

TO THE POINT

*A letter from Rev. Stephen Hoffman,
Pastor of First United Methodist Church
of Palmetto*

www.fumcpalmetto.org

February, 2010

Dear Friends,

When does a story become a song? I am not much of a musician or a singer but I know enough that the notes of the scale can easily be sung as “Do-Re-Me-Fa-So-La-Te-Do.” Even if we are not very musical most of us remember the song from “The Sound of Music” where Julie Andrews taught the Trapp children to sing using the notes of the scale.

I recently learned that attaching those sounds to the notes of the scale went back much farther to a medieval hymn that I had never heard of. It was a hymn about John the Baptist with eight verses, and each verse began with the succeeding note of the scale. In other words the first verse began with “Do,” the second verse with “Re,” the third verse with “Me,” and so on. The musical scale repeats itself with each octave but each octave is higher. From what I am told, in musical terminology this is called *solfege*.

So it is when our stories become a song. So it is when our stories are gospel stories. They have a way of taking us to a new place of hope on our spiritual journey. That is the way it is with God’s people. Enclosed you will find details of a new Bible study called “Crossings”. In order to fully understand where we are and where we are going we also have to understand where we have been. That has always been true of God’s people. This study can help us see this both as individuals and as a community of faith.

Here are the details:

“Crossings: God’s journey with us.”

(A Bible study in eleven sessions.)

- ◆ “What is God calling us to do?”, “Where is God leading us?”, and “What is God’s will for us in this matter?” are all important questions for us to ask.
- ◆ The Bible is one of God’s precious gifts to the church. It contains stories of how people of faith have struggled with these questions in their lives.
- ◆ “Crossings identifies the eight large stories of scripture. These core stories will help us grasp the heart of the Bible’s witness and help us see our lives in the light of God’s witness.
- ◆ “Crossings” includes Bible study and faith practices that are aimed at opening each of us to hear and respond to God’s call.

◆ “Crossings” will be offered at three different times. Choose the one that best fits your schedule: Sunday at 9:30 AM, Sunday at 6:00 PM, Wednesday at 4:15 PM. The schedule below shows the dates for the various sessions.

- ◆ Each participant will want a Journal that will be used during each session. The cost for these is \$15.00. The Pastor will be happy to make arrangements if requested.
- ◆ This study is appropriate for those with very little experience in studying scripture and will also be helpful to those who are seasoned as well.
- ◆ Please feel free to contact the Pastor with any questions at church, 941-722-1812 or stephen_palmetto@earthlink.net.
- ◆ Signing up in advance will be very helpful.

To help you choose how you may participate the following is the schedule for the study:

Session	Theme	Bible Basis	Sunday	Wednesday
One	How is the Bible true?	Genesis 1:1-2:3; 3-11	February 7	February 10
Two	God’s Call	Genesis 12:1-9; 17	February 14	February 17
Three	The Exodus	Exodus 3:1-15; 7-11; 12-15	February 21	February 24
Four	Sinai Covenant	Exodus 19:1-6; 10:1-17; 24:3-8; Deuteronomy 6:1-9	March 7	March 3
Five	Promised Land	Numbers 21:4-9; Deuteronomy 8:1-20; Joshua 6:1-25; 24:1-24	March 14	March 10
Six	Davidic Rule	2 Samuel 7:4-16; 2 Kings 17; 25; Zechariah 8:3-13	March 28	March 24
Seven	Jesus’ Family Tree	Ezra 1; 4; Nehemiah 4; 13; 1 Macabees 1-2; 4; Matthew 1:1-17	April 11	April 7
Eight	Jesus’ Life	Matthew 5:1-16; 6:5-13; 7:24-27; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 1:1-4; 4:16-20; John 1:1-18	April 18	April 14
Nine	The Cross	Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 9:21-25; 23; Hebrews 2:10-18	May 2	April 21
Ten	Resurrection Life	Matthew 28; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 23:50-24:12; John 20-21	May 9	April 28
Eleven	Run the Race	Matthew 18:11; Romans 12:9-21; Hebrews	May 23	May 5

I would like to participate in the Crossings Study: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____	I would like to attend (circle one): Sunday Morning Sunday Evening Wednesday Afternoon
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The Second Annual Antiques, Collectibles & Art Appraisal Event will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Bring your item(s) to Fellowship Hall between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Daniel Soules and his assistants will be appraising collectibles, decorative art and silver (no guns, jew-

elry or stamps, please). The cost is \$10 for one item or three for \$25. All proceeds will benefit the ministries of FUMC-Palmetto. If you come in the morning you can also enjoy a pancake breakfast hosted by the United Methodist Men. They will be serving from 8:30-11:00 AM.

LENT begins on Wednesday, 17 February. Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM. Our Theme for Lent this year will be *Praying for Enough*.

SCOUT SUNDAY 2010 will be observed on February 14. We are blessed in this church to sponsor a very fine Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack. They both have some very enthusiastic and dedicated leaders. We will be recognizing and honoring them during worship this Sunday.

Always More Room for Love Mission Trip is being organized. the Team will travel to the Dominican Republic to be in mission with the orphanage of Hogar de Ninos. Please contact Lisa Edington for more details.

Jeanette Quesenberry is organizing the **Comfort Meals Ministry**. The purpose of this ministry is to respond with Christian love and hospitality to people in our fellowship who are temporarily unable to fix meals for themselves. As we are able, this ministry will provide a comfort meal to try to ease the burden of church members recovering from an illness or just home from the hospital. If you would like to be a part of this network of comfort and care please call Jeannette at 729-7391.

Thank you for all the ways we serve Christ together here in Palmetto.

Grace and peace,

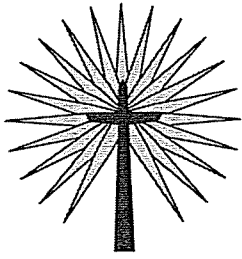
Stephen

We wish a Happy Birthday in February to

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| 2/1 - Hope Chasey, Anna Maria Kroll, Annie Tresca | 2/17 - Frances Clayton, Dortha Hamsher |
| 2/2 - Hazel Ford, Dorotha Poling | 2/18 - Edward Jennings |
| 2/3 - Doris Jean Cruise | 2/20 - Jim Windle, Tom Young |
| 2/4 - Del Neumann | 2/21 - Joyce Alspaugh, Jim Klepfer, Mabel Reichert, Virginia Sawdy |
| 2/5 - Howard Bischoff, Susan Bischoff | 2/22 - Jim Conklin |
| 2/7 - Allison Clements, Chris Keogh | 2/23 - Sandy Brasfield, Harold Emminger, Page Guthrie, Virginia Wetmore |
| 2/8 - Ann Marshall, | 2/24 - Kathy Pecht |
| 2/9 - Ron Buchanan | 2/26 - Karen Grant, Calvin Leader |
| 2/13 - David Jones | 2/28 - Daniel Soules |
| 2/14 - Stan Mettling | 2/29 - James Killingsworth, Jr. |
| 2/15 - Rose Leader | |
| 2/16 - Dan Limberg | |

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in February.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2/3 - M/M Bob Crossman | 2/16 - M/M Richard Barber |
| 2/6 - M/M Jim Klepfer | 2/17 - M/M Bill Cruise |
| 2/8 - M/M Ron Touchton | 2/18 - M/M Bob Thompson |
| 2/10 - M/M Bill Thomas | 2/27 - M/M Mark Polson |
| 2/14 - M/M David Edington | |



First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

330 11th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

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Return Service Requested

We are instruments of God called to be neighbors in this community and world through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on quality worship, spiritual growth, and effective service.

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Senior Pastor
Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Music Director/Organist
Mary Shields

Pianist
Michele Jurgensen

Administrative Assistant
Noni Hammerstrand

Receptionist
Betty Sharp

Custodian
Lyn Smith

Church Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Phone: (941) 722-1812

Fax: (941) 723-0082

Email:

fumcpalmetto@yahoo.com

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei is a Latin term meaning Lamb of God. It represents the risen Christ who triumphs over death. In John 1:29, John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The Lamb carries a white resurrection banner with a cross of red. The banner, representing the body of Christ, is attached to a cruciform staff, representing the cross on which Christ died.

