



# DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, Cocoa

NOVEMBER 2008

PASTOR GENE YOTKA

## ***Continued from last month: “The Kingdom of Heaven” by Pastor Gene Yotka***

***The Kingdom is Sabbath rest:*** Sabbath rest is part of the rhythm of God as displayed in the kingdom of God. Sabbath rest is life moving towards a time of peace, rest and of fulfillment of meaning. Each week represents the drama of the Kingdom in microcosm. It behooves us to enter into this life rhythm as it is in the Sabbath that we receive a taste of eternity. As God’s people we already experience Sabbath through the peace and reconciliation we have received from God and with our brothers and sisters in the Christian community. The fullness of Sabbath has not yet come however, thus it is important we continue to seek first the kingdom by entering into this God ordained rest called the Sabbath.

Other aspects or natures of the Kingdom of God include the fact that it is everlasting (Heb.1:8) and based on righteousness; it is unshakable (Heb. 12:28) and Christ deserves our thanks and worship. It is interesting to note the ongoing reception of the kingdom indicated in this verse as well. Finally the kingdom is characterized by obedience (John 14:15; 1 John 3:23).

For the people of God to claim such a title it is imperative that God’s rule is brought to bear at each and every point in our lives, personal, vocational, social, religious etc. We must ask ourselves what is our role as the people of God in culture, society and in the Christian life. The kingdom in my view is best exemplified when we practice prayer for world renewal and unity, evangelism and justice. Leadership in the kingdom must be shared. The days of the one man pastoral expert are gone. Kingdom leadership is Spirit-guided leadership where decision making is based on the consensus of the church and not a few isolated committees. Jesus is our leader and it is our job to discern His will and be obedient. Kingdom leadership is all inclusive; where male , female, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, every believer serves as a minister (1 Pet. 2:4-9). Kingdom leadership includes an all out effort to equip the laity (Eph 4:12) for ministry. Kingdom leadership focuses on the poor and the lost, as well as a balance between worship, community and witness as well as small-group structures that foster action minded communities through the exercising of spiritual gifts as well as a commitment to evangelism and discipleship.

The people of God as representatives of the Kingdom are called to invite others to enter into a new existence and are sent with the message of God’s transformative and healing power. I believe that it is in the hearing of the Gospel story that we are most profoundly invited to step into it that story ourselves, making it our story. The day I realized that I was part of God’s story (no matter how small that part may seem) I began to take my part and my witness far more seriously. The realization that we are helping the kingdom to come through our prayers and our service is for me mind-boggling. We are called to speak our testimony and to persuade rather than use worldly ways of coercion. The bottom line is that the reign of God is present wherever and whenever the will of God is done and it is God’s presence that elicits and enables the church to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Matthew 28:19ff is a call to be light and salt and to baptize others into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Where there’s a Kingdom there’s a King, and that King is Jesus Christ. Kingship is assigned to Christ by virtue of His sacrifice. The kingdom reign of Christ has vast implications for the church as we are freed of guilt to live holy and righteous lives. We are given spiritual gifts and riches and are armed with sufficient strength to withstand the enemy of our souls and of the kingdom of God. Christ shares with us all He has received from the Father. In the words of John Calvin (3); “He arms and equips us with His power, adorns us with His beauty and magnificence, enriches us with His wealth.” *continued . . .*

*Continued . . . . "The Kingdom of Heaven"*

In the end Christ will have put down all enemies and will turn the Kingdom over to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).

In Matthew 13:31-32 we are told;

“He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

John Wesley in his sermon “The Signs of Times” writes; “. . .in every age of the church, ‘the kingdom of God came not with observation;’ not with splendor and pomp, or with any of those outward circumstances which usually attend the kingdoms of this world. . .this ‘kingdom of God is within us;’ and that, consequently, when it begins, either in an individual or a nation, it ‘is like a grain of mustard seed,’ which at first ‘is the least of all seeds,’ but nevertheless gradually increases, till ‘it becomes a great tree.’”

I love this parable in that it depicts an observable event for those who keep a open eye and an open heart. Just like a parent with a newborn child who notices even the slightest growth in their baby, the discerning Christian can see signs, however small, of the kingdom of God making new inroads within people, places and situations. How many of us have seen God’s work in an individual even before the individual realized it. Most of the time however, we are so busy that we miss the small things and it takes the aunt who has not seen the child for a long time to point out the growth. The kingdom of heaven often moves in virtually imperceptible increments and it is not until time has passed that we are surprised to see how much the Lord has done in our midst. The shame of this however is that we are missing opportunities to participate in all the small increments because we fail to be observant and fail to listen to the promptings of God along the way. The kingdom of God for many will only be observable during times of revival, but it is the time prior to revival where the kingdom, like the mustard seed is small and in need of nurture. No revival has ever been recorded that hindsight did not reveal a prayer and worship movement which quietly preceded the revival period. The parable of the mustard seed tells me that indeed the kingdom comes as a still small voice often imperceptible to most, but has the potential and the destiny to grow into a major movement distinguished by soul saving growth. It also tells me that I need to be ever watching for every indication that the kingdom is breaking through and be ready to do all I can to help cultivate the movement of God in ways in which I am being called and guided.

### **Bibliography**

1. Woltersdorf, Nicholas, *Until Justice and Peace Embrace*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1983.
2. Snyder, Howard A., *Kingdom, Church, and World*, Wipf and Stock Pub., Eugene, 2001
3. Calvin, John, *Institutes* 2.15.4, Quoted in *The Word of Life* (pg 515), by Tom Oden, Prince Press, Peabody, Mass., 2001



## 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.

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## CIRCLE OF CONCERN

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

**Courtenay Springs Nursing Home:** Gladys Williams

**Rockledge Rehab:** Bob Knuckle

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## COMING NOVEMBER 3RD “THE SHEPHERD’S CLOSET” THRIFT STORE

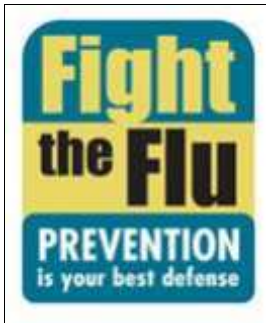
**Something new and exciting for our church.**

**If you are interested in being part of this ministry we are needing volunteers in the store.**

**Please call the church office for more information**

**636-4811**





## **FLU SHOTS ARE BACK!**

We are so grateful to Marilyn Mayo for organizing the Flu Shot program to our church again this year.

They will take place on Thursday, November 6th from 1pm—3pm in Hughlett Hall.

**Flu Shot:\$25.00 Pneumonia: \$30.00** However if you have Medicare and a supplementary insurance you should be fully covered.

*Please call the church office to reserve a time. 636-4811*



## **Bible Study with Pastor Gene**

Every Tuesday evening  
At 4:00pm. Room 102

Call the church office for more information.

**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)





# NOVEMBER CALENDAR 2008

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!**

- Nov. 4 4pm Bible Study  
5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinner  
7:00pm Charge Conference Hughlett Hall
- Nov. 5 **6am Men's Prayer Meeting (chapel)**  
9:30am UMW Executive Board Meeting
- Nov. 6 1pm—3pm Flu Shots—Hughlett Hall  
5:30pm Trustees Meeting Rm. 102
- Nov. 9 Stewardship Sunday at all three services
- Nov. 10 5:30pm Finance Meeting—Church Office  
7:00pm Church Council Meeting Rm. 102
- Nov. 11 **“Senior to Senior” Program Immediately following Tuesday Night Dinner**
- Nov. 12 10:30pm UMW General Meeting  
6:00pm Wednesday Evening Service (chapel)
- Nov. 13 Boy Scouts Meeting (Place to be determined)
- Nov. 15 8:00am UMM Breakfast—Hughlett Hall
- Nov. 19 Circle Meeting
- Nov. 22 8:30am—5pm Girl Scouts special all day program (H. Hall)
- Nov. 26 11am—2pm. Pot Luck Luncheon for the new school starting here in January.
- Nov. 27 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING (OFFICE CLOSED)**
- Nov. 28 **OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING WEEKEND.**
- Nov. 29 Hanging of the Greens in Sanctuary.
- Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent.

**Dates to Remember:** December 14th Christmas Ring (Bell Choirs)  
December 21st The Cantata (FUMC Choir)  
December 24th Christmas Eve Service 7pm





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2008  
UMW Web-Site: [gbgm-umc.org/umw](http://gbgm-umc.org/umw)

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Will meet November 5 at 9:30am in the Parlor. We will be discussing our Christmas plans as well as confirming our Program for 2009 and our mission studies for 2009. We need all the officers ideas and welcome different suggestions for 2009. Our Program books are in the process of being printed “so-o-o-o-o-” if you want to suggest something NOW is the TIME!

**UNIT MEETING**

Will be Wednesday, November 12 at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall. The program will be given by Elsie Vasilevich and friends and is entitled “The Icing on the Cake.” The host circle are the Mary Deborah and Ruth Book Group.

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**CIRCLES**

**Lydia Circle** will meet November 19 at 10:00am with LaVonn Simpkins.

**Rachel Circle** will meet November 19th at 10:00am with Norma Ronstrom. The program will be given by Norma with Marge Cerro giving Devotion.

**Mary Deborah Circle** will meet in the Church Parlor on Monday November 24 at 7:00pm.

**Martha Circle** will meet Thursday November 20 at 9:30am with Verda Rothstein.

**Ruth Circle** will not meet. A Nov/Dec. meeting will be on December 3. See information in December DW or call Nancy Glass.

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Our October Program was challenging to each person present. It was presented by Vivian Scott and daughter Debbie.

*Continued . . . .*

*UMW Continued . . . .*

The offering from “Thank Banks” was received. (This was a month early so if you want to give more or missed turning in your Bank money—feel free to give to Circle leader or Elsie V.) The money will be used to help bring “justice” in our country and world. The offering to date is \$166.00

Women were also challenged to become more involved in issues of justice by praying and action!

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**Ruth Book Group** gave \$100 to the Salvation Army after our July Meeting.

**The Ruth Book Group** continues to **READ!** The following persons received recognition for 2008 reading program. The areas of Reading include: Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

**Mission Sampler** at Grace Church on Merritt Island was attended by Marcene Jackson, Marianne Wright and Ruth Warden. We will be hearing from these women as we have a Mission Studies for 2009. We finished two studies in 2008—Our Spiritual Growth and Israel/Palestine Study.

**Love Offering** of \$50.00 was sent to the Conference to assist with retirement for our Missionaries and Deaconess. (This is our Birthday money each month.)

Church Women United will meet Nov. 7th for World Community Day.

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### CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT FOR “HABITAT FOR HUMANITY”



This will be different this year. We encourage all members of the church to contribute to “give a Home to a Family” by giving an offering after church in December.

We will have a Basket or Bank after each of the Services on Dec, 7, 14, and 21st. We suggest that this could be a family gift—Talk with your family about your nice home and then decide to share with a family to get a home. Also you can just greet your local friends at church and save the money for cards and postage.

# BACKYARD MINISTRIES

First UMC Cocoa  
Looking Ahead!  
A “JACK OF ALL Trades”  
program to help you  
and others

Mark your Calendar for a fun time out!



- Chocolate and Cappuccino  
Dessert Party—  
Feb. 13th 2009



- Antique Road Show  
(Type) Auction  
June 19th 2009

If you can help get this started or have teacher  
contacts please call:  
Victoria Gillis 536-5652

Ballroom & Line Dance Lessons  
Coming Thursday Nights 2009!



# THE AWAKENING CAFÉ



**“A Great Good Place”**

A Unique Ministry for Our Church

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.

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## Words of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for all your good thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery.

It is a real comfort to have such a caring church family.

God Bless You All

Sue Oden.

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## KEEP US POSTED

Please keep the Church office informed if you know of anyone who is ill or in hospital. **If you don't tell us then we don't know.**

Call Jane at 636-4811 to relate information.



## 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 Zywiolk, 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

## DECEMBER 2008

12/01 Joyce Berry  
12/02 Bill Lingenfelter, Dan Click  
12/05 Beth Fisher, Fay Hammond  
12/06 Janice Brown  
12/08 Lucille Taylor, Murray Millard  
    Rick Thrift  
12/09 Olive Artelli, Ruth Garland  
12/10 Frank Childers,  
12/11 Emma Jean McKinley,  
    Lilly Hibbard  
12/12 Betty Turner, Alfred Stephen  
12/14 Betty Matern, Victoria Gillis  
12/15 Glover Robinson  
12/23 Ed Barnett, Hal Matern  
    Betty Donnell  
12/24 Mildred Page, Carol Reid  
12/25 Sheryl Williams  
12/28 Bill Green  
12/29 Dorothy Rodecker  
12/30 Peggy Morgan-Halper.

REMEMBER THE  
BIRTHDAY BOX  
IN THE NARTHEX  
OF THE CHURCH.



## Youth/Children's Happenings!

Wow! Christmas is coming fast. It's time to start thinking about a Living Nativity scene. We need you! What can you help with to make this a special event for the whole community? We need builders to make a manger, talkers to help get the word out to friends and family. We need some creative people to make some awesome costumes and animals. Mangers got to have animals .... Oh, and we can't forget the hot chocolate. Please start thinking of way YOU can help.

Have you seen our awesome playground? If you answered yes may be it's time to take a closer look. It's time to restart and rebuild. We need a safe place where your children can play and have fun. The youth have begun working to remove the old mulch and weeds. If you are interested in the future of our playground please call David at 543-8259 and say "David I want to be on the play ground committee."

NEW WII tournaments at the Awakening Café every Saturday Night. Think you got mad skills? Think you're the best bowler in the world of WII then come prove it. A fun time for all ages. From 5:30pm till 9ish! Games and deserts.... What else do you really want from life?

The food pantry has had great response to the call for food. We are starting to get our selves restocked but we still need your continued support. We are still giving out bread every week but still do not have the supply to open fully yet. Thank you for all you do.

T-SHIRTS Get your T-Shirts. The youth will be selling t-shirts for \$10.00 each. These will be original t-shirts created by our very own youth group. Think you got a great idea for a shirt. Well let's see it. Bring your designs to David and we'll see if we can't just make it famous.

David Russell





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