

First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

THE FLAME

NOVEMBER, 2007

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.



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this Halloween will be past, and we will be in the month of November. We will have turned our clocks back, and we will be looking toward

Thanksgiving.

“Harvest of Joy”

As part of my time set aside for prayer I have been reading a Psalm a day. This morning (October 29) I read Psalm 126. In my Bible this Psalm is titled, “A Harvest of Joy.” It speaks of the outpouring of spontaneous laughter and exuberant joy that gushes forth from a people who experience the abundance of a harvest after a time of great difficulty and real lack.

Our American tradition of Thanksgiving is also rooted in such circumstances. The Pilgrim settlers had endured a time of risky shortages and significant loss. When they shared the abundance of the harvest with their native American neighbors they were acknowledging that their abundance was not just the result of their own efforts but, as the Psalm says, “the LORD had done great things for them.”

Gratitude is giving with thanks.”

We live in far different circumstances than the pilgrim settlers and are even further removed from the harvests of the people of Israel, but the spiritual principles expressed here are just as relevant to us today.

Our theme in ministry this month will be “Gratitude is giving with thanks.” I how you catch the spirit of gratitude and join us in claiming the vision that, “The LORD has done great things for us and we rejoiced.” I want to call your attention to several special times of celebrations and observations here at church.

Observance of All Saints Day

We will observe All Saints Day on Sunday, November 11. This is delayed a week from its traditional time to coincide with the sermon in our series on The Apostles Creed “I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints.” The Wesleyan Handbell Choir will introduce our time of worship, and there will be a time of remembrance where the names of church members, family, and loved ones who have died in the last year will be read. The legacy of those who have gone before us is a rich source of inspiration and encouragement for us.

Harvest Sunday

November 18 our Altar will be decorated with your donations of food. The Glory Group organizes this annual ministry that expresses God’s love to families with children in our community. Working with Palmetto Elementary School 15 families are provided with enough food for a week while their children are on vacation.

Thanksgiving Community Meal

Our Hispanic Mission will lead us in preparing and serving a community meal on Thanksgiving Day. This will take place in the parking lot of our church. We will prepare the meal the evening before (November 21) and serve on Thanksgiving Day. This is an outreach of love as a gift to all members of our community. You are invited to join in the time of preparation and serving.

Family Promise ministry of hospitality to families begins.

“Family Promise” is a community ministry to families in difficult circumstances that are in need of shelter. There was an article in September’s Newsletter (available at www.fumcpalmetto.org). At a recent meeting we learned that there are at least 823 homeless children in Manatee County. We are joining together with nine other churches (Continued on Page 4)



Family Promise

“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:13). A few months ago, we volunteered to serve as a host congregation in Family Promise of Manatee County, which is a network of churches working together to help families move beyond the temporary crisis of homelessness in their lives. At present, nine churches have volunteered to serve as “hosts” and nine more are willing to help out as support congregations. Each host congregation will open its doors for one week at a time to provide shelter, meals and love for up to five families that have been identified by Family Promise. Trinity United Methodist Church will be the hosts for the first week, which will be November 18-25.

Our opportunity to practice true hospitality is coming on Sunday, November 25, when we receive up to five families who will spend their evenings in our building for that week. As only

the second congregation to serve as hosts in the new Family Promise program, we have a wonderful opportunity to help set the standard and show what real Christian love can be through the accommodations, meals and support that we will provide to our guests.

In the near future, you will be given the opportunity to volunteer to help during the week we serve as hosts. Opportunities include obtaining supplies, helping with setting up the rooms, working with the meals, serving as evening hosts and overnight hosts, and more. Please carefully consider getting involved and think about how you can best help. A volunteer orientation session will be held prior to our “host” week.



— Bob Marble



Confirmation Class Off to a “Fortnightly” Start

Confirmation Class is meeting every other week. It began October 3 and so far the topics have been “Prepare for the Journey: Advent”, “Celebrate the Birth: Christmas”, and “Grow in Faith: Epiphany.”

“Why do Confirmation?” is a good question. There are at least three reasons:

- 1) To help young people make a commitment to become disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 2) To prepare to make a meaningful affirmation of faith.

- 3) To help prepare for a lifetime of discipleship. The class is being led by Dr. Christine Hoffman with assistance from Pastor Stephen. Wendy Marble is helping the class in making personal banners and Tim Mercurio is also assisting.

The class consists of Allie Clements, Josh Edington, Josh Furman, Lindsey Guess, Lura Beth Keogh, Carly Mercurio, Eddie Mercurio, Heather McGuire, Sierra Sutton, Shelby Teat, and Dianna Ward.

In November the class will meet on November 14 and 28.



THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

As the holidays quickly approach, help us reach out to those in our community who need to feel Christ's love and hope.

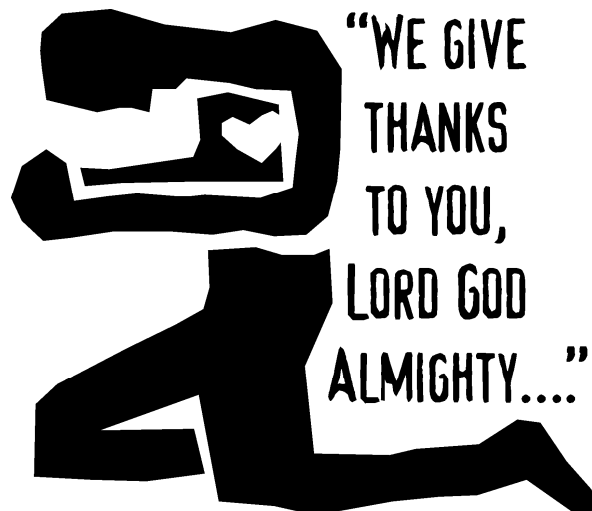
Please help the Glory Group provide food baskets to 15 community families by donating the following non-perishable food items:

Instant potatoes
 Stuffing mix
 Canned vegetables: green beans, sweet potatoes, corn, peas, carrots, red beans, black beans, pinto beans, black-eyed peas, etc.
 Canned fruit: peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce, cranberry sauce
 Canned meats: tuna, ham, corned beef, chicken, Spam, salmon
 Pasta: spaghetti, macaroni and cheese
 Rice (both instant and long-grain)
 Spaghetti sauce, Velveeta and Cheeze Whiz
 Instant lunches: Spaghetti-Os, ravioli, ramen noodles, soup, etc.
 Breakfast items: boxed cereal, instant oatmeal, breakfast bars, pop-tarts
 Peanut butter and jelly
 Crackers, cookies, tortillas

Cooking oil
 Flour, sugar, corn meal
 Aluminum turkey roasters (disposable)
 Aluminum foil and plastic wrap

Leave your donations on the altar through the week and on Sunday. Food baskets will be built on Monday, November 19, and delivered on Tuesday, November 20. You may also make a cash donation toward perishable groceries such as turkeys, eggs, butter, milk, cheese, lunchmeat, hot dogs, bread and fruit. *Make checks payable to FUMC and indicate "Glory Group Food Baskets" in the memo line.*

Your donations will help to provide a 6-day supply of food to children who depend upon the free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs at Palmetto Elementary School.



REVELATION 11:17, NIV

From the Pastor - continued from Page 1

in Manatee County who desire to be a part of the solution to end homelessness in our community. Our Church Council has voted for us to be a Host congregation. That means that we will take our turn in hosting up to 14 people for overnight shelter in our church on a rotation basis with the eight other churches. We have been asked to be second in line after Trinity United Methodist Church in Bradenton.

Is this a stretch for our church? Yes, it is! There will be a Day Center at Central Christian Church in Bradenton. Palmetto Drive-In UMC, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and Ellenton UMC have offered to partner with us. Our week of hospitality will be from the evening of November 25 to December 2. Bob Marble and Lyn Smith have agreed to share leadership. Please read the additional article in this newsletter.

When we remember that our religion began with a family for whom there was no room at the inn, we are eager to see what blessings God has in store for us.

Stewardship Drive in November

This past Sunday we were blessed to receive five more new members at the morning worship service. At our afternoon Charge Conference we also received seven people from our Hispanic Mission into membership in the United Methodist Church. Whenever new people are received into our fellowship the entire congregation says, **"With you, we renew our vows to uphold it (the church) by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service."** It is especially vital that we all do more than pay lip service to these vows.

I want to ask you to give special attention to

the stewardship letter that will be mailed to you later this month. Your pledge card for 2008 will be included, and we ask you to either bring it with you to worship on November 18 or mail it to the church office.

The last several months our Finance Committee has dealt several times with some significant shortfalls when giving was far less than our regular expenses. We are very grateful that in response to sharing these circumstances with the congregation some people went the "extra mile" with some significant contributions, but we cannot take that for granted. Last week the Finance Committee needed to access some reserve funds that the church is fortunate to have. They are very concerned that it is possible that those reserve funds will be exhausted by the end of the year.

"Sowing in tears."

Writing about the giving of others is not my favorite thing to do as a Pastor. I do it with great humility realizing that it is a very personal subject with all of us. In prayer the leadership of our church will give consideration to their personal level of giving, and I pray that their willingness will also inspire you. Returning to scripture, over and over we read of God's promise that shared sacrifice can result in realizing the abundance that God offers. Psalm 126 offers the promise, "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy." I pray that we will know you will know that joy in your lives during this month of gratitude.

My gratitude is always giving thanks for all that God is doing in the life of our church.

With love and friendship,

Stephen



Thoughts for Veterans' Day November 11, 2007

From Abraham Lincoln's second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up

the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

We remember those who have served our country with prayers and gratitude.



On Sunday, October 28, we were pleased to welcome the following new members into our congregation.

Jose Luis Fuentes

Elverado Galindres &
Kenia Sanchez
2004 - 2nd Avenue E., #B-3
Bradenton, FL 34208

Barbara Hersh
3035 Kiwi Place
Ellenton, FL 34222
722-1686

David Lopez
905 - 18th Ave. W.
Palmetto, FL 34221
565-1326

Salvador Macias &
Emidia Popoca
1715 - 17th Ave. Dr. E.
Palmetto, FL 34221
722-8024

Rick & Kathy Pecht
10 DeSoto Ave.
Palmetto FL 34221
717-303-5015

Sirenia Sanchez
2004 - 2nd Ave. E., #B-3
Bradenton, FL 34208

Dickey Stuckert
330 Peace Manor
Palmetto, FL 34221
721-3928

Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Come & Celebrate With Us
Thanksgiving Day ~ Noon to 4:00 p.m.
at FUMC-Palmetto

This joint outreach event is being hosted by our congregation in partnership with our Hispanic Mission.

Dinner will be prepared in our kitchen on Wednesday evening, November 21 - turkey donations and volunteers are needed.

There will be live music and lots of good food!

Please contact Lyn Smith, Giovanni Palacios or the church office for more information.

November Birthdays



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 - Hans-Erik Nielsen | 24 - Marilyn Benroth, Doug Drayton, Jean Seney |
| 3 - Harry Doyle, Louie Jurgensen, Judy McIntyre | 26 - Vickie Kaklis |
| 4 - Wayne McIntyre | 29 - Jayne Ballard, Jeri Murphy, Carolyn Parker |
| 6 - Ruth Bandeen, Bonnie Scott, Doris Turner | 30 - Jillian McCreadie |
| 7 - Happy Dilley, Christine Hoffman, Vivian Nielsen | |
| 8 - Chris Marble | |
| 9 - Ted McClary | |
| 10 - David Bischoff, Sydney Thomas | |
| 12 - Howard McVay | |
| 14 - Betty Moore | |
| 16 - Bill Kaklis | |
| 17 - Alyson Haynes | |
| 18 - Matthew Maus | |

& Anniversaries



- | |
|-----------------------|
| 7 - M/M Doug Drayton |
| 8 - M/M Ed Gibel |
| 22 - M/M Tony Seney |
| 23 - M/M Bruce Furman |
| 27 - M/M Larry Parker |



Finance Committee

Announces Stewardship Drive

As we approach the 125th Anniversary year since the founding of the First United Methodist Church of Palmetto, we are proud of the many things that this congregation has accomplished over the years. These accomplishments are the result of great faith in God as well as the commitment and hard work of our membership. This is a great legacy and one which we can and will continue to build on. To do this, we must be financially strong with solid financial commitment from our membership.



The Church Council has approved a budget for next year that provides for continuing support of both our local and distant ministries. These are

important commitments. *To achieve this budget, we ask that you, as a member of this church, prayerfully consider whether you are willing to increase your giving to the church in 2008.*

Harvest Sunday at the church will be on November 18 this year. You will receive pledge cards prior to Harvest Sunday, and you will be asked to return your pledges to the church for the worship service on that day.

You will hear more about the church's missions and financial obligations in the weeks ahead. We look forward to "harvesting" our members' pledge commitments on that date to keep our church strong and in the Lord's service throughout 2008.

Sunday Schedule

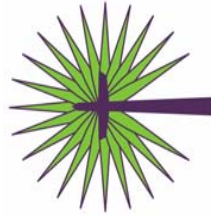
- 8:30am-Worship
- 9:30am-Sunday School
- 10:45am-Worship
- 7:00pm-Hispanic Worship

Wednesday Schedule

- 4:15pm-Children/Youth Hand Bells
- 4:30pm-Adult Bible Study
- 4:45pm-Combined Children's Choir
- 6:30pm-Chancel Choir

5:30-6:30 p.m.
 1st Wednesday of the Month:
 Fellowship Pot-Luck Dinner
 Bring a covered dish to pass

2nd & 3rd Wednesdays
 of the Month:
 Fellowship Dinner
 Light Supper
 Please Make a Reservation



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PALMETTO

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00a-Men's Breakfast Team 6:30p-Hispanic Prayer 7:00pm-Hispanic Bible Study 7:00p-Finance Comm. 8:00p-AA	2	3 6:30p-Hispanic Worship
4 Communion See sidebar for Sunday Schedule 9:40a-New Member Class 12:00p-1st Sunday Lunch 6:30p-PMY	5 8:00a-Prayer Team 10:00a-AI-Anon	6 Election Day 4:00p-Adult Hand Bells	7 See sidebar for Wednesday schedule 3:45p-Thrift Shop Board 5:30p-Fellowship Pot Luck Dinner 8:00p-AA	8 7:00a-Men's Breakfast Team 6:30p-Hispanic Prayer 7:00p-Hispanic Bible Study 8:00p-AA	9	10 6:30p-Hispanic Worship
11 All Saints' Day Observed See sidebar for Sunday Schedule 9:40a-New Member Class 6:30p-PMY	12 8:30a-Prayer Team 10:00a-AI-Anon	13 10:00a-Sunshine Group 4:00p-Adult Hand Bells 7:00p-Board of Trustees 7:00p-Cub Scouts	14 See sidebar for Wednesday schedule 2:30p-Staff Meeting by Hispanic Ministry 5:30p-Fellowship Dinner by Hispanic Ministry 8:00p-AA	15 7:00a-Men's Breakfast Team 6:30p-Hispanic Prayer 7:00pm-Hispanic Bible Study 8:00p-AA	16 UMW Fall Bazaar Set-Up in Fellowship Hall	17 8:00a-4:00p-UMW Fall Bazaar 6:30p-Hispanic Worship
18 Harvest Sunday See sidebar for Sunday Schedule 9:40a-New Member Class 6:30p-PMY	19 8:00a-Prayer Team 10:00a-AI-Anon 7:30p-Glory Group in Fellowship Hall	20 4:00p-Adult Hand Bells 7:00p-Cub Scouts	21 See sidebar for Wednesday schedule 4:00p-Thrift Shop Board 6:00p-Prep for Community Thanksgiving Dinner 8:00p-AA	22 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed 8:00p-AA	23 Church Office Closed	24 6:30p-Hispanic Worship
25 See sidebar for Sunday Schedule 4:00p-Church Council 5:30p-Contemplative Prayer 6:30p-PMY	26 8:00a-Prayer Team 10:00a-AI-Anon	27 4:00p-Adult Hand Bells 7:00p-Finance Comm. 7:00p-Cub Scouts	28 See Sidebar for Wednesday schedule 2:30p-Staff Meeting 8:00p-AA	29 7:00a-Men's Breakfast Team 6:30p-Hispanic Prayer 7:00p-Hispanic Bible Study 8:00p-AA	30	



First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

330 11th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

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Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Sunday Evening Hispanic Worship 7:00 p.m.

November Sermon Series The Apostles' Creed

Senior Pastor
Rev. Stephen Hoffman
Music Director/Organist
Mary Shields

Pianist
Michele Jurgensen

Administrative Assistant
Noni Hammerstrand

Church Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Phone: (941) 722-1812

Fax: (941) 723-0082

Email:
fumcpalmetto@yahoo.com

Sunday, November 4
"I believe in the Holy Spirit"
John 14:15-26 ~ Acts 2:1-4
Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Sunday, November 11
Observance of All Saints Day
"The holy catholic church, the communion of saints"
Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Harvest Sunday, November 18
"The forgiveness of sins"
Psalm 130 ~ 1 Corinthians 5:18-21
Dr. Christine Hoffman

Gratitude Sunday, November 25
"The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting"
Revelation 21:1-8 ~ 1 Corinthians 15:35-49
Rev. Stephen Hoffman