

First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

THE FLAME

SEPTEMBER, 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,
Some things take time and cannot be rushed. One of these is the process of reFOCUS that the leadership of our church has chosen as the process to gain clarity on our mission

as we observe the 125th Anniversary of this congregation.

ReFOCUS begins with the assumption that personal renewal must precede corporate transformation. That means that in discovering God's purpose for our life as a church we must first begin by looking at ourselves. As your Pastor I have been doing this especially since the beginning of this year. My hope is that by being faithful in my intention to allow God to shape my life that the fruits of compassion and joy will be made more evident to others. I know that God desires to do this in my life, and I also know that it is my own self that creates obstacles to that grace. What progress have I made? I will let others be the judge of that. Personally I cling to the faith that God is not finished with me yet. My promise to you is that I will continue to share with you my sense of how the Holy Spirit is working in my life.

On September 14 and 15 seven leaders of our church will be attending the **reFOCUS Summit** at Dayspring Retreat Center. I have met and prayed with our Lay Leadership Committee in choosing these people. I ask you to be in prayer for those who have agreed to attend. They are **Lisa Edington, Coby Gaulien, Bob Marble, Lyn Smith, Wendy Marble, Sue Revell,**

Christine Hoffman and myself. Several other United Methodist churches in our District will be represented. We will be praying for them in church during worship on September 9. This is the group that I will be working with as together we engage with the rest of the congregation in this process.

Recently, I read through the small letter of Jude. It was written to a people dealing with many challenges, threats, and distractions. After listing and cautioning against many of them Jude tells them to **reFOCUS**. These are his guidelines for refocusing, **"But as for you, build yourselves up on your most holy faith, pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."**¹ That is a great prescription for revival and renewal in the life of our church. I know of no better way for us to observe our 125th Anniversary.

I am excited about all the ways that God is working in our midst through the power of the Holy Spirit. I especially ask you to pray for the reFOCUS Team during this month.

With love and friendship,

Stephen

¹Jude 20



"GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS."

L A M E N T A T I O N S 3 : 2 3

Food Pantry Mission

Our celebration of The Lord's Supper on September 2 will have added significance due to all the donations of cereal and peanut butter that have been brought in during August. These donations will help stock our Food Pantry. The mission of our Food Pantry is to provide emergency food for families in need in our community. Food is distributed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Donna Walwork works closely with our church office to ensure that sufficient food is on hand. During August 40 bags of food were distributed. This is an important ministry of compassion as we are the only church in this community responding to hungry

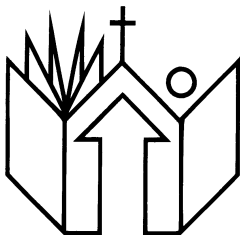
people in this way. We are glad that a number of social service agencies refer people to us.



Pantry items donated in August.

We would like to continue this way of preparing our altar for communion during September as well. Our goal is that by the time we celebrate communion on October 7, the front of our altar will be filled with canned meat. This can include tuna fish, corned beef, beef stew, and other similar items.

In the name of Christ, thank you for supporting the ministry of the Food Pantry.



Adult Bible Study Begins

Dr. Christine Hoffman will lead the first series of Wednesday Bible studies to begin on September 5 at 4:30 p.m. It will be a study of selected portions of the book of Jeremiah. The portions have been selected for the glimpses they afford of what it means to be a prophet. As a prophet, Jeremiah claims authority from God. In offering his insights into what God is like and what he demands of his people, the prophet comes into conflict with other authorities in ancient Israel. These texts raise many interesting questions about the nature of authority and the relationship between religion and politics.

September 5

What does it mean to be a prophet?

Jeremiah 1

September 12

How closely is Jeremiah's message related to historical events?

Jeremiah 2:22

September 19

What is the prophet's relationship with other religious leaders?

Jeremiah 23:1-23

September 26

No Bible Study

October 3

What internal conflict does Jeremiah experience as a prophet?

Jeremiah 11:18-23; 12:1-6;

15:10-21; 17:9-10, 14-18; 18:18-23;

20:6-12, 14-18

October 10

Is Jeremiah primarily a prophet of doom or a prophet of hope?

Jeremiah 29:10-14

October 17

How is the prophetic hope fulfilled?

Jeremiah 31:7-14, 31-34



On Sunday, July 22, we were pleased to welcome the following new members to our congregation:

Howard & Susan Bischoff
2601-B Waterford Way
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-723-0472

Ken & Sandy Brasfield
4700 Bayshore Rd., #1012
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-1491

Joan Henbury
130 Capri Drive
Palmetto, FL 34221

William (Bill) Jackson
1314 - 28th Avenue Dr. W.
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-722-6125

Doug & Karen Mohl
8514 - 28th Street E.
Parrish, FL 34219
941-776-3731

Bob & Gail Moulton
1404 Rosslyn Drive
Palmetto, FL 34221
941-729-2842

Tom Neeley
7411 Vista Way, #103
Bradenton, FL 34202
619-549-0239

Giovanni & Concepcion Palacios
4507 - 37th Street E.
Bradenton, FL 34203

Alice Reed
115 Ohio St.
Palmetto FL 34221
941-773-0562

Anthony & Jean Seney
510 - 7th Avenue W.
Palmetto, FL 34221

James & Judi Windle
4231 Malickson Dr.
Parrish, FL 34219
941-776-9956



New Members L-R: Anthony & Jean Seney, Bob & Gail Moulton, Giovanni & Concepcion Palacios



New Members L-R: Elvin & Dolores Mahan (Brasfield's sponsors) Sandy & Ken Brasfield, Joan Henbury, Bill Jackson, Jim & Judi Windle, Doug & Karen Mohl, Howard & Susan Bischoff, Alice Reed, Tom Neeley

September Birthdays



- 1 - George McCreddie
- 2 - Owen Jago, Pearl Lampp
- 4 - Ella Crossman
- 5 - Jeanette Rinehart,
Betty Smith
- 8 - Bill Walwork, Diana Ward
- 9 - Connie Houser
- 12 - Jessica Rath
- 14 - Pamela Cox, Martin McCaughan
- 15 - Bruce Furman, Linda Gibel, LeeAnn Russo

- 16 - Bill Pascoe
- 19 - Ann Thomas
- 20 - Marjorie Trees
- 21 - Florence Barrett, Casey Jago
- 23 - Laura Troxell

& Anniversaries



- 1 - M/M Carl Smith
- 8 - M/M Rick Thomas
- 21 - M/M Clem Stiving
- 29 - M/M Sidney Thomas



In July the Church Council voted to become a partner with other churches in our area who will soon begin ministering to homeless families in Manatee County. By joining the Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) FUMC-Palmetto will cooperate with other host congregations in providing shelter, meals and support systems to our neighbors in need. IHN is a nationwide, church-based network that assists low-income families to achieve lasting independence and stability in their lives. The organization currently has IHN affiliates in 132 communities in 40 states.

Approximately once a quarter we will host 3-4 families in our church for an evening meal and overnight accommodations for one week. St. Mary-s Episcopal will partner with us in providing meals and chaperones. Terra Ceia, Ellenton, and Palmetto Drive-In UMC churches are also considering how they can help.

You are invited to prayerfully consider how you might serve in this important outreach ministry. Your gifts will help provide services

to keep children in school, assist parents with essential job training, and help families to meet their many physical needs in an uplifting, supportive environment. One participant from Kentucky had this to say, *"When I came to IHN with my children. . .there were people who really cared. It's a feeling that made me want to get up in the morning and get out there and work hard to accomplish my goals."* A volunteer from Texas commented, *"IHN works. Not only do thousands of homeless families find homes, but thousands of volunteers like me*



CHOIR NOTES

Choir practice resumes on
Wednesday September 5.

Chancel Choir meets at 6:30 p.m.

Children's choir meets from
4:45 p.m. until 5:20 p.m.

Mid-high youth who would like to
start a singing group should
contact Mary at 366-2859.

September 2007

Sunday Schedule

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

Wednesday Schedule

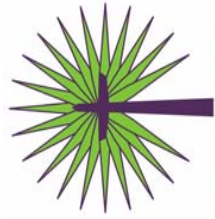
- 4:30pm-Adult Bible Study
- 4:45pm-Combined Children's Choir
- 6:30pm-Chancel Choir

5:30-6:30 p.m.

1st Wednesday of the Month:

Fellowship Pot-Luck Dinner

Bring a covered dish to pass



First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--------|
| 2 Communion See sidebar for Sunday Schedule 12:00p-1st Sunday Lunch | 3 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed 10:00a-Al-Anon | 4 7:00p-Lay Leadership 7:00p-Cub Scouts | 5 See sidebar for Wednesday Schedule 8:00p-AA | 6 7:00a-Men's Breakfast 6:00p-Hispanic Prayer Team 7:00pm-Hispanic Bible | 7 Van Yperen Workshop @ Anona UMC 8 | 1 1 |
| 9 See sidebar for Sunday Schedule | 10 8:30a-Prayer Team 10:00a-Al-Anon 7:00p-PPR Committee 7:00p-Yoga Class | 11 7:00p-Board of Trustees 7:00p-Cub Scouts | 12 See sidebar for Wednesday schedule 2:30p-Staff Meeting 8:00p-AA | 13 7:00a-Men's Breakfast 6:00p-Hispanic Prayer Team 7:00p-Hispanic Bible Study 8:00p-AA | 14 | 15 |
| 16 See sidebar for Sunday schedule | 17 8:30a-Prayer Team 10:00a-Al-Anon 7:00p-Yoga Class | 18 7:00p-Cub Scouts | 19 See sidebar for Wednesday schedule 5:30p-Fellowship Dinner 8:00p-AA | 20 7:00a-Men's Breakfast 6:00p-Hispanic Prayer Team 7:00pm-Hispanic Bible Study 8:00p-AA | 21 | 22 |
| 23 See sidebar for Sunday Schedule 3:00p-Lay Speakers 4:00p-Church Council 5:30p-Contemplative Prayer | 24 8:30a-Prayer Team 10:00a-Al-Anon 7:00p-Yoga Class 6:00p-Glory Group Pot Luck @ Regatta Point | 25 7:00p-Finance Committee 7:00p-Cub Scouts | 26 See sidebar for Wednesday schedule No Adult Bible Study 8:00p-AA | 27 7:00a-Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:00p-Hispanic Prayer Team 7:00pm-Hispanic Bible Study | 28 | 29 |
| 30 See sidebar for Sunday Schedule Guest Preacher: Rev. Jean Russo | | | | | | |



First United Methodist Church
PALMETTO

330 11th Avenue West
Palmetto, FL 34221

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Manasota FL
Permit #993

Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Hispanic Worship 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Dinner (September-May) 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month: 5:30 p.m.

September Sermon Series The Apostles' Creed

Senior Pastor

Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Choir 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

www.fumcpalmetto.org

Sunday, September 2

'I believe in God, the Father Almighty'

Matthew 7:7-11 ~ Exodus 3:1-6,13,14

Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Sunday, September 9

'Creator of heaven and earth'

Isaiah 40:21-23, 28-31 ~ Romans 8:18-23

Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Sunday, September 16

'I believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord'

Isaiah 45:20-23 ~ Philippians 2:5-11

Dr. Christine Hoffman

Sunday, September 23

*'Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary'*

Matthew 1:18-25 ~ Isaiah 7:10-16

Rev. Stephen Hoffman

Sunday, September 30

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jean Russo
Director of Jim Russo Prison Ministries