

# A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

## HONOR CAMPAIGN ANNIVERSARY



The "Honor Campaign" is now two years old. Long time members of the Stuart First United Methodist Church will know that the Honor Campaign is a fund raising effort to pay for the renovation of the sanctuary and to pay off the property on south Kanner Highway.

The renovations to the sanctuary were completed in December of 2008. The payment of the property is the plank of the campaign that remains. The leadership of the Stuart First United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that The United Methodist Foundation has agreed to loan us the remaining \$1,200,000. This will be loaned to us at 4.25%. This is a great opportunity for our church.

We are going to have a gathering to mark the two year anniversary of The Honor Campaign. You are invited to come to the sanctuary on Sunday evening, June 13th at 7:00 p.m. The choir will sing for us. There will be a brief presentation. Then we will dismiss ourselves to the fellowship hall for dessert. The Chef tells us that he has a special surprise in mind for dessert that evening.

This will be a great event for those who have supported The Honor Campaign. It will also be informational to those who have come into the life of the church over the last few years and have not had a chance to participate. It will help all of those who have not gotten started with The Honor Campaign and would like to get involved.

Come on out and be a part of this!

## ANNOUNCING the SEMINARY EDUCATION FUND!

Every now and then, God puts a desire in the heart of one of His disciples to serve Him in a very special way. People who receive that desire describe it in a number of different ways. Some feel a compulsion, others speak of an inspiration, and others tell of receiving a strong desire to preach. The church generally refers to this experience as getting a "call to ministry."

Receiving a call to the ministry can be exciting at times. Sometimes it can be frightening. This is especially so in The United Methodist Church. A Methodist preacher can know that they will be sent to make disciples in a warm-hearted community, but there is a high expectation to study and earn a Master's Degree before launching out into professional ministry.

It is wonderful when local churches step up to help people from within their own congregations who have received the call of God into ordained ministry. I was blessed by the generous hearts of the Coral Gables First United Methodist Church and their giving through scholarships to help me make my way through seminary. I love that great church for several reasons, including the fact that they helped formally educate me. The Stuart First United Methodist Church intends to help its' future seminary students by establishing **The Seminary Education Fund.**

Beth Murchison will be the first person to be helped by the Seminary Education Fund. She plans to enter The Candler School of Theology at Emory University this coming fall. Alex "Torch" Kumpf is in the Candidacy Program for ordination as we read and will eventually be setting out for a theological education. I believe that there are others who have a similar call and are yet to realize it. The Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee is committed to being on the lookout for people who appear to be wrestling with the call to ministry. Future people will be blessed by the help that the fund offers.

You can start giving to the Seminary Education Fund right away! When you do, please know that you're helping invest in the furtherance of The Kingdom of God and you're touching countless lives.