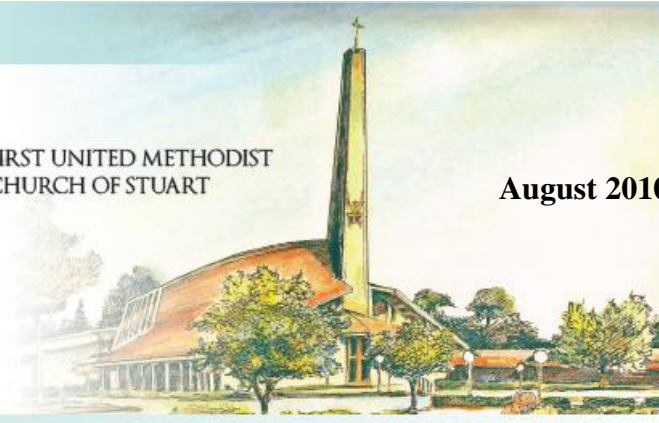


Steeple Echoes



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF STUART

August 2010



A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

"VACATION INSPIRATIONS"

We had a great vacation! My wife, daughter, and a couple of members from the extended family had a wonderful chance to house sit for my little sister down in Costa Rica. It is so beautiful there. The mountains join up with the sea. There are rivers swollen with rain. The jungles are flourishing and verdant. The wildlife is so exotic. Monkeys woke us up each morning. We surfed (or at least I tried to) every day. We even got to see the sea turtles come to the black sand beach to make their nests and lay their eggs.

I told people before I left that one of my goals was to wake up each morning, drink a pot of coffee, read some scripture, and get a quiet heart. By the grace of God, I did. He is very good!

I wanted to get caught up on some reading. To be perfectly honest, I brought a few works of fiction with me. But as I was packing, I reached for a book that I figured I would read if I managed to read through all of the others. I was glad that I brought the book along.

While on vacation, I managed to read: "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection" by John Wesley. As I read it, my heart sang. In this book, Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, wrote down his lifetime teachings, observations, and celebrations of Christian perfection. It is spelled out in a logical and concise way. I was re-reminded of the important emphasis that lives in our Wesleyan heritage. It behooves us to rediscover it ourselves.

What comes to mind when we think of "Christian perfection"? Some tend to think of it as being, well, perfect Christians. These must be the kind of people who never make mistakes. These people are goody two-shoes. They never lose their tempers, never get tempted, never jay walk, and never backslide. They make the rest of us feel guilty.— This is not what Wesley meant when he spoke, wrote, taught, or preached about Christian perfection. Others mistakenly equate legalism with Christian perfection; the idea that we become righteous by following the Biblical laws, rules and regulations. No one has ever been able to live up to the Biblical standards of legalism.

So what is Christian perfection? John Wesley believed that Christians could follow the example of Jesus and grow and learn to love as Jesus loved. As we dedicated ourselves, not to striving, but to loving the Lord our God with all of our hearts, minds, souls and strengths, we could eventually love as Jesus loved. Jesus loved perfectly. His grace and Spirit are available for us to do the same. Thus Christians could love as perfectly as Jesus loves. This is what Wesley meant by "Christian perfection."

Wesley and the early Methodists were convinced that this love was highly motivational. When Christians experienced this love, they found that they wanted to requite it and adjust their lives and living to it. As a matter of fact, they found this love to be transformational. The love of Christ made them want to please Christ. The desire to please Christ led them to conform to Christ. As they grew closer to Christ, they found the desires met not by sin and its' temporary "highs," but by the pure love of Christ. They found that when they were "crucified with Christ," sinful affections died. They found a much greater reward in the love of Jesus. They even came to recognize that sin problems were actually love problems. So they cried out to love Jesus all the more! And as they grew, seasoned, and matured, they found their hearts being transformed by Jesus and His love. Eventually, they reached a point where the only love that existed in their hearts was the love for Jesus.

What were the results of this? Righteousness and holiness. But even beyond these, resulted in more love! Please note the difference! Following rules was not the motivation! Love for Jesus was, and still is, the motivation. And righteousness, or proper standing before God, is the by-product of this perfect love. If you were to ask such a disciple if they were rule followers, they would have told you "no," that they simply love Jesus and ask for grace to love them more.

Wesley was fond of asking Christians if they even intended to be made perfect in this life. He intended that they answer a full and enthusiastic "yes." I guess he knew that they would not likely seek to be blessed of it if they did not thoroughly trust or expect to attain it. So with this in mind, how is it with your soul? How are you responding to the grace of Jesus Christ? Are you growing to love as Jesus loved? Even perfectly?

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF STUART

1500 SOUTH KANNER HWY STUART, FL 34994 {BETWEEN US 1 & MONTEREY ROAD}
PH: (772) 287-6262 FAX: (772) 287-3768 E-MAIL: INFO@STUARTFUMC.ORG WWW.STUARTFUMC.ORG



Any Youth, age 11 - 18, is invited to check out our exciting Youth Group!

Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

Dinner served at 6:00pm (\$2.00), fellowship/games, praise and worship, lesson. Bingo once a month!

We are currently travelling through the books of the Bible with Remix Sixty6, where we have alternating weeks of large group teaching and age specific small groups.

Sunday Night Youth Group

August Schedule



Sunday, August 1— NO YOUTH

Sunday, August 8— Regular Youth from 6-8pm

Sunday, August 15— Rising 6th Grade/Middle School students at church from 6-8pm. Parent meeting of new students at 5pm. Senior High at Story home.

Sunday, August 23— “Back to School” Party from 6-8pm

Sunday, August 29— Regular Youth from 6-8pm. Exciting large group teaching on 2 Chronicles!

“Young Youth” Sunday School

Grades 6-8

This class is taking a break for the summer! Teachers Julie Arrighi and Dian Bush are already planning exciting new curriculum for the fall. The class will begin again on September 12.

The Rising 6th Grade class is meeting through the summer. They are meeting in the library each Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday) from 9:30 to 10:30, with Debbie Llopiz as their teacher.



For more info on the Youth Group contact: Christina Buehler, Youth Director at cbuehler@stuartfumc.org

We had a great week at Leesburg Camp!

Thirty-two youth spent a week at Camp learning how to “Rethink” their faith. It was a time of awesome worship, great preaching and special small group times.

New friends were made by everyone! Thanks, church family, for both your financial and prayer support!



August Happenings!

Meals on Wheels Delivery

Wednesday, August 4
Wednesday, August 11



Youth Group—Sunday, August 15

Rising 6th Grade and Middle School at the church (6-8pm) and Senior High at the Storey home.

Parent meeting for rising 6th grade/new students at 5pm in the Choir Room.

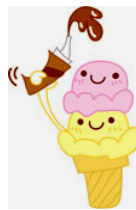
Ichetucknee Tubing — August 20-21

Middle School students will float down the cool, clear Ichetucknee River in North Florida. Year #6 for this trip!



Back to School Party! —

Sunday, August 22



No program...just fun and games! Hamburgers/hot dogs for dinner. Egg toss, shaving cream fight, water guns, ice cream and all the toppings! It's an annual event and it's wild and crazy!

“Equipping Retreat” —
Prepare for the Battle”

Friday, August 27 and Saturday, August 28

Retreat speaker, Charlie Campbell, will be teaching students from all over the county how to share and defend their faith. The retreat will be held at our church.



FUMC Children's Ministry

Donna Lewis—Director of Children & Family Ministry

The Good, the Bad, and the Peaceful

"Starting to argue is like making a crack in a dam. So drop the matter before a fight breaks out"
(Proverbs 17:14, NIV)

As kids are going back to school in August there are a few things that come to mind. New jeans? Football games? Seeing your friends again? Homework and tests? Dreading the hard teacher? Gathering 'round to watch as a fight breaks out?

"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bone" (Proverbs 14:30, NIV).

What better time of year to talk about conflict and getting along and caring about others than the start of a new school year?

"Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1, NIV).

If you could teach your kids just one thing God says about peace, what would it be?

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18 NIV)

If you could equip kids with just one skill that would promote peace what would you choose?

Here are some powerful things about peace (proving that you care more about others than winning an argument) we think God wants all kids to know:

The best way to stop a fight is never to start one. Sometimes, to have peace, you just need to DROP IT. Otherwise, it just like making a crack in a dam (Proverbs 17:14)

Making peace doesn't make you weak. Sometimes you have to GIVE SOMETHING AWAY. Isaac's conflict with the locals over water rights shows us making peace doesn't come from a place of weakness, but of true strength (Genesis 26).

It's better to let go than to get even. Sometimes you have to CHOOSE TO FORGIVE. Jacob was a liar and a cheat, but Esau demonstrated the upside of letting go (Genesis 33).

Just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it. Sometimes you have to GET INVOLVED. If not for the cool, calm wisdom of Abigail, everyone would've paid the price for Nabal's rude, selfish behavior and David's hot-headed reaction (1 Samuel 25).

We will also be personalizing scripture this month as a "faith skill".

THINK ABOUT WHAT GOD SAYS, AND IT'LL CHANGE YOU. (Philippians 4:8)

Rethink 2010

Back Pack Summer Feeding Program



The Children's Ministry Summer Backpack Feeding program began Thursday, July 15 and will continue each Thursday through August 19, 2010. Our children are providing 120 Backpacks of snack foods to underprivileged children each week. In addition, we are creating relationships with new children and adults.

The FUMC children will also be interacting with our mission children through crafts and other projects. Twelve of our children will be partnering for the morning with a "buddy system" as adults work with other volunteer adults. A wonderful first mission experience for our children at First United Methodist Church.

Upcoming Events

August 29, 2010:

2nd/3rd grade class party at the home of Deb and Jason Ravanzo

September 12, 2010:

4th grade class party at home of Deb and Jason Ravanzo

September 2010:

5th grade party (date to be announced)



Preschool Director: Pam Barbour. Ph: 772-287-6265.

We have been enjoying some great summer fun in the Preschool. We will continue our summer themes by learning about the jungle and all of its inhabitants.

We are going to have a week of Circus fun and will even perform our own Circus acts.

August will find us preparing for our "Back to School", which begins on Monday, August 23rd. We still have a few openings for the fall. Please give us a call if you would like to sign your child up for preschool activities and learning the love that Jesus has for us.

Lessons from a Tomb - Part 2

by Pastor Susan Schmidt

PRAY THAT JESUS WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON YOUR LOST FRIENDS.

*UNBELIEVING PEOPLE ARE ALREADY CONDEMNED.

Jesus is pictured repeatedly in the Scriptures as a man of compassion. Only toward religious hypocrites did he ever show his wrath. When Jesus encountered a demoniac, a prostitute, a tax collector; or even a Pharisee with a genuine need or interest in what he had to offer, His heart seemed to break for them. Matthew reflected on Jesus' compassion when he wrote, "When He (Jesus) saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36).

When you're praying for a lost person to be saved, you are praying for someone who truly is a sheep without a shepherd. You can pray confidently for Jesus to deal compassionately with him or her, because He's already proven in His Word that He will.

When Jesus arrived at Mary and Martha's house, He quickly revealed His true heart towards the situation. It didn't take long for Jesus' emotions to surface when He was confronted by all the pain there. His good friends Mary and Martha were grieving. His friend Lazarus had suffered and died. Many of their friends had gathered to share in their grief. John summed it up well when he wrote, "When Jesus saw Mary weeping. And the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled....Jesus wept" (John 11:33,35).

When you're praying for Jesus to be moved with compassion over the plight of a lost person, you're on solid biblical ground. We know about the horrible condition of unbelievers because the Holy Spirit led the biblical writers to record His thoughts on the matter. In other words, everything we know about the spiritual state of the lost we learned from God. He knows better than anyone just what "lost" really means. And He was so concerned about it that He sent His Son to deal firsthand with the problem.

But just what is the plight of lost people? We've already seen that they are dead spiritually. Worse than physical death is the spiritual death that sin brings. Beyond that, however, there are other conditions facing unbelieving people that we need to be aware of and pray against.

* UNBELIEVING PEOPLE ARE SPIRITUALLY BLIND

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, the apostle Paul tells us they are unable to see the light of God's truth.

* UNBELIEVING PEOPLE ARE SPIRITUAL CAPTIVES

The frightening reality is that the same sinister source that blinded unbelieving people did so to control them. Obviously, unbelievers have no idea that they're actually being held captive by the world's most vicious tyrant. In Ephesians 2:1-2, Paul tells us that spiritually dead people walk and live according to the very courses and paths set out by the "ruler of the kingdom of the air"- Satan.

Of all the conditions affecting an unbelieving person, this one may be the most upsetting for a Christian. According to Jesus himself, those who walk through life without Him are living under God's hand of judgment. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:18).

When you pray for the lost people, speak to the compassionate heart of Jesus. Call on the loving and merciful God to move on behalf of captive people

PRAY THAT HE WILL REMOVE THEIR BLINDNESS, SET THEM FREE, AND SECURE THEM IN ETERNITY.

God loves you and so do I,

Love, Susan

Leesburg Men's Retreat

October 22-24, 2010

Rev. Riley Short, Leadership team

Cost for Life Enrichment Center is \$145 per person— includes room, program and meals.

Registration forms are available from Sue Farrow in the church office.

Checks should be made payable to:
United Methodist Men.

Mail to: P. O. Box 93370, Lakeland, FL 33804

For more information visit
www.ummflconf.org/2010%20Men's%20brochure.pdf





Mom's Morning Out

First United Methodist Church
1500 S. Kanner Highway
Stuart, Florida
287-6262

www.stuartfumc.org

What is Mom's Morning Out?

A Christian-oriented cooperative program designed to provide children with learning opportunities and a playgroup. This program also gives moms some free time and encourages them to build relationships with other mothers. Mom's Morning Out is part of the Children's Ministry of FUMC of Stuart.

Classes meet once a week, September through May.

Two & Three Year-Old class: Mondays from 9am—noon.

One Year-Old class: Wednesdays from 9am—noon.

Who Can Belong?

Any mother with a cooperative and helpful spirit, and who has a child that will be one, two, or three years old by 9-1-2010. We have slots for ten children in each class and space is available on a first come, first served basis

Registration Information 2010 – 2011 School Year

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Cost: Non-refundable \$60 fee covers background check and facility charges for the year. (\$10 for each additional child.)

Registration Ends Friday, August 27, 2010

Orientation: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 @ 6:30 p.m.

Classes begin September 13th & 15th

If you have any questions, please contact:

Susan Brown, 832-515-5400 or Donna Lewis,
First United Methodist Church, 772-287-6262 ext. 2218



Quilt Show

Saturday, November 6th in Fellowship Hall from 9:00am–1:00pm

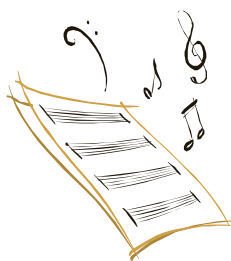
Sponsored by the FUMC Piece on Earth Quilter's & Women's Ministry.

Quilts to be shown are made and/or owned by our church family. Silent auction of quilts donated to and finished by our Quilter's. Admission/Donation \$3.00. All proceeds will go to Caring Ministries.

Note to our church family up north who want to display their quilts at the show in November: We need information on the number and size of quilts you would like us display.

We would appreciate it if you would send us this information by email to Sue Farrow at sfarrow@stuartfumc.org or Barbara Clark at nannyb.clark@att.net

Music Notes



Choir Notes:

The Celebration Choir is continuing to participate in Sunday Worship. All singers are welcome to join the choir with rehearsals at 7:30 and 10:30am for each worship service.

On Saturday, August 29, the choir will have an all day music retreat. Plans are to look over new music for the fall, the dinner theater and the Christmas musical. Anyone interested in singing with our dynamic choir is encouraged to join us for this sneak preview and fall kick off event.

Learn to read music in 6 easy lessons Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Choir Room. Facilitated by Karyn Heath. Everyone is welcome to stay for the class, but you don't have to stay for choir practice. However, it is in practice that we put our new knowledge to work, so you may find that helpful. You do not have to sing on Sundays unless you would like to.

99 for One Praise Team

The 99 for one praise team provides leadership for the 9:30am contemporary worship service. If you would like to audition for the team, please contact Yun Lew at 287-6262 ext. 2222.

The Brass Quintet is in need of a trombone or baritone horn player. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning September 7th. If you are interested, please call the church office at 287-6262.

August Mission of the Month Manna Kitchen

Manna Kitchen continues to be a community outreach for many in our county. Thank you church for your support. Let me share with you what you have accomplished in the past 6 months.

January to June 2010:

Meals:	
Seniors	1,576
Adults	1,543
Children	400
Additional meals (second meals and take-outs)	1,414
Total meals	4,432
Clothing provided	14,675 pieces
Volunteers providing services	1,067

Bless you volunteers for your serving hearts. Bless you members for your donations to feed the hungry. Many families end their day without an evening meal, but with the blessing of Manna Kitchen the hungry are provided with food.

Manna Kitchen is the only place one can receive free clothing, along with small household items. Our families really look forward to this each week. We also keep clothing at the Mission House for those who need it to enable them to attend job interviews. Church, to some this seems like a small task, but believe me, it is not. To clothe yourself for a job interview, and be able to clothe your children, brings forth the light of Christ and the ability to continue on with another day of hard times. You should see the smile on a child's face when he is receiving a very worn pair of shoes—but they are certainly new to him!

I can't say thank you enough for your support. All that we provide through the Mission House and Manna Kitchen is accomplished only through donations. Job well done, church!

I love you and so does God.

Love, Susan



WildFire is a relaxed non-threatening group for anyone in their 20s and 30s who is looking for a fun way to enhance their life with God through interactive Bible studies, activities and fellowship.

Tuesdays 7:00pm at Torch's House (316 Manor Drive)

Our Church Finances General Expense Fund through June 30, 2010 and 2009		
	2010	2009
Revenues:		
General Income	670,696.08	664,727.05
Expenses:		
Conference Expenses	69,404.52	74,476.27
Operating Expenses	558,861.17	454,359.24
Inviting Expenses	3,167.51	4,571.16
Worship Expenses	9,685.58	14,868.02
Discipleship Expenses	40,757.88	46,979.76
Serving Ministry Expenses	<u>7,029.37</u>	<u>800.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>688,906.03</u>	<u>596,054.45</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>(18,209.95)</u>	<u>68,672.60</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	245,840.27	210,136.20
Net assets, end of month	227,630.32	278,808.80

Our Church Family

We wish to extend Christian Sympathy to:

- The family of Patricia Krause
- Dr Ed Geary on the death of his siter
- Kay Krout on the death of her brother

Memorials In Loving Memory of:

Beth Downey

Given by:
Larry and Judy Clark

Phil Jordan

Given by:
Robert and Barbara Schnabel

Thank You

FUMC Church Family:
I recently returned home from having knee replacement. I am very thankful that I am getting along well. I was pleased to have a nice visit and prayer from Pastor Short and a visit from Vinnie. The arrangement of altar flowers I received was beautiful.

Gratefully, Lois Meisel

Anniversary Wishes

Congratulations to J R and Arline Steadman who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on July 18th

Congratulations to Bennett and Mimi Boulden who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on July 4th

Congratulations to Larry and Elaine Anderson who are celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary on August 12th

Congratulations to Al and Dorothy Schink who are celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 15th

Congratulations to Del and Betty Crisp who are celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary on August 19th

Congratulations to Ed and Julie Staple who are celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary on August 25th

Congratulations to Bob and Joan Anderson who are celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary on August 25th

Congratulations to Paul and Char Might who are celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 28th

Congratulations to Bob and Helen Soney who are celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary on August 28th

Cooking for Kindness



Cooking for Kindness is getting ready to start back up again.

Mark your calendars for August 26. We will meet in the kitchen and begin promptly at 10am.

This month we will be making Shepherd's Pie.

Ingredients are needed, so please help by bringing some of the following:

- 20 lbs ground turkey
- 15 lbs mixed vegetables
- 10 boxes of instant mashed potatoes
- 20 jars/cans of beef gravy

Any questions please call Christine Blount at 772-463-5453 or email tryingtosurvive@att.net.

XYZ's & Prime Timers (Over 55's—singles and couples)

We will meet for dinner on Thursday, August 19th at the Palm City Grill, 3208 SW Martin Downs Blvd., Palm City. We will meet at 4:45pm for the early bird special with time for fellowship. For reservations, please call Sue Farrow in the church office at 287-6262. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, August 18th.



UMW Summer Luncheon

Ruth Circle will host the Thursday, August 26th summer luncheon at Pietro's on the River, on Hutchinson Island (formerly The Fairways).

Please call Linda Lease at 286-9967 for details and menu choices before August 19th. The total cost will be \$16.00, which includes entrée (choice of three), beverage, tax and tip. We will carpool and leave from the church at 11:15.



Monthly Church Prayer Meeting
Thursday, August 26th at 6:00pm
in the Lounge.

Find out more: visit www.stuartfumc.org

Sunday Worship:
Traditional at 8:00 and 11:00am
Contemporary at 9:30am.
Nursery available during services.
Sunday School at 9:30a.m.

Tuesdays:
Manna Kitchen
(Free Community Meal from 5-6:00pm.)

Wednesdays:
Family Dinner from 5-6:00p.m.

Fridays:
Celebrate Recovery 7:00pm

Church Office: (772) 287-6262 Preschool: (772) 287-6265
Mission House: (772) 781-0223 (Mon-Fri: 9am-12 noon)

If you wish to receive Steeple Echoes by emails instead of
a printed copy, please email: gteed@stuartfumc.org

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Maintenance Staff:	call or email the church office
Steve Blanton, Trudy Eggleston, Kevin Perry, Tony Ruela	