



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, Cocoa

OCTOBER 2008

PASTOR GENE YOTKA

As we have been delving into various aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven over past weeks in Sunday worship, I have been receiving a lot of questions with regard to a deeper understanding of the subject. I therefore have prepared the following which will appear in this and next months Dominion Window, hoping to bring a better understanding of this important aspect of our Christian walk. Please feel free to send any questions or comments you may have, as I am always interested in further discussion with regards to this subject or any other aspect of spiritual formation. Blessings, Pastor Gene

The Kingdom of Heaven

By Gene Yotka

The Kingdom of God is God's sovereign master plan realized through Jesus Christ. It is God's narrative and unfolding story fulfilled and lived in Jesus. The kingdom is quite simply the rule of God 's being brought to bear on the present world through the activities of the people of God as they are obedient to the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit until the eschaton. The nature of God's Kingdom falls under an already/ not yet paradigm in that it is already present and active, inaugurated by Jesus Christ, but not yet consummated to its fullest which will occur in the last days. This already/not yet paradigm can be seen by looking closer at the nature of the Kingdom as it exists today and by considering the perfection of that nature in the final consummation when evil is vanquished, the effects of human rebellion in the garden are reversed and all creation is liberated from the bondage of decay (Rom 8:21). For me the nature of the Kingdom of God includes Shalom, the promised New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2), Unity with God, Justice, and Sabbath rest. The Kingdom is everlasting (Heb.1:8), unshakable (Heb. 12:28), is characterized by obedience (Matt. 5:19), servanthood (Matt. 20:25-28; 23:11, Mark10:45) and humility (Matt. 18:3-4). Theologically I strongly believe in a dynamic link between church and kingdom as the church makes its presence felt in the world as representative ambassadors through the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom is shalom: Shalom linguistically is rooted in "well being", and is usually translated "peace". Shalom is more than peace however, as it includes the concepts of wholeness, completeness, inner quietness, and tranquility. Shalom is God's ultimate desire for all humanity. Shalom can only be experienced by a people seeking justice and justice can only be experienced by a people willing to submit to God, who is the giver of shalom. In submission we actually participate in God's cause of shalom in the world and begin by nature to support that cause. Woltersdorf (1) states; "Can the conclusion be avoided that not only is shalom God's cause in the

world but that all who believe will, along with Him, engage in the works of shalom? Shalom is both God's cause in the world and our human calling." Shalom is the perfection of God's set order. Therefore the very purpose and end of history is shalom, peace seen as fullness of life, as well as the complete and utter destruction of evil. This concept carries over to all created things which are linked to all others. Therefore in a kingdom sense shalom reaches to the "harmonization" of every reality and relationship under God's authority. From an "already" standpoint we can see in most human beings a desire for shalom and can actually observe it in the incredibly intricate order of nature. We can best see God's deep desire for shalom in the fact that He sent His only Son to die in order to bring about the possibility of a right relationship; a relationship of peace, between God and all creation. The completeness of shalom of course is yet to come. This necessitates a church which is at peace with itself and who is willing and able to present the Gospel of peace to a dying world.

The Kingdom is the Promised Land: The New Jerusalem is the final Promised Land. This aspect of the kingdom is closely tied to shalom with the idea that all men and all women can live together in a land; in perfect balance, harmony as well as mutual and equal dependency. This Promised Land is called the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21:2 and is described as a place where the nations are healed and the presence of God is experienced in its fullest. Each time we see people living in peace in a community in which the Holy Spirit is moving we experience a bit of the New Jerusalem. This New Jerusalem is not earth destroyed but transformed by the heavenly presence. The implications of this for the church is that we must recognize God's love for the land and become witnesses who display love, respect and care for the environment as well as the just use of the earth.

The Kingdom is unity: God's ultimate plan is to unite (reconcile) in the fullness of time all things in Him (Christ), things in heaven and things on earth. (Eph 1:10). As such Howard A. Snyder (2) writes; "The church is called to live as a microcosm of the kingdom, a model house for full reconciliation throughout God's creation". In this vein I believe that we need to re-cultivate the idea of church as the family of God rather than the corporation of God. Unity for me implies organism rather than organization in the corporate sense. Home based small group ministries have born out the fact that people crave intimacy and unity so they can share as a caring and loving family. In the end the final house will be the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom is justice: The Kingdom of God is markedly just. Christ came to bring justice to a corrupt world precisely so that we may live justly here on earth. Justification, is being "made right" with God. Those who have come to grips with what Christ has done for them have a special place in their hearts for the poor and the oppressed. One cannot read far in the New Testament without finding that Christ had a similar heart (Matt.25:34-46). With regard to justice Snyder writes; "This is the heart of the Kingdom. It underlies the work of evangelism as well as every other kind of witness". I would add that the "heart" of the kingdom is formed as we practice spiritual disciplines which transform our natures from self-centered to Christ-centered. When we practice justice in a sacrificial manner we become more Christ-like and receive a glimpse of the kingdom to come.

Continued next month.



SOMETHING NEW!

Every fourth Saturday of each month we are having a **PRAYER WALK** around our community. This was started last month and has been very successful.

We meet at 4pm at our church and head out to neighborhoods, pray before each house and lift our neighbors in prayer.

We would love you to join us. Remember it is the **FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

After the walk come back and enjoy some time at the **Awakening Café**. Relax have a cool drink, cup of coffee/tea, enjoy a worship service this uplifting ministry.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Ann Anderson, Betty Turner, Tara Pearson, Bill Green, Lou Kotopka, Jim Bishop, Sr. Sue Oden, Fay Mallard, Bernie Simpkins, Peggy Morgan Halper

Courtenay Springs Nursing Home: Gladys Williams

Death: Curt Reed passed away on September 13th. Please keep his family in prayer.



COMING SOON!

FUMC OF COCOA THRIFT STORE

Something new and exciting for our church.

If you are interested in being part of this profitable ministry please call the church office.

Also we are only taking **“good stuff”** no junk please. Check out your wardrobe, attic and garage and see if you find something to contribute.

Call 636-4811



REQUEST

FUMC Cocoa is in the process of starting up a Thrift Shop to provide additional income to the Church.

This income will be used entirely for Ministries. Costs incurred in starting up the Thrift Shop will be paid from the General Fund, but will be provided through donations.

If you would like to support this ministry, your donation will be very much appreciated. Please mark your donations "Thrift Shop Startup" The estimated budget is approximately \$2,000.

Thank you for your generosity.



BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR GENE. DON'T BE LEFT OUT. COME JOIN US!

**THIS STUDY IS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS.
STUDY BEGINS AT 4PM EVERY TUESDAY EVENING
FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 636-4811**

CHAPEL SERVICE

**Come join us for Chapel Service Every Week.
New hours**

Wednesday: 6:00pm (Evenings) A Service of Song
Friday: 8:30am A Service of Presence (Holy Communion)





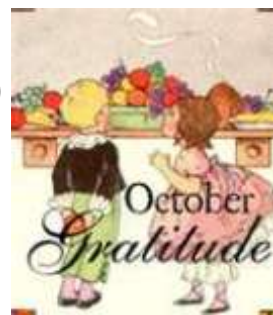
OCTOBER CALENDAR 2008

- Oct. 1 9:30am UMW Executive Board Meeting
Oct. 2 5:30pm Trustees Meeting (Rm. 102)
Oct. 4 6:00pm Fund Raiser Talent Show—H. Hall
(for new Risers)

(No Awakening Café this evening)

- Oct. 5 Communion Sunday (all three services)
Oct. 7 *4:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Gene
*5:30pm. Tuesday Night Dinner
7:00pm Senior to Senior Meeting with Rev. John Cummins (Rm.102)
Oct. 8 10:30am UMW General Meeting Hughlett Hall
Oct. 11 ***5:30pm Awakening Café** - Hughlett Hall
Oct. 12 11:00am Handbells perform at Traditional Worship
Oct. 13 5:30pm Finance Meeting—church office
7:00pm Church Council Meeting—rm. 102
Oct. 14 4:00pm Rev. John Cummins will be conducting the Bible Study
This week as Pastor Gene will be out of town.
Oct. 15 Circle Meeting
Oct. 19 9:00am Handbells will perform at the Praise Service
Oct. 21 7:00pm Senior to Senior meeting with Rev. John Cummins (Rm 102)
Oct.22 9:30am Ruth Book Group Meet—Church Parlor
Oct.25 4:00pm Prayer Walk
Oct. 26 Guest Preacher at all three service will be Rev. John Cummins
Pastor Gene is on vacation.
Oct. 30 Via de Cristo send off (Hughlett Hall)
Oct. 31 October Festival Dinner and Dance (Hughlett Hall)

* These events happen each week.



UMW Continued

Mission Study Successful!

Our Unit enjoyed a Study on “*Israel and Palestine*,” presented by our resident teacher **Marcene Jackson**. The Study gave all in attendance a new awareness of how War is devastating for the country but more so for the families. Each woman present received two names of young children who had been killed. We will pray for their families and for Peace in that region. Our Children were from both sides—one from Israel and one from Palestine. We also will send an offering of \$130.00 to “Jerusalem Welfare Center a health based clinic in the old city of Jerusalem.” The book for their study is on our reading list and if you would like to know more you can get books at Unit Meeting or check with **Ruth Warden**, our Secretary of Program Resources.

FYI

Spiritual Growth—Our Secretary of Spiritual Growth **Pat Spencer** continues to give us insight into our many mission projects from the Prayer Calendar. We continue to pray for our Missionaries and their work each day.

Your stamps, soup labels, cards are still being collected. Leave in office for **Verda Rothstein**, our Christian Social Relations Secretary.

Special music (singing familiar hymns) is enjoyed at our Unit Meetings. **Norma Ronstrom** on piano, **Genie Hardee** on flute and **Carol Reid** and **Lila Slack** leading the singing. We aren't quite as good as our Chancel Choir but we enjoy it.

Christmas is coming—plan to join with UMW in placing cards in our Post office and giving the money you save on cards and postage to “**Habitat for Humanity**”.

Future Dates

Refer to your September DW. Questions to our **President Marianne Wright** or President in Training **Vivian Scott**.

Please check your Sunday Bulletins for dates and times of UMW happenings and always check the Dominion Window.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

october 2008

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Will meet **October 1st** in the Parlor. All officers are encouraged to attend. Our program for 2009 will be discussed. The title of our Program Book for 2009 is “*Who’s at the Table?*” These programs will be interesting BUT also challenging. Think about it—Who’s at the Table? Are you and your family and friends remembering Jesus’ commandments “to Love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves?” Come to Unit Meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month. Questions to **Marianne Wright** or **Mildred Page**.

UNIT MEETING

Will be **Wednesday October 8** at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall. This will be a Thanksgiving Program entitled “*Giving Thanks for Good News*” It will be presented by **Vivian Scott** and friends. The Host Circle is the **Martha Group**. Remember and bring your Thank Offering Bank and/or your Treasure Chest (that you made.)

CIRCLES

Lydia Circle will meet **October 15 at 10:00am** with **Betty Pound**.

Rachel Circle will meet **October 15 at 10:00am** with **Laurel Lightowler**. The program will be given by **Fern Larson** (sister of Norma and June) also a retired missionary from Africa. **Pat Russell** will have the devotion.

Mary Deborah Circle will meet in the Church Parlor on **Monday, October 20** at 7:00pm.

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday **October 8 at 10:30am** in Hughlett Hall. (Host Group for Unit Meeting)

Ruth Book Group will meet Wednesday **October 22 at 9:30am** with **Pat Van Riper**. Be prepared to “be scared” as Pat has Halloween decorations everywhere. Check with **Nancy Glass** on the book.

FYI!

Important events and dates from The Florida Conference

Methodist Men's Retreats promise spirit filled weekend.

The 2008 Men's Spiritual Retreats, sponsored by the Florida Conference United Methodist Men, are **Oct. 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26.**

The retreat is held at the **Life enrichment Center (LEC) and Warren W. Willis Camp** in Fruitland Park. Our theme "*Jesus is the Lighthouse.*"

Leaders for **Oct. 10-12** are the Rev. Scott Smith, Community of Faith United Methodist Church; Andy Searles, Aloma UMC, Winter Park; Don Taylor, division director of Search Ministries, which provides training for Christians in Lifestyle Evangelism; and the Rev. Larry Bergstrom, First United Methodist Church, Coral Springs. Leading music is "Higher Ground," the contemporary praise band from FUMC Coral Springs.

Retreat leaders for **Oct. 17-19** are John Riley, an inspirational speaker who strives to communicate truths in a simple, understandable manner; Ed Diaz, co-founder of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries and seminar leader; and the Rev. David Adams, general secretary of the General Commission on UMM.

Retreat Leaders for **Oct. 24-26** are the Rev. Dr. Riley Short, retired pastor; the Rev. David McEntire, FUMC, Lakeland; Rev. Jim Hollis, general evangelist of the UMC and director of Proactive Evangelism Ministries; Don Taylor. John and Margie Anderson will provide music leadership, John is music department coordinator and professor of music at Polk Community College in Winter Haven.

Each retreat follows the same schedule, beginning on Friday and finishing Sunday morning with worship. Check-in begins at 3:00pm Friday, with dinner at 6pm.

Cost is \$128 per person for those staying at the LEC and \$109 per person at the Warren Willis Camp. Both costs include room, meals and program fees. The cost for participants staying at the family campground campsite is \$40, plus program fee of \$30 per person and \$41 per person for meals.

If there is a man interested in going to this retreat, please contact the church office or C.H. Hibbard.



THE AWAKENING CAFÉ

“A Great Good Place”

A Unique Ministry for
Our Church

It all begins on
Coffee House Hours

5:30pm Opening

6:30pm Worship

7:30-9:30pm Fellowship

Come out and have fun!

Bring your friends!

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.





OCTOBER 2008

- 10/01 Carolyn Hall, Diane Peterson
10/02 Michael Artelli, Jr.
Chris Hibbard
10/03 Modell Sharp, Marjorie Dale
Phil Catalfamo
10/05 Mary Ross, Ken Denny
10/07 Ann Elswick, Sandra Gates
10/08 Joan Root, William Robinson
Murray Underwood,
Amanda Russell
10/09 Betty Byrd
10/10 Pat Oliver, Russell Berry
10/11 Frances Anderson,
Don McCarter, Candy Owens
10/12 Ray Marek, Barbara Fisher
10/14 Marge Cerro, Cindy Morgan
10/16 Jean McMillan
10/18 Thurston McLeran,
10/21 Shirley McCarter
10/26 Nancy Dean, Mary Heslop
10/27 Grace Carey
10/28 Paul Hinsley, Edith Dalton
Bonny Hibbard
10/31 Genie Hardee, Bruce Tate Jr.

**Please remember the
Birthday Box in the
Narthex of the Church**

NOVEMBER 2008

- 11/01 Gerald Erambert, Tena Rollins
11/02 Robert Kunkle
11/03 Norma Ronstrom, Frank Pound
Jacky Rothermund
11/05 Kataryna (Kitty) Yotka
11/08 Rita Jelen, Bill Jackson, Linda Perkins
11/09 Ed Miller
11/10 Ben Scott
11/12 Jean Romprey, Jillian Craig
11/14 Ann Botner, Ray Knight,
Stephen Mangum
11/15 Betty Pound,
11/16 Rebecca Walters, Donna Lewis
Luanne Zywiolok, Jennifer Wright
11/17 Bob Turner, C.H. Hibbard
11/19 Christi Coy, Teri Barnett
11/20 Alijah Stephens
11/21 Lowell Perkins
11/23 Virginia Haferkamp
11/24 Gloria Reed
11/25 Delores Chabot, Connie Williams
11/26 Alice Brown
11/27 Dorothy Bago
11/28 Marcia Mario
11/29 Marilee McDuffie
11/30 Bob Rothstein



Youth/Children's Happenings!

Night of Joy was a blast. Good news, the church bus works great. Comfortable cool ride makes even Disney trips a breeze. Thanks to all of you who helped make Night of Joy a success. We had youth as well as 10 young adults attend this special evening. Thanks for the wake up call and breakfast Leta.

Speaking of food, we need your help to feed the youth. Youth love to eat and it's a much needed fellowship time. Please show your support by signing up to cook, help with or donate money to feed the youth on Sunday nights. Jesus is best served with a full tummy!

The nursery is in need of volunteer's of all ages. Right now our volunteers have kid in the nursery. They could just as easily watch them at their own homes. We don't want that to happen. Come help out at the nursery. Show the parents you care and give them a chance to attend a service. It's only one hour a week and the more volunteers we have the less often you would have to work the nursery. Please think about giving one Sunday every two months to help out. If we don't show any interest in kids we won't have any.

The food pantry shelves are at an all time low and need your help pronto. With rising gas prices, food prices and the loss of key donors our food pantry and the ones it helps are suffering. Even If we all just give one can a week think of all the people we can help together. If nothing is done about this soon guess what . . . nothing will happen! Look for a buy on "get one get one free" items the next time you're at the store buying groceries. Chances are if you need it or like it someone else will too.

So everyone knows **LITTLE Billy Mosebach**? What an awesome example of servant hood for Christ. What did he want for his 16th Birthday? To give blood and for me to go with him. Isn't it sad when we need to be reminded to help others by someone we watched grow up? **NO, IT IS AWESOME AND IT MEANS WE DONE GOOD!!!** Keep up the great work FUMC Family! Thank you Billy for keeping me in check. God loves all of you and so do I.

David Russell Youth Children's Director





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