The Son of God became the Son of Man so that the sons of men might become the sons of God.
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.
This 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.

BECAUSE
HE
LIVES
I CAN FACE
TOMORROW

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.

Discipleship Classes
Disciple I
Disciple IV
Companions in Christ

Benevolences
Habitat for Humanity
St. Andrews Mission
(Feeding the hungry)
The Heifer Project
S.H.A.R.E. (Economical food for the church and community)
Food Pantry
Holiday Food Baskets
Toys for Children (at Christmas)
Salvation Army
The Path (Help for local homeless)
Methodist Children’s Home
C.R.O.P. Walk
Equipment for Handicapped
(Wheel chairs, walkers, etc.)

Community Outreach
(Use of our facilities)
AA
Al-Anon
After-school Tutoring
Girl Scouts
Hospice
GED Tutoring
Kiwanis Breakfast
Isaiah’s Place
FCAT Tutoring

Church Office
Phone: 352-628-4083
Fax: 352-628-9086
Website
www.1umc.org

Senior Pastor
Rev. Mark Whittaker

Administrator
Theresa Weber

Bookkeeper
Sandy Dewart

Christian Education
Patience Nave

Music Department
Mary Kay Messenger
Joy Potts
Dayna Middlebrooks

Parish Nurse & Visitation
Sharon E. Smith

Parish Visitor
Peggy Benson

Sunday School Superintendent & Nursery Supervisor
Sandra Tam

Youth Coordinator
Neretta Brobst

Sound Technician
Sharon Cooley

Night Security
Michael Rodgers

Custodian
Dale Evans

Within The Church
Worship Services
Ushers
Music Ministries:
Choirs: Children’s Choir
Men & Ladies Ensembles
Handbells & Chimes
Christian Education:
5 Adult Sunday School Classes
Children’s Sunday School
Youth Ministry
Communion Stewards
Lenten Soup Supers
Fine Arts Program
Prayer Ministry
UMW Circles
Tape Ministry
Blood Bank
Visitation Care Group
Parish Nurse Ministry
Wednesday Night Dinners
Disaster Relief Programs
Funeral Receptions
United Methodist Men
United Methodist Women
Stewardship
Biblical Travel Ministry
Counters
Folding & Mailing
Attendance Tracking

Outreach Ministries
Parish Nurse
Nursing Home Ministries
Shut-in Visitation
God’s Clods (Clown Ministry)

“Tuned To Revival” Quartet
Disaster Relief & Response Team
Thrift Shop
Linda’s Loaves
Volunteers in Missions
Prison Ministry
Stephen Ministry
Prayer Blanket Ministry
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Knit For Kids Ministry
Health Related Workshops
(Diabetes, High Blood Pressure)
Annual Seminar for Elder Needs
Men's Monday Morning "Work Detail"
Men's Wednesday Morning
Prayer Breakfast
Hugs for Soldiers
Vacation Bible School
World Travel Group
State Travel Group
Bus Ministry
Missionaries to Siberia
Missionaries to Thailand
Missionaries to Haiti

Small Groups
Cancer Survivor
Current Affairs
Individual Bible Study Groups
(Men, Women, and Couples)
Fibromyalgia Support Group
Saturday Sisters
Contemporary Issues
Bereavement Group
P.A.W.S.
The Disciple and Resurrection Power

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ today, we need believing knowledge of the resurrection and what it did for us. Understanding that we are truly new beings, not just the old being made better, is an essential truth of our salvation. Jesus didn’t die to make us better human beings; he died to make us totally new beings who have a right relationship with his Father. Paul writes, “Therefore, if anyone is ________, he is a ________ creation; the ________ has gone, the ________ has come.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Jesus told his disciples several times that he was going to be killed and on the third day be resurrected. Matthew 16:21 tells how Jesus explained to his disciples about going to Jerusalem to suffer many things at the hands of the religious leaders, saying that “he must be _______ and on the third day be __________ to life.” To the disciples these words meant not only the loss of a dear friend, but also the death of their dreams of Jesus being the one to restore Israel to its former glory.

When Jesus took Peter, James and John up on the mountain where they saw Elijah and Moses meet with the transfigured Jesus, the disciples were frightened, uncertain about the meaning of what they had experienced. Coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen “until the Son of Man had ________ from the ________.” Mark’s account explains how the disciples discussed among themselves what “_________ from the ________” meant.

(Mark. 9:2-10)

After the disciples witnessed Jesus’ death on the cross and experienced his resurrected presence in their lives, Jesus told them, “All ________ in heaven and on earth has been given to ______. Therefore go and makes ________ of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the ________ and of the ________ and of the ________, and teaching them to _______ everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matt. 28:18-10)

The disciples must have wondered how they could ever carry out Jesus’ commission. But during the last recorded time of Jesus being with his disciples, he told them, “But you receive ________ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you ______ be my ___________ in ________, and in all ________ and ____________, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)

The disciples had forgotten or didn’t understand what Jesus had said when he told them of his departure, “...It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the ________ will not come to you; but if I go, _____ will ______ him to you.”

(John 16:7)

By the Counselor, he meant the Holy Spirit who had, up to that time, been with them, but would, as a result of Jesus’ resurrection, be in them. Jesus’ death and resurrection not only made the believers new beings, but empowered them by his Holy Spirit to be and do all they were called to do.

Paul wrote, “I want to ________ Christ and the __________ of his resurrection and the __________ of sharing in his __________, becoming like him in his death....”

(Phil 3:10)

Note the order of Paul’s desire—first to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and then the privilege of sharing in the fellowship of his suffering. Like those who suffer with a common problem (such as dealing with the challenges of cancer) share a “fellowship of suffering,” so we who follow Christ will share in what caused him suffering. He warned, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated _______ first....If they persecuted me, they will __________ you also.”

(John 15:18, 20b)

When the people of his hometown were offended by him, Jesus said, “Only in his ________ and in his own ________ is a prophet without honor.”

(Matt. 13:57)

THINK ABOUT IT:

Jesus’ death and resurrection made forgiveness of sin and becoming a “new creature” possible for us. As believers in Christ, we are given resurrection power to live the “new creature” life.

As a disciple, what hurts the heart of God will also hurt our hearts. Only the empowering of the Holy Spirit will keep us from despairing under the strain of seeing our world as God sees it.

Understanding what we have been given in the “power of his resurrection” enables us to face and embrace situations that bring suffering, knowing they will result in a unique fellowship with our Lord.

DO WE SEE EMPOWERED SUFFERING AS A PATHWAY TO DEEPER FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS?
OVER AND MOVING ON...

WHEW! That’s over!

The last several months have been hectic. We’ve had one whirlwind of activity after another, with intensity building as the tasks multiplied. The completing of the new building, the mission trip to Haiti, the need to get tables, chairs, signs, books and kitchen equipment out of storage - all these pushing the pace as we prepared for the Consecration Service. Then, following a short break, we had the Grand Opening.

There was the “shakedown cruise” or, as the computer world refers to it, the Beta testing, of the equipment and procedures for using all we have put in place. We are still not done, but we have a better handle on it and eventually we will get there.

So it is time to get back to business. But what business? What are we about? What is the business of the church and of Homosassa First United Methodist Church.

I don’t believe that purpose has changed. Our Mission Statement is the same - “Everybody Becoming a Disciple of Christ.” This month we will celebrate the central truth of our faith - Jesus died, on the third day rose from the dead and lives with us even now.

We are still a community of faith committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends, family, associates and neighbors. We are still in the business of reaching out to those who are hungry and thirsty and homeless to share God’s love.

The only difference is the addition of our new building to help us do those things. So now is the time to look ahead to discover how we can use this new building to further God’s work, touching lives for Christ and changing our world, one person at a time.

The only way we can do this is through you. This church has grown because of its members who have given themselves first to God and then to his work. People have shared their time, talents, gifts and money to enable us to make a difference in the lives of others.

As we move into the future, ready to use all God has given us, we need to work together to get the work done. Your support of one another, your fellowship and compassion, your strength and love will make a difference in how the world perceives us. Working together, supporting one another, cooperating as we try different ideas—these things illustrate what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, living by his example.

Paul’s prayer for the church at Rome can be ours: “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:5-6)

So let’s take a deep breath—and then move into the future helping and encouraging one another as we share the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Pastor Mark
C'est Fini!

A Note From The Editor:

I must extend herculean gratitude to Dave Marquis for all the photos and write-ups that he has availed to our newsletter over the past 12 months of construction.

From the ground-breaking ceremony on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008, right up to the Finale at the Celebration Concert, on March 7, 2009, Dave has been there with his camera, amongst his many other duties as Chairman of the Building For Tomorrow Committee, submitting monthly explanations of the whole building process.

It has been deeply appreciated by not only our church who are weekly on campus, but by shut-ins and those far-away.

You are a gem in the FUMCH crown, Dave. God bless you mightily.

Walk A Prayer Labyrinth On Good Friday

During Holy Week we will have the opportunity to walk a prayer labyrinth – a journey millions of Christians have taken before us.

You may walk the labyrinth in the Fellowship Hall any time from 8 AM to 8 PM on Good Friday, April 10, or from 9 AM to Noon on Holy Saturday, April 11.

Other areas for prayer and quiet reflection will be set up around the labyrinth. Information about the labyrinth will be available as will someone to answer your questions. Don’t be concerned about the word “walk” it’s not long and there will be places to sit.

As you enter the area near any labyrinth, silence is observed both out of respect for others and their spiritual journey and for ourselves as we maintain an attitude of prayer. A prayer labyrinth is designed to be walked slowly, silently, reverently, intentionally. Some people walk the labyrinth in prayer while others shed the confusion and busyness from their minds to better focus on their relationship with Jesus. Walking the labyrinth provides a space to meditate on a Scripture, a joy, or a question. Or you may walk in silent reflection, letting go of all thoughts and feelings to enter a place of silence and solitude.

There seems to have been a rediscovery of the use of the prayer labyrinth, but early Christian churches used them as early as 350 C.E., with the oldest labyrinth in Algeria. The one we will be using belongs to the Florida Annual Conference and was used at last year’s Annual Conference.

Thank you for your prayers for incarcerated youth at the Epiphany Youth Retreat.

The retreat leader has let us know how wonderful it was to have such a large chain surrounding them as they met. It was tangible evidence that people do care for these kids. (Each link of the chain bore a first name and city of someone praying.) She also said they could sense all the prayers.

There were 30 boys this time. This was less than usual, but it allowed more one-on-one time. The next retreat for the boys will be this summer, with one for the girls in October. Once again, thank you for your prayers for these troubled youth!
Did you ever see our pastor with white knuckles, white from holding on for dear life? Well I have! On our trip to Haiti, we daily (except for Sunday) traveled up a mountain for many miles on a hit-or-miss path, the remains of some long-forgotten and neglected road that once wound its way to the site of a little school. We packed eight people into a four-wheel vehicle intended for six and bounced and twisted our way on the one-hour journey to our work site. Once there we were greeted by excited children, grateful teachers, and the curious community. The daily journey alone was an experience we will never forget!

While at Carrenage, we began work on construction of a new latrine and painted four classrooms, four dormitory rooms, and the principal's office. We put six new mattresses and new sheets on the dormitory beds, where teachers had been sleeping four nights a week without mattresses or cover—sleeping on the bare springs. We unpacked and organized supplies for the classrooms in the principal's office, supplies that did not "supplement" what they had. In many cases these supplies were all they had! We organized and displayed clothes for the children, which they eagerly disorganized as they chose their treasures.

Dr. Tim Jones, a pediatrician from Georgia, our own Kim Hamrick and another nurse from Lakeland saw between 250 and 300 children, most of whom had never seen a doctor. Some needs were minimal; some were of more concern; a few were serious. All in all, Tim said that the children were surprisingly healthy, considering the fact that they are living on the skimpiest of diets and drinking water that should never touch their lips.

The children were elated that our team included Patrick, the nineteen year old son of Kim Hamrick. Patrick quickly learned a little Haitian Creole and found that soccer and Frisbees bridged the language barrier like nothing else.

Most days we ate peanut butter crackers, breakfast bars, and trail mix for lunch, but on two days we ate the same rice and beans given to the children. These were cooked by women who climbed the mountain in the pitch black dark (dark is really dark when there are no lights anywhere) to begin cooking beans at 3:00 a.m. Two days a week you buy these hot lunches, partly with the money earned by the Music for Missions Concert last summer and partly by your ongoing contributions during the year. On other days, the children have no lunch.

On Sunday, we worshipped at Olivier Methodist Church, where we were warmly received by the Haitians. We sang familiar hymns, they in Haitian Creole and we in English or fumbling Creole. Mark preached, translated by our friend Montreuil Milord, and you have never seen as animated a Mark Whittaker as we witnessed that morning! When we left the church, we all were surprised to realize we had been in the church service almost two and a half hours!

Every night our exhausted team returned to the Mission House in Petit Goave, had a generous hot dinner, and spent about an hour of reflection on the activity of the day. Each night, there were moments when we ached inside because of what we had seen and heard or laughed at funny things that had happened during the day. Each night we agreed that we were unsure what the far-reaching influence of our presence meant for the Haitians, but we were absolutely sure God was doing something in each of us. Finally, on the last day, ten of the twelve said they wanted to return.

Without a hitch we breezed through customs and met our connecting flight for our return. We were welcomed by Bill and Neretta Brobst at the Tampa Airport. Gratefully we re-entered our culture of plenty—grocery stores laden with great variety, water cool to drink or hot to shower, electricity not governed by the whims of government, and a smooth ride back to Homosassa.

When you want a program with more of the details of the week, call one of us. Telling you about our adventure will keep our enthusiasm alive for the work we feel sure God intends us to complete!
One Thing President Lincoln Did Not Do

“You probably already know many fascinating facts about Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president. You may know he enjoyed bowling, he was one of our tallest presidents at 6’4” and wore a size 14 shoe. Some even know he was once challenged to a duel (which he accepted) and is the only president to hold a patent (to lift boats over shoals). But there is one fact few people know about this popular president.

“Abraham Lincoln died without a will. Even though he was an active attorney and undoubtedly knew the importance of writing his wishes, he never did. He died without a will even though he was constantly plagued with visions of his own demise. When he died, the lawyers were left to try to determine the division of his estate.

“Unfortunately, many people from pastors to pilots to presidents die without the benefit of a will today. (Lincoln is only one of several presidents to die without a will.) But it doesn’t have to be that way. A will is simple to write with the help of an attorney and is usually far less expensive and far easier to do than people imagine.

“If you don’t have a will or have not updated it recently, call your attorney. If you want extra motivation or satisfaction, be sure to include a gift to your favorite cause in your plans. A gift to your church is a great way to tell the world you want to leave a legacy that reaches beyond the years. And with a gift to our church, you can live every day knowing you have learned from the past - that a life lived greatly becomes even greater when it leaves a gift that benefits others.”

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FAQ About Bible Lands Cruise

What is it? An all-inclusive 12-day cruise/tour to 4 biblical countries - examining Old Testament roots in Egypt, the life of Jesus in Israel, and the journeys of Paul in Greece & Turkey.


Where is it? The chartered ship will sail from Athens to Port Said to Ashdod to Haifa to Rhodes to Kusadasi and then back to Athens.

How will we get there? Motor coach to Tampa; flights to NYC and then to Athens.

Who will lead our group? Pastor Mark Whittaker and his wife, Iris.

How many will be going? As of 3/1/09, 14 are registered from FUMCH. There is room for more - about 1000 passengers, total, on the mv Cristal.

Is the tour company reliable? Educational Opportunities Tours of Lakeland FL has been offering Holy Land tours for over 35 years. EOT does them as well as any and better than most.

What about safety in Israel? Passengers continue to travel to Israel despite civil unrest in Gaza and certain sections of the West Bank and will not go to dangerous areas. Travel to Israel is on private motor coaches that are in constant communication with the Jerusalem office of EOT.

How much will it cost? Inclusive prices begin at about $3,500 (dbl.occ.) depending on the category of cabin selected.

What is included in the price? RT airfare, cruise ship, motor coaches, all shore excursions, guides, entrance fees, meals, study books, lectures, & Bible study.

How much walking will there be? Expect moderate walking at the shore excursion sites. Passengers should be in good health.

What about the details? For more information, pick up a brochure at the church office - or call Rev. Richard Evans (563-5833) or Pastor Mark (628-4083).

May I invite others to join me? Yes. Family members, friends, and neighbors are welcome to join our travel group.

Where and how do I register? With EOT in Lakeland—by phone, email, or regular mail. A $400 deposit will hold your reservation, with another $600 due May 11. Final payment due on Aug. 11.
Learning Through Experience

Throughout our lives we learn by experience. Recently I experienced something new that I would like to share with you.

Many members of our congregation who have had surgery are not able to go directly home from the hospital. This may be due to the fact that they need specific frequent treatment, or they live alone and need 24 hour assistance of some kind, or that they need frequent monitoring in a facility. Many of our local long term care facilities now have portions of the facility dedicated to rehabilitation. However, these programs may vary greatly, and the determination for placement will depend on several qualifiers.

In my case, the doctor recommended a rehabilitation hospital. It is licensed as a hospital, but deals specifically with intense rehab programs. One qualifier for this program is that the patient be willing to participate in a rigorous daily program of several modalities of treatment. Another qualifier is that the patient is able to tolerate three (3) hours of rehab per day. (Weekends are not as intense, but everyone does have therapy on weekends as well.) Portions of the three hour daily program are handled on a one-to-one basis, while other portions are in group participation. I found that the group setting was very motivational, as (Continued-on, right column)

FILE OF LIFE
By Connie Barton

FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED!

On February 21st of this year I was taken by ambulance to the Emergency Room at Citrus Memorial Hospital. I had severe vertigo.

The EMT on the ambulance got me on the gurney and into the ambulance and asked about my medications. At a time like this, one’s mind is usually unable to function clearly in remembering. Fortunately Bill had the presence of mind to take my FILE OF LIFE off the refrigerator and put it in his pocket. On getting it, the EMT’s face had an expression of surprise and relief. This information is vital to the EMT as he is preparing you for steps that need to be taken upon your arrival to the E.R. for fast action.

I wish to emphasize to all of you the importance of this record. Age has no bearing. Bill and I have had these on our refrigerator for several years and this is the first time one had to be used. They contain more than a list of your meds – medical conditions, allergies, names of your doctors, family, etc.

They are issued by the sheriff’s department and can usually be obtained at one of Sheriff Dawsy’s substations. Sharon Smith has some in her office. I suggest that you use a pencil when filling out the answers as things can change and pencil can be erased and new info entered.

Hope you never have the occasion to use your FILE OF LIFE.

one sees how others in the group function and how much improvement is made in relatively short periods of time.

Another plus for me in this situation was that each patient is assigned an in-house doctor who is always available. Sometimes I saw him twice a day. In addition, my own doctors were able to visit me, and the doctors were in touch with one another.

Visiting hours are quite limited, so as not to interfere with therapy. By the time one finishes with treatment, rest seems more important than visiting.

Please feel free to contact me for further information. God bless as you navigate the medical system!

Your Parish Nurse
(On leave of absence)

Designated Parking

Even though additional parking spaces have been designated for handicapped individuals, church members still experience times when they are unable to locate a designated space nearby.

The Board of Trustees asks church members to drop off persons in wheelchairs or using walkers at the entrance where ushers can assist.

After dropping a person off, the able-bodied driver can park his/her vehicle and then pick up the person needing assistance after the service.

This practice will leave handicapped designated spaces available to persons who must park and walk unassisted into the church.

Thank you.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

...will continue to meet during the summer. We meet in the Conference Room on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.

As other activities wind down this time of the year, knitting/crocheting in the air-conditioned room provides a good time for having fellowship with others, and the need for Prayer Shawls is endless. Come once, twice or as often as your schedule permits.

Ann Morrison
382-2923

YARN NEEDED

Pat Blake needs yarn for the Guide Post "Knit for Kids" project.

Any worsted weight yarn would be appreciated. Please call Pat at 638-6602 and/or leave it in the office.

Thank you.
**Passionate Spirituality**

**Opportunities to Practice Spiritual Disciplines**

In keeping with our emphasis on the spiritual disciplines during the Lenten season, we will culminate the journey through Lent with an opportunity to walk a prayer labyrinth, an experience Christians have practiced for centuries. It is a wonderful way to celebrate several of the spiritual disciplines, obviously **prayer** being one of them. Many other disciplines can be experienced during your visit to the labyrinth and surrounding areas depending upon your willingness and desire. Some of these are **silence**, **meditation**, **study**, and **worship**.

Other opportunities abound during Lent to practice spiritual disciplines as we **worship** and move toward the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Throughout the Lenten season, we’ve had the opportunity for **fellowship** at the weekly soup suppers; some may have used this as a **fast** from their normal meals. Through the use of the Lenten Devotional books, we’ve had the opportunity for **prayer**, **study**, and **meditation**. The scripture readings for the sermon series have been opportunities for **study** and **meditation** on God’s Word. This prepares us for Sunday’s sermon on one of the spiritual disciplines - **prayer**, **sacrifice**, **worship**, **service**, **simplicity/frugality**, and **submission**. These have been in addition to the opportunities we always have for practicing all of the spiritual disciplines.

I first heard spiritual disciplines referred to as “means of grace,” so I think that is why it’s easier for me to understand them as the means God uses to shower us with His grace. Through showering us with his grace, we tend to “feel” His presence, His closeness. While we are open and focused on Him, we are changed (as the Scripture says “from glory to glory”) to be more and more like Him. It is God who has initiated this process of intentionally training us in godliness (1 Tim 4:7). Through this process, over time, we become the kind of persons who naturally display the fruit of the Spirit.

If you haven’t already done so, I hope you will stop by the spiritual formation bulletin board (in the hallway between the administration and classroom wings) and check out the information on the spiritual disciplines. If you would like, on the boards there are sheets for you to take with you which describe each of the spiritual disciplines (means of grace). I also hope you have been following the daily scripture readings to learn more about the spiritual disciplines directly from God’s Word, being taught by the Holy Spirit through your **study** and **meditation**.

I would enjoy talking with you about any of the spiritual disciplines. Also, I would like to hear from you if you have an idea of how we can help in understanding any of the less familiar descriptions. May you have a blessed Easter.

_Marilyn Watson_
Serving Members and Friends of The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
APRIL SCHEDULE

**Thursday, April 9, 2009 ~ Ruth Circle:**
9:15 a.m. Contact Debbie Tomberlin at 795-1182 or Barbara Smith at 382-5735 for more information.

**Monday, April 13, 2009 ~ UMW Exec. Board Meeting:**
10:00 a.m. in Room 114. Contact Kim Bennett at 382-3941 for more information. All UMW Officers, Coordinators and Circle Leaders are requested to attend.

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009 ~ Faith Hope Circle:**
9:30 a.m. in Room 114. Contact Nancy Pearo at 382-1034 or June Bish at 628-9942 for more information.

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009 ~ Helping Hand Circle:**
9:30 a.m. in a member’s home. Call Kay Bast at 382-4908 or Donna Ludwick at 382-2420 for more information and location of meeting.

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009 ~ Dorcas Circle:**
1:00 p.m. in Room 114. Contact Myrna Evans at 563-5833 or Ann Ice at 795-3420 for more information.

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Florida United Methodist Children’s Home
Happenings from our Home...

As we continue to help our residents find their gifts endowed by God, we are delighted that we can maintain many of the Summer Quest sessions throughout the year so that our residents can continue developing those gifts. In addition to pottery, art, dance, and team building, we’ve also incorporated a gardening component to our program. Thanks to partnership with Community Roots, a local non-profit organization that promotes organic farming, one of our cottages is currently growing a self-sustaining garden. They are eagerly looking forward to eating the fruits of their labor.

The school year is almost over and they are seeing a continued trend of success:
1. We recently recognized our residents for their accomplishments in school. We celebrated the highest numbers of Honor Roll, Good Conduct, & G.P.A. increases we’ve seen in recent years.
2. One of our residents is currently a full-time college student who started just after turning 17.
3. Our new Driving Program is going well with 10 residents logging over 150 hours behind-the-wheel driving time.
4. 19 of our residents have a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher.

**S.H.A.R.E.**
(Self Help and Resource Exchange)

When warm weather arrives it is great to use fruits or vegetables as the main course for a light summer meal. Who doesn't have a recipe for cucumber salad, carrot salad, potato salad, a Jell-O dish or perhaps even taco salad?

SHARE offers a great variety of fruits and vegetables in our produce package every month. At just $6 our PRODUCE package is a real deal.

Of course, SHARE offers a variety of meats at a great discount! For $8 you can purchase a BASIC package that would cost you at least $36 in a retail grocery store.

You can find SHARE newspapers by the front door of the FUMCH Administration Building. Check out the great deals that await you. Included in our newspaper monthly are recipes that include the produce we offer that month.

**April Sign-Up Dates**
Wednesday, April 8, 10 AM
Saturday, April 11, 10 AM

**April Pick-Up Day:**
Saturday, April 25, 9:30 AM

For more information please call Vickie Williams at 628-5945

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**To My Beloved Church Family,**

Again I am sending sincere heartfelt thanks to you for your prayers, calls, Emails, and cards which you sent to me during my last episode of ill health. As I lay in the hospital bed I could feel myself being wrapped in a blanket of prayers and love - very comforting.

Blessings to all of you.

In Christian Love - Connie Barton

**THANK YOU** ~ We often comment how important our church family is to us, but I am really feeling how meaningful you are to my life, as I go through this long recovery following surgery. Thank you all for the cards, calls, offers of help and most of all your prayers through this process. I am very grateful to each of you!

May our awesome God continue to walk with us as we meet new challenges in our lives.

In Christ’s love ~ Sharon Smith
Dear Pastor Whittaker:

Thank you and all my friends at FUMC for the cards, and your thoughts and prayers during Marvin's illness and death. It meant so much to Marvin and me. God bless you all as he has blessed me with your friendship.

Sincerely,

Helen West

THRIFT STORE THANKS

We would like to thank the following people for the time and effort that was given to help Claudette and myself in setting up the Thrift Store: Marge Ottman, Lois & Jack Schoch, Marie & Ron Witham, Mert Davis, & Jim Haskell. Their participation was very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Marge Davis & Claudette Kirby

Walking on the Path

Patience Nave

"That I might know him in the power of his resurrection and in the fellowship of his suffering." Philippians 3:10

I have on occasion said to God that I would love to know Jesus in the power of his resurrection. The early church knew him in that way. I am awestruck by the incredible courage of first century Christians, at their deep commitment to prayer, and at their absolute trust in God as they preached and through them he healed the sick. Oh, how I'd love to be that kind of Christian.

But God keeps teaching me another lesson, the lesson from the second part of today's verse. He insists that I learn about having "fellowship with Jesus in his suffering." The Bible tells us that Jesus "suffered once for all," but I also hear the scripture teach that God's grief continues in the suffering of those he loves. So if we have real fellowship with Jesus in his suffering, we too will hurt when we see abuse of other human beings.

Most recently, my classroom was Haiti. There, as we drove from the airport to Petit Goave, as we moved through the little village on our way to the school, as we worked with the school staff and played with the children, I think I understood a little of the "fellowship of Christ's suffering." He must weep as thousands go hungry, as children play recklessly in garbage, as human beings for whom he died are treated as if they have no value. In the little Haitian school where we worked, teachers use the most meager of tools to instruct their children, but God must weep at the terrible waste of good minds in places where there are no schools for children to attend.

I cried when the wife of a teacher brought me a little handmade gift just before we departed. I was sad to leave, but my greatest sadness was that we could not do more to change the circumstances of that little school, its children and teachers. I think I felt something of the "fellowship of Christ's suffering," as he grieved for the plight of these people—forgotten by other people but not forgotten by Jesus.

We left Haiti, and that "classroom" is over for now. But learning is not finished.

Prayer: Father, help us to learn to care - to really care - about those around us whose circumstances we could change if we would only let you really control our lives. Amen.

Just want to let you know that my rehab program is going well and my shoulder is improving "little-by-little"..... I'm even typing very slowly with both hands now. Thank you so much for each thought and prayer during yet another difficult period. Hopefully next spring will find me working in the yard much earlier, something I really enjoy.

Looking forward to seeing more of everyone, especially in our beautiful new facilities at FUMC.

In Christian Love,

Dee Green

“Angels shine from without because their spirits are lit from within by the light of God.”

~ Quoted in The Angels’ Little Instruction Book by Eileen Elias Freeman, 1994
Dear Praying Friends,

Well, Chiang Mai is succumbing to hot season yet again (average highs of 95-105 in March and April). It’s definitely not the most wonderful time of the year, but it does remind us of why we’re here as Cool Shade of Life Church’s name came, in part, from a Bible verse that talks about this season (จะเป็นมูลกลางวัน “It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day...” Isaiah 4:6a). Please pray that CSLC will indeed be a spiritual shelter from the heat and storms of life for many Thais!

Praises

✝ Praise God that our Thai teaching times continue to go well. Elaine has picked up teaching the teen Sunday School class at CSLC because she felt burdened to help these young believers grow in the Lord. That means she is doing teen SS and children’s SS every Sunday, while also teaching the women’s group twice a month at our home. Joe continues to meet with one church friend weekly while also teaching adult SS once a month. Pray that these sessions would bear fruit and that we would have the time to prepare adequately.

✝ We are thankful that Joe was given permission to share about our new church-planting team at next month’s Siam Baptist Group retreat. (SBG is a small Christian organization that includes about a dozen churches.) This will be a unique opportunity to explain our plan to pair missionaries with rising Thai church leaders in order to open new fellowships. Please pray for wisdom for Joe as he prepares his talk and handouts.

✝ Praise God that we were able to quickly and smoothly apply for new U.S. passports for all four children last week. Please pray for us to receive the new passports as expected by mid-March so that we can then quickly update the children’s Thai visas before they expire in early April.

✝ Caleb and Jamie continue to do well at school both academically and socially, which is a big praise! The elementary school recently held its first Field Day, at which Jamie tried his hand at some track events. Caleb’s team finished their soccer season by beating the #1 seeded team in the tournament before finishing 4th overall out of 8 teams.

Prayers

✝ Leaders at CSLC have begun one new small group and are making plans to start another, both in unreached neighborhoods. Pray for this effort to bear fruit as the church seeks to share the truths of Christ’s teachings with Thais.

While we accomplished much last month for the new church-planting team and for our trip to the States this summer, there are still a lot of projects remaining, in particular the planning of the team’s two-year training program and preparing sermons, Power Points and other ministry presentations for our visits to seven U.S. churches. Please pray for God to lead this work and for steady progress.

✝ Brittany is doing well in her senior year and is now heading into the final quarter of her high school career. Please pray for her to finish well and for us to do all the work necessary as she prepares to study at Columbia (S.C.) International University starting on August 25.

✝ Last Friday night, Caleb, Jamie and I were just settling in for pizza to close out another school week when the doorbell rang. It was our very shy, elderly neighbor, who promptly told me that his 6-year-old granddaughter, a playmate of Jamie’s, died the day before after a two-month battle with cancer. Phloy had joined us in making Christmas cookies despite not really understanding our foreign rituals. Needless to say, we were stunned. The boys and I quickly put down our pizza and went across the street for an impromptu funeral service held by our neighbor’s church friends. Praise God that Phloy and her family are Christians and that she is now happy and healthy with the Lord, but the grief was/is still very real and heart-breaking. Please pray for Phloy’s family to cling to our God in this time of tragedy.

✝ Elaine’s 2nd grade class at Grace International School held a reading party last month at which the students (and teachers!) were allowed to wear their pajamas – always fun at school. Please pray for wisdom, stamina and patience for Elaine as she finishes the last term of this school year.

✝ Some of you long-time readers of this bulletin may remember that Chiang Mai was hit with unprecedented pollution problems at this time two years ago. Well, the haze is back. The brown murk that enveloped the city in March 2007 has returned this year as forest fires, a drought, slash-and-burn farming, factory smoke and vehicle exhaust create a dangerous miasma across northern Thailand. Most of the region is suffering through pollution levels well above Thailand’s ridiculously high “safe” limits. (Thailand’s unhealthy level is 120+ micrograms of pollution particles per cubic meter, while the U.S. and Europe’s dangerous level is around 50.) We know it’s bad when the mountains that ring the city disappear behind the haze! Please pray for God to provide needed rain to clear out the pollution.

In His love,

Joe, Elaine, Brittany, Justin, Caleb & Jamie
Dear Faithful Family & Friends,

Greetings from Siberia where we’re finally seeing signs of spring! The temperatures are rising, the snow is melting, and *everything is beginning to thaw*. (We won’t go into details as to what “everything” means!) We really don’t know where the winter months have gone and have realized that we’ll have to start planning for the garden out in the village in the very near future.

Going back to December/January, we were blessed to be able to spend the holidays with our two sons in the U.S. We were all surprised at how different it was to be together as adults this time. (*Our boys* are no longer “boys”!) We were both blessed to have the time with them and hear how their lives have changed since being back in the U.S. on their own. We were also very blessed to have time with family and received lots of encouragement from the fellowships in Florida.

While we were in the states for the Christmas holidays, the fellowship we work with in the village had a big celebration. Over 50 people came from the village and 20 came from the fellowship in town to help celebrate the true reason for the season. They had a great time of games and activities and of course food and candy for all. It was great to hear about the festivities and fellowship and to know that the work is continuing to gain momentum. Our hope is that through this outreach, as well as others, we will see more lives changed.

With spring right around the corner, we will again start to build windows for our WOW project (Windows Of Warmth). We have had such a great response with money gifts that we will be able to bless many this coming spring and summer with new windows; more information will follow as we identify those in need and start planning the coming work. Again, we want to thank all of you who have helped monetarily for this project.

We returned to Russia and found we hadn’t missed the colder temperatures! It was -42C our first weekend back in the village; the city was only -35C. Unfortunately, we didn’t have much time to get back into a routine when we had to leave again. During the last weeks of February, we both traveled the Trans-Siberian Railroad into central Siberia for two reasons. The first was for leadership meetings to discuss any problem areas and to share information from different regions across the country. They also looked at the possibilities of going into other regions of Siberia. Secondly, Laura travelled to the region to encourage the ladies and to see if there were any home schooling issues/questions. It was a short visit (3 days) but quite fruitful and insightful. Many workers are attempting to get their temporary residency permits and finding them difficult to obtain in some regions while having no problem at all in others. During the end of April we hope to make a trip to a team serving in another region of Siberia; farther west this time. Again we hope to encourage them in their work, help with future plans and projects, and for Laura to spend time with them on home schooling issues.

**New project for the village:** We are in the process of raising funds to put in a woodshop in the village. The woodshop has several purposes. We hope to train young men with a needed skill so that they in turn learn how to provide for themselves. Our goal is to train them in how to use many different woodworking instruments, hand tools and electric, as well as to teach them some business to help them understand how to make something and sell it. This is a simplified explanation of what we hope to do. We have already raised some funds for this project but are in need of more in order to see this to fruition. We have a building to use; however, renovations need to be made as well as a complete wood working shop put into place. We are hoping to have this operational by next fall, but much of this depends on finances. To help financially with this project, please send your check to Solbon International, Inc. 4 Lupine Cr. Albany, NY 12203 and mark as Wood Shop Project Buryitia. All donations are tax deductable.

**Lost in cyberspace….**

We lost a lot of our emails that we had been keeping from the past several years when our computer decided it had worked long enough for us. If you would please drop us a line by email, we can add you to our address book. It is our desire to stay in closer contact with email as that is the quickest and most economical way to communicate. So please send us a short email to: klwooster@aol.com so we can better communicate with more of you on a regular basis.

Please pray for: Clear understanding as we teach, opportunities to meet new people in the village, the projects to be successful, and continued safety as we travel each week over two hours one way.

Thank you for standing with us and your continued faithfulness!!

**Blessings from Siberia,**

Kevin & Laura

For sending letters and small packages to us you can use the following address (*We love mail from the states.*)

Kevin & Laura Wooster
P.O. Box 62
Ulan Ude, Buryatia
Russia 670042
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>Serving Members and Friends of The First United Methodist Church of Homosassa</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Easter</td>
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**SUNDAY 13**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Faith, Hope, Charity
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**SUNDAY 20**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Stewardship
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**SUNDAY 5**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Faith, Hope, Charity
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**SUNDAY 6**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Faith, Hope, Charity
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**SUNDAY 12**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Faith, Hope, Charity
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**SUNDAY 19**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Faith, Hope, Charity
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**SUNDAY 26**
- 8:30 Work Crew Meeting
- 10:00 Faith, Hope, Charity
- 11:00 Stewardship
- 3:00 Serenity Bible

**MONDAY 27**
- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 10:00 Antique Bible
- 10:00 Sunday Lamentation
- 5:00 Music

**TUESDAY 28**
- 7:00 Lamentation
- 5:00 Music

**WEDNESDAY 29**
- 7:00 Lamentation
- 5:00 Music

**THURSDAY 30**
- 8:00 AA
- 8:00 A-Anon
- 8:00 AA
- 8:00 A-Anon

**FRIDAY 31**
- 8:30 Council Reports DUE
- 10:00 Wise Bible

**SATURDAY 1**
- 6:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out

**SUNDAY 2**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out

**January 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out

**February 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
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**March 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**April 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**May 1**
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**June 1**
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**July 1**
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**August 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**September 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**October 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**November 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**December 1**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
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**Springtime**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out

**Summer**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out

**Fall**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out

**Winter**
- 8:30 Sat. Sisters Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
- 9:00 Mon's Day Out
First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
8831 W. Bradshaw Street
Homosassa, FL 34448

Forwarding Service Requested

We Are A Stephen Ministry Church
Visit our Web Site ~ www.lume.org
Neil Kline, Webmaster

First United Methodist Church of Homosassa
“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

Rev. Mark Whittaker
Pastor

Sunday Schedule
Morning Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11AM
Nursery at all services
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30AM
Methodist Youth Fellowship: 12-2PM

Office Hours: Weekdays
8:30AM to 4:30PM
Office Telephone: 352-628-4083

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Soli Deo Gloria

April 2009