



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church
825 Forrest Ave
Cocoa, FL 32926

Pastor Gene Yotka

www.fumc-cocoa.org

February 2008

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Continuation from January DW

Jesus prayed at His baptism as He surrendered to the Father and the Father was well pleased. It was while Jesus was praying that the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon Him (Luke 3:21). This marked the beginning of the most expensive, exciting and important rescue mission of all time, the rescue of man by the Son of Man. We are told in Luke 4:42 that "At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place." This was preceded by the expulsion of the demoniac (Luke 4:35) and followed by the calling of the disciples (Luke 5; 6:12). Amidst great healings and the proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God we read, "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). We likewise see Jesus going off with the disciples to a quiet and solitary place prior to the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:31-32). Before the transfiguration Jesus prayed on a mountain with only Peter, James and John present (Luke 9:28). Before Jesus walked on water we are told that, "He went up on a mountainside to pray" (Mark 6:46). Jesus prayed away from the disciples at Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46). He then extolled anguish and told the disciples to pray with regard to the coming temptations that would beset them. Jesus prayed in solitude and surrender as He prepared Himself for that terrible day when He would die on the cross and bear the sins of the world. The importance that Jesus placed on seeking a solitary, quiet place to pray is significant in that it is a lesson to us from the Son of God that we need to seek such solitude, alone with the God if we are to be empowered to do His will and practice truly effective prayer. It is this aspect of demonstration by our Lord that should peak our interest as to the importance of the discipline of solitude. Jesus gives us an inside view of His personal prayer life because He wants us to realize that time alone with God is the only path to effective prayer. Jesus is our model for all things, solitude and effective prayer included.

As we examine the prayers of Jesus relative to solitude we see a three-fold paradigm unfold with relation to time, place and spirit.

Someone once said that timing and consistency was everything. As we have already seen Jesus sought and purposely set aside times of solitude to be alone with His Father, just prior to and in the midst of many of the most dramatic and powerful events in His ministry. Based on previously shown evidence it would not be out of line to say that Jesus quite probably sought specific time alone with the Father before all major events. In addition to this time, which was set aside for special needs Jesus also had regular times of prayer in the morning (Mark 1:35), during the day (Luke 4:42) at night (Mark 6:30-31) and sometimes all night (Luke 6:12).

Continued

The times that Jesus prayed each day were varied. The reality is that God hears our prayers whenever we lift them up, no matter the time, but the fact also remains that we, like Jesus, must purposely set aside time to be alone with God. It was the Lord's practice to consistently set aside time, to move away from the clatter of the world to a quiet place and pray.

This brings us to the second aspect of our three-fold discipline of solitude, which is solitude of place or location. Jesus had a "usual" place to get away, to be alone with His disciples and alone with His Father. "Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him" (Luke 22:39). Solitude of place is a striking aspect of the prayers of Jesus, especially in light of today's tendency towards constant engagement with education, work, entertainment and busyness of all sorts. Many Christians today do not have a quiet place in which to be alone with God. Jesus on the other hand seemed to make this a priority in His specific prayer time. As mentioned earlier Jesus was most certainly in an Unceasing and unbroken relationship with the Father, yet we consistently find Him demonstrating to us, the need to physically get away from the noise and busyness of our lives and move to a quiet location to be alone with God. Jesus went to a "desert" place (Luke 4:42; cf Mark 6:31) or a "solitary place" (Mark 1:35) to pray (Luke 6:12; cf 9:28; Mark 6:46, with parallels Matthew 14:22-23; John 16:14-15). Jesus "prayed in a certain place" (Luke 11:1). Evidently Jesus placed a great importance in the act of finding solitude of both place and of time, while also being in a state of constant internal prayer. In fact solitude in its perfection is the ability to stay free and alone with God at any time and place. Perhaps, however it is only the purposeful act that makes the continuous possible. In my experience I have found that an appointed place and time, away from the craziness of the world sets my heart so as to be more finely tuned to the voice of God within me. Unfortunately we are often out of tune with God's voice. God's still small voice is speaking to us at all times but it seems we can only perceive it as we purposefully turn our attention to Him. When we spend time in solitude and silence with the sole focus to listen and hear God we find that we become more cognizant, more aware and more in tune with the sound of the Master's voice. After an extended time of solitude, silence and listening we can go out and hear God's voice in a crowd as we have attained an inner solitude and silence that can hear God's voice at all times. It is here that our spirit has entered into a perpetual place of solitude and prayer.

Finally, the third part of the discipline of three-fold solitude, which is solitude of spirit. Jesus as He practiced solitude of time and of place lived in the spirit of prayer. He could be alone with the Father in a dense crowd; nothing ever came between them, there was never a cloud between the Father and the Son. *The awesome fact to all this is that just such a prayer life is possible for each and every believer.* The problem that many Christians come up against, however, is a lack of discipline.

Continued in March DW

Circle of Concern

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, Joanne McLeran, Gladys Williams, Leah Dunn, David Rothermund, Betty Turner, the entire Simpkins' Family especially Jan; Chriti Coy, Bill Greene, Bob Kunkle, Ernest Lindley, Elsie Bailey

Wuesthoff Hospital: Jim Ratcliffe

Rockledge Rehab. June Reynolds.

Also let's pray for all our Military that 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS!

Adult Fellowship Class - Expanded interest: On January 18, a van load of class members took a guided tour to the Merritt Island Refuge. On the trip we saw 47 different species of birds without leaving the van. It was an exciting day as there were many large (over 100) groups of birds to see--2 flocks of Roseate Spoonbills, hundreds of Coats, Egrets, American Avocets, Herons, Blue Wing Teal, and several kinds of gulls.

The class enjoyed a lunch together at the Village Inn with others from the class joining them.

Thanks to **Carlos Page** for serving as our Guide and sharing his new "bird sounds" - over 150. Also thanks to **Curt Reed** for driving the van. There will be a repeat trip on **February 1st** with different class members. We are looking forward to a repeat success on this outing.

Palm Sunday/Easter Sunday



Palm Sunday, March 16th

"Come and See Sunday"

We would like you to invite friends or your neighbors to join us. This will also be our Easter Cantata



**On Saturday, March 22 there will be an
Easter Egg Hunt**

for all the children.

Again, tell your friends and neighbors about it. This will begin at 10am and there will be lots of activities for the kids.

Easter Sunday March 23

Times of Services are:

6:45am Sunrise Service

9:00am Praise Service

11:00am Traditional Worship Service

(Our Bell Choir will be playing at this service.)





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

The Executive Board will not meet Wednesday February 6th. Instead we will meet at 10:00am on February 13th preceding the Unit Meeting.

The Unit Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13 in Hughlett Hall at 10:30am. The program will be presented by Pat Spencer and is entitled "God's Song in God's Mission". The Martha Circle is the Host Group.

Circles

Lydia Circle will meet Wednesday, February 20 at 10:00am with **Lavonne Simpkins**.

Rachel will meet Wednesday, February 20 at 10:00am with **Barbara Collner**. Mildred Page will have the program and **Fleeta Lindley** the devotion.

Martha will meet Thursday February 21 at 9:30am. Your leader will call to give the location.

Mary Deborah will meet Monday February 18 at 7:00am in the Parlor.

Ruth Book Group will meet Wednesday February 27th at 9:30am in the Parlor. We will enjoy a movie of *Beatrice Potter's Life*.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY

"God's Mission, God's Song" is the title of our Study. Pastor Gene will be our leader. The Session will be held in Room 102 on Thursday, **Feb. 7th at 10:00am**. This class is open to all women We have a few copies of the Study book but you don't need to have a copy—bring your Bible, a note-book and pencils and join us. Questions to **Pat Spencer**, our Spiritual Growth Secretary.

BUSY SATURDAY (January 12)

Our unit did a great job hosting the District Officer's Training. Hughlett Hall and many classrooms were full of women "learning" about their job in their local unit. The group enjoyed a Coffee Fellowship time and lunch time together. Thanks to all who brought "goodies" to be shared. Our unit will be an improved one this year as we continue to grow spiritually.



WEEK IN PRAYER

Program was presented by Mildred Page and friends. (Joanna Ramsey had a conflict.) The offering was \$91.50. This will be used for US installations and international installations that are assisting women and girls to become whole persons. The theme "Tabitha Cumi" - meaning "Little Girl, I say to you, Standup. And She Did" was a challenge to those present. (Scripture Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43.) The Stone Soup was delicious along with "melt in your mouth" cakes.

Rachel Circle enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the home of Esther Hanson. The circle gave \$50 to Special Gathering. Esther invited the group for a lunch next Christmas. She finds she is happier and a better person if she reaches out to others. Our unit and our church have many people like Esther—if you find you are lonely, or feel sorry for yourself, you might like to participate in a fellowship group at the church. Read the Dominion Window and Bulletins. Find your "Niche".

MISSING INACTION!!

Silver (we bought a lot of new) - many other big items also—Church items are not supposed to leave the church. (Trustees Decision). **PLEASE** check your kitchen, your garage or "Whatever" and return borrowed items.

2008 Calendar Dates:

To Put 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





Financial Report on FUMC's

By Diane Norton, FUMC Treasurer

Income from 1/1/08 to 1/20/08 was \$26,676.03. Expenses from 1/1/08 to 1/20/08 were \$29,436.13. (Remember we started 2008 with \$13,357.58 in the bank.

The church now has two Church council approved designated funds 'Risers for the choir and Bells' - contact Diane Click for information and 'Hughlett Hall floor up-grade' - contact Margaret Russell.

If you would like to make a donation to one of these, please write the name on your check or envelope. Please make the donation in addition to your pledge.

If you have questions on the church finances, please call me.

God Bless, Diane



CHANGE OF TIME - MORNING CHAPEL SERVICE

Beginning February our morning chapel service will be:

Mondays and Thursdays 10:30am,

Wednesday Mid-Week Service 6:00pm

Tuesday and Friday 8:30am.

This is a great way to start your day or to have a break in your busy week and come by on Wednesday evenings.

Dear Family in Christ,

I thank you for the tribute you presented me at the covered dish on January 20th. I want to thank you for your generous gifts. I want all of you to know that I appreciated the opportunity to serve you, this church, and God. If I have helped any of you in any way it was my pleasure. The blessing is in the serving and I have been blessed by this congregation. I thank you again for the years I have been your Parish Nurse.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely Marilyn Mayo



BIRTHDAYS!

FEBRUARY 2008

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 Fetzer
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 Drobniowski,
2/29 Bruce Tate

MARCH 2008

3/02 Dorothy Adams, Pat Spencer
3/03 James Mitchell
3/04 Jim Wright, Jr. Arlene Owens
3/05 Joanne Booth
3/06 Lenora Cuppett, Beth Stacy,
Ken Booth
3/07 Irene Marek, Clinton Wright
3/08 Gwen Mangum
3/09 Maime Kingston, John Hankins
3/10 Pat Russell, Duane Miers
3/11 David Russell
3/12 Dell Higgs, Rita Renfroe,
Jay Wright III, Sidney Gillis
3/14 Jessica Hasto, Stevie Haile
3/16 Lee Strong, Joseph Hasto,
3/17 Bernie Simpkins
3/18 Suzanne Baker, Laura Beverage, Lila Slack,
Frances Martin
3/19 Carolyn Brewer
3/21 Vernon Knight
3/22 Loretta Coffey, Isabella Liberatore
3/23 Sherry Jeter
3/24 Louise Mills
3/30 Paul Cuppett
3/31 Alex Gillis

Please let the church office know if we have forgotten anybody's birthday. Also, Remember the Birthday Box in the Narthex.

FEBRUARY 2008

Main Happenings

Saturday: 2nd	9:00am-3:30pm Song Fest Girl Scouts—Hughlett Hall Atlantic District Training West Palm Beach (all day)
Sunday: 3rd	1:30pm Evangelism Meeting 5:30pm Superbowl Party (Hughlett Hall)
Monday: 4th	11:00am Staff Meeting (Office) 5:30pm Finance Meeting (Office) 6:30pm SPR Meeting Rm. 102
Tuesday: 5th	4:00pm Bible Study (No Dinner)
Wednesday: 6 th	5:00pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday: 7th	10am-1 1:30am UMW Spiritual Growth Meeting Rm. 102 5:30pm Trustees Meeting Rm. 102
Saturday: 9th	9:00am BCC Lab School Meeting (Nursery)
Monday: 11th	11:00am Staff Meeting
Tuesday: 12th	10:00am-11:30am UMW Spiritual Growth Study Rm. 102 2:30pm Communication Mtg. Rm. 102
Wednesday: 13th	10:30am UMW General Meeting (Hughlett Hall)
Thursday: 14th	6:30pm Wedding in Sanctuary
Saturday: 16th	8:00am UMM Breakfast Hughlett Hall
Monday: 18th	11:00am Staff Meeting
Tuesday: 19th	4:00pm Bible Study (Rm. 102) 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner
Wednesday: 26th	4:00pm Bible Study

**Please see the change of times
of the daily Chapel Service in
your Dominion Window.**



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