

MAY/JUNE 2010

Dominion Window

From Pastor Gene:

Spiritual Direction and the Seven Last Words of Christ

Jesus said “follow me”. For me this is the basis for all spiritual direction. To follow Jesus is to pray with and be guided by our Savior into eternal life. Christ is the guide and although we can and do seek and offer spiritual direction with others who are on the journey, the bottom line is, that Christ through the Holy Spirit is the only one who can guide us all the way to the finish line. Why, because Christ through the power that brought about His resurrection is the only one who knows the way to the finish line that flows into eternity. One would never hire a guide to take them up a mountain, or through a dark forest, through which they never traveled and lived to tell about it. Christ is the only one who lived, died, conquered death and resurrected, to tell about it. By grace God has offered us the Holy Spirit to guide us on the path blazed by Jesus, the Son of God. Certainly, others can help us along the way by japing us to become cognizant of barriers to prayer and offered wise counsel with regard to our walk with Christ, Emmanuel “God with us. Jesus is the only guide who knows the beginning and the end. The best spiritual directors acknowledge this by recognizing their position as companions along the way; “one beggar helping another beggar to find bread”, by relentlessly pointing to the presence of God in our lives and giving us tools to practice God’s presence.

So what does it mean to “follow” Jesus? Too often we feel that following Jesus is a peaceful journey in which we are to become immersed in the warm fuzzies of life. If we are not entertained or made to feel good we jump ship in search of a utopia which ultimately reveals itself as a rope of sand. There is a cost to discipleship which we are called to consider, as we embark on the journey (Luke 14:28). Jesus throughout his journey spoke of the cost that he would pay (Mark 8:31; 9:31, 10:34)

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him,

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Saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.

Mark 10:32-34

Jesus was on his way to a horrible death he wanted the disciples to be very aware of it. (although they did not really understand until after Christ’s resurrection). He wanted them to know the journey because it was the way to resurrection and the path to eternal life that He was paving for all who dared to follow Him. Thus it was their journey as well, and it is also our journey. Yes, the gospels do provide the Jesus way of living, but mostly they are about the Jesus way of dying that leads to resurrection. Christ’s passion and death and resurrection that we follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8:34

The journey this side of resurrection is important mostly because it leads to a death that leads to resurrection. When Jesus say’s “take up your cross and follow me” He means straight to Calvary and our own crucifixion. For this reason we find Jesus’ last seven words from the cross most important. They are the culmination of the gospel that Jesus brings to us when we respond to His call for repentance, belief and to follow Him. These last seven words bring us closest to Christ because they are uttered from a place that we all encounter in one way or another. For this reason Christ’s last seven words direct to us to a place like no other as we seek God’s presence in our lives, In a real sense, through the last seven words, Jesus describes what it means to follow Him, take up our own cross, and enter the narrow gate into eternity through death (the cross and the tomb) that leads in resurrection and eternity in the presence of the Lord. This is, after all, the end goal of all spiritual direction, is it not? The spiritual director’s job is to point to Christ, and in so-doing help others to remove barriers in their relationship with the Lord. In a real sense the best spiritual direction helps us to be amazed at God in our midst. This ranges from the acknowledgement of the imago dei that stands before us as we look at one another, as well as the understanding that the Holy Spirit lives in every believer. Furthermore, spiritual direction can help us to become open to the presence of God all around, in, and through us. William Barry states that most human problems that are addressed in spiritual direction refer to the directees relationship with God. Barry concludes that most often this relationship has two “underlying questions”, Who is God for me, who am I for him.” Furthermore, I think it is important to answer for ourselves how our answers to these questions impact our everyday lived.

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MEETINGS FOR MAY/JUNE

MAY

May 4th	9am-12noon	District Clergy Meeting in Vero Beach
May 5th	9:30am	UMW Executive Meeting –Rm. 208
May 6th	6:00pm.	Trustees Meeting –Church Office
May 10th	5:30pm	Finance Meeting –Church Office
	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting Rm. 208
May 12th	10:30am	UMW General Meeting-Hughlett Hall

JUNE

June 2nd	9:30am	UMW Executive Meeting Rm. 208
June 3rd	6:00pm	6:00pm Trustees Meeting Church Office
June 9th	Florida Annual Conference in Lakeland through June 12th	
June 9th	10:30am.	UMW General Meeting
June 14th	5:30pm	Finance Meeting Church Office
	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting

THRIFT STORE SUMMER SCHEDULE

As many people are out of town over the summer or at least taking summer Vacations, the **Shepherds Closet Thrift Store** will be closing on Saturdays for the months of June, July and August. The store will be open **Monday through Friday from 10am—3pm.**

We wish to thank all of you who are so generous with your contributions and to the wonderful volunteers who give their time in sorting all the various clothes and items and of course those that work inside the shop.

Hope you will all have a wonderful summer. We've have had a great run since we opened and will continue to do so. It's an awesome way to reach out to our friends and neighbors.

God Bless you all, Sheryl Henderson, Manager



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MAY/JUNE

United Methodist Women Events

May 13th (Thursday at 10:30am. Program is *Let's Get Together for the Children's Sake* Steven Hartsfield from the Florida UM Children's Home will speak.

Lunch will be catered. Cost is \$5.00

June 9th at 10:30, Program is *Let's Get Together to Celebrate the Global Nature of UMW Missions*. All women are invited to enjoy, excellent programs, excellent lunches and excellent fellowship!

Circle Meetings

Martha Circle May 20 (Thursday) 9:30am at Frances Tidwell's Home.
No regular meeting in June.

Lydia Circle May 19 9:30am at Betty Pound's home.
June 16, 10:00am in the Church Parlor.

Rachel Circle May 19, 9:30am at Marge Cerro's Home
No meeting in June.

Mary Deborah Circle May 11, 9:30am in the Church Parlor
June 8, 9:30am in the Church Parlor.

Ruth Book Group

May 26. We will be going out to lunch. Place to be announced later.

June 23 at 9:30am in the Church Parlor. The book "*Something to Sing About*" by C.C. Payne will be reviewed. There are 3 copies in the Brevard County Library System. The book is on the UMW Reading List for 2010.

May 21 UMW will hold the "*Celebrate Women Banquet*" in Hughlett Hall at 6pm. Cost is \$7.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for girls 9 and under. Bring your mother, daughter, grandmother, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, aunt, niece, friend—you get the picture. All women are invited!!!

There will be a fashion show that promises to rival Paris, New York and Milan.

Don't miss being part of this Celebration.

Circle of Concern

Home: Kay Bartberger, May Russell, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Ernest Lindley, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey, Lucille Taylor, Glover Robinson, Joanna Ramsey, Judy Barker, Bob Kunkle, Robin Wagoner, Gloria Reed, Sharon Bauer, Gladys Williams, Bob Rothstein, Sara Fellows son, Leslie, Mary Heslop.

Death: Bob Kunkle and Ernest Lindley both passed away in April. Please keep their families in prayer.

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

THANK YOU! I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and kindness after the death of my husband. I would especially like to thank the women who so graciously brought food and arranged a reception following the service.

Again thank you to all, Fleeta Lindley



HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

This year **Vacation Bible School** will take place the week of **June 21st** through **June 25th**.

We want this VBS to be the best ever. We will be needing our usual volunteers to help keep things going. Tell your friends and neighbors so that they may bring their children to this summer tradition.

VBS will take place in the evening from 5:30pm—9:30pm. Good times, good food and great teachings.

BI RTHDAYS!



MAY

- 5/01 Everett Stacy
Linda Underwood
- 5/02 Sid Mangum Jr.
- 5/03 Trena Hopkins
- 5/06 Laurel Lightowler, Tara Pearson
- 5/08 Bill McMillan
- 5/12 Romelo Mercer
- 5/16 Graybill Harman
- 5/17 Alice Williams, Larry Booth,
David Rothermund
- 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, Bob Powell,
- 5/29 Pat Van Riper
- 5/30 Genevieve Jensen
- 5/31 Charlotte Thomas.

JUNE

- 6/01 Tara Liberatore
- 6/04 David Oliver
- 6/05 Joe 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
- 6/21 Jada Demendonca
- 6/23 Frances Tidwell
- 6/24 Leah Dunn
- 6/25 Michael Artelli III
- 6/27 Gladys Williams
- 6/28 Chuck Kurzweil, Jim Williams,
Jan Conrad
- 6/29 Helen Damron, William Luther
- 6/30 Pat Buckley.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS 2010

The following list is presented each week to our Promotional Team so they will know what is coming up and get the info out to not only church family but the community when necessary.

May 16 th	Spring Ring (Handbell Choirs) 2pm Sanctuary
May 21 st	6:00pm. UMW presents “Celebrating Women” (Hughlett Hall) <i>This is in place of the usual Mother/Daughter Banquet</i>
June 21	VBS through June 25th
June 12 th	Leah Dunn’s Wedding (Sanctuary/Hughlett Hall)
July 10 th	Possible Piano Concert (Marco from Vero Beach (classical pianist) to perform here. TBD
September 25 th	Possible Gospel Singers concert. (pending.)
November 6 th	Southern Gospel Quintet. (pending)
November 26 th	Possible Thanksgiving Community Dinner
December 24 th	7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service
December 31 st	11:00pm. Night Watch Service

Always check bulletins and DW’s for any changes in schedules.

Please see May/June Calendar for weekly happenings.



Prayer Meeting

Every Monday Morning our Prayer Group meet in the Narthex of the church at 10:30am.

They take the prayer requests from Sunday and pray for each and everyone in need. This is a great way to speak to God and give all your concerns up to Him.

We would love you to join us for this uplifting time.

God Bless all of you. Maryann Yotka



VACATION TIME

Summer is almost here and that means it's time for vacations.

Pastor Gene and MaryAnn will be on vacation from May 28th through June 8th. After they return, Gene and MaryAnn will be heading to Florida Annual Conference in Lakeland from Wednesday, June 9th through Friday June 11th.

Jane Cruz will be taking part of her vacation from Friday May 7th through Tuesday May 11th.

Please check church bulletins for any further information.

We hope all of you will enjoy your summer and to those who leave us and head home for the Summer, we look forward to seeing all our Snow Birds return in the Fall.

God Bless and Safe Travels.

**125th
ANNIVERSARY
OF
FUMC COCOA
1885-2010**



Please join the Celebration Ringers Handbell Choir for their annual concert at the library (308 Forrest Avenue). Admission is free.

Another Embellished Afternoon

Sunday, May 9, 2010

2 o'clock

*The Celebration Ringers of
First United Methodist Church, Cocoa*

Hosted by

The Central Brevard Library

Annual Spring Ring

Sunday, May 16, 2010

2 o'clock

the Handbell Choirs

First United Methodist Church

825 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa

Nursery Provided

May/June Calendar

MAY

- May 2nd Via de Cristo Closing, Sanctuary
May 3rd 10:00am E.A.S.E. Group Meeting Rm. 208
May 4th 9am—12noon. District Clergy Meeting in Vero Beach
*3:45pm Bible Study with Pastor Gene
*5:30pm Fellowship Dinner, Hughlett Hall.
6:45pm SPR Meeting (Church Office)
May 5th 9:30am UMW Executive Meeting Rm. 208
6:00pm Trustees Meeting Church Office
May 9th “Happy Mother’s Day”
May 10th 5:30pm Finance Meeting Church Office
7:00pm Church Council Meeting, room 208
May 12th 10:30am UMW General Meeting
May 15th All Morning: Handbell Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
May 16th 2:00pm “Spring Ring” Handbell Choir Concert, Sanctuary
May 20th 6:00pm AIA School Graduation
May 21st 6:00pm. “Celebrating Women” UMW Dinner—Hughlett Hall
May 25th Last Tuesday Night Dinner till the Fall
* Every week events.
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JUNE

- June 1st Pastor Gene and MaryAnn on Vacation from
May 28th through June 8th
June 2nd 9:30am UMW Executive Meeting Rm. 208
June 9th 10:30am UMW General Meeting
Hughlett Hall
June 9th through June 12th—Florida Annual Conference Lakeland Fl.
June 12th 2:00pm Leah Dunn Wedding Sanctuary followed by a
Reception in Hughlett Hall.
June 21st VBS begins from 21st through Friday 25th.

Please check May for all regular weekly events.



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