



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, 825 Forrest Ave

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Pastor Gene Yotka

www.FUMC-Cocoa.org

www.MeansOfGrace.net

January 2008

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Healthy and Happy New Year to All!

Continuation from December DW

Before we move on, however, it would behoove us to take a brief look at exactly what we mean by the three-fold discipline of solitude. In a very real sense the three-fold discipline of solitude as demonstrated by Christ for our benefit is simply setting a time and a place to be alone with God, allowing our mind, body, soul and spirit to be alone with and in communion with Him. Solitude however must be differentiated from loneliness. On the contrary it is a primary step towards the cultivation of the most important of all relationships between us and God. Richard Foster clearly depicts the difference between loneliness and solitude in his book *Celebration of Disciplines* when he states; "Loneliness is inner emptiness. Solitude is inner fulfillment." Solitude therefore negates the human fear of loneliness in that it brings out the great realization that we are in fact never alone. It is important to point out that silence and solitude go hand in hand. As we will latter discuss it is this silence that most often needs to be physically encounter and purposely sought out until it manifests itself into a silence of the heart which is able to here God's voice even amidst a clattering crowd.

Solitude is the first step towards an effectual prayer life. Effectual prayer as well as every other spiritual discipline such as meditation, fasting, study, service, submission and even confession, worship, guidance and celebration flow out of an initial desire to get alone with God. An initial decision to get alone with God is the first step to becom-

ing a vessel for the Holy Spirit to flow and afford effectual prayer. It is therefore very important to realize that when we seek to be alone with God we are not trying to obtain magical empowerment in and of ourselves but in a very real sense we are relinquishing ourselves and submitting ourselves to the power of God through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Solitude is therefore a persistent determination to surrender everything, mind, body, soul and spirit to the Lord. Henri Nouwen says it this way with regard to his inner solitude:

“The task is to persevere in my solitude, stay in my cell until All seductive visitors get tired of pounding on my door and leave me alone... The wisdom of the desert is that the confrontation with our own frightening nothingness forces us to surrender ourselves totally and unconditionally to the Lord Jesus Christ” (Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart*).

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Therefore, solitude is not so much an attempt on our part to acquire something from God, but to allow God to move and use us in any way He sees fit. Once again Henri Nouwen brings home this aspect clearly with regard to silence (both inner and outer) which must accompany our decision to seek alone time with God.

“Silence means rest, rest of the body and mind, in which we Become available to God. This is very threatening. It is like giving up control over actions and thoughts, allowing something creative to happen not by us but to us” (Nouwen, “Training for the Campus Ministry”).

As we pray, in a state of solitude allowing the will of God to flow through us we become empowered to do God’s work in a newer and more effectual way. When we submit to God we submit to His desires which in turn become our desires. As the Psalmist tells us: “Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). Solitude that leads to surrender, leads to desires within our very hearts, which correspond to those of God. These desires become our prayers and our lives become empowered as we set forth to do the will of God. This aspect was very evident in the life and ministry of Jesus, as He habitually set out to be alone with the Father prior to major events as recorded in Scripture. At His baptism we find Jesus surrendering everything to the Father, becoming empowered as He embarks on His ministry to free all mankind, as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. This we are told is followed by Jesus going out into the desert for forty days, battling with the devil, coming out victorious and full of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14). Undoubtedly Jesus spent much of this time in the desert in prolonged prayer in great empowering hours with the Father. This in turn gave Him the power to defeat the temptations of the devil, at the same time demonstrating to us how we can do likewise. God had anointed His Son with the Holy Spirit and empowered Him to go forth into His awesome ministry .

Continued in the February DW.

Those Who Left Us in 2007



Esther Davis	January 30
Anna Norris	February 6
Ruth Woodfill	March 28
Conrad Litz, Sr.	April 19
Sarah Allen	May 23,
Mary Clendinen	June 17
Ed Bauer	September 16
Frances Mangum	October 28,
Dennis Finn	December 11
Lily Mae Belflower	December 19

Keep their families in prayer. They will all be missed.

MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP

The Military Support Group would like to thank everyone who has participated with gifts or money for our military family and friends. We cannot thank you enough for your kindness and love that went into all of this.

God Bless You All—Diane Peterson.

HANDBELL CHOIRS

Handbell Choirs Rehearsals are Resuming!

<u>Choir</u>	<u>Day and Time</u>	<u>Beginning</u>
Echoes of Faith	Tuesday, 7pm	Jan. 22
Spirit Ringers	Wednesday, 6pm	Jan. 23
Celebration Ringers	Thursday, 7pm	Jan. 24
Sol Ringers	Sunday, 7pm	Jan. 27



If you are interested in joining one of our choirs, please contact Diane Click, Director at 452-4709 or dclick@yahoo.com.



Financial Report on FUMC's the 'Means of Grace' radio program

By Diane Norton, FUMC Treasurer

The 'Means of Grace' radio program has been on the air since October 2007. The cost is \$75.00 per day for 5 days of the week. As of December 20, 2007 I have written two checks to the WWBC to cover October and November 2007. The cost of October was \$1,350.00 and November was \$1,650.00. Costs for the radio program have come from donations specifically marked for the radio program.

One FUMC family had donations made in the name of their mother marked to go to the 'Means of Grace' radio program because they said their mother believed in communicating and bringing others to the church. Several FUMC members donated money specifically for the radio program to honor staff and volunteers at the church. Another FUMC member that owns a business paid for a week of the radio program. As approved, the donations given in the Thanksgiving and Christmas Sunday special envelopes is split between the 'Means of Grace' radio program and the Florida Children's home.

NO BUDGET MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT ON THE 'MEANS OF GRACE' RADIO MINISTRY.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Adult Fellowship Class has had a busy but rewarding Christmas Season. Members continue to enjoy sharing the Lawn Nativity. The class members who participate in Tuesday Night Dinners clean up 3 weeks. Thirty seven members enjoyed a "Christmas Dinner" at **LaVonn and Berni Simpkin's** home. Every corner was decorated, the food great and carol singing was enjoyed accompanied by **Pastor Gene** on guitar.

The class continued the Tradition of Caroling to shut-in members and those who are ill. This year with seventeen carolers (almost as good as our choir) and then fellowship at a local restaurant at noon.

Thanks to **Betty Turner** for our Advent Wreath Worship each week. Betty maintains our altar all year long—each season is Special Thanks to our "party" people—**Byrd's and Glass'** for planning our Fellowship times.

A Big Thank You to Arnold Smith who keeps the lights working on the Lawn Nativity.

Searchers Class enjoyed a “Christmas Feast” with **Victoria Gillis**. The meal started off with Page’s Alaskan Salmon Chowder. All the members brought their best offerings and added to Victoria’s Christmas Menu. The house was fun to look at with it’s many decorations plus eating from Christmas China—a big treat!

The group enjoyed good fellowship and continues to welcome new members into the class.



Birthdays!

JANUARY/08

- 01/01 Shannon Finn
- 01/02 William Chumley, Rocky Bond
- 01/03 Anita Kruger
- 01/04 Lou Kotopka, Bill Barnett
- 01/06 Marilyn May
- 01/08 Joanna Ramsey
- 01/09 Tim Wilson
- 01/10 C.L. Colston, Mickey Furman
Chris Mitchell
- 01/11 Jim Ross, Carlos Page
- 01/12 Donita Chace
- 01/13 Alex Bowlby
- 01/14 Lougetta Krell, Lenn Fasulo
Brian Bond
- 01/15 Ferrell Anderson, John Craig
- 01/18 Dick Glass
- 01/19 Chet Wilcox
- 01/22 Louise Gerlach
- 01/24 William Anderson
- 01/28 Florence Newhouse
- 01/31 Marian Culpepper,
Frances Winner, Arlene Reed
Barbara Catalfamo, Janice Paul.

February/08

- 2/01 Sarah Van Gundy
- 2/03 Dorothy Ashley
- 2/04 Marjorie Braxton
- 2/05 Kurt Ronstrom, Gerald Odom
- 2/08 Beverly Ratcliffe, Fern Patton
- 2/09 Ruth Higgs, Diane Ricard
- 2/10 Nicole Scala
- 2/11 Neil Fetzter
- 2/13 Dorothy Kunkle
- 2/14 Elsie Booth
- 2/15 Marguerite Accola, Rachel Miller
- 2/17 Bob Selle, Barbara Kennedy
- 2/18 Gary Dean
- 2/18 Kurt Yotka
- 2/20 May Russell, Larry Bridgham,
Philip Underwood
- 2/22 Walter Vasilevich
- 2/23 Becky Fasula, Lindsay Mosebach
- 2/24 Kay Bartberger
- 2/26 Michael Holloway, Eileen Thrift
- 2/27 Chloe Drobniewski,
- 2/29 Bruce Tate

PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE TO THE BIRTHDAY BOX IN THE NARTHEX.
ALSO ,IF WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ANYONE’S BIRTHDAY PLEASE CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE.



Calendar of Events January 2008

Weekly: Sunday, 8:00am, Drive-In Worship Service
 Sunday, 9:00am, Cocoa Rooftop Praise Service
 Sunday, 10:00am, Sunday School
 Sunday, 11:00am, Traditional Worship
 Tuesday, 5:30pm, Fellowship Dinner (beginning Jan. 8)
 Wednesdays, 6:00am UMM Prayer Meeting
 Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Choir Rehearsal (beginning Jan. 9)

Day and Date:

Monday—1	Happy New Year to All (Church Office is closed)
Tuesday—2	9:30am, UMW Executive Meeting
Sunday—6	12:30pm, UMM/Special Gathering Hot Dogs in Court Yard
Monday—7	5:30pm, Finance Committee 7:00pm, Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Wednesday—9	10:30am, UMW General Meeting
Thursday—10	5:30pm, Trustees, Room 102 7:00pm, Evangelism, Hospitality, Missions Team, Room 102
Saturday—12	9:00am—2:00pm, UMW District Training, Hughlett Hall and other rooms
Tuesday—15	6:30pm, State of the Church Meeting, Hughlett Hall (in lieu of monthly Church Council meeting)
Saturday—19	8:00am, UMM Breakfast, Hughlett Hall
Sunday—20	12:30pm, Covered Dish Luncheon 2:00pm, State of the Church Meeting



Circle of Concern

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, Joanne McCleran, Gladys Williams, Leah Dunn, Marguerite Accola, Jim Ratcliff, Billy Anderson, David Rothermund, Betty Turner, the entire Simpkins Family especially Jan , Chriti Coy and Richard Harris.
Wuesthoff Progressive Care: Bob Kunkle, Lee Strong.

Continue to pray for our Military who are overseas fighting for our freedom. We must never forget those who have died for their country and those that are left to continue this battle.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

Happy New Year!

The Executive Board will meet Wednesday **January 2 at 9:30am** in room 102. A New Year and several important dates to be discussed. All officers should plan to attend.

The Unit meeting will be **Wednesday, January 9, at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall**. The program will be "*Learning for a Lifetime*." This is the "**Quiet Day—Call to Prayer**". The program will be presented by **Joanna Ramsey**. The Host group is Rachel Circle. The Menu is "Stone Soup Plus"/ Rachel Circle will furnish the stone, the broth and all the plus." Everyone need to bring 1 1/2 cups of Vegetables ready to put in broth. Questions to **Mildred Page**. The Self Denial Offering will be given at the meeting—this is one of our "over and above" our pledge offerings.

Lydia Circle will meet Wednesday January 16 at 10:00am in the Parlor with **Flo Newhouse** as Hostess.

Rachel Circle will meet Wednesday, **January 16 at 10:00am with Mildred Page**. We will make our 2008 pledge and start our **Circle Study**.

Martha Circle will meet **Thursday January 17 at 9:30am** with **Lucille Taylor**. **Ann Faulkner** is co-hostess.

Mary Deborah Circle will meet in the **Parlor**. You will be called.

Ruth Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 23 at 9:30am with **Marianne Wright**. The program will be sharing a favorite **Beatrice Potter** book. Questions to **Marcene Jackson** or **Nancy Glass**.

Memories of our Christmas Quilts program will linger. We had some from 1872 to present day.

United Methodist Women—continued

On Our Doorstep: “Local Officers Training”

January 12 at our Church—we will be hosting this District Event—we need “coffee-time” goodies and then Dessert with Beverage to go with the Brown Bag Lunch. This is for old and new officers. Mark this date on your calendar. **Time is 10:00am—2:00pm.** Registration and Coffee Fellowship at 9:30am. Questions to **Marianne** or better yet let us call **Marianne** and say “I’ll be there and I’ll bring 2 dozen rolls, extra, sandwiches if someone forgets” —Volunteer Now/

2008 Calendar Dates to Place on Your Own Calendar:

February 16	“We Are One” - District Workshop at Vero Beach
March 8	Day Apart—Stuart
April 4-6	Southeast Jurisdiction—Hampton, Virginia
July 22-25	School of Christian Mission
July 25-27	Weekend School of Christian Missions
September 5-7	Conference Spiritual Life Retreat—Leesburg
September 20	District Mission Sampler
October 11	District Annual Meeting
November 8	Conference Annual Meeting

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Every United Methodist Women’s Unit needs a Sue Oden. Our program presented by Sue and friends was inspirational with music, readings, litany and prayers. Hughlett Hall was full of Angels. Live ones plus many others on altar, piano, and tables. Each of the 43 women present received an angel that had been made by sue. Some of the angels were “on loan” from the “Turner Angel Museum.” We were served a luncheon by angels Margaret and Janie. The Unit Photographer took pictures which will be given to each member. A good Memory has been given to all those present plus a challenge for us to reach out to others.

SPECIAL MISSION PINS were presented to two officers - **Marian Culpepper and Elsie Vasilevich.** Our Unit has many members and friends who have been given

United Methodist Women—continued

these pins over the years. Many of them were officers but also many were faithful women who did what was needed. Ordinary women doing extraordinary tasks.

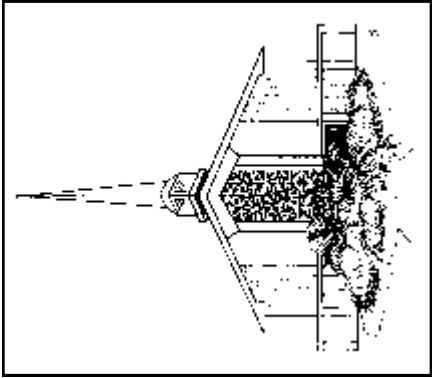
THE 2008 BUDGET was presented and accepted . Our **2007 Mission Pledge of \$2,065 was paid.** The year book information will be given to each circle leader shortly.

CHRISTMAS SHARING

The Circles each have sunshine money that they use for their needs. A **Christmas Stocking Offering** of **\$165.00** was received for the **Salvation Army**. (Several years ago our unit decided to take an offering instead of filling stockings.)

Members of our Unit “manned” the Angel Tree in the Mall for the Salvation Army one day this season.

“The Christmas Card Post Office” for “**Habitat for Humanity**” will be reported next month.



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Cocoa, Florida

Our Mission Statement

*“The First United Methodist
Church of Cocoa exists to Glorify
God and share with others the mes-
sage and experience of His saving
grace In Jesus Christ”*

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JANUARY 2008