

OUR CHURCH STAFF MAY 2011

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Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00am-12 noon- 1pm-5pm

Friday— 9 am-12 noon

WEBSITE: www.firstchurchplantcity.com

Sunday & Wednesday Schedule

On-going Sunday Schedule:

9:00am Contemporary Worship-Wesley Centre

10:00 am-Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditional Worship- Sanctuary

On-Going Wednesday Schedule

9:30—10:30 A.M. — Prayer Ministry
(Room 225, Traditional Building)

Youth-4:30pm

Children-5:00 pm

Choir Practice: 7:30 pm

MAY 2011

Plant City, FL.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FUMC, PLANT CITY, FL

THE VINE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Can you believe it? Easter has come and gone. Where did the winter and spring go? Our wonderful “snow birds” have flown back up north for the summer. The church’s annual church picnic is a fond memory. And now we are looking at the summer season full in the face.

Vacation Bible School and summer camp at Leesburg are just around the corner. Plans are being made for our summertime worship experiences AND yes, believe it or not, plans are being made to begin preparations for Christmas. Oh my!

But oh my, what a wonderful year it has been for our church so far. God has blessed us with many new faces. Church stewardship and contributions are keeping up with needs. New things are on the horizon that will give glory to God.

I hope you are including the things of God into your spring and summer plans. I hope you’re including time with God into each and every day. God will bless you as you do!

Please note elsewhere in The VINE some of the new things that are on the horizon such as May celebrations of Mother’s day and high school graduations, new member explorations classes, and the Christ Community café fund raiser. Enjoy your church! Enjoy your friendship with the Lord!

Pastor Earl



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Be sure and have a look at our bulletin board which is just outside the office, over the pew in the hallway. It will give you an idea of the kinds of things that the United Methodist Women study and are interested in.

Guild members had a program in April from the book “Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet”-on a chapter about Doubting Thomas.

We will soon be deciding where we will be meeting this summer so don't miss our meetings. We meet the 4th Monday at 10 am.

See you there, Betty Wilson, President, 752-4514

An Opportunity from your Lay Leader

What is a Lay Leader and what are they supposed to do?

- Advocate
- Model responsible and faithful discipleship
- Build awareness within the congregation
- Recognize and celebrate the ministry of the laity
- Meet with the pastor
- Serve on various committees
- Continue to study
- Assist the church council
- Inform the laity of educational opportunities.

Serve as the Lay Delegate to the Florida United Methodist Annual Conference

As your Lay Leader I offer you a ministry opportunity in our church. We are beginning a Lay Reader program. This would allow interested members to assist in the worship service and be a part of the worship team. The Lay Readers would be responsible for leading the congregation in Responsive Readings and the reading of the Scriptures. We have need of 12 or more from each service to participate in this role.

NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



It's hard to believe that Easter has come and gone! I just want to thank everyone who helped make Holy week such a special time this year. Starting with Palm Sunday, confirmation and the children singing to Maundy Thursday with Lee Weaver's portrayal of Judas the Betrayer and then our Community Good Friday service and finally Easter Sunday morning, so much has gone on this week. I want to thank each of you that helped with all the special music. The choir and orchestra did a wonderful job as did all the soloist, Sandi Norman, Bill Wicker, Jay Ritenbaugh and Shawna Cook. Thanks, too, go to all our instrumentalist, not only in the orchestra but those that play every week. Thank you, Richard Wisher, Susan Daniels & Ralph Franza! And we all always enjoy the children singing. Thank you Shawna for working with them and having them to sing in both of our services on Palm Sunday. Donna Jackson and her crew always do a wonderful job of the Easter breakfast. Thanks guys.... It wouldn't be the same without your breakfast.

Now that Easter is over, we will be starting to plan out the services for the rest of this year. On July 3rd, we will be going to one combined service until September 4th. Think back to the past several years when we have had our combined services. I think the number one comment has been that these services were enjoyed because of the great fellowship that we have had.... being able to see people from both services all combined into one service. We still plan to have that same fellowship and wonderful breakfasts that we have had in the past but some new things are in store for us this summer, too. Plans are starting to be made and I pray our services this summer will be worship experiences that everyone will find glorifying to God and something that everyone will enjoy.

Blessings,

Debbie



P.O.W.E.R. KIDS

Proclaim, Observe, Worship, Equip, Relationship)

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) 4th - 5th

Meet at the movies

Friday, May 20th we will meet at the movies so bring your friends and family! Plan to meet at the Plant City theatre at 6:30 bring money for ticket and snacks!

VBS Meeting

It is that time of year when VBS plans are underway. Next meeting will be May 1st on the 2nd floor of the Wesley Centre in the children's worship space.

Planning for growth requires volunteers!

We are in exciting times and anticipating growth over in the Wesley Centre in our new P.O.W.E.R. KIDS Ministry space. The children and volunteers just love the environment and its potential for ministry. With that said, we need to be proactive and plan for growth. We are currently seeking volunteers in several areas with-in the ministry that can be put on a rotation.

- Wednesday leaders/ we average about 25-30 children and need 1 adult for every 5-7 children. This ratio is small so that we can develop good relationships with our kids. Often throughout the evening games, discussion, crafts are done in smaller groups so more adult help is needed.
 - Sunday morning Nursery/ looking for adults/teens to help rock and play with children, and to assist teachers with the lessons.
 - Wednesday night cooks/ 2-3 Wednesday s out of every month we need people to prepare a meal for the children.
- Cleaning crew/ Need a team of people to rotate and help clean the large classroom spaces on the 2nd and 3rd floors. This will need to be done on Thursday mornings.
- If you are interested in becoming a leader in Children's Ministry call or e-mail Shawna Cook/ 754-3519 or childmin@tampabay.rr.com. Thank you and look forward to having you on our team!

Building the kingdom one child at a time,

Shawna Cook

Who can be a Lay Reader?

- Youth or adult
- Someone who reads well.
- Someone who is willing to practice their reading before Sunday morning.
- Someone who loves the Lord and our church.
- Someone that is looking for opportunities in ministry.
- Someone who will attend several orientation/training meetings over the year.
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Someone who is willing to commit to reading 4-5 times per year.

If you have an interest please fill out the information slip in the bulletin or email: frogpi@msn.com or see: Paula Sedita, Joanna Franz or Brian Lawson

Our first information meeting will be held on SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

- **10am – Third floor of the Wesley Center – Youth Worship Room (after the contemporary service)**
- **12 noon – Second floor of the Old Education Building – Chapel (after the traditional service)**

Attending the information meeting does not commit you to becoming a Lay Reader, Pray and see if the Lord is leading you to assist in leading worship.

I hope to see you on May 15th.

Blessings from your Lay Leader,

Paula Sedita

<p>Yes – I have an interest in learning more about being a <u>Lay Reader</u> .</p> <p>I understand that filling out this card does not commit me to reading unless I feel I'm ready.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>I attend: (check one)</p> <p>Contemporary Worship only _____ Traditional Worship only _____</p> <p>Either/Both: _____</p>



Nancy's Nosegays

May roses are blooming! It is May!

“Up North”, May meant lots of very courageous flowers poking their heads up through the thawing earth. Leaves started coming out on the trees! I always referred to this as “Lettuce Day”! I loved May up North! By then, we had celebrated our Lord’s Resurrection with song, praises, ham dinners, Easter egg hunts (there was always one that was never found), special Easter clothes, hats, and shoes (black patent-leather Mary-Janes), and a first picnic, even though it was a bit nippy. That was when I was a kid. I can remember being very disappointed one Easter because the Easter Bunny only brought me one basket!----and I found it right away! I remember Mom saying, “Nancy Deane, there is more to Easter than just baskets of candy.” I really didn’t get the message, then. Oh, I went to Sunday School, I knew who Jesus was and that he died on a cross for my sins—but, I didn’t really care all that much. I wanted more than just one basket to find! I wanted more than just one chocolate bunny, and, I disliked, with a purple passion, chocolate bunnies that were hollow!

I am so very thankful that I finally “get it”! Thanks to some very wonderful mentors, Jesus is a part of my life. Jesus is my life! Easter baskets and bunnies just help me to realize that Easter is a mouth-watering, jumping for joy renewal of my love for Christ!

He definitely wants all of us! Pro-active is a good word to use. Every day is Easter. Sunday’s are the icing on the cake when we come together as family to celebrate Him. What are we doing all those other days of the week? I’ll tell you! Mentors we have! Our children’s director and youth director, Shawna and Brian, are examples of “pro-active”. The children and the youth know, without a doubt, that Easter is not all about bunnies and baskets! I am so proud of them for helping to grow our young ones in Christ! We can all step in to help with mentoring. Shawna and Brian cannot do it alone, should not be expected to do it all alone, and... would love our help!

Jesus told His disciples to “Go!” “Make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age”. (Matt. 28 vs:19-20 NLT)

It’s May, after the Easter Celebration, soooo, what are you waiting for?

Bouquets of the Rose of Sharron to you all!

Hugs and love and stuff, Nancy

FUNDRAISER FOR CHRIST’S COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND PLANT CITY BREAD OF LIFE MISSION

We are planning a fund-raiser for the CCC and Bread of Life Plant City Mission to be held at our Wesley Centre on the 21st of May from 7-9 PM at \$25.00 per person. You will want to come to this! Our guest speaker is Sheriff David Gee, Hillsborough Co. Sheriff. Our MC will be Mr. Gary Sawyer (Man-of the Year, two years ago). Dock Silverhawk Green, Native American flutist and Pastor, Performance Painters for God, (painting on canvas with music and canvas will be auctioned), two Bagpipers to “pipe”guests into the concert, the Strawberry Queen and her Court to act as hostesses and help seat everyone at their tables, Pedro Santana, guitarist, and we are hoping for Southern Star to come out of retirement to perform some gospel numbers. The food will be elegant, heavy hors d’euvres prepared by Franz. Nancy Chaney has tickets. Tables of eight—buy your table now, or, the Queen and her court can seat you at an available table!

Mother’s Day Breakfast

There will be a free Mother’s Day breakfast served in Wesley Centre on May 8th. Breakfast will be served between 8:00 to 10:00 am.

Henry Carlson



THIS AND THAT

Did you know that we have a transportation committee to provide transportation to medical appointments if necessary? If you have a need, please call Sandra at 752 -1959 or Laverne Wiebenga at 752-8470. We prefer a day's notice if possible.

We also have some medical supplies available for use/loan. Currently, we have walkers, shower seat, crutches, raised toilet seat, and occasionally items such as depends, bed pads, etc. These items will be housed in a storage room at the church. If you have items you would like to donate, please call Sandra or Nancy.

If you should be hospitalized or home sick for more than a couple of days, please notify the church office so that we are aware of your needs. Current privacy issues prevent the hospital from notifying us unless you request this. We care about you and want to offer support and prayers to assist you.

We have added some health-related books to the church library. Topics include diet and nutrition, arthritis, diabetes, and exercise.

Now, information of a personal note. I have just completed my continuing education credits and renewed my Florida nursing license which is good for another two years. This will probably be the last time I will renew my license. I am hoping that another nurse in our congregation will consider volunteering to be Faith Community Nurse for FUMC. Requirements are a valid Florida nursing license and ability to spend a minimum of 8 hours per month in this role. Duties may include blood pressure checks, health education, visitation and health counseling and advocacy. There is an orientation program and Susie Prescott is the Nurse Manager for the program in Hillsborough County. This is a very rewarding program and I have received much more than I have given in the 10 years that I have been Parish Nurse.

Until next month, stay healthy.

Sandra



PRAYER MINISTRY MOMENTS WITH GOD

Psalm 139:5 "You place Your hand of blessing on my head."

Last year you read the story behind Albrecht Durer's Praying Hands. Now I will share why the Praying Hands are meaningful for me. In May 2010 I wrote in The Vine about my mother dying when I was very young. After her death I often went into the darkened parlor of our large farmhouse to gaze at a ceramic hand in a glass fronted bookcase thinking that slender white hand holding the miniature jewelry box, probably made to hold rings, was my mother's hand. From then on I was fascinated by hands. When I saw the Praying Hands they became a symbol of a deep prayer life and trust in God.

After I shared the story of my fixation on the ceramic hand in the bookcase with a passing acquaintance, the next day in a phone conversation the woman told me she thought about my story the remainder of the day and connected it to a memory of her own. When her arthritic mother was confined to a wheelchair she prayed often. This woman's special memory was her mother's hands clasped in prayer while she sat in that wheelchair.

Hands tell a story, who we are and what we do. Next month's focus will be on a father's hands.

Happy Mother's Day.
Barbara Scales



Parents as Spiritual Leaders Part II

by: Brian Lawson

As you may remember from last month's Vine, I am currently writing a series of articles about Parents as Spiritual Leaders of their kids. In the previous article I gave some surprising numbers that boiled down to this, your involvement in church will help determine the level of commitment your child will have towards faith. Since being avid church attendees is not the ultimate goal of you the parent, nor that of Christ, lets spend this month's article discussing faith at home.

You may fully realize this or you may not realize it at all but your children look, think and act just like you. If I had never met you before but I knew your child from the LOFT, I could probably point you out in a lineup. Your teens act just like you. They make the same facial expressions as you, they laugh the same way, they sound the same as you and carry the same beliefs that you carry. They are a reflection of you. So I must ask you the most difficult question that we all must answer, who are we reflecting? Are you reflecting your own desires or are you reflecting the image of God? In order to help you answer this question, here is a list of questions to ask yourself.

When my kids look at me, are they learning what it means to love God with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength?

Do they see me trusting God for guidance and wisdom as I plan the future, run my business, manage my home, and so on?

Do they see me turning to God when I'm anxious, troubled, or ill?

Do they see God is constantly central to my thoughts and actions or just on Sunday mornings?

Do they see a faith that's integrated into every area of my life, including my relationships, my vocation, my spending decisions, my use of leisure time, how I play, and so on?

Do they see me care for family, neighbors, friends, and the "lepers and outcasts" of the world?

Are they learning to be compassionate and Christ-centered rather than insensitive and self-centered?

**REMEMBER
OUR
MILITARY**

	Jill Ritenauer	U. S. Air Force
	George Ritenauer	U. S. Air Force
	Jonathan Humphrey	U. S. Marines
	William S. Mitchell	U. S. Army
	Adam Snyder	U. S. Navy
	Matthew Satterlee	U. S. Army
	Robbie Bryant	U. S. Marines
	Daniel Taylor	U. S. Navy
	Chad Jones	U. S. Army
	Mick Denner	U.S. Marines



WHAT A MESS!

You know, until we figure some things out there can be a mess. I open up a box of one of those knock-together fancy shelving units. I scatter all those nuts, bolts, screws, and hardware all over the living room floor and what do I see before me? A mess. But then, I begin to read the instructions (yes, I **DO** read them) and in short order it all starts to come together.

That can be the way it is with the church. While you may have been worshipping here for a while, you still don't have all the pieces fitting together very well and sometimes church looks messy. Well, we want to help correct that. Therefore we are offering our new and improved MESS classes.

MESS stands for **M**embership **E**xploration **S**ession**S**. If you would like to know more about what Methodists believe, if you want to discover how this church functions as a family of faith, if you would like more information about becoming a member of this church then MESS is for you.

We will be offering these informational sessions beginning in May. Here are the dates and times: May 8 from 4:00 to 5:30 (that's after you have taken your mother out for Mother's Day dinner). Then May 15 and 22 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Please plan to attend all three. Persons interested in joining the church will receive that info during this time.

Pastor Earl



MAY BIRTHDAYS



1. Morgan Green, Kathryn Peters-Brown, Kay Sells
2. Karen McGinn
3. Grace Ballinger, Suzanne Tatum, Robert Trinkle
4. Wesley Couch, Joel Snively
5. Lee Cornelius
8. MacKensi Platt, Sarah Prophet, Stephanie Varney, Bryan Weiland
11. Ellen Cornelius, Pamela Valdes
12. Adam Snyder
13. Dan Berghofer, Beverly Clutter, Mikaela Geitner
14. Trenton Comer, Douglas Ribelin
15. Stacy Jackson, Adam Roberts
16. Natalie Bierschenk
17. C. Richard Rhoades
19. Robert Helms, Jennifer Moore, Beth Pate
21. Tom Farson, Amy Norman
22. Eugene Bowman, Jim Everidge, Jr.
24. Keith Keene, Martha Willis
25. Julia Lockwood, Claude Ratcliff, Bill Vernon
26. Alana Salter
27. Patt Edwards, Mary Jane Salter, Kirsten Wainoris
28. Noah Huffman, Deven Martin, Cheryl Pratt
30. Greg Roberts
31. Jan Bodenmiller, Karen Brewer, Kay Castleberry



I hope that you spend some time in prayer about the above questions. Don't forget they're learning what place spirituality and faith hold in their lives - from you. Eugene Peterson describes it this way:

"A parent's main job is not to be a parent, but to be a person. There are no techniques to master that will make a good parent. There is no book to read that will give the right answers. The parent's main task is to be vulnerable in a living demonstration that adulthood is full, alive and Christian."

Brian Lawson

NEW NURSERY IS OPEN

The nursery has been relocated to the Wesley Centre equipped for children age birth-4years and a cry room for parents of young babies who might need some privacy. The entrance into the nursery is through the cry room door and there your child will be signed in and taken to the appropriate room.

YOUNG AT HEART



The Young at Heart meets the second Thursday of the month in the Wesley Centre. The meeting starts at 11:00am with a short program followed by a delicious lunch prepared and served by Debbie.

For reservations, call Dot Fascenda at 754-2803 or the church at 754-3519. Lunch is \$5.00 per person.

Come join us for fun, fellowship and good food.

Dot Fascenda



May 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Contemporary worship-9:00 am-W/C 10 am-Sunday Sch. 11am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 6-8pm-Life Groups</p>	<p>2 Ringling Trip</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:30 am-prayer gp. 4:30 pm-Youth 5pm-Children 5:45-supper 6:30-Bible Study 7:30pm-Choir</p>	<p>5 1:30pm-Card Sharps</p>	<p>6 CCC (Christ's Community Café)</p>	<p>7 Men's Group Breakfast-W/C All Pro Dad's Speaker: Steve Schissler</p>
<p>8 Mother's Day Bfast-8a Contemporary worship-9:00 am-W/C 10 am-Sunday Sch. 11am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 6-8pm-Life Groups</p>	<p>9 7pm-Trustee Mtg.</p>	<p>10 1pm-Archives gp.</p>	<p>11 9:30 am-prayer gp. 4:30 pm-Youth 5pm-Children 6:15-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	<p>12 9:30-Humble Hearts 11am-Young @ Heart 1:30pm-Card Sharps</p>	<p>13 CCC</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Contemporary worship-9:00 am-W/C 10 am-Sunday Sch. 11am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 6-8pm-Life Groups</p>	<p>16 7pm-Staff Parish 7pm-Cong. Care Grp</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:30 am-prayer gp. 4:30 pm-Youth 5pm-Children 5:45-supper 6:30-Bible Study 6:15-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	<p>19 1:30pm-Card Sharps 5:00pm-Finance</p>	<p>20 CCC</p>	<p>21 7-9 pm— CCC Fundraiser-W/C</p>
<p>22 Contemporary worship-9:00 am-W/C 10 am-Sunday Sch. 11am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary Men's Cuban Sale 6-8pm-Life Groups</p>	<p>23 10am-Guild Circle 7pm-Church Council</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:30 am-prayer gp. 4:30 pm-Youth 5pm-Children 6:15-Bells 7:30pm-Choir</p>	<p>26 9:30am-Humble Hearts 1:30pm-Card Sharps</p>	<p>27 CCC</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Contemporary worship-9:00 am-W/C 10 am-Sunday Sch. 11am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 6-8pm-Life Groups</p>	<p>30 Memorial Day</p>	<p>31</p>				