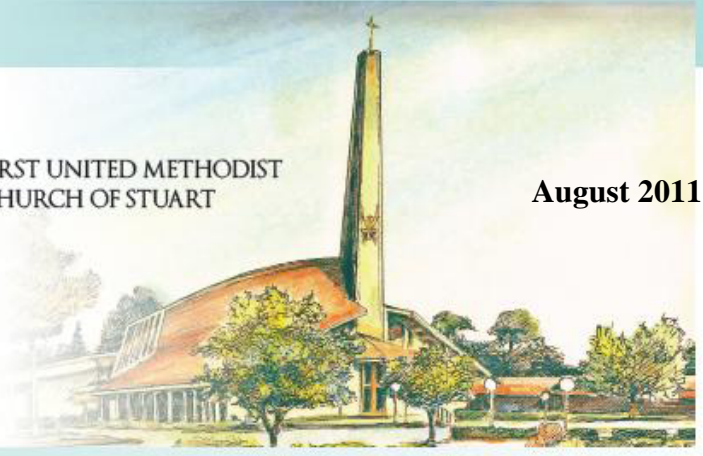


# Steeple Echoes



FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF STUART

August 2011



## A Few Short Words... by Pastor Phillip Short

Last month marked an anniversary for me. During the last week of June I completed my sixth year of ministry here at the church and have subsequently started my seventh. Crossing this marker makes me think of new ideas, some of which are already in the works, as to where we are going as a church. What follows is a condensed list with some brief descriptions.

1. **Simplicity**— A couple of months ago I wrote an entire front page article on simplicity. I even asked if the church itself had become consumed in the opposite of simplicity; which is complexity. We are bringing about a simple approach to the offerings of our discipleship ministry and a simple course to follow that will mature us, one and all, through the faith.

2. **A Simple Process**— During one of our Strategic Planning Team Meetings a question was asked: “What is the pathway that a first time visitor would take to becoming an involved member of the church?” We decided to simplify and implement this.

A. Part of this implementation process involves how we greet visitors, how we seat visitors, and how we communicate with them. This is why there has been such a big emphasis on the “Connection Cards” lately. We appreciate the people who have been complying. Those who are refusing to comply, please know that we still love you, and we’re asking for Kingdom’s sake that you help us out with this.

B. **New Member’s Class**—This is an obvious part of moving people through from visitor to involvement. Once we establish communication, it makes sense to gather people and move them toward the commitment of membership. We have decided to put together a one-time “New Member’s Class.” Our next class is scheduled for Saturday, August 27th.

C. **Discipleship**—Graduating from the New Members Class will mean moving toward involvement. Our new members will sign up for our already well-developed discipleship ministry which is geared up for the Fall kick-off. New members will also be invited and encouraged to plug into the other facets of the church.

3. **Goal Setting Task Force**—The last meeting of The Church Council gave the green light to the Nominations Committee to form a task force to set goals for the areas covered by the “Five Portals of the Methodist Way.” The task force is charged with identifying the areas that will become foremost priorities and will also identify the strategies in fulfilling them.

4. **Campaign**—We still carry some debt on the price of the South Kanner Highway property. We will need to concentrate on this and tackle it. In keeping with the theme of *simplicity*, I would like for this to be a simple campaign. This will not have the glitz and expense of past campaigns. It will simply be straight forward and we will rejoice in the accomplishments together.

5. **Executive Committee**—We are intent to bring together the people of the executive committees (the trustees, finance, and pastor/staff-parish relations committees) and facilitate inter-communication.

These are a few of the areas where we will be concentrating as we address the institutional side of the church. But until then, let’s continue to be the church. Let’s continue to walk with Jesus. Let’s continue to be His salt and light. Let’s continue to be His ambassadors. Let’s continue to grow in discipleship and make disciples in the process. Let’s continue to enjoy His consolations! Let’s continue to point the wondering to salvation in Jesus! Let’s continue to encourage the weak, celebrate those who are strong and strengthening and put loving arms around the grieving and the discouraged. Let’s continue to be lighthouses!

In Jesus’ name!  
><> Love!  
Pastor Phillip

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!

**Summer Sunday School! 9:30am**

- ◆ *Rising Sixth Grade is currently being taught by Debbie Llopiz in the library*
- ◆ *Young Youth "Summer" Sunday School (rising 7th, 8th and 9th grades) This class will take a break until it resumes in the fall.*

*Thanks to Debbie and Margie for teaching our students this summer!*



Youth Group in....



Sunday, August 7 — Regular Youth Group from 6-8pm

Sunday, August 14—Back to School Party!

Sunday, August 21— Regular Youth Group from 6-8pm

Sunday, August 28 — Regular Youth Group from 6-8pm

**What's Happening in August!**

**Meals on Wheels Delivery**

**Wednesday, August 3**  
**Wednesday, August 10**



**Mall at Wellington Green**  
**Friday, August 5**

Limited space on bus....sign up early!

For more info on the Youth Group contact Christina Buehler, Youth Director at [cbuehler@stuartfumc.org](mailto:cbuehler@stuartfumc.org) or at 772-287-6262 (church office)

**Two Great Weeks!**

ReCreation Experiences...Fifty youth and adults headed to the mountains of North Carolina during the week of June 18-25 to do home repair with this great ministry. It was our 10th consecutive year of serving with ReCreation Experiences and it was a wonderful week of work, fellowship, worship and fun! Our group bonded in a great way and grew closer to each other and to God. As always, we give God the glory for safe travel and for safety while working.



Leesburg Summer Camp...Forty-three students spent the week of July 4-9 at Warren Willis Camp at Leesburg, FL The theme of the week was "Grounded in the Reality of Christ," and, indeed, the students spent a week learning that we live in a broken world, but the reality is that God is good and is with us always. There were some powerful lessons and small group times that truly reinforced this theme. It truly was a great week at Camp!



Thank you, church family for your continued prayers on our behalf! There is no doubt that God is pleased by and honors the prayers of a faithful congregation.



**Sunday, August 14**  
**6 to 8pm**

Dinner (no charge), messy games, super soakers, mega ice cream Sunday!

It's fun, it's crazy, it's messy....it's our biggest party of the year!

Parents, we need your help....contact Chris if you want to be part of the ac•on!

**YOUTH GROUP**

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

**Dinner served at 6pm (\$2.00), fellowship/games, praise and worship, lesson.**

**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.**

# Children and Family Ministry

Donna Lewis, Director



## Just Desserts – August 2011 Virtue - Grace

Lost. What comes to mind (or stomach) when you think of that word? *Lost*, the TV show? The scarf you hope will show up in lost and found? That feeling you get just thinking about navigating traffic in a big city where they drive on the "wrong" side of the road? When was the last time you were good and truly lost? No GPS, no map, on your own in London, in the forest, in the parking lot looking for your car, in calculus class ... No matter where you're lost, or how you got there, it isn't good.

Jesus told a story about being lost. In fact, He told at least three stories about finding yourself in that predicament.

There's the one about the lost coin. A valuable coin goes missing. Its owner turns her house upside down looking for it. She lights the lanterns, looks under the furniture, and sweeps every corner till she finds it.

There's the one about the lost sheep. A man has 100 sheep. One of them goes astray. Because each one is important to him, he leaves the 99 safely in the pasture and takes off after the one. He tracks the sheep and rescues it from certain, inevitable danger.

Then there's the one about the lost son. A man has two sons, one of whom comes to him, demanding his portion of their inheritance. After getting his due, he takes off for a foreign land and squanders everything. As he sits in the mess he's created for himself, he finally comes to his senses and decides to return home, sorry for the pain he's caused others. The father would've been justified in kicking him out, in sending him back to that pigsty, in dishing up just the opposite of what he gave his son.

No doubt about it, that young man's just desserts was punishment. However, that's not how Jesus ended these stories. Each one concluded with a party: "Hey, y'all come celebrate with me! I've found my lost coin/sheep/son!"

What was the point Jesus was making with these stories? Forgiveness, hope, self-control, joy, love? Sure. Being the Master Teacher, His parables typically had multiple layers and nuances. But maybe in their essence these stories are about grace, the fact that God gives us good things that we don't deserve. Because of sin we don't **DESERVE** His love, His consideration, or salvation. Because of sin we're lost, separated from our heavenly Father. It doesn't matter whether we're like the coin, separated from Him through no fault of our own (knowing nothing about Jesus); whether we're like the sheep that wandered away, through inattention or ignorance; or whether we're like the son, who actively rebelled. All of us need to be rescued. All of us can be the recipients of His good and perfect grace.

If you could give kids a solid, foundational understanding of God's grace, what would you tell them?

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost"*  
(Luke 19:10, NIV).

**Jesus came to rescue everyone.** God loves all people. He loves us so much He goes on a quest to find us, searching for us until we are found. (Week 1, Luke 15:1-10)

*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him"* (John 3:17, NIV).

**Everyone needs to be rescued, even me.** That's why God sent Jesus: to be our Rescuer, the only one who can save us. God wants each of us to repent, to make a U-turn away from the road to destruction toward life. (Week 2, Luke 15:11-20a)

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus"* (Romans 3:23-24, NIV)

**God will always love me more than I can imagine.** God loves us unconditionally, which means we don't have to be or act a certain way for Him to love us. We can't **DO** anything to make God love us more. We can't do anything to make God love us less. (Week 3, Luke 15:11-24)

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"*  
(John 13:34-35, NIV)

(rethink 2011)



**Thanks so much to all the adults and children who worked at Indiantown. This is a blessed local mission. We look forward to our continued relationship with Mr. Sam Velasquez and the children.**  
Miss Donna



**Sunday, August 14, 2011 - We will have special prayer for our school teachers as they head back to school for another year and you will have the opportunity to take the name of a child to pray for during the school year.**

**Coming September!!!!  
K-5<sup>th</sup> 252Basics Explosion with**

# Shockwave!!!!

## A Note from Beth Murchison

The greatest honor we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of His love. A love like His deserves a response. We can offer Him praise. We can serve others in the overflow of that love. You are loved so bask in that thought. Read 1 John 4:7-12.

During my recent visit home many of you asked how my first year in seminary went. Thank you. After all the transitions of moving alone, entering higher education, and learning my way around a new city, I can capsule my first year by saying I have spiritually matured. And with that said, the journey of spiritual maturity continues and I welcome it. I have learned so much more about God and His miraculous intimate ways in which He cares for us.

Part of my learning, too, includes how to come back home and visit well. My time at home was so brief I was not able to visit with everyone I had hoped to spend time with. I left Stuart driving back to Atlanta in the tension of sadness by not enough time to visit with more of my friends and church family juxtaposed to the joys and blessings I received from you all. Thank you for your warm and loving embrace of welcoming me back into the community of my church home.

I continue to pray for blessings on Stuart First UMC as you seek God's vision for your ministry and that others will see Jesus in you and will draw closer to Him as their Lord and Savior. May God richly bless each of you as you lean on and trust in Him for your every need. He is faithful. Please pray for me as my second year in seminary is quickly approaching – that I will learn the Scriptures well and remain faithful to God and His calling on my life.

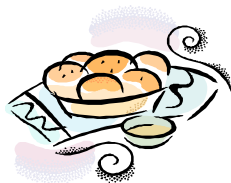
In His love, Beth

Beth Murchison  
1514 Sheridan Road, NE, Apt 1414  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
772-285-7204  
bpmurc@aol.com

## Wednesday Nights

Wednesday, September 14th we will begin our fall season discipleship classes. A brochure with a registration form will be available in your Sunday bulletin at the end of this month.

Plan to join us for Wednesday night dinner between 5:00-6:00pm in Fellowship Hall before your class. From September 14th, the cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3 for children/youth. (Due to rising costs this is a small increase in price from last year, but usually includes a salad, full entrée, dessert and a drink.)



The weekly menu is printed on the sign up form in your bulletin or call the church office at 287-6262 with your reservation.

## 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 2011:

<b>Meals:</b>	
Seniors	1,439
Adults	1,117
Children	387
<b>Total:</b>	2,943
<b>Additional meals:</b>	
Second meals	340
Take-outs	907
Total meals	4,190
Clothing provided	15,275 pieces
Volunteers providing services	509

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

### 99 for One Praise Team

99 for One leads our 9:30am contemporary worship service! Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. If you would like to audition for this ministry, please contact Yun Lew at 287-6262 (ext. 2222) or at [ylew@stuartfumc.org](mailto:ylew@stuartfumc.org)



August will be a great month. We will enjoy ending our summer activities with the Circus (and lots of "clowning around"). We are looking forward to welcoming new students and catching up with those that have been gone for the summer. The teachers will be hard at work making their classrooms especially inviting for the start of our new school year on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

We still have a few openings remaining in our school. If you are interested, please call 772-287-6265.

## Annual Conference Report Lay Leader Report 6/27/11

I was honored to represent our church as the lay delegate to the 2011 Florida Annual Conference held in Tampa June 1-4. The theme was "Living as Peacemakers". Approximately 2000 Florida United Methodists gathered to learn how to change the world through peacemaking in their lives, their churches and their communities. There was specific emphasis placed on two dimensions of Christ's peace: peace through Christ, reconciling us with God; and reconciling peace between us and others and all God's creation.

At this year's Conference, members also focused on selecting lay and clergy delegates from the Florida Conference to the 2012 General Conference which will be in Tampa on April 24-May 4 and the South-eastern Jurisdictional Conference to be held July 18-20. Pastor Short was elected as an alternate delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference.

Clergy appointments for 2011 were also approved and I am pleased to announce that Pastor Short was re-appointed to our church for his 7<sup>th</sup> year. One major change in our District, the Atlantic Central District, was the appointment of Rev. Dr. Gary Spencer, formerly from FUMC Orlando, as our new District Superintendent, replacing Rev. Mike Oliver who was appointed as pastor at FUMC of Spring Hill.

I was fortunate to be present when the District's United Methodist Men awarded this year's G Ross Freeman Award to Pastor Short. This award recognized Phillip for his dedication to the spirit and substance of the United Methodist Men, the men's retreats, and the men in his church and community.

We should be proud of our church as a vital member of Florida Methodism.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Blount  
Lay Leader



### Manna Kitchen Volunteers Needed

Manna Kitchen is in need of three kitchen helpers to prepare salads, cut veggies, etc. on Tuesdays beginning at 1:00pm.

Please call Larry Anderson at 772 546-9357 if you can help.

### Thanksgiving Dinner Coordinator Needed

We need a volunteer to manage, organize and coordinate our Thanksgiving Dinner program.  
*All kitchen help and volunteers are in place.*

For more information, please call Larry Anderson at 772 546-9357.

## Our Church Family

### We wish to extend Christian Sympathy to:

- Shirley and Melissa Gliedman on the death of husband and father, Paul Gliedman
- Mimi Boulden on the death of her husband, Bennett
- Robert Bogenrief on the death of his daughter
- The family of Charles McClure

### Memorials In Loving Memory of:

**Michelle Coutant**  
Given by Helen Gray

### Anniversary Wishes

Congratulations to J R and Arline Steadman who celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 18<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Larry and Elaine Anderson who are celebrating their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 12<sup>th</sup>

### Anniversary Wishes

Congratulations to Al and Dorothy Schink who are celebrating their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 15<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Del and Betty Crisp who are celebrating their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 19<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Ed and Julie Staple who are celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 25<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Bob and Joan Anderson who are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 25<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Paul and Char Might who are celebrating their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 28<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Bob and Helen Sloney who are celebrating their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 28<sup>th</sup>

### Leesburg Men's Retreat October 2011

For more information visit

<http://www.ummflconf.org/2011%20Men's%20Brochure.pdf>

Checks should be made payable to:  
United Methodist Men.

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



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF STUART

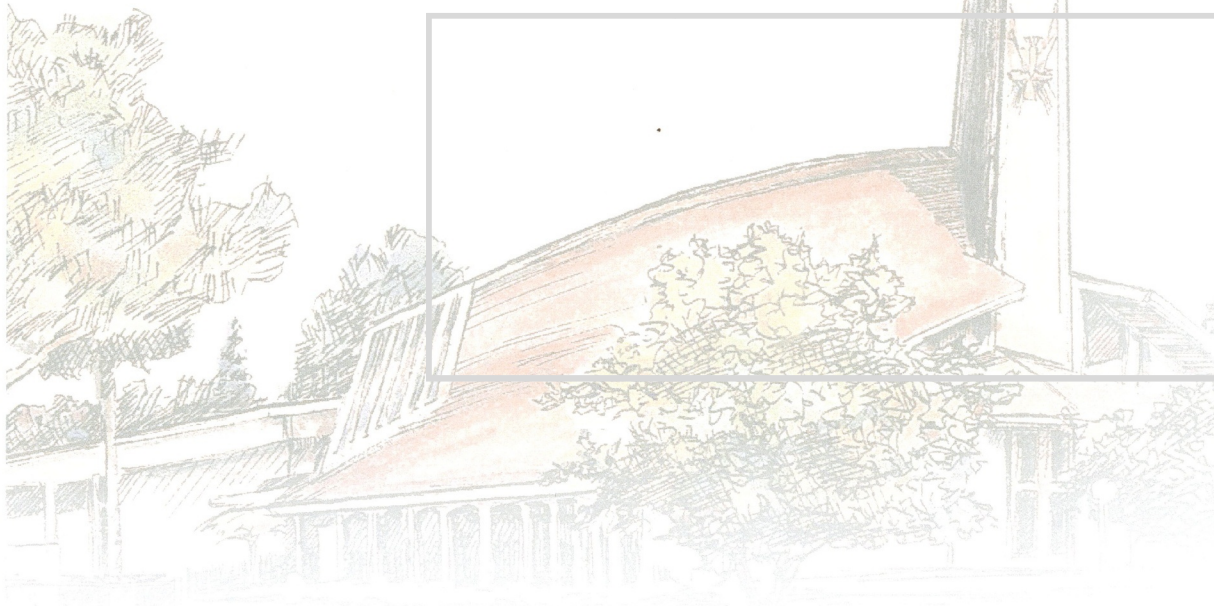
STEEPLE ECHOES

P.O. Box 539

STUART, FL 34995

“RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED”

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STUART FL 34995  
PERMIT NO. 14



Find out more: visit [www.stuartfumc.org](http://www.stuartfumc.org)

## Sunday Worship:

Traditional at 8:00 and 11:00am

Contemporary at 9:30am

Nursery available during services.

Sunday School at 9:30am

## Tuesdays:

Manna Kitchen

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

## Wednesdays:

Family Dinner from 5-6:00pm

(Reservations by Monday at noon, ph: 287-6262)

## Fridays:

Celebrate Recovery 7:00pm

## Church Staff

### Pastor Phillip Short

pshort@stuartfumc.org

Senior Pastor

### Dr. Susan Schmidt

sschmidt4949@yahoo.com

Administrative Pastor/Director of Missions

### Dee Blount

dblount@stuartfumc.org

Fellowship Ministry

### Yun Lew and Sherry Rasmussen

ylew@stuartfumc.org

srasmussen@stuartfumc.org

Music Ministry

### Donna Lewis

dlewis@stuartfumc.org

Director of Children & Families Ministry

### Chris Buehler

cbuehler@stuartfumc.org

Youth Director

### Alex “Torch” Kumpf

akumpf@stuartfumc.org

Ministerial Intern

### Pam Barbour

pbarbour@stuartfumc.org

Preschool Director

### Office Staff:

Linda Warren

lwarren@stuartfumc.org

Geraldine Teed

gteed@stuartfumc.org

### Maintenance Staff:

Steve Blanton, Trudy Eggleston, Kevin Perry, Tony Ruela

call or email the church office

**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](mailto:gteed@stuartfumc.org)