

# *TO THE POINT*

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

[www.fumcpalmetto.org](http://www.fumcpalmetto.org)

September 20, 2010

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Dear Members and Friends,

## **Celebrating our Fruitfulness**

I am grateful for the leadership of our congregation that has already started preparations for our annual Charge Conference. This yearly meeting will be held this year on **Tuesday, 26 October in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a covered dish fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Meeting at 6:30 p.m.** This meeting is open to all Members of the church.

“So what happens at a Charge Conference?” those of you new to the United Methodist Church might be asking. Several items are always on the Agenda:

- The Pastor reports on “Where I see God at work in and through our Church.” Official membership statistics are presented including worship attendance, number of new members, and a membership audit.
- The Finances of the Church are reviewed. Since the Pastor is a member of the Annual Conference, specifically the Clergy Compensation for 2011 is voted on. Also the Apportionments are presented for 2011. Apportionments or Connectional Giving is the “fair share” that all United Methodist congregations are asked to give for the financial support of the ministries of the Annual Conference and the world-wide missions of our denomination. The United Methodist Church is recognized around the world for being in mission, responding to suffering, and making disciples for Jesus Christ. Our Connectional Giving gives us the opportunity to participate in this global ministry.
- Locally Lay Speakers are approved for the next year. This church is blessed with a very gifted corps of lay speakers, and we are grateful for their leadership.
- The Lay Leadership for this congregation is elected for 2011. Each of the Administrative Committees and Ministry areas is blessed with gifted leadership, and this is the time their willingness to serve is affirmed by the membership of the church.

In an age of increasing accountability our Annual Conference has also added some specific ways for us to measure our effectiveness at making disciples. These will be presented as **Missional Vital Signs**:

- **Passionate Worship:** Average weekly worship attendance.
- **Radical Hospitality:** New Members joining by Profession & Reaffirmation of Faith.
- **Intentional Discipleship:** Average in weekly discipling groups.

- Salty Service: Number of worshippers who serve in the community each week.
- Extravagant Hospitality: Total Giving and 5 of giving to others.

**We hope to have a good turnout for this important time together!**

### **World Communion Sunday**

**Sunday 3 October** we will observe World Communion Sunday with a special worship service. We want to especially recognize all those who contribute and volunteer with our Food Pantry. We include the statistics in this newsletter so you can see how many people our Church is able to serve. It is impressive, but as Pastor I am even more impressed by the grateful and joyful attitude of everyone who serves. We are not just giving food to those in need in our community, but you are doing it with great love in the name of Jesus. That makes all the difference in the world!

This Sunday we will also recognize Bread for the World. We heard about this very effective ministry at our Annual Conference. We heard Rev. David Beckmann, Executive Director, give a challenging message of real hope and specific actions that we can all take to end hunger and extreme poverty in the world. It is a challenge that asks us to be willing to take the next step in our ministry for others in the name of Jesus. We will have a special liturgy that day. I hope you will make a special effort to be in worship as we celebrate this special communion service.

### **Palmetto Men to attend Men's Retreat**

October 22-24 six of our United Methodist Men will be attending the Men's Retreat at the Life Enrichment Center. The theme this year is "Ministering 'In Jesus' Name'" and it features two outstanding speakers. Rev. Riley Short is known for his folksy storytelling that proclaims the gospel in a compelling way and Bishop James Swanson from the Holston Conference is known as a dynamic speaker that both recognizes and respects a broad diversity of perspectives. Last year's attendees really enjoyed the men's fellowship and great experience of being part of a men's fellowship praising God together.

### **All Saints Day is October 31**

This special annual worship service is dedicated to remembering all those who have gone before us in the faith. We will have a special reading of names of church members, family and friends who have died in the last year. Our most recent church member to pass away was our beloved Marie Shelley. She inspired all of us by her love and faith. Dean shared this poem, and I want to close by sharing it with you.

When I come to the end of the road  
 And the sun has set for me  
 I want no nights in a gloom-filled room,  
 Why cry for a soul set free?  
 Miss me a little but not too long,  
 And not with your head bowed low,  
 Remember the love that we once shared.  
 Miss me. . .but let me go.  
 For this is a journey that we all must take.  
 And each must go alone.  
 It's all a part of the Master's plan,  
 A step on the road to home.  
 When you are lonely and sick at heart,  
 Go to the friends we know,  
 and bury your sorrow in doing good deeds.  
 Miss me. . .but let me go.

I am grateful to serve Christ in partnership with each of you here in Palmetto,

**Stephen**

**From the Finance Committee:**

As we prepare the budget for 2011, the Finance Committee is thankful to our many faithful members who have continued to support our church throughout the year. Looking forward to next year, one of our highest priorities is to pay 100% of our apportionments to the Florida Conference. Many of our members might be surprised to know that our church is the only Methodist church in Manatee County that has not paid full apportionments in any of the last five years.

Our relationship with the United Methodist Church is central to our identity. Through this relationship we participate in ministries and missions across our state, nation, and around the world. Locally, this relationship helps fund our Food Pantry Ministry, provides support for the Hispanic Mission founded in our church, and enables us to be active in nurturing new congregations. This connectional giving is a portion of the regular budget of every United Methodist Church.

We look forward to adopting a budget for next year that continues with the many missions our church supports both locally and outside of our immediate area and which supports the important work of the Florida Conference.

Rick Barber  
Finance Committee Chairman



**We wish a Happy Birthday in October to . . . . .**

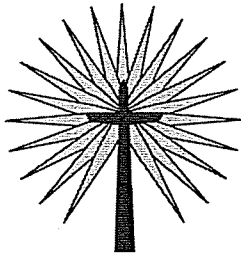
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|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 10/2 - Lindsey Gordon                                   | 10/17 - Conchita Palacios              |
| 10/5 - Frank Wolfe, Jr.                                 | 10/19 - Ruth Leonard                   |
| 10/6 - Doug Shaw, Sharon Taylor                         | 10/20 - Coby Gaulien                   |
| 10/8 - Jacob Elston, Linda Kubecka,<br>Mickey Sepa, Sr. | 10/21 - Penny Roberts                  |
| 10/9 - Ted McClary                                      | 10/23 - Roberta Greiner, Annabel Russo |
| 10/12 - Jane Touchton                                   | 10/24 - Jean Swihart                   |
| 10/13 - Bill Thomas                                     | 10/27 - Bob Thompson                   |
| 10/15 - Martin Lawson                                   | 10/28 - Newt Greiner                   |
|                                                         | 10/29 - David Marble, Ken Maynard      |

**Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in October. . . . .**

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10/1 - M/M Don Kubecka  | 10/20 - M/M Lee Bandeen |
| 10/12 - M/M Clay Thomas |                         |

## Food Pantry Ministry

Month	2008	2009	2010
January	55	109	112
Febuary	39	100	80
March	48	126	88
April	54	104	74
May	55	92	77
June	45	99	121
July	50	124	101
August	48	120	151
September	72	134	
October	88	157	
November	114	146	
December	86	107	
Total	754	1418	804



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



Pass on the *word* of encouragement in an honest compliment. . .

Pass on the *look* of encouragement in a generous smile. . .

Pass on the *touch* of encouragement in a hearty handshake. . .

Pass on the *kindness* of encouragement in a thoughtful deed. . .

And let the *encouragement* of Christ flow through you!