



MAY 2012

GENESIS

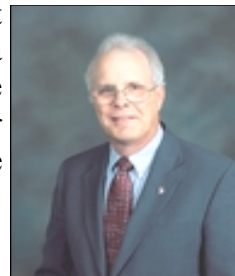
Volume 16, Issue 5

Why do we pray? We read scripture like “If you ask anything in my name, I will do it” and think that we have hit the mother lode of gold! We can just pray for whatever we want and Jesus will provide (if we ask in his name.) A lot of books on prayer seem to be pointed at helping us understand what prayer can do for us. But instead of looking inward in our prayers, perhaps we need to look outward to use intercessory prayer, praying for someone else!

Stephen, when he was being stoned, prayed for the people stoning him! Jesus on the cross prayed that those who were killing him would be forgiven. In fact, Jesus spent a lot of time praying for his disciples, the city of Jerusalem, and for all those who would follow him. The greatest rewards of prayer come when we pray for others! It is when we get out of ourselves and carry our hopes and joys and dreams for someone else that we discover the real power of prayer. In the same way, there is nothing more empowering than knowing that there are people who are lifting you and your life up in prayer.

Glendon Harris wrote: “When we pray for others we are not inducing God to take an interest in those for whom we pray. WE are giving proof to God of our interest in them. WE are submitting that interest to God for purification. and thus are making ourselves sensitive to divine guidance and receptiveness to God’s power.” We are not only opening our hearts to God’s grace, we are charging the very atmosphere of those for whom we pray with a spirituality that makes it easier for both them and us to know and do the will of God.

The one problem, of course, is that to pray for someone else can cause you to care about them. You start taking an interest in their well being, their spiritual growth, their needs. That might cause you to have to do something beyond sitting in a pew. When we care enough, when we love enough, we turn to God on their behalf and seek to reinforce their lives with God’s love. Prayer is love raised to the greatest power!



E.B.A.D.O.C.**“Everyone Becoming A Disciple of Christ”**

The purpose of an organization’s mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation. It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future. The mission statement of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was adopted on January 27, 2005. All of us need to memorize the mission statement and do all that we can to make it a reality in our lives.

CHURCH OFFICE**Phone: (352) 628-4083****Fax: (352) 628-9086****WEBSITE****www.1umc.org****PASTOR****Rev. Mark Whittaker****ADMINISTRATOR****Theresa Weber****ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT****Carol Eriksson****BOOKKEEPER****Sandy Dewart****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****Kay Bast****MUSIC DEPARTMENT****Dixie Lay****Joy Potts****Dayna Middlebrooks****PARISH NURSE****Karen Kline****PARISH VISITOR****Peggy Benson****SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT****& NURSERY SUPERVISOR****Sandra Tam****YOUTH COORDINATOR****Lori DeClue****SOUND TECHNICIAN****Sharon Cooley****Ron Hesketh****NIGHT SECURITY****Michael Rodgers****CUSTODIAN****Dale Evans****The Purpose of Genesis Is To:**

NOTIFY its readers of what has happened, what is happening and what is scheduled to happen.

EDIFY believers by printing material that encourages and strengthens their Christian walk.

GLORIFY God by being one of His instruments of communication at FUMCH and wherever else he may choose to spread the Word through this publication.



SUMMER TIME CHANGE

EFFECTIVE MAY 6, 2012
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

**FIRST UMC WILL HOLD
2 SERVICES ON SUNDAYS**

8:00 a.m.
&
10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00 a.m.

HOSPITALITY
9 - 10 a.m.



**We ask for your prayers as
we continue serving God to
his glory and honor.**



This month I would like to give you some thoughts on Christian Education from several sources. First from an article published by the World Council of Churches, written by Hannibal Cabral. *"The concept of Christian education is consistent both with the biblical understanding of the Church and with the findings of recent educational psychology of the religious experiences of the faith community through its generation. John Dewey calls it "the funded capital of civilization." Part of the task of Christian education is to ensure that our 'funded capital' is preserved and made available to people in the present."*

In other words, one's faith formation affects every phase of a persons' life and should be passed to the next generation.

Martin Luther described his Bible study as follows; *"I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I*

shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf."

Dwight L Moody wrote, *"I prayed for faith, and thought that someday faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, 'now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' I had closed my Bible, and prayed for faith. I now opened by Bible, and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since."*

If you are interested in "growing" your faith consider one of the Bible studies offered by our church. There are 2 studies every week on Wednesday morning at 10:00 in homes. There is a study at 3:00 each Wednesday at the church. There is a study at 10:00 each Friday in a home. And Serendipity meets at the church for women on the first and third Thursdays at 1:30, and the men meet on Tuesday at 3:00, as well as a second meeting at 7:00 in the evening each Tuesday.

There are lots of opportunities available and if you need a different time frame please let me know and we can begin a new study at any time.

Kay

IN MEMORY



GEORGE COLE
(husband of Jerry Cole)
Went to Our Lord 4/15/12

Someday an angel will take our hand, and trumpets shall sound from above.

A glorious day when we see God's face, and the light of His eternal love!



gums could travel to the heart and contribute to coronary artery disease.

5

Preserving That Healthy Smile!

It is very important to schedule regular visits with your dentist. The standard recommendation is twice a year. More frequent visits may be needed if there is a history of gum disease, weakened immune system or a genetic predisposition for plaque build-up. Bi-annual visits give your dentist a chance to check for problems you may not see or feel, such as early decay or other oral health problems.

During routine visits you will probably see both a dental hygienist and the dentist. The hygienist will conduct the initial exam of your teeth and gums and document any changes noted as well as overall health and medications. Teeth will then be cleaned and polished. Professional cleaning removes the hardened plaque (tartar), that you are unable to remove at home with routine brushing and flossing. In some cases ultrasonic scalers may be used to deep clean both above and below the gum line. Polishing removes residual plaque and stains. X-rays are taken periodically based on exam and history. The dentist will then conduct an oral exam of your mouth, gums and teeth, and review overall changes in health or medications. Based on the exam a treatment plan will be recommended.

The dental exam may provide early clues indicative of various health problems:

Heart: Inflamed gums and loose teeth may be warning signs of heart disease. Bacteria trapped in the

Diabetes: Gum disease is the most common health conditions for diabetics. Infection worsens the overall health of diabetics.

Osteoporosis: Causes changes in the bone that supports teeth. This may show up as receding gums and loose teeth.

Dry Mouth: May be due to certain medications or could be a sign of diabetes, Parkinson's or an eating disorder.

Nighttime reflux can cause erosion of the esophagus and could lead to cancer.

Dementia: Poor oral hygiene may be an early indication of dementia.

Eating Disorders: The dentist may be the first to spot bulimia or anorexia. Poor nutrition can lead to a number of conditions such as dry mouth or bleeding gums. The forced vomiting of bulimia may result in the erosion of tooth enamel and cause teeth to be more sensitive.

Choosing the proper toothbrush is important. Should it be a manual or power toothbrush? Neither is necessarily better. The key to good oral hygiene is effective use, rather than power verses manual. A toothbrush should have soft bristles, as hard bristles may cause gums to recede leading to possible tooth loss. The head of the toothbrush should fit easily into the mouth and be capable of brushing one to two teeth at a time. Toothbrushes should be changed about every four months or sooner if the bristles are frayed or worn.

Share your healthy smile, it will make someone's day! Happy Smiling!

My bad!! New generation "speak" for I'm sorry. I am uncertain whether we seniors are expected to learn the new language that the younger generation uses, but at the same time, we must find ways to connect with them. They are the future of our church.... But, I digress and have to admit that I've been remiss in writing *Genesis* notes.

It has been a busy 1st Quarter for most of us: New Year's, Centennial, Lent, Easter, soup suppers, fairs, etc. The list is long, but the blessings are greater.

Serendipity continues to grow. All groups focus upon the Serendipity Bible and its relationship to contemporary living. The men's afternoon group has 18 active men; the evening group has 11. Additionally, there are several honorary members.

New men joining from FUMC and the community are Kurt Bressler, Wayne Brown, Ed Clark, Henry Howard, and Bob Lasher. We welcome each of them.

New and beautiful "business" cards have been designed and printed by Dean Moore and given to all members. Thank you, Dean. Additionally, a new fold-out brochure has been designed and printed, thanks to Ron Hesketh. It explains who and what Serendipity is and does; copies are available at the information desk in the Fellowship Hall and in the sanctuary pews for all interested men.

Second Saturday pancake breakfasts have been very successful, thanks to all who continue to show up. Proceeds are being given to several local ministries as well as to individuals with personal needs. One

routine recipient of funds from Serendipity is The Sanctuary and Grace House in Homosassa. This agency serves clients from all walks of life with extremely diverse situations, including families who have lost their homes, single mothers and their children, single fathers and their children, individuals and couples in financial crises, and anyone in need of help finding shelter.

Recently I attended a catered dinner and benefit in our Fellowship Hall for The Sanctuary and Grace House. Our maximum number of tables were used, and with eight persons per table, there wasn't an empty seat. What an impressive evening....warm, cordial, enlightening and very spiritual. God was present for the beautiful and "uplifting" program. This ministry is growing quickly with an excellent group of board members, and ambitious plans to enlarge the facility with the purchase of another house and adjacent property. We in Serendipity are so pleased to be a part of this ministry and growth.

Our Serendipity exhibit at the Centennial Fair stimulated interest among men present and one new member has come to us already. The Serendipity prayer station was also used in conjunction with the labyrinth and our Holy Week observance.

Men of FUMC, friends, and residents of our surrounding community are all invited to join with us on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00pm or Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. Won't you consider joining us in our wonderful Bible discussions and study?

**For Serendipity information,
call Jim Potts at 382-1842.**



**THE WAYS OF
THE KINGDOM**
by Jan Wise

7

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Jeremiah spoke God’s words to the Israelite people while they were captives in Babylon, reminding them that God knew where they were and had plans to bless them.

Jeremiah knew about God’s promised plans. God had said to him, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5) So Jeremiah, whose life fulfilled God’s promise, spoke from experience to the discouraged Israelites.

Today we use these words of God to encourage others that God has good plans for them. I may write them to a young person facing an uncertain future or to someone unemployed or facing a long rehab. But I hesitate to send Jeremiah’s words to an “older,” senior-citizen type person (like me)—one who wouldn’t imagine the Lord had big plans or an exciting, hopeful future in store since age and ability limit such dreams.

Then the Lord reminded me that his future plans for retired, seemingly out-of-the-running crowd are as real and exciting as those for younger generations. We think of this life’s limitations, whereas God sees this life as only a tiny portion of our existence. Paul encourages: “Therefore

we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” He reminds us that what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) Our “now” is brief; our “forever” is just that—forever.

Paul reminds believers of the responsibilities they will have after Jesus returns and establishes his reign over all the earth. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul asks, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?” And again, “Do you not know that we will judge angels?” He argues that we need to learn to judge with righteous judgment *now* in preparation for our role in the future kingdom.

The Apostle John affirms that believers will be “priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:6b)

My parents encouraged me to take advantage of every learning opportunity in preparation for my earthly future. Our heavenly Father encourages us to take advantage of the learning opportunities of this life because he has big plans for us in the coming kingdom.

So no matter your present limitations, these words are for you: **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**





BIGGER AND BETTER!

NOVEMBER 2 & 3, 2012

Plans are well underway and SO exciting for the fall bazaar!
Please take a minute and think about how you can be a part of
this excitement!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE BAZAAR

canning and jelly jars
clean and useable Christmas items
cookies for the "Cookie Walk"
breads, cakes, pies and bars
canned jellies and jams
canned pickles or relishes
placemats, napkins, aprons, potholders
knitted or crocheted items
clean and useable Trash & Treasure items
plant cuttings and garden ornaments
donations for the Silent Auction

Please contact:

Priscilla Frederick – 382-0422

Pat Blake – 628-6602

Grace Robitaille – 382-1489

Alice Carnahan – 628-9298

Andy Frederick – **BOOKS ONLY** – 382-0422



With recent acquisition from the estate of Marguerite Betzer, our church's Permanent Endowment Fund balance is approaching \$200,000. When current commitments are realized, it will bring the fund closer to the half-million dollar mark.

The earnings from these principal amounts will benefit many of our church ministries, while preserving the principal and allowing it to grow more.

Please see any member of the Permanent Endowment Committee for information to help you become a part of this investment in our church in the long-range future.

Dayna Middlebrooks, Merl Hoar, Charlene Murray, Mark Whittaker, Richard Standard, Sue Price, Wes Harris, and Wanda Ashley -
The Permanent Endowment Committee



CATCH THE BUS!

MAY 30

TAMPA BAY RAYS BASEBALL
TROPICANA FIELD (St. Petersburg)

\$40.00 per person (game & transportation)
Checks to be paid to: Serendipity Men's BS
(Registration and checks to be left at church office)

DELUXE MOTOR COACH BUS
DEPARTS church at: 11:00 a.m.

Snacks and drinks are allowed on the bus and
in the stadium but MUST BE UNOPENED
when entering the ball park!

Sponsored by the Serendipity Men's Bible Study
QUESTIONS: Ed Loper 382-2122

10 READ FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT, EDUCATION, & YOURSELF!

Following is a list of books that have arrived in our Library. When signing out a book, just write the date and your name on the card in the pocket on the inside back cover and leave it in the basket on the desk.

“Deep in the Heart of Trouble” by Deeanne Gist who has written a Texas-sized tale of unexpected love. Essie Spreckelmeyer is the last woman anyone in Corsicana, Texas expected to see with a man on her arm. Independent and outspoken, she’s known more for riding bicycles in outrageous bloomers than for catching a man’s eye. And the last man who seems willing to give her a second glance is Tony Morgan, the disinherited son of an oil baron, who has been newly hired at Spreckelmeyer’s oil company. Tony wants most to restore his name and regain his lost fortune – not lose his heart to this headstrong blond. Sometimes he doesn’t know if she’s driving him toward the aisle or the end of his rope.

“Cassidy”, a novel by popular author, Lori Wick. She tells the story of Cassidy Norton, the proprietor of Token Creek Apparel, who is a skilled seamstress and creates custom-made outfits for some of the most demanding customers west of the Mississippi. Her life is rich and full with friends and church activities. But few people know her full story and she lives with the constant dread that one day her brother, Edson, will find her and her long-hidden secret will be revealed. Things are more complicated when Trace, a handsome cowboy, makes his attraction to Cassidy more than just a little

obvious and she doesn’t know if she will find the strength to take the risk of letting him know who she really is. Come on out to Big Sky Country and enjoy the adventure.

“Courting Morrow Little” by Laura Frantz. Morrow Little is haunted by the memory of the day her family was torn apart by raiding Shawnee warriors. Now that she is nearly a grown woman and her father is ailing, she must make difficult choices about the future. Several men – ranging from the undesired to the unthinkable – vie for her attentions but she finds herself inexplicably drawn to a forbidden love that both terrifies and intrigues her. Can she betray the memory of her lost loved ones and garner suspicion from her friends by pursuing a life with him? Or should she seal her own misery by marrying a man she doesn’t love? This sweeping tale of romance and forgiveness takes you from a Kentucky fort through the vast wilderness of the West.

“Simple Gifts” by Lori Copeland. It was supposed to be just a visit home. It turned into a catastrophe, but sometimes the stormiest circumstances have a silver lining. Can anything else go wrong? Marlene Queens goes home to Missouri to put her late Aunt Beth’s house on the market and settle the estate but finds herself in over her head as Aunt Ingrid grows more demanding by the day. When a group of citizens want to put up a statue in memory of her father – the parent who always embarrassed her as a child – Marlene is unwillingly swept into a firestorm of controversy. Her entire life is being rearranged before her eyes and she fears the secret

she's kept for years may be revealed. Can God work a miracle so she can finally have the future she's longed for?

"No Eye Can See" by Jane Kirkpatrick. This is Book 2 of the Kinship and Courage Series. Book One is "All Together in One Place". This is a novel of kinship, courage and faith. When blind and widowed Suzanne Cullver reaches California with a group of women who have survived tragedy on the Oregon Trail, she sets her mind on doing for herself all that must be done. Though she cannot see, she rejects offers of assistance, unwittingly risking her children's safety – and her own. Her companions, Ruth lives in fear that her abusive husband will find her, and Mazy is determined to unravel the mysteries of her husband's past life that included another wife and child. Mei Ling, Naomi and Zilah are the anxious "mail-order brides" on their way to their contracted husbands. As all of the women band together, caring for each other and shielding one another from harm, they discover that no eye can see all the good God has in store for them.

"A Measure of Mercy", Book One of Home to Blessing, by Lauraine Snelling. The setting is the Red River Valley. Eighteen-year-old Astrid Bjorklund has been studying medicine under Elizabeth Bjorklund's direction and dreams of joining her practice in Blessing. However, when a missionary arrives and tells of the need for medical ministry in Africa, Astrid feels that God may be calling her to go to Africa. Joshua Landsverk returns to Blessing after two years and love begins to bloom between him and Astrid. Complications develop when Astrid reluctantly leaves to go to Chicago for

further training and she only receives one letter from Joshua.

When she learns that he's left town – again – and thinking that he no longer loves her, Astrid makes an impetuous, heart-wrenching decision. It may be one that she will regret!

For readers who like to read books in a series, Tracie Peterson has written the Yukon Quest series and we have Books One, Two and Three.

First is **"Treasures of the North"** at the time of the Alaskan Gold Rush. Grace Hawkins forges a daring plan to escape an arranged godless marriage and purchases passage north on one of the ships belonging to Peter Colton. Peter and Grace form a faltering friendship and Grace embraces her newfound independence. However, her deserted fiancé continues to manipulate the lives of her loved ones and Grace wonders if she can hope to find peace in the rugged, untamed land of the unchartered Yukon Territory.

Book Two is **"Ashes and Ice"** and tells the story of Karen Pierce's life and difficult conditions in this rugged landscape.

Book Three is **"Rivers of Gold"** and the hopes of Miranda Colton in the gold fields.

HAPPY READING! From the Library Staff - Barbara Jackson, Helen Lefave, Ann Ice, and Pat Barton



"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;..."








Isaiah 40:11









A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh		
___ dchilnero		
___ drove		
___ acehtr		
___ sarcos		
___ nusoa tinm		

**IN OUR THOUGHTS
AND PRAYERS
(as of 4/15/2012)**

BRENTWOOD

Joyce Minnicks

CEDAR CREEK

Lois & Jack Schoch

DIAMOND RIDGE

Betty Duncan

SUGARMILL MANOR

Marge Dilling

Joanna Miller

Grace Payne

SUNFLOWER SPRINGS

Ruth Eaton

Fran Graham

Joan & Jack Ness

Abbye Jean & Bill Richner

Catherine Wischart.

Thanks to all.....

who sent cards, made calls, visits, sent get-well wishes, and especially for the prayers during and after my recent knee surgery

I love you, my church family, may God Bless You all!



Janet Tanner

**MAY 2012
ANNIVERSARIES**

13

5

Linda & Mel Gordy
~ 45 years ~

Joyce & Allen Stone

~ 66 years ~

7

Fern & Charles McWilliams

~ 46 years ~

Joyce & Stan Zawacki

~ 57 years ~

9

Sharon & Ron Seely

~ 53 years ~

11

Gretta & George Marshall

~ 44 years ~

12

Ruth & Dermot Samuda

~ 23 years ~

13

Nancy & Branson Redding

~ 41 years ~

15

Jimmi & Barry Reichard

~ 39 years ~

16

Lori & Stan DeClue
~ 14 years ~

17

Emily & Archer Walker

~ 65 years ~

21

Pat & Harley Lawrence

~ 8 years ~

24

Marilyn & Alan Shimp

~ 55 years ~

25

Angie & Michael Watson

~ 10 years ~

26

Gloria & Richard Elsea

~ 33 years ~

Sue & Wes Harris

~ 28 years ~

28

Brenda & Ed Loper

~ 7 years ~

31

Melinda & Steven Bassler

~ 32 years ~.



Tuesday 1**General Conference**

9:00 WW PREP
9:30 UMW Ex. Meeting
 10:00 Staff Meeting
 12:00 Weight Watchers
 1:30 Stephen Ministries
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministries
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 2**General Conference**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 9:30 YMCA Pilates
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 10:00 LaMountain Bible
 10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
 2:00 Spirit Heart
 3:00 Benson Bible
 4:00 PREPS BS
 5:15 Music
5:30 Confirmation Class
5:30 WW DINNER
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir

Thursday 3**General Conference**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 1:30 Serendipity Women
 7:00 Creative Worship
 8:00 AA

Friday 4**GENESIS DEADLINE****General Conference**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:30 YMCA Pilates
 10:00 Wise Bible
 10:30 YMCA Cardio
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 5

8:00 Saturday Sisters
8:30 HOLY LAND TRIP
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:30 Bereavement
 10:30 God's Clods

Sunday 6**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:00 Sunday School
9:00-10:00 Hospitality
10:00 EBADOC
10:00 Traditional Worship
2:30 NCCB CONCERT

Monday 7

8:00 Work Crew
 8:30 Shine
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 9:30 YMCA Cardio
10:00 Sacred Hour
 10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
 1:00 Diabetes Support
 1:00 ML Respite
 4:00 Stephen Ministers

Tuesday 8

9:30 Faith Hope Circle
 9:30 Helping Hands Circle
 10:00 Staff Meeting
 12:00 Weight Watchers
 1:00 Dorcas Circle
 2:00 Stewardship
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Salty Circle
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 9

7:00 Mens Prayer Group
 9:30 Weight Watchers
 9:30 YMCA Pilates
 10:00 Siegel Bible
 10:00 LaMountain Bible
 10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
 1:00 Shawl Ministry
 2:00 Spirit Heart
 3:00 Benson Bible
4:00 PREPS BS
 5:15 Music
5:30 Confirmation Class
 6:00 Bells
 6:30 Youth Group
 7:00 Choir

Thursday 10

9:00 Back Packers
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:15 Ruth Circle
 8:00 AA

Friday 11

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 9:30 YMCA Pilates
 10:00 Wise Bible
 10:30 YMCA Cardio
 2:00 Cancer Support
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 12

8:00 Serendipity P/cakes
 8:00 Saturday Sisters
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
 10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 13**DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY
MOTHER'S DAY**

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:00 Sunday School
9:00-10:00 Hospitality
10:00 EBADOC
10:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 14

8:00 Work Crew
 8:30 Shine
 8:30 Tracking Committee
 9:00 Permanent Endowm.
 9:30 Visitation Committee
 9:30 YMCA Cardio
10:00 Sacred Hour
 10:30 YMCA Stab/Streng.
 1:00 Alzheimer's Support
 1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 15

9:00 WW PREP
 10:00 Staff Meeting
 12:00 Weight Watchers
 1:30 Stephen Ministers
 2:00 Finance Committee
 3:00 Serendipity Bible
 3:00 Stephen Ministers
5:30 UMW Salad Dinner
 5:30 Weight Watchers
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 16

7:00 Mens Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
9:30 YMCA Pilates
10:00 Siegel Bible
10:00 LaMountain Bible
10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
1:30 New Member Class
2:00 Spirit Heart
3:00 Benson Bible
3:00 Staff/Parish Relations
4:00 PREPS BS
5:15 Music
5:30 Confirmation Class
5:30 WW DINNER
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir

Thursday 17

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
1:30 Serendipity Women
3:00 Missions Committee
3:30 Trustees
7:00 Creative Worship
8:00 AA

Friday 18

COUNCIL REPORTS DUE
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:30 YMCA Pilates
10:00 Wise Bible
10:30 YMCA Cardio
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 19

8:00 Saturday Sisters
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 RED CROSS CPR
10:30 Bereavement

Sunday 20

PANTRY SUNDAY

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:00 Sunday School
9:00-10:00 Hospitality
10:00 EBADOC
10:00 Traditional Worship
12:30 movie "FIREPROOF"

Monday 21

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Shine
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
9:30 YMCA Cardio
10:00 Sacred Hour
10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
1:00 ML Respite
4:00 Stephen Ministers

Tuesday 22

10:00 Staff Meeting
12:00 Weight Watchers
3:00 Serendipity Bible
4:30 Kitchen Comm.
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 23

7:00 Mens Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
9:30 YMCA Pilates
10:00 Siegel Bible
10:00 LaMountain Bible
10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
1:00 Shawl Ministry
1:30 New Member Class
2:00 Spirit Heart
3:00 Benson Bible
3:00 PREPS BS
5:15 Music
5:30 Confirmation Class
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir

Thursday 24

9:00 FOLD/MAIL
9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
7:00 COUNCIL
8:00 AA

Friday 25

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
9:00 Our Father's Table
9:30 YMCA Pilates
10:00 Wise Bible
10:30 YMCA Cardio
4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

Saturday 26

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

Sunday 27

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

PENTECOST

8:00 Traditional Worship
9:00 Sunday School
9:00-10:00 Hospitality
10:00 EBADOC
10:00 Traditional Worship

Monday 28

MEMORIAL DAY

8:00 Work Crew
8:30 Shine
8:30 Tracking Committee
9:30 Visitation Committee
9:30 YMCA Cardio
10:00 Sacred Hour
10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
1:00 ML Respite

Tuesday 29

10:00 Staff Meeting
12:00 Weight Watchers
3:00 Serendipity Bible
5:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 Serendipity Bible

Wednesday 30

7:00 Men's Prayer Group
9:30 Weight Watchers
9:30 YMCA Pilates
10:00 Siegel Bible
10:00 LaMountain Bible
10:30 YMCA Stab/Strength
11:00 BASEBALL TRIP
2:00 Spirit Heart
3:00 Benson Bible
3:00 PREPS BS
5:15 Music
6:00 Bells
6:30 Youth Group
7:00 Choir

Thursday 31

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)
8:00 AA.

1 Joan Downs Tracy Hodges Gene McGee Sandra Partin	9 Gail English Dolly Schwalbert 10 Debbie Grafton 11 Ina Ryder John Sandstrom 12 Janet Johnson 14 Caroline Hay 16 Amanda Grafton Howard Kuntz Joyce Saxton 17 Dayna Middlebrooks Carole Weinberger 18 Richard English Chuck Hoeffler Conrad Keniston 19 Rebekah Csont	20 Nancy Redding 22 Onlee Davis 24 Jack Graham 25 Jack Mulder Linda Ritter 26 Ernie Dorrell Jack Fasnacht 27 Lillian Gorlitz 28 Jean Beck Dolores Henry Joe Henry Jack Schoch 29 Marion Rodgers Sandra Tam 30 Ruth Eaton Lyn Wolf 31 Barbara Lantz Grace Payne.
2 Danielle Christensen Robert Christensen 4 Elizabeth Evans Gil Kissinger Josie Reel Marilyn Siegel Sharon Smith Alice Williamson Ron Witham 5 Sharon Haskell 6 Loretta Blair Ryan Blevins Carolyn Crawley Rudy Stobierski 7 Marge Dilling Patricia Yacco 8 Henry Folsom		

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Catherine Wisheart
8733 W. Yulee Drive #116
Homosassa, FL 34448
352-621-1316

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Eleanor Smith
Renaissance House Care
Millsboro, DE





In 1985, Secretary of State George Firestone presented the revised Great Seal of the State of Florida to the Governor and the Cabinet. The previous State Seal had several errors which were corrected in the 1985 Seal. This revised Seal has a Seminole Indian woman rather than a Western Plains Indian, the steamboat is more accurate, and the cocoa palm has been changed to a sabal palm as the Legislature prescribed in 1970.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Animal: Florida Panther | Reptile: Alligator |
| Bird: Mockingbird | Shell: Horse Conch |
| Butterfly: Zebra Longwing | Soil: Myakka Fine Sand |
| Fish: Freshwater Largemouth Bass | Song: Swanee River |
| Flower: Orange Blossom | Stone: Coral |
| Gem: Moonstone | Tree: Sabal Palm |
| Mammal: Florida Manatee | Wildflower: Correopsis |

LET US REMEMBER.....



PFC Michael Christopher Mahr of Homosassa paid the ultimate price 3/21/11 in Afghanistan. At the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa 9:30 service on Sunday March 17, Matthew (Michael's twin brother) received a prayer shawl specially designed by James Albury and knitted by two members of the Prayer Shawl ministry of the church.



Pictured from center clockwise: Pastor Mark Whittaker, Matthew Mahr holding 3-week old Lora, Ann Morrison, Carly Mahr, Christian Halle, James Albury, Kimberly Albury (Michael and Matthew's parents).

April 14 a special memorial ceremony to honor Michael was held at the Citrus County Fallen Heroes Monument in Bicentennial Park, next to the airport in Crystal River.

Dear praying friends,

In our leadership duties here, the months leading up to April correspond to tax season for US accountants ☺. We have spent four months at a dead sprint helping with numerous Christmas and New Year events; talking through workers' annual ministry plans; attending leadership meetings; going to India for a workshop; organizing important annual foundation paperwork; hosting prospective team members for a month; and doing the bulk of the preparations for our area's annual conference – all on top of normal duties. Let's just say that, like those accountants, we'll be taking a seriously deep breath when April 16 rolls around!

PRaises

✠ Elaine had a **good trip to India** for church-planting training and lots of



Taj Mahal

Elaine in market

Mosque

outside activities. Praise God that her health held out for the entire trip and that she was able to gain much ministry wisdom while also visiting old and new friends.

✠ We attended an encouraging series of **PIONEERS regional meetings** here in Chiang Mai in early March. Almost 20 leaders from across Southeast Asia and the Pacific were

able to think and pray through important issues that our region and organization are facing in the coming months and years. Please pray for all of us to be led only by God and for His glory in these matters.

✠ It looks like we will have a PIONEERS couple not only **sub-let our house** for the final 3½ months of our lease (we leave June 17, and our lease expires Sept. 30) but also buy a substantial portion of our household goods! Praise God for this remarkable answer to prayer as we won't have to sell all our belongings piecemeal or work out a rental penalty with the landlord, which likely would have been the loss of our US \$1,000 deposit. Please pray for us and this couple to work out all the details in this win-win situation.

✠ This month's **cultural photo** is "Songkran," which is the three-day traditional Thai New Year (April 13-15), which people consider to be an auspicious



time for returning to their homes to show respect for ancestors and elders, as well as a time of new beginnings and also a time of welcoming the start of the annual monsoon and rice-growing season. The first day is set aside for cleansing the household, the second for religious merit making, and the third for New Year celebrations. One aspect of the festival requires that people bless images of Buddha and/or their parents, grandparents and elders by pouring small amounts of scented water on their hands as a mark of respect and

blessing. That has led in modern times to what is, essentially, a days-long water fight, when people load up barrels, water guns, buckets – whatever they can get their hands on – and soak anything, especially passing motorcyclists, of which there are many! It also has degenerated into a days-long drunken celebration for some Thais and thousands of tourists. Please pray for many Thais to sense dissatisfaction in vain religious rituals and drunkenness during this important holiday.

PRAYERS

✠ We will be hosting our **annual area conference** for workers in Thailand and Burma this month, with 110 people in attendance. Please pray for the logistics and finances to be handled efficiently; for God to pour out His wisdom via the speaker and workshop leaders; for the music, teen and children's volunteers to lead their programs well; for our workers to be refreshed and energized; and for God to be glorified throughout the week at a hotel north of *Chiang Mai*.

✠ Our teammates **Andrew and Melissa Peterson** and their four children from New Zealand will arrive permanently in Thailand late Tuesday night. They will spend a month or two in *Chiang Mai* before moving to the far north of Thailand to work alongside our partner, Pastor Moses, in his church, Bible school and orphanage project. Please pray for them to have good travels, good interactions with PIONEERS members at the conference, and then a good transition to life and ministry in *Mae Ai* over April and May.

✠ Please continue to pray for **wisdom for our family and PI leaders**



in both Thailand and Florida as we all prayerfully consider what God has for us in terms of future ministry. We will return to Florida on June 18 and are seeking wisdom from God concerning whether we should continue to serve as Thailand/Burma leader from afar or in a US headquarters role. Also, please pray (1) for us to keep our financial support base intact; (2) for God to lead us to the right doctors who will help Elaine to recover and maintain good health; (3) for a successful and wise housing search in the Orlando area; (4) for wisdom in how best to homeschool Caleb and Jamie; (5) for our re-adjustment back to US life; and (6) for peace in saying goodbye to so many people and places that have been family/home for almost eight years now.

✠ Joe will be helping **three m's to join Pioneers International Foundation** this month. Please pray for wisdom for the lawyers now involved as the previous lawyer who handled all the foundation business has quit the firm. Pray also for these three people to smoothly obtain work permits and long-term visas over the next four months.

✠ One of our friends in PIONEERS has **bought our SUV** and will take possession of it this coming week – only the bank is dragging its feet on getting the registration book to us so that we can transfer ownership. Please pray for that process to be settled smoothly this month and pray for our 18-year-old junker (the first car we bought here eight long and hard tropical years ago!) to serve the family well for another few months!

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



Warm Greetings from Siberia!

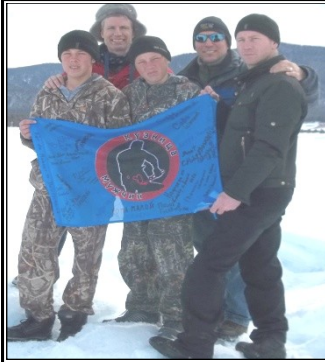
Spring is here and we're moving into high gear as we prepare for the summer months. Soil is being turned over with fresh manure in the gardens and once again the animals (cows, goats and horses) are wandering the village and surrounding fields in search of fresh grass or garbage....yes they'll eat anything! As in past years, our summer will be packed with activities. There are always projects at the church building, our single moms and older ladies will need their 'projects' done as well, Kevin & Laura will have a conference to attend plus a wedding of a very dear friend, a group from the US is arriving to help a church in Ulan Ude, and will hopefully stop in and lend a hand with some things here as well! WHEW... Please keep this time in your prayers...we always want to be certain of our focus and that we are doing His will, not ours! We ask for wisdom and opportunities to reach and help our community.

How can we make the women of the fellowship feel special on Woman's Day this year? That is the question Kevin posed to the men four days before International Women's Day in March.

Wow...did the men 'step up to the plate' and serve the women!! They not only cooked the meal and serenaded the ladies before the meal; they also cleaned up afterward and entertained some of the kids that showed up with their moms!! Laura prepared a couple of fun games and several ladies shared poems they had written or found and the pastor's wife shared from Proverbs 31 on being Godly women for our husbands and families. They ended with coffee and dessert and a unanimous YES and having an even bigger event by each inviting at least one lady we know that does not attend our fellowship.



50 men together for three days and no alcohol...how is that even possible??? This was the response of one of our neighbors. Kevin had just returned from Lake Baikal and the car looked like he had driven through every dirt road in Siberia. Thus giving Kevin a chance to explain where he'd been. During the last few days of March, Kevin and four other men from our



village
attended a
men's
conference
on Lake
Baikal.
There were
about 50
men
altogether

representing many churches from the region. Not only was it a time of great fellowship, and sharing life's struggles; there was some awesome teaching on being a man. Building a foundation that can withstand anything because it's built on Him! Just as a building that stands or falls on the foundation that it's built on, so it is with a man. Built on the proper foundation, our lives can weather any storm. The last night of the conference the men watched a film, "Courageous." Wow! What an impact it made! If you have not yet seen this film, you need to!! Please keep these men in prayer as they walk out into the world, trying to make a difference in their homes with their wives and children.

What do you do when the weather is finally warm, snow has melted, and your youth group consists of girls??...You pack up the car, find a place by the river and have a picnic! Well at least the snow had mostly melted but the rivers were still half frozen – even in April! Then you run to the base of the nearest rocky hill (seemed like a mountain to us) and climb to the

21

top! The view was beyond magnificent and it was decided we had to attempt climbing the higher mountains next time! (Not sure these old bodies are ready for that one.) We're so excited to see our girls growing in their relationships with each other and with the Father as well! Our prayer is they will be a blessing to others as they grow into mature young ladies and become the next generation to serve.



As you take off for places unknown in the coming summer months, please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers. They are earnestly seeking how to better serve their community and be true servants to others. We are honored and humbled to be able to work and live here for these last sixteen years; it would be impossible without your faithful prayers and support. THANK YOU! Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to writing our update in September.

**Serving Together in Siberia,
Kevin & Laura**



The Homosassa United Methodist Church has a large outreach program for our hungry and homeless neighbors in the Homosassa area. Every week church members volunteer to fill paper grocery bags with non-perishable food donated by church members. Donations of bread and sweets from Sweetbay and Publix are also received on a regular basis.

The food pantry is open Monday through Friday, and volunteers and a part-time afternoon person distributes the food to individuals who come in once a month to pick up a bag of groceries, some bread and desserts.

We have a data base, started in March 2009, with over 3,100 names entered thus far. This data base, updated weekly, enables us to keep track of how many households need assistance, and it also generates a report

on a monthly basis. In the year 2011, a total of 1,327 bags went out our front door. We had an average distribution of 111 bags of groceries monthly.

Included under the food pantry program is the distribution of 50 Thanksgiving food baskets, and 50 Christmas food baskets. A special offering helps provide the food for these baskets. Distribution is another operation in and of itself which includes checking eligibility of Homosassa residents, taking names and addresses, giving receipts and pickup date information. This is usually done by a team of three people (we always have a line at the door before 8 a.m.) and, thanks to the date base, the process time has been cut from several hours to under an hour for registering 50 people.

As you can see, the food bank is a major undertaking and one that is much needed and appreciated in our community. The volunteers and staff at the front desk often hear “thank you, God Bless your church”, and even get occasional hugs. This is very rewarding.

Submitted by Carol Eriksson



A sincere “Thank You” to all who sent cards, delivered food, expressed concern and said prayers following my recent surgery.

I am truly blessed with having such a caring church family.

Joyce Hesketh

UMW POT-LUCK SALAD DINNER 23



The UMW will be having a Mother/Daughter (granddaughter-sister-neighbor, or friend) pot-luck salad dinner on **TUESDAY, MAY 15 AT 5:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Any woman who would like to attend with a guest, please call to make your reservation.

There is a sign-up sheet in the office, or you may call Pat Blake at 628-6602. The sign-up **deadline** is Friday, May 11, 2012.

Kay Bast will be in charge of the program. We look forward to seeing you there!

OTHER UMC EVENTS IN MAY

MAY 5th, SATURDAY - A trip to the **ORLANDO HOLY LAND** experience is planned. Join us on a deluxe motor coach for the journey where we will explore the park (lunch at the park on your own) and then we will come together as a group at **4:30 to see the Passion Drama**. We plan to stop for dinner on the way home. Cost **per-person is \$47** and includes entrance to the park and bus expenses, meals will be on your own. Reserve your seat by calling the church office or contact Lori DeClue at 364-2121.



MAY 20th, SUNDAY- Our youth will be showing the movie **FIREPROOF** and serving hot dogs and chips and a drink for a love offering. Movie will begin at **1:00 p.m.** All proceeds support the youth attending Warren Willis Youth Camp in Leesburg.



A heartfelt thank you to the Prayer Warriors of FUMC Homosassa. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the prayer lives of our church people as evidenced by my release from pain.

Thank you all, Joanna Miller



Winner: Virginia Pazian

SOME OTHER WINNERS:

- Laptop Computer - Donna Bell
- European Dish Garden - Myrna Evans
- Water Color Painting - RJ Yusko
- 4 Oil Changes - Miriam Currier
- 4 Tickets to Sweet Tomato - Ann Eckman
- 8GB USB Flash Drive - Pat Blake
- King Sheet Set - Kelly Lewis
- Applebee's gift card - Thomas Richardson
- Winn-Dixie gift card - Vera Irish

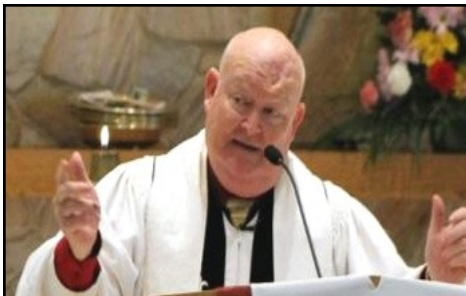


The missions fair was a huge success! It was amazing to see all that this church does in the world and in the community. A big thanks to the committee and to the participants and viewers.

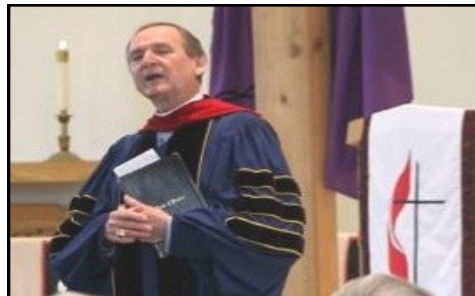
THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS RECEIVED FROM RICHARD DELANEY:

- 345 tickets sold for the banquet (lunch and dinner)
- 30 play-only tickets were sold
- Roger Nelson did an excellent job portraying John Wesley
- Cody's Roadhouse catered, and the meals were delicious and enjoyed by all.
- Over 350 people attended the Mission Fair
- There were 3 bounce houses
- 500 hotdogs given away at the fair
- There were 60 participants in the fair
- At least 1 visitor returned for church on Sunday after the mission fair
- Participation and great attendance made this centennial events a success

The centennial committee would like to thank everyone for their help, participation, and enthusiasm for this celebration.



IUMC PASTOR 1986 - 1990
Rev. John Denmark



IUMC PASTOR 1991 - 2000
Rev. Alan Beaver

WHERE ARE THE KIDS?
LOOKS LIKE FUN TO ME!



25



DON'T CRY RON;
IT WON'T HURT!!

HEY JERRY-
THERE'S A BIRD ON TOP!



DOES THIS STILL
MEAN PEACE?



"Yesterday, Today, & Forever"



BISHOP WHITAKER

PASTOR MARK 2000 - 2012

Though many of you may be in the midst of making summer travel plans, home bound members, residents of assisted living and nursing home facilities continue to be lonely and out of touch with life as they once lived. Many seniors have no family living nearby so they rarely have visitors.

Becoming a part of the Visitation Committee could become one of your most satisfying involvement in this extraordinary churchy community of Jesus' hands and feet. Pastor Mark makes the hospital visits so that we, on the visiting team, can concentrate our efforts elsewhere. The short article below was recently shared with our group:

ANYONE CAN GIVE A SMILE

"A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give."

...Maria E. Hagain

Will you consider being one of those people whose visits put smiles on the faces of our shut-in members? Please call Peggy Benson at the church office (628-4083), or at home (628-5346.)

Apologies! Apologies!

To all of you who could not find the sixteenth book of the Bible, it was not your fault (April issue, Page 23.) Somehow the following line was omitted after Hebrews. "See how well you can compete. Relax now." etc.

Dottie Baker

What Are We Becoming?

Has anyone told you lately that you've changed? Or have you noticed some changes in your behavior or attitudes or even in the things you do or what interests you and how you spend your time?

As we make our journey as Christians, there is more that happens than attending church, going to Wonderful Wednesdays, and serving. As we do these things, we are drawn into things like small groups and Bible studies, and more specific areas of service. Along the way we do more than have fellowship and fun. As we learn more about Christ and what it means to be His disciples, hopefully we start becoming more like Him. Not only do we do the things He would be doing, we become like Him in our attitudes, actions, and character. For example: if someone would have been sarcastic, hurried, and had a sharp tongue, those things are likely to change over time to display patience, kindness, love, gentleness, and joy. This is not a way of judging one another, but it can be a way of knowing if we are personally growing as disciples. "Everyone Becoming a Disciple of Christ" is more than a motto; it is something that the Holy Spirit does in us.

When we go out to lunch after church, would the waitress

know we're Christians because we are poor tippers or because we act out the fruits of the Spirit because of what the Spirit is doing in our lives? When we go to the grocery store, does the check-out person know we are Christians because of the gentle way we treat them or do we snap and talk down to them blaming them for the prices coming up wrong (something over which they have no control)? In other words what kind of witnesses are we? And what kind of witnesses are we at church? Francis of Assisi said, "Witness at all times. If necessary, use words."

Pastor Mark has talked to us about people who are not the same during the week as they are on Sunday morning. My question is: Are you more like Christ today than you were 5 years ago? Are you more like Christ today than you were last year?

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Thursday, May 4th

Let's make it a special day.
Watch for details.

PRAYER MANTLE PAINTING

Here are the details regarding the cancellation. The person on the Florida Conference Spiritual Formation Task Team working with the Upper Room was traveling across the country leading workshops so all the Conferences would be involved in painting the prayer mantles. She did not send the materials to us for our prayer mantle painting. She sends her apology and thanks us for our willingness to help.

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. Mark Whittaker, Pastor

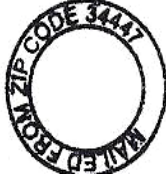
Marsha’s Prayer Chain Email:
ricmar@infionline.net

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

Send or Give Submissions For Genesis To:
Mary Lee Millikin, Editor
Email: genesisfumc@tampabay.rr.com
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Neil Kline, Webmaster



MAY 2012

