

Steeple Echoes

January 2009

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1500 S. Kanner Hwy, Stuart, FL 34994 (P.O. Box 539, Stuart, FL 34995)

Church Office (772) 287-6262 Fax: (772) 287-3768
 Preschool Office: (772) 287-6265 Mission House: (772) 781-0223
Visit our new website: www.stuartfumc.org
 Senior Pastor: Phillip Short

A Few Short Words... by Pastor Phillip Short



What will the new year bring? It will bring a new structure and emphasis. It is entitled "The Methodist Way."

What is "The Methodist Way"? It is five areas that we as Christians and Methodists concentrate upon so as to make a proper and effective response to Christ. These five areas are:



PASSIONATE WORSHIP—We as believers of Jesus Christ should be prepared to worship Him with a zeal and a passion, out of a sense of honesty, humility, and true thanksgiving. The recently completed renovation of our sanctuary should help in this area immensely.



RADICAL HOSPITALITY—We as believers in Jesus Christ should welcome all people to the new life in Jesus Christ. Beyond mere welcoming, we should care for people in the way of responsible Christian discipleship. So radical hospitality will welcome people on Sunday morning, but it will also visit the infirmed in the hospital throughout the week.



INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP— The Stuart First United Methodist Church will continue its emphasis on The Great Commission by making disciples of Jesus Christ. We get to know what Jesus said, what He taught, what He offers, and how He loved. Torch and the rest of the Discipleship Work Area have put together an impressive offering of courses for this winter. Read about it in this edition of The Steeple Echoes.



SALTY SERVICE— This is another expression of missions. The Stuart First United Methodist Church has a great tradition of being strong in this area with our Mission House, Manna Kitchen, and our missions emphasis in the youth, Band of Brothers, and United Methodist Women. This involves serving others and working for justice and earth care (ecology).



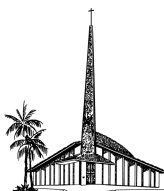
EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY—This implies giving away money. And I know that these are hard times. So the Stuart First United Methodist Church will understand extravagant generosity in terms of Christian service and volunteerism. This is why the Administrative Council has voted to form "E.V.O.T." This stands for "Every Volunteer Organizational Team." Yes, we have volunteer coordinators that want to see everyone who has a calling and a passion get involved in the service of the church. Please look to the website: www.stuartfumc.org and take the volunteer survey to get involved.

So there you have the five portals of the Methodist Way. Please know that our church staff is now organized around these portals. Also know that we will be making sure that all of our sermons, programs, ministries, and outreaches are built on these portals. We will be measuring our successes and failures in this area. We will even introduce a series of sermons so that we can introduce these to the congregation.

I am hopeful and enthusiastic about this new season in the life of the church!

><> Love! Pastor Phillip

**Sanctuary Renovation
Final Comments**



And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful (Revelation 21:5).

This scripture refers to a time after our Lord returns but he is still in the business of renewal and renovation right now. And that is just what He has done and I am not just talking about the building and carpet and pews and sound system. There is renovation at work in our church and we all need to grasp it and share it. We spent several months in Fellowship Hall and I believe this was perfectly planned by Our Heavenly Father which resulted in a special time of intimacy for our church body. The perfect time and the perfect place for us to Fellowship in the Hall together. He's an Awesome God. This past dedication Sunday was beyond awesome, you could feel it, it was like Christmas morning as a kid. We are back in the Sanctuary and it felt like a huge family reunion- and it was of sorts. Let's live in it, let's celebrate it every Sunday, let's worship the Lord and let's treat it with respect and reverence as Julian said.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalms 100:4-5).

On behalf of Julian, Steve and Carl and the whole team who put it together, thank you. Our Sanctuary has been renovated- thanks be to the Lord.
Mike Gehron

Our Church Family

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your wonderful outpouring of love we have received during this time of loss. For the cards, expressions of sympathy, phone calls and so much more, thank you.

Thank you to all those who stood by us with prayers and support during the short hospital stay. Thank you to Pastor Susan for her compassion and untiring help at the hospital.

To all those who brought delicious food so abundantly and to Esther Fitzgerald for Saturday lunch—thank you so much. You took a big load from our shoulders. To Denny, Phoebe and Tabitha Storey for their food delivery services and their help at the memorial service. To Dee Blount for the many details and loose ends she handled. To the office staff for answering our questions, phone calls and their wonderful help in service arrangements. Thank you to the Pathfinders class for their contributions of food and to all those who furnished such a beautiful meal after the service.

A special thank you to Pastor Phillip for his compassionate care at the hospital and afterwards. His help in planning and conducting the memorial service, for the beautiful way he put our disjointed thoughts into coherent memories. To John McIntyre for his beautiful music; to Beth Mankin and the Choir for their willingness to take time to prepare and share such meaningful and lovely music.

Also, thank you for allowing our family to be part of the re-dedication of the sanctuary. It was an honor and a privilege. We are thankful to all of you for all that you are, for all you have done and continue to do. Thank you especially for your prayers. You are appreciated far more than you know.

God bless you,
Mary Bridget,
Janice and Steven Brown and family.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
I couldn't write enough notes to thank everyone individually for all the prayers, flowers, visits and phone calls during my recent hospitalizations. How awesome is God's love when displayed through His children toward one another. I was blessed to have known the bedside ministry of Pastor Jack Bridget, whose visits always left me with hope. I was also blessed that in this last trip when Jack couldn't come, he sent Gary Porter who had gone through what I face physically and was able to relieve my anxiety as well as pray with me. Again, thank you all so much. With much love,
Sandy Connell.

We wish to extend Christian Sympathy to:

- Virginia Smith and Sheri Tschenkel on the death of husband and father, Sherrill Smith
- Mary Bridget on the death of her husband, Rev. Jack Bridget
- The family of Shirley Economan
- The family of Adele Cisco

In Loving Memory of:

Rev. Jack Bridget

Artie Timmerman
Martha Adkins
Charlie McClure
Roberta Bleier
Evelyn Nelson
John & Ann Ritter
Jim & Jean Eagen
Jack & Betty Sizemore
Warren & Marjorie Geary
Mitzi Leyser

Bridget Visitation Team

We are in the process of organizing a new volunteer ministry as the "Bridget Visitation Team" - a special way to serve our church and honor the memory of Rev. Jack Bridget for his years of unselfish service. For more information please contact Debbie Llopiz or JR Steadman on the Every Volunteer Operations Team (EVOT) at 287-6262

Staff Parish News

Most of you are aware that due to financial difficulties we had to reduce the total salaries of our staff by \$200,000. Many lives have been affected by our decisions and we keep these individuals in our hearts and in our prayers. You may not be aware that during this process Pastor Short requested that we lower his salary as part of the solution. After considerable discussion we agreed. These are difficult times and call for sacrifices by all of us. Phillips's willingness to make this sacrifice is a sign of his leadership, honesty, integrity and desire to keep this church financially and spiritually sound. We presented the salary at charge conference and it was accepted.

We are pleased to announce that Sherry Rasmussen will be joining us to lead the Celebration Choir during rehearsals and on Sunday mornings. Sherry was the assistant to Mark Stallings when he was here, and is very excited to be back at our church. Sherry was certainly an answer to prayer, and we thank God for her willingness to serve in this time of need.

After careful consideration we have chosen Yun Lew be the director of the praise and worship team. We felt it was important to have someone on staff to work directly with Pastor Short to prepare for services. Yun will also work with Sherry Rasmussen in this manner. Her official title will be Interim Director of Music. We are grateful to Yun for her willingness to step up to these added responsibilities.

As we head into the New Year, I will be leaving as chairman. Alice Purkey will be replacing me. We also have four new members coming on. Please keep these people in your prayers; the decisions they are asked to make can be very difficult. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and I thank all of you for your kind words especially during some of the very trying times. I am so glad I said "Yes" to serving on this committee. It has given me the opportunity to really get to know Pastor Short, (I consider him a friend, not just my pastor). I have gotten to really know the staff, (they are a wonderful group of people, with such serving hearts). I have been mentored and blessed by the other members of this committee. I think we have all grown spiritually. Certainly God's hand was in the choice of people He placed on this committee to serve for such a time as this. Most of all I thank you, the community of faith at First United Methodist Church of Stuart. Because of you my love for this church has grown more than I ever dreamed possible.

Sincerely,

Dian Bush, Chairman	Alice Purkey, Co-Chair	Gary Porter
Gordon West	Michelle Deen	Andy Sills
Howard Foell	Blanche Wells	Janette Wray

Music Ministries



Our Celebration Choir is looking for more singers. No experience necessary. Open to all interested in singing. Rehearsals Tuesdays, 6:30pm.

Adult Handbell Choir is looking for more ringers. No experience necessary. Rehearsals Wednesdays, 6:15pm.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the church office at 287-6262 and ask for music ministry.



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

Sunday Night Youth 6-8:00pm

Now that the Sanctuary renovations are done, we can set up games and activities in the Fellowship Hall and we'll begin serving dinner once again! Starting on January 11 (no Youth on January 4) Cathie McCarthy will be cooking for us each night and dinner will cost \$2.00/person. Also our "Quiet Room" (Room 1) will be in operation for board games and "calm" hanging out! As usual at 7pm we'll have a time of praise/worship and a lesson! Check it out! Bring a friend!

For more info on the Youth Group see the Christian Life Ministries brochure enclosed or contact: Chris Buehler, Youth Director or Alex "Torch" Kumpf, Youth Ministry Assistant at 287-6262 or email cbuehler@stuartfumc.org / akumpf@stuartfumc.org

Visit the Youth page at www.stuartfumc.org

The New Year

by Donna Lewis
Director of Children and Families Ministry

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds....Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 11: 18-19

Parents, something to think about! Most parents have goals for their kids. Do your goals for your kids match up with the goals they have for themselves? Try asking some of these questions to find out: **1. If you could do anything this New Year, what would it be and why? 2. What are you good at doing? 3. What has made you good at that thing? 4. Is there anything that you would like to either change or improve? If so, what is it and how can you change or improve? 5. What is one thing you can do this year that will help you know God better and please Him?**

Children and Families Ministry offers many opportunities for the New Year. Read about them in the enclosed *Christian Life Ministries* brochure.

The Book of Proverbs has 31 chapters just as the month of January has 31 days. If you are looking for a special family devotional to start 2009, please consider reading the Book of Proverbs.

Our Church Finances General Expense Fund Through November 30, 2008 and 2007

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Revenues:		
General Income	1,238,946.04	1,347,484.11
Expenses:		
Conference Expenses	36,458.09	135,440.65
Operating Expenses	1,099,289.85	1,198,043.58
Inviting Expenses	42,075.22	56,978.57
Worship Expenses	21,621.01	23,621.11
Discipleship Expenses	93,251.92	111,083.71
Serving Ministry Expenses	<u>1,687.05</u>	<u>5,747.18</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,294,383.14</u>	<u>1,530,914.80</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>(55,437.10)</u>	<u>(183,430.69)</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	239,787.77	367,975.72
Net assets, end of month	184,350.67	184,545.03

The Finance Committee have obtained approval of the 2009 budget of \$1,343,999.81 at the December 8, 2009 Administrative Board meeting. We are very excited to see the outpouring of God's blessings in our church in 2009.

Mission of the Month Covenant Missionaries



In this new year, our church continues to have covenant relationships with four missionaries through the General Board of Global Ministries, UMC. We have agreed to support each of these missionaries with \$2,500 per year minimum:

- Connie DiLeo - Community Partners (COPA) in the Dominican Republic
- Dan and Sieja Terry - Community-based health care in Afghanistan
- Rev. Carol Crawford - Quessau Mission, East Angola Conference (Africa)
- Mark Lemons - Henderson Settlement, Red Bird Missionary Conference, Frakes, KY

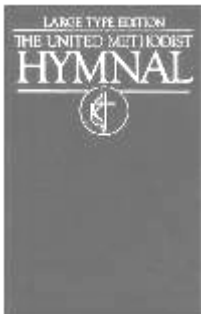
In addition, we support the church development ministry of Rev. Peter and Heidi Zunic in Split, Croatia (through Global Mission Partners, UMC) with \$1,000 per year.

You can help deliver the Good News message of salvation in Jesus' Name with your prayers and giving. Checks may be made payable to FUMC marked "Covenant Missionaries."

The Blood Mobile will be in the church parking lot on Sunday, January 25, 7:30a.m.- 12:30p.m.

For an appointment to SAVE A LIFE, please sign up in the narthex on January 4, 11, 18 or call Nancy Fuller at 286-3698. Please donate if you can.

New Hymnals



New hymnals have been purchased for the sanctuary. If you would like to help defray the cost to the church, you may purchase a hymnal for \$18.50 and give it in honor or memory of someone.

Please fill out this form and mail it or give it to Sue Farrow in the church office. Please make the check payable to FUMC marked "hymnal."

Name _____

Phone # _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

United Methodist Women's Circles

Faith: 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30a.m. in the Lounge.
Leader: Ada Caby.

Hope: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 5:30p.m. in the Lounge. Nursery available. Leader: Michelle Deen.

Ruth: Tuesday, January 6th, will be a Field Trip to Indiantown Hope Rural School. We will meet at the Church at 9:30a.m. and carpool to Indiantown. After the tour of the school we will have lunch at the Seminole Inn. For reservations: please call Brenda Daly-Horvath at 286-4604 or Kitty Saal at 287-4714.

Susanna: Monday, January 5th at 6:00p.m. in the Lounge. For information please contact Pat Langhorne at 221-7550

Priscilla: Thursday, January 8th at 9:30a.m. in Room 1. We need a new leader and we must plan programs for 2009.

Find out more about First United Methodist Church, Stuart at www.stuartfumc.org

Sunday Worship: Traditional at 8:00 and 11:00am; Contemporary at 9:30am.

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

Wednesdays: Family Dinner from 5-6:00p.m. Classes at 6:15pm (see brochure this issue)

Fridays: Celebrate Recovery: Dinner at 6:00pm.; Worship at 7:00pm; Small Groups at 8:00pm

The pastors and staff of First United Methodist Church, Stuart wish you a blessed New Year 2009.

First United Methodist Church
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