



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, Cocoa
JULY 2008
PASTOR GENE YOTKA

Pastor's Column continued from May DW.

Of all God's gifts nothing is more foundational than wisdom. Because, it is through and by a grace empowered decision to seek wisdom that we take our first steps in bringing the spiritual to bear on the physical, rather than vice versa. When we put God at the center of our lives we then allow the Holy Spirit who sees all things clearly, to direct of lives. When we allow the physical or material to guide our spirituality we are allowing a distorted and cloudy view of reality to guide the way. A life led by the Holy Spirit is a life on the path of peace. A life led by the material world is a life on the path of chaos. A life on the path of chaos leaves us open to all kinds of spiritual dangers, which can allow the devil a foothold in our lives. The quest for peace in a person's life begins with a true and fervent desire to seek wisdom from God and not from within oneself. Wisdom, when heeded, always leads to a God centered rather than self-centered perspective and attitude. The Scriptures are always comparing human wisdom and godly wisdom.

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, **Ephesians 1:17**^{NRS}*

*And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. **1 Corinthians 2:13**^{NRS}*

^{NRS} **James 3:13-18** *Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth.¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*

The person who wishes to gain wisdom cannot be myopically stuck in the natural world, but must open their minds to the things of God, developing a spirit of wisdom which is guided and informed by the Spirit of God.

Continued

Continued from front cover . . .

Even if one has not fully accepted God as the guiding force in their lives, the wise person will open themselves up to the possibility of such guidance. The unwise person will cower in fear that they might be opened up to a new understanding, and that new understanding might radically alter their perception of how the universe is held together. I am not speaking of pure intellect here, as the brightest among us can also be quite set in their views, to the point that revelation and thus wisdom cannot penetrate. The wise person however, is open to the possibility that their path of thinking might not be the, be all, to end all.

This goes for the so-called religious person as well as the staunch atheist. The wise person asks if there is more. The wise person knows that in and of themselves they cannot find the peaceful, meaningful life that they are seeking.

As previously indicated this is learned through a spirit of wisdom that is open to revelation from God, taught by the Spirit. As in any form of learning one must sit at the feet of the teacher and surrender themselves to the teaching. To learn the spiritual side of wisdom we must sit at the feet of Christ. In fact it is the Spirit who interprets spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Wisdom begins by recognizing our need for God's teaching. Not in a manner that is peripheral to our everyday life but in a manner which places the master at the center of all we think, say and do. The student sits at the feet of the master. The wise person knows the laws, dynamics and rhythms of true Reality. Wisdom is in a real sense the ability to discern reality and go with it. God created a rhythm of life. From the very beginning this rhythm included a cycle of work and rest. To gain wisdom we must rediscover, we must discern the rhythmic Reality that God has put into all things. Harmony leads to peace; dissonance leads to chaos. When we establish lives in harmony with God's created order we live lives that recognize God's presence as creator, redeemer and sustainer. We can recognize when we are living lives that are in sync with God's created rhythm because we are living in the moment. God transcends time, yet for us God's real presence can only be known in the moment. We can study God's work in the past, and from it we can learn certain ways of God. The past, on a day to day basis however, is for the most part unknown. The future is unknown in a different way. We can know certain things such as the parousia (the second coming of Christ), the New Jerusalem and the ultimate destruction of evil as future events but for the most part the future on a day to day basis for us is unknown. *The present is the one true reality.* The present moment can be known. Because it is in the present that revelation from God occurs. God is pouring out grace on each of us at every moment. The truly wise person seeks to discern and respond to that grace in a positive manner. When we practice the presence of God by responding to God's grace in an obedient fashion we begin to take on the characteristics of our master and our teacher. Primary among these characteristics is love.

Continued next month (July)

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, Gladys Williams, Leah Dunn, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Ann Anderson, , Betty Turner, Peggy Morgan Halper, Tara Pearson, Bill Mozelle, Fay Mallard, Lou Kotopka

Holmes Regional Medical Center: Fay Mallard

Under Hospice Care: Maggie Stansfield at home and Lee Strong, Wuesthoff Hospital

Death: Jo Ann McLeran passed away June 17, 2008

CHAPEL SERVICE

Come join us for Chapel Service Every Week.

Tuesday:	10:30am - Lectia Divina (Divine Reading)
Wednesday:	6:00pm (Evenings) A Service of Song
Thursday:	10:30am A Service of Solitude
Friday:	8:30am A Service of Presence (Holy Communion)



You are a Blessing!

I am so very blessed to have each of you in my church family!

The outpouring of love in so many ways was wonderful. Thank you for all the prayers in my Mom's time of illness and death. Those prayers were answered. After her acute stroke, she was in the hospital only one week and the health center only 3 weeks with very little pain.

Thanks to all who sent such lovely cards and notes. Thank you to those who participated in so many ways during her memorial service. I am so grateful for you. May God continue to bless each of you.

Gretchen McGaffic



NEW CHURCH VAN!

We now have a new Church Van. A very safe one. As the Insurance Company for the Florida Conference, insisted we sell the first van due to it being "unsafe" we now have one that is fully approved . It seats 15 passengers and is wheel chair friendly. We now are in the position to utilize the van for outings, youth trips, and bringing more people to our church.



COMING SOON! PEOPLE OF F.A.I.T.H. CONNECTION



BIBLE STUDY

WITH PASTOR GENE.

*THIS IS THE MOST ATTENDED BIBLE STUDY
WE HAVE EVER HAD.*

DON'T BE LEFT OUT. COME AND JOIN US.

THIS STUDY IS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS.

**STUDY BEGINS AT 4PM EVERY TUESDAY EVENING
FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 636-4811**



**Canterbury Retreat and Confer-
ence Center
1601 Alafaya Trail (S.R. 434).
Oviedo, FL 32765**

CANTERBURY RETREAT

**This is a Leadership Retreat which
will take place from
September 19—20th
in a peaceful relaxing setting.
If you would like to attend the cost is
\$127 per person.**

**Please call the church office
for more information
636-4811**

FREE!

Saturday,
July 26, 2008
2PM—4PM

FREE!

ICE CREAM



SOCIAL

Come one - Come All!!!

Sponsored by the Adult Fellowship
Sunday School Class

Call the church office 636-4811 if you wish to come.

BEGINNING HANDBELL CLASS



If you are interested in learning at ringing handbells, please join us for our six week class. You do not need to be able to read music to learn to make a beautiful sound with bells.

No long term commitment. All ages! Try it!

The group will meet for six weeks beginning in early July. Meeting day and time will be determined by the participants.

Call the Church office if you are interested. 636-4811



JULY 2008 (Main Happenings)

- Thursday, 3 5:30pm Trustees Meeting Rm. 102
- Friday, 4 Independence Day (Church Office Closed)
- Sunday, 6 4th of July covered dish luncheon following 11am Worship
- Monday, 7 5:30pm Finance Meeting (church office)
*6:00pm Beginning Bells Group (Bell Room)
7:00pm Church Council (rm. 102)
- Wednesday, 9 *6:00am UMM Prayer Meeting
10:30am UMW General Meeting Hughlett Hall
- Tuesday, 8 *4pm Bible Study
*6:00pm Dinner at Piccadilly Merritt Sq. Mall (All Welcome)
- Saturday, 19 8am UMM Breakfast, Hughlett Hall
- Wednesday, 23 10:00am Ruth Book Group
- Saturday, 26 2pm—4pm Adult Fellowship Class Ice Cream Social.

**every week*

Please remember, there will be no Choir Rehearsal on Wednesdays, through July and most of August. However, if you are interested in ringing bells, there is a Beginning Bell Class Every Monday at 6:00pm through August 4th.

Please check your Sunday Bulletin for weekly events here at FUMC and for any changes in programs





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

Executive Board

Will not meet. Any questions can be directed to either Marianne Wright or Vivian Scott.

The Unit Meeting

Will be Wednesday, July 9, at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall. The program is entitled "We Serve the Community." Major Sharon Owens from the Salvation Army will be our speaker. Members are asked to bring paper supplies for the Salvation Army's use in their many areas of service to our community. (Paper towels, Kleenex, toilet tissues, wax paper, baggies etc.)

The Lydia Circle will be the Host Group. Questions about Paper Supplies to Norma Ronstrom.

Circles:

Lydia Circle

Will share lunch at a local restaurant.

Rachel Circle

Will not meet. Attend General Meeting.

Martha Circle

Will not Meet. Attend General Meeting.

Mary Deborah Circle

Will be called.

Ruth Book Group

Will meet July 23 at 9:30am in the Parlor. The book will be "the Story of the Last Boys of Sudan" by Mary Williams and "Catching the Moon: The story of a Young girl's Basketball Dream" by Crystal Hubbard. The reviewer will be Marcene Jackson. These books are on our Reading List.

Relax—Read. . . .

Summer can be a good time to do extra reading. Check the UMW list if you need help check with Ruth Warden, Secretary Program resource.

Meetings Beyond Local Church

Check page 7 in your book. Questions to your circle leader on our President.

July Meeting

With Major Sharon Owen from the Salvation Army would be a good meeting for women in the church who are not members of UMW to attend. This work in our community is something we can all participate in.

Always check the bulletins for changes or additions regarding the UMW programs.



Note from the Handbell Choirs

We'd like to thank everyone that has made a donation to the Riser Fund. We are nearly half way to our goal of \$16,000 and the purchase of new, safer, easier-to-use staging. This equipment will be enjoyed by many groups at FUMC.

It was great to see so many of you at our Spring Ring. Thank you for supporting us with your attendance. We very much appreciate it!!

Diane Click, Bell Choir Director



THE AWAKENING CAFÉ

“A Great Good Place”

A Unique Ministry for
Our Church

It all begins on

Saturday August 16th.

Coffee House Opens at 5pm

We offer great programs, music and worship in a friendly atmosphere.

We will introduce a tasty menu of soups, cakes, an array of fine desserts, ice cream, etc. and of course the best coffee in town.

We need the wonderful women of our church to help with baked goods to sell. We are counting on our Youth as Coffee House volunteers.

Please pick up our brochure to get all the details of this great new happening.





JULY 2008

7/01 Elsie Vasilevich
 7/02 Howard Lewis, Charles Hammons
 7/04 Barbara Mangum
 7/05 Daniel Heckman
 7/06 Jim Bishop, Jr.
 7/07 Esther Hansen, Sharon Smith,
 Linda Simmen,
 7/08 Daltom Haile
 7/09 Andy McCann
 7/10 Verda Rothstein, Barbara Compson,
 Gene Oliver
 7/12 David Bauer
 7/14 Jo Ann McLeran, Richard Harris
 7/15 LaVonn Simpkin, Ann Anderson,
 7/16 Seth Drobniowski,
 Leah Drobniowski
 7/17 Dana Jean Mason
 7/18 Sue Oden
 7/21 David Norton, Douglas Sumerlin
 7/22 John Gates, Kathleen Burch
 Crystal Strickland, James Strickland
 7/23 Herman Byrd
 7/27 Mozelle Greene, Mikael Hardee
 7/28 Hattie Barbour
 7/29 Jenny Phair
 7/31 Margaret Chumley, Donna Heckman

AUGUST 2008

8/01 Mary Ramsey, Sheryl Henderson
 8/02 Cheryl bishop
 8/03 Beau Miller, Wanless Damron
 8/04 Peggy McCann
 8/07 Ruth Warden
 8/08 Skip Blum
 8/09 Vivian Scott
 8/10 Jack Potter
 8/11 Nancy Glass
 8/12 Martha Keck
 8/13 Bill Heslop, Dave McGaffic
 8/15 Hilda Mayo
 8/16 Beatrice Hankins
 8/17 Fay Mallard, Kris Davis
 8/18 Al McKinley
 8/20 Judy Houston
 8/21 Sandy Jeter, Marilyn Donnelly
 8/21 Joan Stephens
 8/22 Elsie Bailey
 8/22 Peggy Odom
 8/23 Howard Russell
 8/24 Al Ashley
 8/25 Scott Gates
 8/26 Charlie Bartberger
 8/27 Todd Conrad
 8/28 Lynn Wilcox



Youth/Children's Happenings!

We want to thank everyone who participated and volunteered their time with our very Successful VBS the week of June 16th. We average around 20 kids a night, which considering the rainy weather was outstanding.

Thank you to all that made this week what it was. The food was great and the help and work that went into the preparing of this busy week was more than expected.

Again a **BIG THANK YOU.**



FUMC OF COCOA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

For all children ages K-6th grade, from 10am—11am in Room 318

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10am –11am for youth grades
7th—12th in Room #310



First United Methodist Church, Cocoa
825 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, Florida 32922
321-636-4811
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