is born to us, a son is given to us and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. –Isaiah 9:2, 6

I like saying I'm a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, set apart for him in this world and on my way home to heaven.

Then I think about the Christians in Iraq and the problems they are facing. If they are fortunate, they have time to flee their homes. But, if not, they are given choices--deny Jesus and embrace Allah, pay an impossibly large fine or be killed. My American mindset can't grasp the terror of such a situation.

Teaching God's Word is also something I like to do. Learning to apply his word to the mundane episodes of daily life requires practice and perseverance--necessary training for a disciple of Jesus Christ. However, I find, both in myself and other Christians, a lack of the discipline needed in the life of a developing disciple. To live the "American" Christian life (going to church, attending committee meetings, doing projects, giving money and time) is comparatively easy in the United States. Because no one threatens our lives, we minimize the need for training to stand for what we believe.

But what if we lived in Iraq? Would what we know of the Christian life and of the one we call Lord be enough to enable us to stand faithful? Maybe we're thinking, "That kind of thing will never come here." However, it is here--maybe not in the extreme choices of ISIS,

but in daily assaults on our faith and our faithfulness.

What is our attitude as we drive highways where road rage is an accepted reaction to anyone invading our space? How do we respond to the national fervor for tolerance--of abortion, homosexuality, God-damning language, sexual abuse, anti-God teaching, and television's right to sponsor sexual-explicit, violent material as entertainment? Is our Christianity simply another religion we adapt to the fashion of our times, or is it a personal, living relationship to the one we call Lord?

Jesus' words challenge my Christianity and my teaching: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them, plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"(Matthew 7:21-23)

Are we saying, "Lord, Lord," while living our Christianity our way? Are we being trained so the will of the Lord is more important than our comfort, our opinions, our lives? If we're not practicing faithfulness in the small assaults on our faith now, what will we do when the big challenges come--and they will come.



December Special: Stack of Pancakes!

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“**Stack of Pancakes**” will be the special breakfast, **Saturday, December 13th of 2014!** The second Saturday of the month from 8 to 10 p.m.! The proceeds help Citrus County’s Hungry and Homeless. Yes, for **\$4.00 per person** at the United Methodist Church, 8831 W. Bradshaw St., in Homosassa.

(Sponsored by Serendipity Men’s Bible Study.)

You’ll enjoy this breakfast, come and bring your friends-- then feast on **flapjacks and sausages**, with beverages of **coffee, tea, juice, and milk**. All proceeds help support the hungry and homeless in Citrus County through **Grace House**, and **The Sanctuary**. For more information please call (352) 628-4083 or (352) 382-0336. We look forward to seeing **YOU!**



As Christmas season begins the **Bread of Life Food Pantry** gives a huge thank you to the congregation for their support of a much needed outreach.

Just check the daily Chronicle to realize how critical the need is in Citrus County and our own Homosassa.

We serve on the average 130 families per month. We also been averaging 15 new families each month.



For the holidays we will distribute 50 Thanksgiving and 50 Christmas baskets. Thanks to a generous donation that is greatly appreciated.

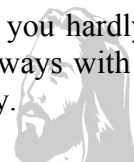
As always your support will be valued in 2015.

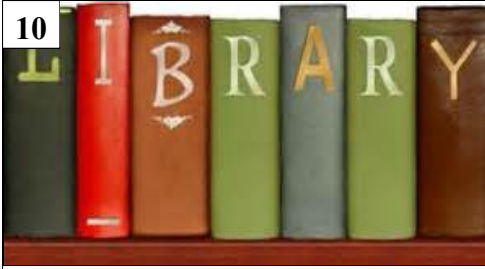
***On behalf of the Pantry
thank you...God bless and
Merry Christmas.***

Bob

I'm sorry to disturb you! My name is God. Sometimes you hardly have time for me. I love you and I always bless you. I am always with you. I need you to spend 30 minutes of your time with Me today.

Don't pray. Just chat!





**GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT - READ
AN ENJOYABLE BOOK!**

“A Currier & Ives Christmas” by Lynn A. Coleman et al. Four American classic Currier & Ives lithographs spring to life in four tales of love and Christmas cheer. While a picture may be worth a thousand words, there are times when even the best illustrations leave viewers with a yearning to know more. Inspired by the classic American art of Currier & Ives, these seasonal love stories help to discover the heartwarming stories of holiday love of yesteryear.

“Christmas Remembered” by Ron DelBene. What happens when you ask people to share their favorite Christmas story with you? The authors discovered that there are many Christmas stories waiting to be told. This is a collection that touch the heart – the kind of stories you will want to share with your family and friends. Perhaps they will put you in touch with Christmas memories you thought you had forgotten.

“The Dogs of Christmas”, a novel by W. Bruce Cameron, tells the

story of Josh Michaels who is nursing a broken heart. But heartbreak soon turns to outrage when a neighbor abandons his pregnant dog, Lucy, at Josh’s home. Though he never had a dog, Josh can’t resist Lucy’s soulful brown eyes and quickly commits himself to helping Lucy prepare for the pups’ arrival. When the litter is born and as the story progresses, can Lucy and her brood prove that a Christmas miracle can be found in a basket full of puppies?

“Christmas Every Morning” by Lisa Tawn Bergren, is a story of joy and loss that presents each day as a gift to be opened and every loved one as a treasure to be rediscovered. History professor Krista Mueller awaits news of her mother’s death. It has been more than a decade since Alzheimer’s disease first claimed a part of her mother’s mind and memories. A call from New Mexico launches Krista on a dramatic journey of discovery that helps her begin to finally understand her estranged mother and gives her a final opportunity for forgiveness and love, even when she knows that such a step is not for her mother’s sake any longer but for her own.

“The Christmas Letters” by Bret Nicholaus, is a timeless story for every generation. As they do every year, four generations of Grandpa’s family convene for Christmas Eve dinner to celebrate the holiday. In

<p>the midst of the usual conversations about new homes and busy careers, Grandpa uncharacteristically calls for everyone's attention. With emotion, Grandpa speaks from his heart to his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchild. The family members each receive a personal letter from Grandpa – along with a life-changing lesson that will stay with them forever.</p>	<p>Whether he meant to do it or 11 not, Grandpa was delivering a lesson worth remembering: It's the little things in life that often mean the most.</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE LIBRARY STAFF Barbara Jackson, Helen Lefave, Ann Ice, and Pat Barton</p>
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Win the world for Christ through God's Word

Our Church is now sending In Memory Cards to the families of church members who have passed away. Each of us will have an opportunity to recognize a church member and friend who passed away by witnessing for our Lord with a Lasting Tribute of Gideon Bibles. They are completely free by witnessing for our Lord with a Lasting Tribute of Gideon Bibles. You are completely free to participate in any manner you wish. A donation as small as \$1.25 would purchase a New Testament Bible and a \$5.00 donation would purchase a Bible found in motel rooms. When a member passes away, there will be an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin and a basket on a table in the narthex to receive your gift. All of our donations will be collected together and the number of Bibles available for the amount of funds raised will be purchased. Always remember that 100% of your gift is used for the purchase of Bibles.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please pray for:

- the families we are ministering to through the Tree of Hope.
- each of us to be aware of whom the Lord would have us invite to join us during this season of Advent and Christmas.
- those who come to the Food Pantry for assistance.
- each of us to continue to focus on Christ in the midst of all the chaos & busyness of this time of the year.
- our pastor and church staff and their families.
- all those who come to us looking for something, may they find the love of Christ.
- all those in support groups.
- safety for all those who will be traveling.

Homosassa 1st United Methodist Church
8831 W. Bradshaw Street, Homosassa, FL 34448
www.1umc.org
2014-2015 Arts Council Series
ALL SHOWS: 3:00 p.m.

Jan. 18, 2015
The Browns

It's truly a family affair when The Browns hit the stage with their gospel music. The musical stylings of Shelly, Michaela, Adam, and Andrew exude excitement on the stage and offer a life-changing experience to all who hear them. The Browns deliver the powerful message of the gospel through word and song that engage audiences of all ages. The Browns have been touring across the US since the group began its full-time ministry 13 years ago. The heralded group began on the local and state level and has expanded and grown into a national touring group. The Browns received the prestigious honor of Top 10 Mixed Group of the Year for the fourth year in a row.



Feb. 15, 2015
Mindy Simmons

Mindy Simmons sings Peggy Lee's hits from the 30's thru the 80's. With a Jazz combo behind her, Mindy emulates the humor, finesse and sultry style of the late great Miss Peggy Lee. Singing the songs of Miss Lee and sharing stories of her fascinating life, Mindy takes the audience on a journey through Peggy's 45-year career in the music industry. Mindy brings a polished, professional show to the stage. Her quick wit and warm approach charms audiences and puts them in a relaxed frame of mind, ready to be entertained.



Mar. 15, 2015
David Pendleton

David brings to his show a cast of comedic characters including lovable but blunt Aunt Tilly, a 94 year-old spinster; the classic quick-witted trouble maker, Mack Elroy; the dopey yet adorable hound dog, Buford; and the slightly misguided albino vulture, Vern. Of course no show would be complete without a few surprise appearances from members of the audience as well! David's high-quality, family-friendly humor has mesmerized audiences the world over. Whether it's a church program, convention, conference, corporate event or a cruise, David Pendleton makes it a night to remember!



General Admission, \$10 each Reserved Seat, \$18 each

For tickets, 1st UMC, 628-4083 or Jim Love, 746-3674;
 Jim Potts, 382-1842; Karen Kline, 382-7263; Ron Hesketh, 382-4518



AGE!

"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter.
 If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." **Jack Benny**





What about you?

Do you have an experiential, personal, love relationship with God?

If you do, thank God for your relationship with Him. And please nurture it every way you can and guard yourself from drifting or being distracted. It's sometimes a challenge to not be distracted when we get too busy or when our family calls on us. This time of year is particularly distracting, if we let it be.

If, instead, you're wondering what the question above is about, it may be time to ask someone. Until then, here's what I can say about it from personal experience. God wants a love relationship with *you* – yes, *you* – one that is growing and vibrant. He's been drawing you to Him; actually He's been pursuing you. Isn't that amazing! At this point Pastor Kip would remind us that it's called prevenient grace. It takes time and nurture to begin or maintain any relationship. If we want to get to know someone, we spend time with them. It's no different with God. It's difficult to have a personal relationship without knowing Him. Not knowing about Him but *knowing* Him. As we spend time

with God, whether it's in **13** silence, in prayer, or in personal Bible study, our relationship grows. As we become more and more aware of how much He loves us, provides for us, cares for us, guides us (and so much more), we desire to spend more time with Him. Oddly, though, the more quality time we spend with God, the more time we seem to have for all the demands for our time. There is no more important way to spend our time than with our Savior.

God wants you to experience His activity in your life and around you. He wants to show you what He is doing; just ask Him to show you. This is a really good time of year to get started watching for what He is doing. Do you see God at work in and through our church? Are you aware of the things God's children are doing in our community? Watch and pray -- you will be amazed.

Be on guard; try not to let the busyness (even in doing good) distract you from your experiential, personal love relationship with God. It might be a good thing to put your daily appointment with Him on your calendar.

May you be blessed this Advent Season and Christmas,

Marilyn Watson

T'was the night before Christmas

The whole world was lost!
There was no redeemer, no one to pay the cost.

God's people had been looking,
Herod had his sky maps
But year after year, the promise of a Messiah had just lapse.



Oh, but men from afar, had seen a great star.
Anna and Simeon had great faith and belief
Chief priests and scribes had predicted a birth
Angels told shepherds HE would soon come to Earth.

Now at a small table covered with dirt and grime,
A baby was born, the Savior of mankind.
A step-father and a young teenage mom,
Had been chosen by God to bring forth redemption's plan.

So my friend, as you look at where you are and what you have,
Mary and Joseph had little to do
But follow their faith and see their job through.
God has a plan for each woman and man,
Go forth and conquer, this same faiths' in YOU!

I know you have received letters of financial appeal from every Christian organization you ever bumped into. Do whatever God lays on your heart.

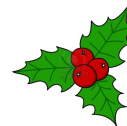
One organization you may not have heard too much about is RED BIRD MISSION. You may remember I stopped there on my missions trip of 2014. RED BIRD, a Methodist mission, supported by the UMC and 1UMC of Homosassa. Serving "the poorest county in the United States" provides many opportunities for financial support. RED BIRD also has a Christian school with over 160 students.

If you are so inclined, a designated amount can be accepted through funds given to 1UMC of Homosassa. Consider it money well spent!

GOD BLESS - THANKS for your prayers - MERRY CHRISTMAS

"...think on these things...."

by Don Bates, M.A.
Christian Ministries



Happy Anniversary
DECEMBER 2014

- 12 Joyce & Jim Winder~ 55 years**
17 Phyllis & Charles Dixon~ 26 years
18 Martha & Ernie Dorrell~ 54 years
19 Donna & Bud Ludwick~ 55 years
20 Carole Deyo-Fahl & Gunter Fahl~28 years
Laurie & Larry Stainton~ 55 years
21 Jeannine & Jim Love~ 56 years
22 Kathy & Stephen Betsko~ 24 years
Marge & Harold Swinson~ 69 years
27 Cheryl & Tom Smith~ 49 years
Alice & James Trusley~ 45 years
28 Kay & Lee Bast~ 58 years
Dee & Jim Green~ 19 years
29 Cranie & Kenneth Koellhoffer~ 47 years.

* **BOLD = 50+ YEARS**

My Heart Is Yours

*Time may change a lot of things in our lives,
but one thing it can never change
is the way I feel about you.
Today and always, my heart belongs to you.*

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Jesus Christ is the light that
knows no power failure.

Gratitude is the interest we owe
God for the life He has given us!



(as of 11/17/14)

BRENTWOOD

Gene Harry
Joyce Minnicks

CR HEALTH/REHAB

Nancy Pearo

LIFE CARE

Jan Magamoll

SUGARMILL MANOR

Dorothy Atwell
Zip Bender
Jerry Cole
Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS

Barbara Kuhl
Helen Vaught
Catherine Wischart

SUPERIOR RESIDENCE

John Guthrie
Hazel Keniston
Hank Pouderoyne-HPH.



Monday 1

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

Tuesday 2

9:30 Staff Meeting
 10:00 UMW Leaders
 1:30 Stephen Ministers
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministers
 5:30 Weight Watchers
6:00 Girl Scouts
 6:30 WOW
 7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 3

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 Meadowcrest Bible
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 5:15 Music
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Women's Bible
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir

Thursday 4

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:00 Fold/Mail
 10 - 1 FOOD PANTRY
 1:30 Women's Serendipity
 2:00 Green Team
 6:30 Sugarmill Chorale
 7:00 COUNCIL

Friday 5**GENESIS DEADLINE**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:30 Knit for Kids (OS)
 10:00 Wise Bible
5:00 Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday 6

8:30 Saturday Sisters Bible
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:30 God's Clods
11:00 Smith Wedding
 3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 7**2nd Sun. of Advent****Communion Sunday**

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

Monday 8

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

Tuesday 9

9:30 Helping Hands Circle
 9:30 Staff Meeting
 1:00 Dorcas Circle
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 5:30 Weight Watchers
6:00 Girl Scouts
 7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 10

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:00 Toy Sort
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 10:00 Meadowcrest Bible
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 1:00 Shawl Ministry
1:30 New Member Orient.
 3:00 Staff/Parish Relations
5:30 CHOIR PARTY
 6:30 Women's Bible
 6:30 Youth Group

Thursday 11

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:15 Ruth Circle
 10 - 1 FOOD PANTRY
 6:00 C.E.R.T.

Friday 12

9:00 Thrift Store
 9:30 Knit for Kids (OS)
 10:00 Wise Bible

Saturday 13

8:00 Serendip. Pancakes
 8:30 Saturday Sisters Bible
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:30 TOY DELIVERY
 3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 14**3rd Sun. of Advent****Discretionary Sunday****Transfer Sunday**

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

Monday 15

8:00 Work Crew
 8:30 SHINE
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 10:00 Sacred Hour
 1:00 ML Respite
 3:00 Worship
6:30 Girl Scout Leaders

Tuesday 16

9:30 Staff Meeting
 9:30 UMW Unit Meeting
 1:00 Stephen Ministers
 2:00 Diabetes Support
 2:00 Finance Committee
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministers

5:30 Weight Watchers
6:00 Girl Scouts
7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 17

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 Meadowcrest Bible
10:00 Siegel Bible
5:00 Transfer Orient.
5:15 Music
6:00 Bells
6:30 Women's Bible
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir

Thursday 18

8:00 MD & Dental Bus
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 Label Mail
10 - 1 FOOD PANTRY
3:30 Trustees

Friday 19

Council Reports Due

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:30 Knit for Kids (OS)
10:00 Wise Bible
7:00 Brown Bible

Saturday 20

8:30 Saturday Sisters Bible
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
10:00 FOOD delivery
3:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Sunday 21

PANTRY SUNDAY

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

Monday 22

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

Tuesday 23

9:30 Staff Meeting
3:00 Serendipity Bible
5:30 Weight Watchers
6:00 Girl Scouts
7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 24

Christmas Eve

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 Meadowcrest Bible
10:00 Siegel Bible
1:00 Shawl Ministry
5:00 SERVICE
6:30 Women's Bible
7:00 SERVICE

Thursday 25

OFFICE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 26

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 Wise Bible

Saturday 27

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

Sunday 28

TRANSFER SUNDAY

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

Monday 29

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

Tuesday 30

9:30 Staff Meeting
3:00 Serendipity Bible
5:30 Weight Watchers
6:00 Girl Scouts
7:00 Guy Bible Study

Wednesday 31

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
10:00 Meadowcrest Bible
10:00 Siegel Bible
5:15 Music
6:00 Bells
6:30 Women's Bible
7:00 Choir..

WEEKLY YMCA

CLASSES

(352) 637-0132

Mondays

9:30 Cardio

10:30 SS/Strength/Range

Wednesdays

9:30 Pilates

10:30 SS/Strength/Range

Fridays

9:30 Cardio

10:30 SS/Strength/Range

18

1

Doris Kertesz
Joanna Lasky
Bill Strimska

2

Rusty Harry
Ron Phillips
Phillip Rittgers

3

Doris Burill

4

Bess Hoes
Kent Kester
Dorothy Nobles

5

Zane Megos

6

Larry Boor
Charles Dixon
Elizabeth Gaines
Betty Huffstutler
Dorothy Jones
Melissa Pezzuti
Noni Postler
Vicky Post
Maria Spence
Mark Williams

7

Marybelle Baker
Willy Pounderoyn

8

Ruth Anderson
Kenneth Koellhoffer

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



December 2014

9

Steve Griffith
Carole Tiller
Marie Witham

10

Mary McCrea
Glenn Seiler

11

Marge Block
Tom Williams

12

Betty Boekholder
Carolyn Bright
Buddy Hansen
Sue Phillips

14

Wanda Ashley
Richard Shaffer

15

Garrett Roelfsema

16

Maureen Guthrie
Kenneth Will

17

Betty Davis
Sandra Dewart

19

Phyllis Dixon
Jo-An Skinner

20

Margaret Gwilt
Marilyn Wells

21

Malcolm Whetsone
Lois Young

22

Leroy Chase
David Kegley
Jim Potts

Don Wheeler

23

Dianne Rowell
Mary Ellen Wais

24

Ron Scheetz

26

Kathryn H-Powell

27

Bill Gilbert
Theresa Weber

28

Brian Bunbury
Judith Huffer
Sheri Kirby

30

Sebastian Kimble
Angela Miller
Joseph Proconier
Susan Vidican

31

Sherril Clark
Dorothy Graham
Lisa Bentley Lashley
Sally Moore
Lloyd Pond.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Donna & Everett Faulkner
309-274-6450

10262 Cavendish Terrace, Homosassa, FL 34446

Donna was born 5/27 and Everett 9/14. They were married 7/6/84, and transferred from Chillicothe Christian Church, Chillicothe, IL.

Kay & Jack Jay 352-340-5225
9327 French Quarters Circle
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Kay was born 4/28 and Jack 6/7. They were married 8/21/93, and transferred from Mariner UMC, Spring Hill, FL.



Carol Ann King 352-592-7567
10370 Shawnee Road
Brooksville, FL 34614

Carol Ann was born 1/12. She transferred from Mariner UMC, Spring Hill, FL.

Sherri & Ron Kirby 352-503-6446
26 Stokesia Court, Homosassa, FL 34446

Sherri was born 12/28 and Ron 8/13. They were married 7/8/2011, and transferred from Rocky Mountain Calvary, Colorado Springs, CO.



GENESIS ARTICLES
DUE EVERY MONTH BY:

1ST FRIDAY



Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent communications survey. You helped us better understand the communication needs of our congregation. Though 90% of you told us you are getting the information you need, other survey feedback suggested that improvements could be made.

In the coming weeks, we will be working on making it easier for you to communicate with church leaders and office staff, and enhancing the ways in which we provide information to you.

If you have additional feedback you would like to provide regarding communication, please email it to Sally Moore at mooresar@tampabay.rr.com.

Again, thank you.
The Communications Task Force



GENESIS SUBMISSIONS

Thank you very much for allowing me the extra time needed to assemble and complete this issue during the loss of my dear husband Allen. It just won't be the same without him as he was my "work in progress" proofreader and my companion while printing each issue.

You will notice a change on the front of Genesis next month, and it may change again as time goes on. Please send any input you might have so that I can consider your thoughts as well.

Please keep in mind that the Genesis deadline is the **first Friday of each month**. It makes my job easier if you submit your articles via email using a **12 pt. Times New Roman font** to genesis@lumc.org. When I've completed inserting your article, I will send you a copy for your approval, or to make changes.

If you do not use a computer, you can always leave a written copy in the newsletter mailbox in the church office.

In most cases, articles are inserted by "first come, first served" order, so don't delay in submitting yours! Also, don't forget to send items that you find interesting from other newspapers etc. I will try to use them when I can.



Thank you and God Bless you, Mary Lee, Genesis Editor

IMPORTANT NOTICE

21

The following people are **inactive full members** that we have lost touch with and their names were read for the first time at the 2014 charge conference for removal from membership. Once their names have been read twice and we have had no response from the letters we sent to their last known address their names will be removed from our membership rolls after the 2015 Charge Conference. If you have any information on how to contact them, please email Theresa at: 8831admin@lumc.org

Alexander, Carl
Bennett, Kim
Bowler, Linda
Britland, William
Bunbury, Brian
Connor, Michael
Danzey, Joan
DeClue, Colleen
DeClue, Stan
Dixon, Caroline
Dixon, Charles
Dixon, Jacqueline
Dixon, Phyllis
DuBose, Pam
Frentz, Geraldine
Gaines, Elizabeth
Gordon, Angie
Gordon, Charles
Grafton, Debbie
Green, Gerry
Gunter, Dawson
Hartley, Barbara
Hartley, Richard
Hilger, Jean
Huffer, Judith
Huffstutler, Betty

Hunter, Shirley
Hurley, Alice
Johnson, Carole
Johnson, John
Justice, Stacey
Kuhl, Barbara
Lucas, Paul
McCallister, Helen
McCrea, Mary
Merker, Carol
Merker, Ken
Miller, Joan
Nave, Patience
Neville, Christopher
Nobels, Dorothy
O'Block, Patricia
Ottman, Marjorie
Pazian, Kyle
Pezzuti, Melissa
Plant, Dave
Plant, Dianne
Redding, Branson
Redding, Nancy
Roberts, Amy
Seiler, Glenn
Skelley, Joyce Ann

Slack, Amber
Smith, Joyce
Snedeker, Don
Specht, Bob
Specht, Lisa
Spencer, Joan
Stone, Allen
Stone, Joyce
Stull, Bruce
Stull, Carolyn
Sunderland, Barbara
Trembly, Sandra
Turnbull, Oriole
Vainio, Marie
Wade, Louis
Wade, Mary Lou
Walker, Cyrnda
Waters, William
Watson, Dominique
Winder, Jim
Winder, Joyce
Wiseman, Crystal
Wiseman, David
Woods, Margaret



**Bob & Mary Severance to Ocala, FL
Jean Hilger to Vero Beach, FL**



"24/7" is a term that has been used and abused in our current culture. One place that it is documented TRUE is FUMCH. Since 1908 this has been the story, never closed always open. This year has seen this ministry, supported solely by the Florida Conference, ramped up to new fields of service.

On August 18, 2014, ALDERSGATE ACADEMY was opened with 24 students, on the Enterprise campus of FUMCH. Plans are to make application to be recognized as a private school, (school year 2014-15) becoming a Charter school, after full acceptance and accreditation, for school year 2015-16. This will greatly expedite children's home clients State of Florida academic requirements.

On September 23, 2014, MADISON YOUTH RANCH was dedicated. The Ranch, now over 500 acres, has full utilities, completed roadwork, drainage systems, sewer system, water and electricity.

Along with a Cracker-style administration building, the ranch has a secured entrance, two completed homes housing up to 10 children in each, and a all-purpose ranch house to complete this phase of the Panetta campus.

Various churches sent mission work teams to Madison to help complete the architectural project. 1st UMC of Homosassa was represented when I spent time there in June as part of my 2014 mission trip. (More about the trip after the first of the year.) Over 311 volunteers and 5,342 hours of volunteered services, put the personal on the campus.

Our goal as a church is to give \$12 per member to the Children's Home. We met our goal last year for the first time in a long time. **OUR GIVING IS BEHIND FOR THIS YEAR!** Sunday, November 30th was the last 5th Sunday Offering for this year. You still can help. Any Sunday you can designate a portion of your gift giving to FUMCH

You can log onto the website at www.allchildrenfirst.org Click on the 'DONATE' button in the upper right corner, fill in the information requested, and click 'SUBMIT'. All funds you give will be credited to the goal amount of 1stUMC of Homosassa. Funds must be received by December 31, 2014.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

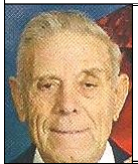
Don Bates, LCR





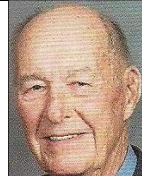
Allen R. Millikin, 77, went with our Lord 11/13/14 while in Gainesville, FL. He leaves Mary Lee, his wife of 55 years, and son Greg/wife Maria of Fredericksburg, VA. A Memorial Service and reception were held 11/18/14 at FUMCH.

Bob Bunting, 79, went with our Lord 11/18/14 at his home. He leaves Judy, his wife of 53 years, son Thomas, daughter Carol, brother Peter, & sister Ivy. Grandchildren Charles, Andrew, Wyatt, Anna, & Cheyenne. A Memorial Service and reception were held 11/20/14 at FUMCH.



Harvey Oltendorf, a former FUMCH member, went with our Lord 11/16/14. He leaves his wife June. They transferred their membership to Tennessee in September 2012.

Conrad G. Keniston, 95, Homosassa, died November 14, 2014, at Life Care Center, Lecanto, Florida. He served in the U.S. Navy. Ashes will be interred at Puritan Lawn Memorial Gardens, Peabody, Massachusetts.



Thank you

I want to thank my church family for the many prayers, cards, and phone calls. I am feeling much better now.
Eileen Brown

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Hold on tight to the ones you love!

To realize the value of a sister/brother,
Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of ten years:
Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years:
Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year:
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months:
Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of one month: ask a mother
Who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute:
Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second:
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.
Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when
You can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family member:
Lose one.



OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Fran McCrady and Helen Kulick joined the nursery staff in 2014. They have lots of fun with the little ones and invite you to come on by and say "hi"!



The Soldiers Life

The soldiers life is not for all
 A soldier must be willing to give his all
 He is overworked and underpaid
 A truer patriot was never made.

Ready to go at any time
 Wherever there is trouble or the first sign
 His courage and honor are unsurpassed
 Ready and willing to complete the task.

Travelling to lands both near and far
 He stands his post and looks at the stars
 Wondering what he might have done
 If he had not chosen to carry a gun.

Remember the next time that you are driving by
 And see the flag flying proud and high
 That somewhere out there a soldier stands
 Weary and cold in a foreign land.

Protecting our country from our foes
 Standing tall and proud come rain or snow.

~ SSgt. Scott E Hilligoss

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Greetings Dear Friends and Merry Christmas from Siberia!

We're certain many of you are preparing for the holidays; perhaps quietly going about the business of baking, buying gifts for the children or grandkids, decorating your homes...the 'business' that has become Christmas – we know who we are! In the frantic days before we actually celebrate HIS birth, we often find we have forgotten just what this is all truly supposed to represent. The profound gift that was so lovingly given for every person on earth!

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, (which means “God with us”). Obviously, this is the most amazing gift anyone can receive and we are reminded this 'gift' also brings *grace* for each one whom accepts. There's a wonderful acronym for 'grace' that explains God's love perfectly.... *Grace* – God's Riches at Christ's Expense! God 'walked' among us for a time and felt, breathed, and lived a life much like we do – only He was without sin. Rejoice in these truths dear friends and remember always – the reason for this wonderful season!!

The 'gift' of windows
WOW... we were able to bless two

homes and the fellowship with windows from Sept. to Nov. The two homes were such a huge blessing for the families; their windows were pieces' of glass taped together so thin they would become sheets of ice throughout the winter months. In the first house, we replaced windows for a widow with two children; however, at the moment she has only her oldest child at home. She has sent her youngest to live with the grandparents because she does not have enough finances to support both children. One of the windows we replaced faces north and in Siberia that is a “VERY” cold direction. They were so overwhelmed that an organization was willing to help her with windows - she was speechless. The second home was for a man that is suffering from severe arthritis in his



legs and loosing his eyesight. One of the windows we replaced only had one pain of glass and was very poorly insulated against the artic cold of Siberia. These projects are possible because so many have given so generously to WOW (Windows of Warmth). THANK YOU! Our hope is to continue with many more windows in the future...

“What is Christianity?”

The answers were surprising! The first week of November our fellowship hosted a two-day seminar on this question and others. There were nine other churches from the republic represented and although the ‘numbers’ in attendance could have been larger, we were all greatly blessed! Our first session began with an exhalation to go out into the streets and simply ask, “What is Christianity, what is the meaning for your life, who is Jesus, what happens after we die?” Powerful questions and the answers were varied, as were the questions. As of this writing, we are processing all the answers given and looking at what people believe to get a better understanding of their spiritual knowledge. Some answered they had no ideas and really weren’t worried about anything in their future. The initial reaction from our folks who asked the questions is quite positive, so we’re excited to see more interest in getting to ‘know’ the people here before sharing everything about a true Savior. PLEASE keep this in prayer

as we press forward for His kingdom. **27**



Final words for the year....

Kevin and another partner have been working with new men now for almost a month. These men are the ‘least’ noticed people in the village. They work so they can drink; many of them live together in one very small house with no electric. But the Father has brought them to us and we see changes! Remember these men as the Lord works in their lives to ‘set them free from the chains that bind them!’ Please remember our health issues; Laura continues to see a specialist in the city each month and we see improvements. Kevin’s asthma will be challenged with the colder weather but is doing much better at this time! It has been an exciting year for us in the village and we look with great anticipation at what the Lord brings our way. Most of all...remember the ‘gift’ that was so freely given and who is the ‘King of Kings and Lord of Lords’!!!

**In His Peace, Love & Joy;
Kevin & Laura**



<http://gilmoresinbelfast.com>
GILMORE MISSION

Finding Joy!

I don't know who announced it first, maybe it was our daughter who



decided that life wasn't fair when we told her she could not eat chocolate before breakfast, or maybe it was mum saying, "well, you know that life can be tough and you have to work through it", but whoever started the new phrase, suddenly Jake has latched onto this concept that life really is not fair especially when he can't climb, cut with knives, eat dessert before dinner, and re-braid the dolls hair.

With two birthdays just past and Christmas approaching, we (or maybe I), try to think thoughtfully over gifts, what do they really need and what would be manageable with budget and size of house (seriously, there is no room for a train table so I just have to keep tripping over Thomas and Rosie the Special). Catalogues drop from the letter box

(with coupons) showing desirable items and of course EVERYONE in school has a DS, I-Pads, and all things involving plugs. Noted, they are not asking for them, just sharing the almost truths. I have felt ridiculously stressed about gifts, trying to make the right choices. Stupid, I know. I easily fall into the area of discontentment, and want, and not fair. After finding 15-year old journals in my parents' attic, I realize this is an on-going problem! I love to see the children's excitement getting a new treat but, like so many things, the happiness is short lived. That new dress is wonderful, but only for a season. It's okay to want. It's okay to be extravagant occasionally, but, deep down I am that woman wanting streams of living water to flow. I want something more lasting and more joy filled.

One of my favorite questions in a time of challenge is, "within the painful circumstances I am facing, how can I still know joy in God's presence?" This question has sometimes led me to *true* joy that has sustained me in a time of pain. As the church, we want to be known by our hope, love, and even *joy* in impossible circumstances.

Many people in our church and community are experiencing times of suffering. There is much hurt from anger, cruel words, and strife from many sources. The clients needing support see a black page and certainly nothing joy-filled

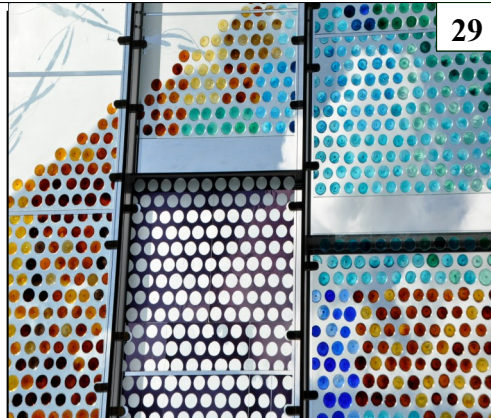
in that. East Belfast Mission seeks to live out a value that “everybody matters”. Offering the love of God means giving something beyond the Christmas advertisements, saying, “come, I will walk with you in your hurt and pain.”

We know One who offers so much more. There is a lasting joy in Christ that makes sense even when life seems so darn unfair. Remember the lovely invitation: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:37-38)

There is an upcoming opportunity - on **Tuesday, December 2- for any gift through the Advance to be matched dollar for dollar.** We currently have needs in two different areas that we would like to lift up.

First, we have lost some funding for reaching out to youth and children in our community - children who have few safe places in their lives.

Secondly, we have had a great demand for the Mission’s social fund, which helps people in times of transition and crisis (including refugees, or those transitioning out of homelessness). Would you consider helping us? If you would like to offer something - go to www.umcmmission.org and give on December 2 and search for “Skainos project” or Project 14698T. Anything you give on that day will be matched!



EVERYDAY is a GIFT

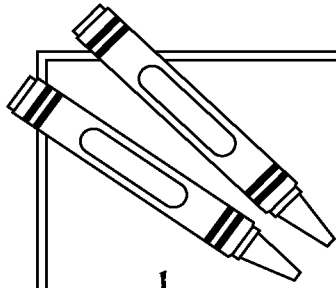
Life holds so many precious things...
Trees that blow, the wind that sings...
The sun in the morning, the moon at night...
The stars in the heaven, shining so bright...

A river that flows so peacefully...
Children laughing and playing gleefully...
Mountains that reach up to the sky...
The all American "Apple Pie"...

A sunset shining on the ocean waves...
Stalactites and stalagmites in their caves...
Lilly pads floating peacefully on a pond...
The autumn grandeur of nature's wand...

The drifting dunes of the desert sand...
The feel of raindrops in our hand...
The eagle soaring in the sky above...
A spark in the eye that turns to love...

A field overflowing with wildflowers...
The gift of friendship that is ours...
Each beautiful moment of treasured time...
Are God's precious gifts, yours and mine...



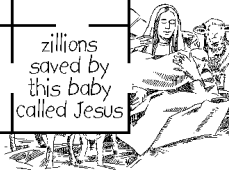
Just for **KIDS**

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter **A** and finishing with a word starting with the letter **Z**.



angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	easel
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg
fast	holy	glory	flocks	Earth
gap	feathers	inn	jacket	grapes
hat	quiet	peace	Joseph	King
shepherds	righteous	only	Lord	king
tidings	unique	night	Mary	loop
water	virgin	wise men	paper	maze
young	excitement	word	open	nest
zillions saved by this baby called Jesus				



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, car, dance, easel, fast, holy, glory, flocks, Earth, feathers, gap, hat, quiet, peace, Joseph, King, only, Lord, king, loop, unique, night, Mary, loop, maze, paper, wise men, virgin, water, excitement, word, open, nest, young, zillions saved by this baby called Jesus

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”

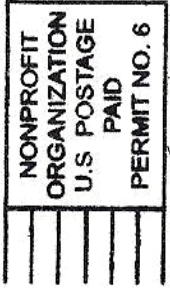
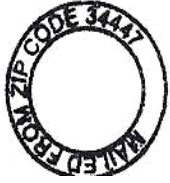
Rev. Kip Younger, Pastor

Office Hours: Weekdays
8:30AM to 4:30PM
Office Telephone: 352-628-4083
Fax: (352) 628-9086

Prayer Chain Email by Mary Lee:
prayerchain@lumc.org

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genesis@lumc.org
Pat Blake, Copy Editor



**DECEMBER
2014**