



DOMINION WINDOW

First United Methodist Church, Cocoa

MAY 2009

PASTOR GENE YOTKA

Blessings everyone,

This is a continuation of last month's article on spiritual disciplines. We are currently grounding our discussion of spiritual disciplines on Galatians 5:16-26. It is my belief that this Scripture will support our entire understanding of the Spiritual disciplines as personal behaviors that can lead to the Spirit led life. After all isn't it a life that led by God's Holy Spirit something we all desire? Last month we finished with verses 16-18. We now pick up our discussion with verses 18-21.

Spirit Led verses Works of the Flesh (Verses 18-21)

¹⁸ But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Here Paul begins to set up a stark contrast between a Spirit led life and a worldly life that is led by our selfish nature, which he calls the "flesh". Paul warns his readers saying, that those who pursue things of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God. In other words those who choose to gratify the sinful nature and remain unrepentant are not, and will not live in God's presence. Therefore our ability to live lives of shalom (peace) in God's presence and in God's will is not possible for those seeking to satisfy the sinful nature. This is a conscious choice to live in chaos rather than shalom and it becomes clear that such a person will not inherit the kingdom of God. Furthermore, it is important that we do not give in to, false notion that occurs when we place such behavior in a hierarchical manner, as if some of these behaviors and desires are better or worse in God's eyes than others. In other words we too often use arguments such as, "quarrels" are certainly not as bad, in God's eyes, as "licentiousness", or "factions" (clicks with their own agenda) cannot be as egregious, in God's sight, as "sorcery". Unfortunately this kind of thinking is a not a well veiled effort, to condone our own actions. God sees each of these as well as "things like these" as equally sinful, and as equal evidence that someone is seeking

the “flesh” rather than the Spirit. It is important that we take Paul’s words to heart. As such it pays to seek the things that God has given us, which help us to be self examining, and help us to walk closer with Christ. We need to find and incorporate behaviors into our lives that help us to overcome our frailties and weaknesses, and help us to live life with God at the very center. These behaviors are what we refer to as spiritual disciplines. In these verses (18-21), which Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, we are given some of the behaviors to watch out for, as evidence that we may not be living a Spirit led life. Now Paul gives to us the contrasting view. He does this by listing some behaviors that provide evidence we are indeed on the right track

Evidence of the Spirit Led Life (Verses 22-26)

²² By contrast, **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ **If we live by the Spirit**, let us also be **guided by the Spirit**. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; These are referred to as the fruit of the Spirit. Fruit is often referred to as produce. An orange tree produces oranges and an apple tree produces apples. Likewise a person who lives by and is guided by the Holy Spirit produces such things as, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It simply is, the kind of tree that we are. These are evidence of a life lived by and guided by the Holy Spirit. Paul then, just in case we still didn’t get it, continues the contrast between the flesh led life and the Spirit led life, by urging his hearers and himself “Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.” The contrast could not be clearer and the ramifications could not be more consequential. But we need help and that help can only come from God, as we live God centered lives. The spiritual disciplines that we are about to discuss, beginning with “meditation” are time proven behaviors that have helped people who are seeking the kingdom of God, to focus on a godly life and to combat the things of the world which look to derail us at every opportunity. One last thing I would like to say before we get into the disciplines themselves. I realize the word discipline can have a harsh connotation but, it is when we set our minds on God and godly living; when we focus our desire to please God and surrender our hearts to God that these disciplines, which at first can be difficult, become holy habits. We can in fact begin find that as we participate in these behaviors, they become a joy rather than a discipline. This is because we begin to walk lives moiré closely led by the Holy Spirit, defined by God’s love which produces the fruit of the Spirit in and through us, for the benefit of all whom we encounter along the way.

Next month we will discuss the spiritual discipline of “Meditation”

Until then, may God bless you all

Pastor Gene

Circle of Concern

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, Sharon Bauer, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Betty Turner, Bill Green, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey, Gladys Williams, Judy Barker, Lucille Taylor, Lou Kotopka, Joanna Ramsey, Bob Rothstein, Howard Russell, Ruth Warden, Bea Miller

Rockledge Rehab. Bob Kunkle,

Wuesthoff Hospital (Hospice Care) Lenora Cuppett

Wuesthoff Progressive Care: Pat Russell

Merritt Island Rehab. Ray Sharp, Mildred Page

Death: William Ashauer

“THE SHEPHERD’S CLOSET THRIFT STORE”

At this time we are in great need of Volunteers!

Our volunteers can work a couple of hours a day or a

Couple of days a week. Whatever they choose.

This is a fun place to be and we would love to see you participate

in our Thrift Store. Please call the church office at 636-4811

if you would like to come and join us.

Please continue to support this wonderful ministry.

Open Monday—Saturday

10 am—3 pm.

Donations are always accepted. Please drop

them off at the Thrift Store Mon.—Fri. 10am—3pm

**We are happy to come and pick up things you want to give away. Just call us
at 636-4811**

PLEASE NOTE:

Shepherd’s Closet Thrift Store will be closed

May 22 through May 25 to honor the Memorial Day Weekend.

We will reopen on May 26th

Recipe from Sue Oden: Graham Cracker “Cookies”

4 or however many Graham crackers you can fit in a Jelly roll pan/. (You need something with sides so you don't mess up your oven)

1 cup of butter (2 sticks)

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup chopped walnuts.

Arrange graham crackers in pan. Bring butter and sugar to boil stirring constantly. Boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in nuts. Spread mixture over graham crackers. Bake in 350o oven for 10 minutes. Cool and cut into squares or whatever shape desired. Watch them disappear!!!

Enjoy, Sue

Thank you Mildred and Carlos would like to thank all of you who kindly sent cards, flowers and of course prayers for Mildred's recovery. Carlos says she is doing much better and will probably be in Merritt Island Health for another two weeks. Please continue to keep her in Prayer. Rev. Carlos Page.

**We have discontinued our Ballroom Dancing
at the present time. Keep an eye on Bulletins and the DW for
upcoming information.**

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

First United Methodist Church of Cocoa

Searchers Sunday School Class

and

Audubon Elementary School Eagles Committee

Request the pleasure of your participation

At a covered dish retirement luncheon

For

Victoria Gills

On

Sunday, May 17, 2009 following the 11am Worship Service.

(Bring a covered dish of your choice. See you after church)

MAY 2009



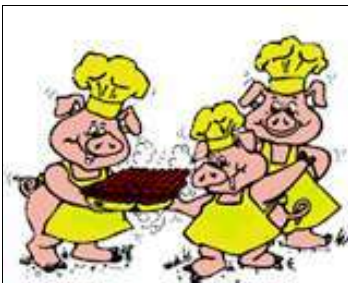
- May 2 11:00am Memorial Service in Chapel
**7:00pm Wedding of Tara and Robert
(Gene and MaryAnn's daughter)**
- May 3 Communion Sunday
- May 5 *3:45pm Bible Study with Pastor Gene
*5:30pm Fellowship Dinner, Hughlett Hall
*6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal (every Tuesday and Friday)
- May 6 9:30am UMW Executive Board Meeting
7:30pm Choir Practice Sanctuary
- May 7 6:00pm Trustees Meeting Rm. 208**
- May 10 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOMS!**
- May 11 5:30pm Finance Meeting (Church Office)
7:00pm Church Council Meeting Rm. 208**
- May 13 10:30am UMW General Meeting
- May 16 8:00am. UMM Breakfast
- May 16 12noon—3:00pm. Community BBQ on church grounds**
- May 17 12:30pm Baby Shower for Sherry Demandanza in Parlor and
Nursery
12:15pm Covered Dish Luncheon Following 11am Service
(See inside DW for more details)**
- May 20 Women's Via de Cristo set up for their Weekend
- May 21 Via de Cristo will be here through May 24th
- May 22 Youth go to Comedy Show at Calvary Chapel
- May 22 **Thrift Store (Shepherd's Closet) will be closed May 22nd through
Monday 25th For the Memorial Day Weekend**
- May 25th (Church Office Closed) Memorial Day**
- May 26 This will be the last Fellowship Dinner on a Tuesday through the
Summer. Check your bulletins for other
happenings.
- May 30 4:00pm Prayer Walk.

Please note: *There will be **no** Bell Choir Rehearsals
throughout the Summer
Will let you know when they start up again.
However Summer Bells for beginners will be starting in late
June. You will be notified.*



FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

- Tuesday:** 3:45pm Bible Study with Pastor Gene Rm. 208
5:30pm Tuesday Fellowship Dinner
(May 26th will be the last
dinner for the summer)
8:30pm WISEGUYS (Men 18-30 meet in H. Hall for Bible
Study and Fellowship)
We would like to welcome you to this successful
men's group.
- Wednesday:** 6:00pm Communion and "A Service of Song"
6:30pm "Vine & Branches" (College Age Co-ed) H. Hall
Great for young people !



COMMUNITY BBQ

We are having
Another Community BBQ

On May 16th, from 12noon - 3pm.

At First UMC Cocoa

There will be something for the entire family.
Come join us for **Food—Fun—Fellowship!**

Invite your friends to join us!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

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

Mildred Page has always given me all the information pertaining to the United Methodist Women to put into your special Newsletter. She had written this up prior to her illness. Her daughter just brought it into me after she requested to Carlos that Jane will need it. We are all praying for a speedy recovery.

God Bless, Jane

The Executive Board will meet **May 6 at 9:30 am in the Parlor**. This meeting is important as we evaluate our Mother-Daughter Banquet and look ahead to our busy Fall season.

The Unit Meeting will be **Thursday May 14 at 10:30 am** in Hughlett Hall. The program is “A Celebration at the Table with Friends” and will be a Book Review given by Marianne Wright. The meal will be catered by our own Margaret Russell and the cost is \$5.00. Bring a friend with you for this celebration. Remember Reservations are necessary. Circle leaders should give to Vivian Scott or President by May 10th.

Circle Meetings

Mary Deborah Circle will meet at 9:30am in the Parlor on Tuesday May 12. Program will continue on the Native American—This program would be enjoyed by “everyone” - Visitors Welcome!

Lydia Circle will meet Wednesday May 20 at 10:00am with Vivian Scott.

Martha Circle will meet at 9:30am on Thursday May 21 with **Elsie Vasilevich**.

Rachel Meeting Wednesday, **May 20th** at **Sue Oden's** Home. Program will be presented by **Norma Ronstrom**.

Check your Circle Leaders for more information.

Ruth Book Group will be **May 27th**. This will be Lunch Out—listen for a phone call. They brought the plastic containers for the “shepherd's Closet”. This money was part of their Sunshine Collection.

New Books available at the Unit Meeting. Now (Summer) is a great time to relax with a book.

UMW continued

The Offering from Spiritual Life Study to purchase Bibles was \$65.25.

PRESIDENT'S PINS was presented to Vivian Scott., Our unit is happy to have Vivian as our leader—we plan on several years!!

District President Nancy Weinberg was our guest at our May meeting. She brought greetings from the District.

REMEMBERING *Mother Daughter Banquet*—Hughlett Hall looked so festive and beautiful with all the Christmas trimmings. Red candles and wreaths on all the tables. Great food prepared by Margaret Russell and friends served by “Christmas Elves”. Due to Mildred not being well and Carlos not being able to be the Chair for the evening, Bernie Simpkins stepped up to the plate and did a fantastic job. Mother’s and daughters all dressed up to fit the occasion. Among our guests there were four generations present. Oldest being over 90 years of age. . . .Clean-up by “more elves David Russell and friends.

Christmas FruitcakeWhat kind do you want?? Check with Sue Oden, Marilyn Mayo or Marianne WrightPunch And Greetings by LaVonn and friends. . . . Picture of Family—Thanks to Genie Hardee.

This annual event continues to be a “fun time” for the women and girls in our church family. Big Thanks to Marcene Jackson for getting all the elves to work and our gracious President Vivian Scott for her “oversight” and added cheer!

Thank you all. We could not have had such a successful evening without your great help.

WELCOME MINISTRY!

Welcome Ministry, complete with cookies, coffee and juice has begun on Sunday morning before the 11am Worship Service. If you don’t care for coffee and a cookie, at least stop by so we can wish you a Happy Sunday.

Donations are accepted but not necessary. See you next Sunday!



BABY SHOWER

Will be held for
Sherry Demendoza

on

Sunday May 17th 12:30 pm.
in the Parlor and the Nursery.
We hope you will come!

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

May 26th will be the **last dinner** till the Fall.

We want to thank Margaret and Scott Russell for the outstanding job they have done week after week. They look forward to seeing you all again in the Fall.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Florida Conference will hold their yearly Annual Conference from Thursday, June 11 through Saturday June 13th. in Lakeland Florida. For those who plan to attend it is advisable to book your hotel rooms ahead of time. I shall be checking into hotels for Pastor Gene and Pastor John Cummins so will inform anyone whose interested where the best places are.

God Bless, Jane

EXCITING THINGS AHEAD!

- We are planning another Community BBQ middle of July
- In August we will have an Antique Road Show with Auction. (TBD)
- October we will have The Pumpkin Patch back, along with a fall festival with entertainment, BBQ and fun for the kids.

Keep track of all these events through your future DW and Bulletins.



MAY 2009

5/01 Everett Stacy, Linda Underwood
5/02 Sid Mangum Jr.
5/03 Trena Hopkins
5/05 Bob Wilson
5/06 Laurel Lightowler, Tara Pearson
5/08 Bill McMillan
5/10 Sheryl Long
5/16 Graybill Harman
5/17 Alice Williams, Larry Booth,
David Rothermond
5/19 Billy Anderson Ann Faulkner
Margaret Russell
5/20 George Compson, Cody Krechting,
5/24 Larry Cuppett, Bobbie Tate,
Sara Fellows
5/25 John McDonald
5/26 Coreen Lowe,
5/27 Mary Burgess, Barb Powell
5/29 Pat Van Ripper
5/30 Genevieve Jensen
5/31 Thomas Charlotte.

JUNE 2009

6/01 Tara Liberatore
6/04 Ernest Lindley, David Oliver
6/05 Jo Crouch
6/07 John Patrick
6/08 Floyd Perrin, Lois Childers,
Victoria Yotka
6/09 Don Oden
6/10 Lou Kruger
6/12 Ronald Chabot
6/13 Dennis Peterson, MaryAnn Yotka
6/14 Lowell Garland, Kyle Conrad
6/15 Roberta Frye, Arnold Smith
6/17 Ray Sharp, Carina Slack
6/23 Frances Tidwell
6/24 Leah Dunn
6/25 Michael Artelli III
6/26 Marsha Williams
6/27 Gladys Williams
6/28 Chuch Kurzweil, Jim Williams
6/29 Helen Damron
6/30 Pat Buckley

If we have forgotten anyone's
Birthday, kindly inform the
Church Office at 636-4811.

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



VBS

Summer is fast approaching and next month we shall have our VBS here at the church. We are again planning for an evening school.

June 22nd—26th

We want this to be the best VBS ever. Please invite your friend's kids.

Everyone is welcome.

We will also be needing volunteers.

More details to follow in next month's DW.

THANK YOU!

To members of FUMC of Cocoa, and those of you that have kept me in your prayers this past 16 months, thank you.

I began my journey with Breast Cancer in November 2007.

2008 was a very hard year for me. I had four surgeries, multiple complications and months of healing, but with your prayers and God's grace, I have been finding my way to the end of this journey.

On April 24, I hopefully had my last surgery (#5). I am recuperating and I feel stronger everyday.

As you can probably imagine, receiving the news you have cancer is news of frightening proportion. I have prayed daily for my recovery, and for the recovery of others with a health crisis of their own.

I just wanted to express how much your cards, calls and prayers have meant and continue to mean to me and my family. I feel I am one of the testaments to the power of prayer, and hope you will continue to pray for my healing health.

In Christ's Love, Christi Coy



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