

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

Dominion Window

From Pastor Gene:

Spiritual Direction and the Seven Last Words of Christ (Continued)

We will then pursue three questions with regard to that message, as we seek Christ's spiritual direction. The three questions are as follows:

1. How is God being revealed? Who is God for me ?
2. How does this guidance bring us closer to God?
3. How can we respond to, be guided by, these words? Who Am I for God?

Prayer of Forgiveness

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

How is God being revealed? Who is God for me?

Jesus has been nailed to a cross, treated as no one ever should be treated. Surely if an injustice has ever been committed this is the most unjust act of all. Jesus Christ the sinless One, God incarnate, condemned to death by his own creation, which he had come to save. Surely this act deserved eternal death. Surely God had every right to turn away from humanity for good. But, God's love is so intense, so magnificent and so perfect that Jesus prays to the Father, that those who did this heinous act might be forgiven, due to their ignorance. "they know not what they are doing? God is revealed as forgiving, even when forgiveness seems impossible. God is a forgiving God who seeks relationship with a lost people. The curse of the fall is lifted; it is forgiven, because God's love deemed it so.

How does this guidance bring us closer to God?

God's forgiveness is a pure act of grace. God's forgiveness cannot be earned, our sin is too great. When we ponder God's forgiveness, realizing just how great that forgiveness is, and consider that this divine forgiveness has delivered us from eternal death into eternal life, we begin to know in our hearts the immensity of God's love.

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Such love draw us closer. This amazing love brings forth the heartfelt knowledge, that God really does love me and care for me. I can step nearer to this God of love and I can cast my cares upon the Lord. I can humble myself before this God of love, with faith, trusting that the Lord will lift me up and protect me. (1 Pet. 5:6-7). We are brought closer to the Lord, because it is by this forgiveness that the sin that separated us from God has been eliminated. It is good to stand the presence of such a forgiving God.

How can we respond to, be guided by, these words? Who Am I for God?

The guidance offered in these words is two-fold. Accept God's forgiveness and be forgiving to others. To be forgiving we must first know and accept that we are truly forgiven.

...and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as **God in Christ has forgiven you.** Ephesians 4:32

When we repent and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, our confession brings about a new creation, unblemished and pure in the eyes of God. The blood of Christ was poured out for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28). It is important that believers are first guided by this fact. Because it by the power of Christ's blood that the door to kingdom living is thrown open. We are empowered to take our positions among the royal priesthood and our residency in a Holy nation and to walk this earth as the people of God (1 Pet.2:9).

Jesus is not only guiding our spirits to accept forgiveness, but also to live as forgiven people who forgive others. Through these initial words from the cross Jesus is directing us live as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Col. 3:12). As God's people we are being guided to be these things in the midst of a decidedly unforgiving world. Peterson writes: "In matters of wrongdoing, in all matters of sin, in all that has to do with what is wrong with the world and with us, what is wrong with our enemies and our friends, forgiveness is the last word." I would suggest that it is the first word as well for those seeking to be guided by Christ's words from the cross.

Prayer of Assurance

Luke 23:43 *He relied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise"*

Continued next DW.

THRIFT STORE BACK ON SCHEDULE

The Thrift Store will be opening on Saturdays again starting **September 11th**. We know, that come the Fall, many people love to hit the thrift stores in the area on the weekends.

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 all had a wonderful summer.

God Bless you all, Sheryl Henderson, Manager

AUCTION IN THE FALL

After the success of last years Auction we will be having another on October 23rd. Viewing of items will take place from 3pm—5pm and the auction will be at 6:00pm.

We already have some fine items up for bids, but need more. Only good quality merchandise. Pastor Gene will be the Auctioneer and we are looking forward to making money to help our Thrift Store and Food Pantry.

If you would like to help organize this Auction please contact Sheryl Henderson at the Shepherd's Cosset Thrift Store.

Thank you

Frances Tidwell and family would like to thank everyone for their, cards, calls, visits, food, prayer and kindness during Mitchell's illness and after his passing.

We don't know what we would have done. God Bless.



Altar Flowers:

We are blessed to have Fay Hammond arrange Altar Flowers for us every Sunday or when people request them for certain occasions. There is an Flower Calendar in the Narthex that you can write a date you wish to have flowers on the altar. Fill out the form next to the calendar and send it to the church office. Altar Flowers are \$35.00 per arrangement.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

United Methodist Women Events

MEETINGS:

September 8 at 10:30AM. Program is “*Let’s Get Together and Love as God Has Loved.*” Also at this meeting we will be making more prayer shawls so ladies are asked to bring scissors at 9:30am so that some new ones may be made.

At **10:30am**, we will be privileged to have the **Rev. Marilyn Beecher** as our guest speaker. **Rev. Beecher** is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries assigned as a Church and Community worker. She has a very interesting back ground and we are anxious for her to share her story with us.

The luncheon will be a potluck with each circle providing two casseroles, two salads and two desserts.

October 13 at 10:30am. Program is “Let’s Get Together and Celebrate America”. Find out why the real birthday of America should be celebrated in October. All women are invited to enjoy excellent programs, excellent lunches and excellent fellowship!

The Executive Board will meet **September 8 and October 6, at 9:30am** in the church parlor.

Martha Circle will meet, **Thursday September 16, 9:30am** at Elsie Vasilevich’s home.

Rachel Circle will meet, **September 15, 10:00am** at Pat Russell’s home. They will meet **October 20, 10:00am** at Sue Oden’s home.

Lydia Circle will meet **September 15, 10:00am** at Vivian Scott’s home. They will meet **October 20th 10:00am** at Delice Cummin’s home.

Mary Deborah Circle will meet with the **Lydia Circle**.

Ruth Book Group will meet **September 22** in the church parlor at **9:30am**. “*The Help*” by Kathryn Stocklett will be reviewed. There are numerous copies

Circle of Concern

Home: Kay Bartberger, May Russell, David Rothermund, Christi Coy, Jim Bishop, Sr., Peggy Morgan Halper, Fay Mallard, Elsie Bailey, Lucille Taylor, Joanna Ramsey, Judy Barker, Gloria Reed, Sharon Bauer, Gladys Williams, Bob Rothstein, Sara Fellows son, Leslie, Mary Heslop, Yvonne Kotopka, Ed Barnett, Bobbie Tate, Elsie Bailey, Lowell Perkins, David Oliver, Carlos Page.

Death: Mitch Tidwell passed away August 16th.
Glover Robinson passed away on Sunday August 22.

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

Glover Robinson Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for Glover Robinson will take place on Saturday, September 18th at 10:30am followed by a reception in Hughlett Hall.

125th Anniversary



The opportunity exists for Church Members to pay tribute to loved ones, friends or any tribute you wish through our 125th Anniversary program pages.

Just write a brief statement of your tribute and name(s) to whom your recognizing. Make your check out to First UMC Cocoa, and mail to the church office or place in the offering on Sundays or you may give it to Pat Oliver, Co-Chair, 125th Anniversary Committee.

Deadline October 5th. *Here is an example:*

**In Recognition and Thanks
to the
.....etc.**

Full Page: \$25.00

Half Page: \$15.00

1/4 Page: \$10.00

1/8 Page: \$5.00

Thank you for your participation in making this special anniversary such a success.

BIRTHDAYS!



SEPTEMBER

- 9/01 Mary Anderson
9/03 Henry Hobson, Susan Kropp,
Kathy Matern
9/06 Jim Bishop Sr.
9/08 Sali Gier
9/09 Betty Rosier
9/10 Bob Spencer, Tyler Young
9/11 Lang Houston
9/12 Scott Russell
9/13 Richard Grow, Mary Grow,
Dean Stacey
9/15 Carl Russell
9/19 Sonny Butt, Jr.
8/21 Robert Harmon, Virginia Clendinen,
Caroline Erambert, Janie Denny,
9/23 Marianne Wright
9/24 Jean Colston, Diane Click
9/26 Cheryl Hopkins, Ed Winner, Norma
Bennett, Dottie Harrison
9/27 Todd Anderson
9/28 Lee Covell, James Brown
Michael Bowlby
9/20 Lucretia Sumerlin, Michael Lindley.

OCTOBER

- 10/01 Carolyn Hall, Diane Peterson
10/02 Michael Artelli Jr. Chris Hibbard
10/03 Modell Sharp, Marjorie Dale,
Phil Catalfamo
10/05 Mary Ross, Ken Denny
10/07 Ann Elswich, Sandra Gates
10/08 Joan Root, William Robinson
Murray Underwood
Amanda Russell
10/09 Betty Byrd
10/10 Pat Oliver
10/11 Frances Anderson, Don McCarter
Candy Owen
10/12 Ray Marek, Barbara Fisher
Willow Strickland
10/14 Marge Cerro, Cindy Morgan
10/16 Jean McMillan
10/17 Ron Elswich, Dr.
Claudia Rameshwar
10/18 Thurston McLeran
10/21 Shirley McCarter
10/22 LeAnn Wylie
10/25 Justin Miller
10/26 Nancy Dean, Mary Heslop
10/28 Bonnie Hibbard
10/31 Genie Hardee, Bruce Tate, Jr.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS 2010

The following list is of upcoming events and programs in our church through December. Any changes or additions will be in your Sunday bulletin or next DW.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Sept. 6th | Labor Day—Office Closed |
| Sept. 9th
Sept. 11th | 6:00pm. Trustees Meeting—Church Office
Girl Scouts Gathering all day.
Youth “Rock the Universe” at Universal Studios
Thrift Store will be opening up again this Saturday |
| Sept. 12th | Confirmation Sunday |
| Sept. 13th | 5:30pm Finance Meeting Church Office
7:00pm Church Council Meeting (Hughlett Hall) |
| Sept. 14th | 5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinners resume |
| Sept. 16th | 7:00pm. Via de Cristo Send Off. (Men) |
| Sept. 19th | 1-4pm Dress Rehearsal for Fall Festival—Hughlett Hall |
| Sept. 20th | Youth Seminar—Leesburg Retreat |
| Sept. 23rd | 6pm-8pm AIA Fund Raiser Dinner Hughlett Hall |
| Sept. 24th | Fall Festival Celebration (Hughlett Hall) |
| October 14th | 7:00pm Via de Cristo Send Off. (Women) |
| October 23rd | 6:00pm. Thrift Store Auction Hughlett Hall |
| November 14th | Celebration of our 125th Anniversary of FUMC Cocoa |
| November 26 th | Thanksgiving Community Dinner (TBD) |
| December 24 th | 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
11:00pm Christmas Eve Service |
| December 31 st | 11:00pm. Night Watch Service |



Prayer Meeting

Every Monday Morning our Prayer Group meet in the Chapel 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



PUMPKIN PATCH 2010

**It is never too early to start
planning
Our Pumpkin Patch for 2010**

**We now have a date for the
arrival of Pumpkins.**

It will be 11:30am Saturday, October 9th

**We need volunteers to help us unload the trucks
and then participate with the selling
of them.**

**We know this is somewhat ahead of time but there is a
great deal of preparing for this event.**

Thanks for your help.

Check with David Russell if you're willing to help.

**LETTER OF THANKS TO OUR SHEPHERD'S CLOSET
THRIFT STORE FROM CLEARLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Clearlake Middle School
1225 Clearlake Road
Cocoa, FL 32922



August 12, 2010

The Shepherd's Closet Thrift Shop
825 Forrest Ave.
Cocoa, FL 32922

Dear Community Partner:

I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your donation of a Clarinet to our music department. Your consideration is greatly appreciated and will truly benefit an aspiring young musician who without your generosity may not have been able to participate.

Working together as a community is essential in achieving our common goal of developing future leaders. We are proud to have you as a partner and look forward to a continued relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Halbuer".

Catherine Halbuer
Principal

Catherine Halbuer, Principal
Brim T. Binggoli, Ed.D., Superintendent
Phone: (321) 633-3660 • FAX: (321) 617-7731

An Equal Opportunity Emblem logo featuring a stylized figure holding a scale.
An Equal Opportunity Emblem

Come Celebrate God's Fall Festival

**Experience an evening full of dance, drama, pageantry,
and joy as you celebrate the Biblical Fall Holidays.**



See why millions of
Christians around the
world are celebrating
these holy days as part of
God's plan of redemption
for mankind.

Friday September 24th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Sunday September 26th, 2:00 pm - 4:00pm

Hughlett Hall

825 Forrest Ave., Cocoa

On the campus of First United Methodist Church

Tickets: \$5.00 each (or \$10.00 for a family)

Tickets include a delicious harvest dessert and beverage.

**For tickets, call (321)636-4811 or stop by the Cocoa
Beach Area Chamber of Commerce on Fortenberry Rd.
behind Merritt Square Mall.**

*Love offering will be taken to support
Project-Restoration Performing Arts Ministry*

First UMC Cocoa.



“WE LOVE OUR CHURCH!”

ON November 14th

**We will be celebrating our
125th Anniversary.**

It will be a Sunday to remember!

**Plans are being made now for
Special Worship Service, Entertainment, Food,
and Music.**

If anyone has any thoughts and ideas

For this special day, please contact

The church office

321-636-4811



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