

Dominion Window

December, 2009

From our Pastor

In Henri Nouwen's book titled "Spiritual Direction", in chapter six he asks the question, "Who is God for Me". This of course is the quintessential question when we consider Emmanuel, God With Us. I would like to make this question the center of our meditation for this Advent and Christmas season. There is a commitment to such focus however; as we quickly discover that every fiber of our being will be engaged because of the immensity of who God is. Over the next month, leading up to Christmas, our focus in Sunday's worship will be to learn how to live, to the best of our capabilities, the "With God Life", as we together explore the question, "Who is God for Me?" Nouwen retells the well known story of the four blind men and the elephant. This story helps us to understand the immensity of the task.

Four Blind Men and the Elephant

There were four blind men who discover an elephant. Since the men had never encountered an elephant before, they grope about, seeking to understand and describe this new phenomenon. One grasps the trunk and concludes it is a snake. Another explores one of the elephant's legs and describes it as a tree. A third finds the elephants tail and announces that it is a rope. And a fourth blind man, after discovering the elephants side, concludes that it is, after all, a wall. Which is right? Each in his blindness is describing the same thing: an elephant. Thus, all are right, but none wholly so.

We may not be able to completely know God, but it is of extreme importance that we seek to know God as best we can, because it is in knowing God that we in fact find ourselves. We learn just how small we are, and at the same time we discover that God

Continued next page . . .

love's each and every one of us. Thus, as we learn more about God, the creator and sustainer of all things, we also learn of our belovedness. We discover that in all God's infinity, God loves us infinitely. If we fail to seek God and to live the "With God Life" we never discover our loveliness from God's perspective. This is what I pray for each of us this blessed Advent and Christmas season, that we ask the question "Who is God for Me" so we can discover just how much we are loved by God.

In preparation for this I would ask that each of us meditate on the following Scripture from the prophet Isaiah. Each week we will consider an aspect of God and how that aspect reflects God's infinite love for all of us. The goal is to discover how we can better realize and accept God's love, so that we can better live an Emmanuel, God with us life.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. ^{NRS} **Isaiah 9:6-7**

1. Read and meditate on the entire Scripture daily.
2. Week one: Pay special attention to God as "Wonderful Counselor".
3. Ask yourself the following questions:
 - a. How do you picture God? What does God "The Wonderful Counselor" look like and sound like when you close your eyes?
 - b. When have you felt God's absence? What is the impact of God's unwelcome absence on your faith?
 - c. When have you felt God's personal presence as "The Wonderful Counselor" and how has that presence strengthened your faith?
4. Week two: Repeat week one, replacing "Wonderful Counselor" with "Mighty God."
5. Week three: Do the same, this time, however replace, "Mighty God" with "Prince of Peace."
6. Week four: Do the same, this time, however replace, "Prince of Peace" with "Everlasting Father."
7. Week five: Do the same, this time, however replace, "Everlasting Father" with "Emmanuel" (God With Us)

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at **321-759-5760**

I pray that all of you have a Blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Gene

PASTOR GENE'S CPE SCHEDULE

This will inform you of our weekend rotations regarding services while Pastor Gene has to complete this mandatory program.

Date: December 13: **8:00am Drive-In** –Ken Denny
 9:00am Praise Worship—Larry Booth
 11:00am Traditional Worship– Pastor Gene

Date: January 10: **8:00am Drive-In** - Ken Denny
 9:00am Praise Worship– Larry Booth
 11:00am Traditional Worship—Larry Booth

Date: February 7: **8:00am Drive-In Worship**—Ken Denny
 9:00am Praise Worship—Larry Booth
 11:00am Traditional Worship—Pastor Gene



Circle of Concern

Home: Mary Heslop, Kay Bartberger, May Russell, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Betty Turner, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey, Gladys Williams, Lucille Taylor, Joanna Ramsey, Judy Barker, Bob Kunkle,

Robin Wagoner, Gloria Reed, Karen Jones.

Rehab Center in Melbourne: Sharon Bauer

Please inform the church office if you know of anyone in hospital or needs a visit.

We hope and pray that all our Church Family and their friends and families who are suffering from illness or any personal problems, find peace at this special time of year. May God bless you all and hope the New Year will bring you health and happiness.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

December 1. Mary Deborah Circle will meet at Genie Hardee's House at 9:30am.

December 2. Ruth Book Group will meet in the **Church Parlor at 9:30am.** Nancy Glass will be providing a delicious lunch. We will be reviewing the short story, "*Once On Christmas*" by Dorothy Thompson, the daughter of a Methodist minister.

December 3. Members of the UMW will be at the Merritt Sq. Mall all day helping there Salvation Army with their 'Angel Tree.'

December 10. (Thursday) UMW Christmas meeting. A special Christmas lunch will be provided by Margaret Russell. Cost \$5.00 per person. The program will be presented by Carlos Page. Meeting begins at 10:30am. We would like to invite all the women of the church to this very special Christmas celebration!

December 16. Lydia Circle will meet at Betty Turner's House at 10:00am
Rachel Circle will meet at the Forest Lakes Club House at 10:00am.

Members of the **Martha Circle** will be contacted as to where and when they will meet in December.

At the November UMW Meeting, **\$136.00** was collected through the World Thank Bank Offering. The money will be used to support UMW mission program.

Throughout December the UMW will be collecting money for '*Habitat for Humanity.*' At the Christmas UMW Meeting a special collection will be taken for the Salvation Army to help families in need at Christmas.

Footnote

United Methodist Women were host to the **Area Five Annual Meeting** of Church Women United in Hughlett Hall, October 16th. It was a great and interesting get together.

DECEMBER 2009



- Dec. 2** 10:00am Book Group Meet in Parlor/
Nursery
- Dec. 3** 6:00pm. Trustees Meeting
- Dec. 7** 11:30am Sub District Gather (Mike Oliver)
Rm. 208
- Dec. 8** 5:30pm Finance Meeting, Church Office
2pm—7pm Make-Up Day for Pictures
(Directory) Parlor
*3:45pm Bible Study
*5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinner
- Dec. 9** 11am—3pm. Special Gather Christmas Luncheon. H. Hall
- Dec. 10** 10:30am UMW Christmas Luncheon . H. Hall
- Dec. 13** **11:00am Worship: Christmas Cantata**
- Dec. 19** 8:00am UMM's Breakfast H. Hall
Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 20** **2:00pm. Christmas Ring Sanctuary (our Bell Choirs)**
3:45pm—7:30pm Community Christmas Open House
Fun for all the Family.
- Dec. 24** **7:00pm. Christmas Eve Candle Light Service Sanctuary**
11:00pm Christmas Eve Service
Office open from 8am—12:30pm.
- Dec. 25** **Happy Christmas to All (Office Closed)**
- Dec. 26** **Office Closed**
- Dec. 31** 7:00pm Watch Night Service— Sanctuary

No Trustees or Church Council Meeting in the month of December.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**Please join us on Sunday, December 13th
at the 11am Worship Service
To enjoy our wonderful Chancel Choir Perform
“The Christmas Cantata.”**

Tell your friends and invite them to join you.

A Prayer for Our Pastor

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:7-8 NASB

Father GOD, We thank you that Pastor Gene is filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you. He is fulfilling your perfect purpose and plan for his life. He hears the voice of the Good Shepherd and the voice of a stranger he'll not follow. We pray that the Spirit of wisdom, knowledge, counsel, might and understanding will guide him in every meeting, activity and conversation he engages in. We thank you that he gives himself continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

We thank you that he is protected from all hurt, harm, danger and accident. He is the redeemed of the Lord and in covenant with Jehovah God, Therefore sickness and disease, poverty and lack, and fear and oppression have no power over him. He walks in divine health and is physically fit. His soul prospers because he meditates in God's word day and night.

He enjoys his free time without interruption and is refreshed and rested for every day's work, for his youth is renewed like the eagles. No weapon that is formed against him shall prosper and every lying tongue risen against him shall be silenced. Every business deal works to his favor and advantage, and Your blessings overtake him because he hearkens diligently unto the voice of the Lord his God.

We cancel every attack of the wicked one to bring deception, distraction, hindrances and temptations into his life, Devil, You are bound and have no authority over our pastor, his family or his possessions,. We cover Pastor Gene with the blood of Jesus and release the angels of God to minister for him and bring him into God's best every day of his life.

Father, We thank you that you have opened doors or utterance for him to proclaim boldly the Gospel with signs following. He is teaching believers how to live, independent of this world system and have dominion over it. He has clarity of vision, unimpeded by ungodly sources or input. He is always in the right place at the right time with the right information and the right understanding. All hidden things of darkness are revealed to him and are made manifest by the light. The anointing of increase is upon his life and whatsoever he does prospers.

We thank you that his family is one of heart and in one accord, and are enjoying the days of heaven upon the earth. His seed is mighty upon the earth and blessed and wealth and riches are in his house. He fellowships with leaders of like precious faith and has set a new standard of excellence for the body of Christ.

IN JESUS NAME, AMEN

From the FUMC Prayer Group.

INFORMATION FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

The **Adult Fellowship Class** enjoyed a “great meal and fun afternoon” at “Elsie, Walter and Henry’s home on November 7th. Some members from the Martha Circle joined the group. 45 people were present.

The Adult Fellowship Class will enjoy a Christmas Dinner and Fellowship in December at Elsie, Walter and Henry’s house. Dates will be firmed up soon. Questions about the gathering can be diverted to Nancy and Dick Glass or Betty and Herman Byrd.

Caroling:

The Adult Fellowship Class will go Caroling on **Tuesday December 15th at 9:00am**. Meet at the church. Will enjoy lunch together after the caroling at a local restaurant. Question to Mildred Page.

The Class will have a “Birding Outing” in January. Questions to Mildred Page or Nancy Glass. This class meets in Room 316. President is Don McCarter and teacher is Mildred Page.

Dear Santa,



How are you Santa? Are you getting ready for your long trip with Rudolph and your elves? I understand the long range forecast is for good weather, so hopefully your trip will be an easy one.

Santa I have tried real hard to be a good boy and so have my friends and we want to ask you for a very special present. Do you think you may be able to save enough fuel with that new special sleigh you have that you could help my friendly Trustee Committee members and myself with a gift of enough money to enable us to have the painting finished on our exterior buildings. We have been struggling all this year to get the painting done, but have run out of funds to finish. With a special gift of \$ 2,500.00 we can complete the painting and be able to concentrate on other important Trustee matters.

Santa, we will leave an additional quart of milk and a big plate of chocolate chip cookies for you and your helpers as our way of saying "thank you" for your consideration in helping our needs.

Special Prayers are being said for you and your elves, and we also wish that you have a safe trip. God loves you and so do we.

Merry Christmas You All.
Your FUMC Trustee Committee



“Christmas Ring”
Sunday -- December 20, 2009
2 o'clock

featuring our Handbell Choirs
PLEASE JOIN US!!

The Handbell Choirs of 1st UMC
are “out and about.”
Watch for us!

Sol Ringers at Titusville Towers
Assisted Living Facility
Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 pm

Small Ensemble at Parrish Medical Center
“Gift of Life” Tree Lighting Ceremony
Sunday, December 6 at 4:15 pm

Sol Ringers at Disney
Wilderness Lodge Lobby
Friday, December 11 at 7:00 & 7:40 pm

Celebration Ringers at Disney
Animal Kingdom Lodge Lobby
Saturday, December 12 at 6:30 & 7:30 pm

Echoes of Faith at Disney
Boardwalk Resort Village Green & Porch
Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 & 8:00 pm

Spirit Ringers at Disney
Caribbean Beach Resort Lobby
Friday, December 18 at 7:00 & 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS RING
First UMC Sanctuary
Sunday December 20 at 2:00 pm

Spirit Ringers for Christmas Eve Service First UMC Sanctuary
Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm





DECEMBER

- 12/01 Joyce Berry
12/02 Bill Lingenfelter, Dan Click
12/06 Fay Hammond
12/06 Janice Brown
12/08 Lucille Taylor, Murray Mallard
Rick Thrift
12/09 Olive Artelli, Ruth Garland
12/10 Frank Childers,
12/11 Emma Jean McKinley,
Lilly Hibbard
12/12 Betty Turner
12/14 Betty Matern, Victoria Gillis
12/15 Glover Robinson
12/19 Yvonne Kotopka
12/23 Ed Barnett, Hal Matern,
Betty Donnell,
12/24 Mildred Page, Carol Reid
12/25 Sheryl Williams
12/29 Dorothy Rodecker
12/30 Peggy Halper

**Remember the Birthday
Box in the Narthex.**

January

- 1/02 William Chumley
1/03 Anita Kruger
1/04 Lou Kotopka, Mary Lou Beatty
1/06 Marilyn Mayo
1/08 Joanna Ramsey
1/10 C.L. Colston, Mickey Furman,
1/10 Chris Mitchell
1/11 Jim Ross, Carlos Page
1/12 Donita Chase
1/13 Alexander Bowlby
1/14 Lougetta Krell, Lenny Fasulo
1/18 Dick Glass
1/19 Chet Wilcox
1/22 Louise Gerlach
1/28 Florence Newhouse
1/31 Marian Culpepper,
Frances Winner, Arlene Reed
Barbara Catalfamo,
Janice Paul

**HAPPY AND
HEALTHY
NEW YEAR
TO EVERYONE!**



COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS

OPEN house, SUNDAY

Dec. 20, 2009

3:45pm pm—7:30pm

**Our fabulous FUMC Bell Choirs will present their
“Christmas Ring” from 2:00pm—3:30pm
“Open House” from 3:45pm until 7:30pm**

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

***BOUNCE HOUSE, BIG SLIDE, HAY RIDES
CHILDREN ACTIVITIES***

andcome visit SANTA CLAUS!

FOOD!!

***Hot Dogs, Baked Beans. Holiday Punch,
Lemonade, Coffee, Christmas Cookies, Cakes,
Candy Canes, Christmas Candy.***

FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE

Come Join Us At This Special Time

OUR ADVENT JOURNEY

Beginning Sunday Nov. 29th



First Sunday: “He Will Be Called Wonderful Counselor”
Second Sunday: “He Will Be Called Mighty God”
Third Sunday: “He Will Be Called Prince of Peace”
Fourth Sunday: “He Will be Called Everlasting Father”
Christmas Eve: “He Will Be Called Emmanuel”

Angel Tree



Beginning Sunday Nov 29th there will be an angel tree set up in the Narthex.

The angels hanging on this tree are in need of a special Christmas. They are local angels with special needs some are physically, mentally or emotionally challenged, mom and dad could really use some help.

Please sign up take an angel and help make this Christmas a blessed one for our angels. Any question please call **MaryAnn Yotka 321-759-5763**

PUMPKIN PATCH



Would like to thank everyone who was involved in making our first year back with Pumpkin Patch a success, and it was, the blessing received was almost \$650.00. This will be used to help with our missions and youth mission trips..To GOD be the Glory. Thank you all so much. GOD Bless MaryAnn

May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done. **Ruth 2:12**



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