



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, Cocoa

JANUARY 2009

PASTOR GENE YOTKA

As the New Year begins to unfold I found myself praying that each and every person who attends First United Methodist Church of Cocoa have a **spiritual renewal, such that they are blessed with God's Holy Presence in the** moment to moment of their lives. I have found this no better presented than **in that little book of Brother Lawrence, titled "The Practice of the Presence of God", written in the mid-late 17th century.** Please enjoy this first letter written by Brother Lawrence which entertains that very sentiment.

God Bless you all in 2009 and beyond
Pastor Gene

First Letter: You so earnestly desire that I describe the method by which I arrived at that habitual sense of God's presence, which our merciful Lord has been pleased to grant me. I am complying with my request that you show my letter to no one. If I knew that you would let it be seen, all the desire I have for your spiritual progress would not be enough to make me comply.

The account I can give you is: Having found in many books different methods of going to God and diverse practices of the spiritual life, I thought this would serve rather to puzzle me than facilitate what I sought after, which was nothing but how to become wholly God's. This made me resolve to give the all for the All.

After having given myself wholly to God to make all the satisfaction I could for my sins, I renounced, for the love of Him, everything that was not God; and I began to live as if there was none but He and I in the world.

Sometimes I considered myself before Him as a poor criminal at the feet of his judge. At other times I beheld Him in my heart as my Father, as my God. I worshipped Him the oftenest I could, keeping my mind in His holy presence and recalling it as often as I found it wandered from Him. I made this my business not only at the appointed times of prayer but all the time; every hour, every minute, even in the height of my work. I drove from my mind everything that interrupted my thoughts of God.

I found no small pain in this exercise. Yet I continued it notwithstanding all the difficulties that occurred. I tried not to trouble or disquiet myself when my mind wandered. Such has been my common practice ever since I entered religious life. Though I have done it very imperfectly, I have found great advantages by it. These, I well know, are due to the mercy and goodness of God, because we can do nothing without Him; and I still less than any.

When we are faithful to keep ourselves in His holy presence, and set Him always before us, this hinders our offending Him and doing anything that may displease Him. It also begets in us a holy freedom, and, if I may so speak, a familiarity with God, where, when we ask, He supplies the grace we need. Over time, by often repeating these acts, they become habitual, and the presence of God becomes quite natural to us.

Please give Him thanks with me for His great goodness towards me, which I can never sufficiently express, and for the many favors He has done for so miserable a sinner as I am. May all things praise Him. Amen.

POWER PRAYER

AS I LOOK TO THE FUTURE

*Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior,
I come to you today thankful for
The Beautiful chapters of my life -
Yet to be written,
The happy endings—not yet imagined.*

*I am able to believe in my future
Because you are healing my past.*

*You have forgiven me, Lord
You have cleansed my life.
You have wiped away my tears.
You are making me new.*

*As you have Loved, Forgiven, Healed,
So I am able to look back
Without regrets
Without remorse,
Without guilt,
Without shame.*

*You can turn anything into good!
You can turn a scar into a star!
You can turn a hurt, into a healing!
You can turn a trial into a triumph!*

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Grace, Mercy, Redemption. Amen!



Every fourth Saturday of each month we are having a **PRAYER WALK** around our community. This was started last year 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, Bill Green, Lou Kotopka, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey, Ann Anderson, Bernie Simpkins, Gladys Williams

Rockledge Rehab. Bob Knuckle

“THE SHEPHERD’S CLOSET THRIFT STORE”

Please continue to support this wonderful ministry. Spread the Word.



We are always in need of
Volunteers - men or women!

Open Monday—Saturday
10am—3pm.



COMING FEBRAURY 13TH 2009

Cappuccino &

Chocolate dessert

**“Celebrate Valentine’s Day with us”
6PM—10PM February 13th 2009,
Hughlett Hall**

Dress: Black and White (business attire)



Backyard Ministries Need Your Help!

Please leave a message for Victoria Gillis at the Church office if you could make a dessert for the Cappuccino and Chocolate Dessert evening on February 13th or help in another committee.

We need a variety of special chocolate desserts cut into small portions, placed into small muffin papers, and arranged on real glass or silver trays.

Committee: Decoration, Beverage Server, Clean Up, Food and Ticket Sales.

Donations: Napkins (fine paper), Glass party plates, use of Silver plated forks, China coffee cup and saucers.

CHAPEL SERVICE

Come join us for Chapel Service Every Week.

Wednesday: 6:00pm (Evenings) A Service of Song

Friday: 8:30am A Service of Presence (Holy Communion)





JANUARY 2009

Beginning of a New Year

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| 1st. | New Years Day, Office Closed |
| 2nd | * 8:30am Chapel Service
(Communion) |
| 3rd. | Memorial Service for Daisy Merritt
11am. In Sanctuary |
| 4th | Communion Sunday |
| 5th | New School Opens on Campus
5:30pm Finance Meeting Church Office
7:00pm Church Council Meeting Rm. 208 |
| 6th | *9:30am Staff Meeting Church Office
*4:00pm Bible Study Rm.208
*5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinner
Following dinner "Senior to Senior"
*6:30pm Praise Band Service
7:00pm. Echoes of Faith |
| 7th | 6:00am UMM Prayer Meeting
9:30am. UMW Executive Board Mtg.
* 6:00pm Chapel Service (Praise)
*6:00pm. Spirit Ringers |
| 8th | 6:30pm Trustees Meeting Rm. 208
6pm—8pm Ballroom Dancing Classes (1st and second Thursday)
*7:00pm Celebration Ringers |
| 10th | 9:30am—11am Staff Calendar Meeting Rm. 208 |
| 12th | 5:30pm Finance Meeting (Office) 7:00pm Church Council (Rm. 208) |
| 14th | 10:30am UMW General Meeting Hughlett Hall |
| 16th | 5:30pm Open House at the Yotkas |
| 17th | 8:00am UMM Breakfast Hughlett Hall—Guest speaker Michelle Armand
talking about the homeless situation in our area. |
| 21st | 10:00am Lydia Circle meet in the Parlor. |
| 29th | 9:30am Adult Fellowship Class Social/Movie in Hughlett Hall. |

*Events/Meetings that take place every week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

The Searchers enjoyed a “Christmas Feast” with **David and Jacky Rothermund**. The evening included eating, visiting and singing carols. The group enjoyed the beautiful decoration and delicious crab soup plus other specialties.

The Adult Fellowship Class had a busy December

A Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by 40 plus with **Elsie V. and Walter V. and Henry Hobson**. All the lights and glitter in the beautiful home and in the yard were enjoyed by the class. A bountiful meal was “devoured” by the class and then some visiting and caroling. The next event will be in February and in the “thinking” stage.

The class looks forward to having our Winter people with us this month.

Thanks to the committee for all their work—**Elsie, Walter, Henry, Carol Reid, Esther Hanson and Don and Sue Oden**.

Caroling

Two mornings of caroling were enjoyed by some of our members. (We just have time and energy to Carol to our members.) The group enjoyed sharing a noon meal together at a local restaurant.

Lawn Nativity

Thanks to **Arnie Smith** for putting scene up and keeping it working. We hope our members, neighborhood and US1 traffic have enjoyed this scene.

Martha Circle ate out and a visit from Santa Clause (Walter V.) and gave us a box of chocolates. **The Lydia Circle** enjoyed the Rockledge Country Club.

IMPORTANT MEETING.

On **January 10th (Saturday)** all staff and head of committees will be meeting to set and go over the Calendar for year 2009. In next months DW we shall have more information pertaining to this year ahead.

OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS!!

Thank you to all the volunteers who without their help we could not run this church. You are all great and we truly appreciate what you do and the time you spend with us.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

UMW Web-Site: gbgm-umc.org/umw

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Executive Board will meet January 7th at 9:30am in the Parlor. 2009 gives us all a **“New Lease on Life.”** All officers plan to attend and let us make **2009** our bet year to date.

The Unit Meeting will be at 10:30am in Hughlett Hall. The program will be presented by Flo Newhouse and is entitled **“Creating Communities Through Information Technology.”** This is our **“call to prayer and self denial”** program. The offering this year will fund programs related to marginalized communities, such as the poor, the **physically challenged and others, especially women, children and youth, that don’t** have access to information technology.

The Rachel Circle will be the host group. The lunch will be a **“Stone-Soup”** meal.

The Rachel Circle will furnish the beef broth, the stone, crackers, beverages and dessert. YOU bring 1 1/2 to 2 cups of vegetables ready for the pot.

Think about a lunch out with friends and then bring the money you saved (subtract cost of vegetables) for the offering to assist in bringing information technology to those who need it. Questions about the Soup can be directed to **Norma Ronstrom, Vivian Scott or Mildred Page.** **Good story to read “The Stone Soup”** get from Library

CIRCLES

Rachel and Lydia will meet at 10:00 on Wednesday January 21. Place will be decided at Dec. Meeting.

Martha Circle will meet at 9:30am on Thursday, January 22. Hostess will be decided and you will be notified.

Ruth Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 28 at 9:30am with Peggy McCann. **The book “The Ultimate Gift” by Jim Sovall will be reviewed by Jan Brown.** There are copies of the book available in the Library or check with Nancy Glass. This book is available in Large Print if needed.

UMW continued . . .

The December Meeting was delightful, inspirational and just plain good! Thanks to **Norma Ronstrom**. The Asbury Arms singers under the direction of Irena Gagnon with Norma at the piano presented a Christmas concert with good variety and enthusiasm.

We had a surprise visit from “The Holy Family” and Wise Men. Joseph (**Karl Ronstrom**) brought his family Mary (**Rebecca**), Baby Jesus (**Mikael**) and Wise Men (**Erik, Kristopher and Johnny**). Erik played a piano selection for the Unit. Joseph (Karl) sang “Unto Us A Child is Born” from the Messiah which was exceptionally well done.

We welcomed many new members which we look forward to getting to know better.

The Nominating Committee **Nancy Glass** and **Marion Culpepper** installed our officers presenting each with a flower. Our new officers are President Vivian Scott and Treasurer **Jacky Rothermund**. We continued to have good response from some “Old Timers” in the other areas. A fond farewell to **Marianne Wright** and **Elsie Vasilevich** who have served faithfully. They will probably be “recycled” before too long.

A luncheon which smelled good, looked good and tasted good was served by Margaret Russell and Janie Denny. This is always a highlight for our Units. There was a couple “elves” helping with dishes.

The December meeting for the **Ruth Book Group** was enjoyed by 19 members and was held in the Parlor which was decorated for the occasion by **Nancy Glass** and **Peggy McCann**.

The luncheon served by hostess Nancy was delicious and had a surprise ending—everyone was served 3 kinds of fruit cake—all different but “interesting.” This will be a happy memory for all those attending. The group gave our loyal custodian, **Gary Belflower** a gift certificate for the Olive Garden.

A BIG THANK YOU

To **Esther Hanson** for the delicious luncheon she served the Rachel Circle. Rachel Circle used their sunshine money to pay for our special chairs (Asbury Arms) luncheon.

Our stocking offering for the Salvation Army was **\$383.55**.

Thanks to **Genie Hardee** who continues to give all members picture momento each year. Christmas and special events.

Officer’s Training at Cocoa Beach Methodist, January 10 at 9:30am. All officers are encouraged to attend. Questions to **Vivian Scott**.

Habitat for Humanity will be reported in the Feb. DW If you want to help it isn’t too late. Give money to **Jacky Rothermund**. Habitat to date is \$483.00



At The Yotkas'

You are all invited to this

New Year

Get-together at

Pastor Gene and MaryAnn's home.

Beginning at 5:30pm, Friday, January 16th

Address:

38 Magruder Street

Rockledge.

(street opposite Rockledge Gardens)



Handbell Choir rehearsals will resume the second week of January.

Echoes of Faith: Tuesdays 7:00pm
Spirit Ringer : Wednesdays 6:00pm
Celebration Ringers: Thursdays 7:00pm
Sol Ringers: Sundays, 6:30pm.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Diane Click, Director
(321-452-4709) or dclick@yahoo.com) or leave
a message with the church office.



JANUARY 2009

- 01/01 Shannon Finn, Debbie Yosheda,
- 01/02 William Chumley
- 01/03 Anita Kruger
- 01/04 Lou Kotopka, Bill Barnett
- 01/06 Marilyn Mayo
- 01/08 Joanna Ramsey
- 01/09 Tim Wilson
- 01/10 CL. Colston, Mickey Furman,
Chris Mitchell
- 01/11 Jim Ross, Carlos Page
- 01/12 Donita Chace
- 01/13 Alex Bowlby
- 01/14 Lenny Faculo
- 01/18 Dick Glass
- 01/19 Chet Wilcox
- 01/24 William Anderson
- 01/28 Florence Newhouse
- 01/31 Marian Culpepper
Frances Winner, Arlene Reed
Barbara Catalfamo,
Janice Paul

FEBRUARY 2009

- 2/01 Sarah Van Gundy
- 2/03 Dorothy Ashley
- 2/04 Majorie Braxton
- 2/-5 Kurt Ronstrom, Gerald Odom,
- 2/08 Beverly Ratcliffe, Fern Patton
- 2/09 Ruth Higgs
- 2/11 Dorothy Young
- 2/13 Dorothy Knuckle, Adrian Jensen
- 2/14 Elsie Booth
- 2/15 Marguerite Accola
- 2/17 Bob Selle, Barbara Kennedy
- 2/18 Gary Dean, Kurt Yotka
- 2/19 Carol Simpson
- 2/20 May Russell, Larry Bridgham
Philip Underwood.
- 2/22 Walter Vasilevich
- 2/23 Becky Fasulo, Lindsey Mosebach
- 2/24 Kay Bartberger
- 2/26 Eileen Thrift
- 2/27 Chloe Drobnowski
- 2/29 Bruce Tate

If we have failed to mention anyone's birthday, please let us know. We rely on you to upkeep our information. Thank you for your help.

**REMEMBER THE
BIRTHDAY BOX
IN THE NARTHEX
OF THE CHURCH.**

CALENDAR 2009 MEETING

We are having a very important meeting on **Saturday, January 10th at 9:30pm** in Hughlett Hall. This is to set dates and times for events this new year. We are asking all the heads of each committee as well as all staff to participate in this meeting.

Probably, by the time you receive this newsletter the meeting will be over, and if you were not able to attend we, in the church office, need a list of events that **YOU** may be planning so that we can incorporate them into the main calendar.

This is very important as we cannot afford to double up on events causing a great deal of problems for those concerned. We must **ALL** be on the same page!

We have Staff Meetings every Tuesday morning and encourage all staff to participate, if possible in these meeting. We go over the calendar for the present month as well as the following one so that we are all on the same page.

We thank you for your cooperation and appreciate any input you may have. We want this year to be the best ever!!

United Methodist Men's Breakfast—Jan. 17th

This is a very important meeting as it's the first for 2009. We have a wonderful guest speaker. Michelle Armand, will be talking to us about the homeless situation right here in Cocoa. We believe that as many as possible should come and attend and support this interesting meeting. Thank you CH for keeping us informed.

United Methodist Women:

We would like to welcome Vivian Scott as the new President of our United Methodist Women. She comes to us with fresh ideas and we hope you will all support her. We would also like to thank Marianne Wright for the many years she has devoted to the Methodist Women and the outstanding job she has done. The UMW are always looking for new members and would love to see some new faces join them for their general luncheon meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month.



First United Methodist Church, Cocoa
825 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, Florida 32922
321-636-4811
www.fumc-cocoa.org