

OCTOBER 2008

at **Suntree United Methodist Church**
WHERE EVERYONE IS A MESSENGER

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Mission Statement

"Transforming Seekers Into Dwellers of the Spirit."

Submissions

Sonlight content is determined by the editor, based on submitted material, space availability, and the overall design of the newsletter. Send material by mail, drop it off at the front office c/o **Sonlight**, or email it to:

sonlight@suntreeumc.org

Co-Senior Pastor
Rev. John Hill

Co-Senior Pastor
Rev. Terri Hill

Pastoral Care
Rev. Clarence Van Ens

Youth Pastor
Rev. Joel Lusz

Children's Pastor
Pastor Rick Jones

A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS

I just finished reading *The Shack* by William Young and I would encourage you to read it. The book is about one man's encounter with God and how that encounter enables him to overcome a great sadness in his life. If you have any questions as you read through the book, feel free to talk with Terri or me.

Now, in case you don't read the book, there is a statement I want you to think about. The statement is: "*PARADIGMS POWER PERCEPTION and PERCEPTIONS POWER EMOTIONS.*"

What this means is that if you have a paradigm that the world is a bad place filled with bad people, that is what you will see throughout the day; your perception will prove your paradigm. And if all you perceive throughout the day is this negative view of people, then you will be filled with negative emotions. On the other hand, if you live in the paradigm that the world is a good place filled with good people, then that is what you will see and your emotions will follow. So, if we want to change how we feel, we need to start with our paradigms or the beliefs we have about people and the world and God.

What do you believe about people? What do you believe about the world? What do you believe about God?

John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

For me, this tells me that God is a loving God and that God loves the world and all the people of this world. If that is true, then how can I have a different paradigm?

Does the love of God really shape how I see the world? Does the love of God really shape how you see the world?

Just something to think about.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

7 a.m. Communion in the Parlor 8 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
9:15 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Worship Center & IMPAKT Youth Service in the LOFT
9:30 & 11 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary with @11 Worship at 11 a.m. in the Worship Center

The Zoo outing is

CANCELLED

SUMC's celebration at the Brevard Zoo, previously scheduled for October 5, has been cancelled.

Event organizers

Patty Rexrode and Kathy Turner appreciate those who purchased tickets and will be in touch soon to refund their money.



WE'RE HAVING A CHURCH WORK DAY!

It's that time of year again! It's time to spruce up the buildings and grounds as we prepare to move into the busy holiday season. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 11. There will be things to do both inside the buildings and out on the grounds. Job assignments and descriptions will be available soon. So, stay tuned to "Branches" (in the Sunday morning bulletin) for all the details.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Robin Steiner



Operation Christmas Child has been officially kicked off! We are still looking for volunteers to help. Our next meeting is October 2. Check the Sunday morning bulletin in Branches for room and time. If you would like Robin Steiner or Chris Vellanti to speak to your small group or business about the mission, let us know.

SUMC WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAYS

Christian Crafters at 10 am
Healthy Living at 4 pm
AI Anon at 7:30 pm
AA at 7:30 pm

TUESDAYS

Women's Early Risers a Bible study at 7 am
Divorce Recovery at 7 pm

THURSDAYS

Men's Bible Study at 7 am
NA at 6 pm
AA at 7:30 pm
Chancel Choir at 7:15 pm

FRIDAYS

AI Anon at 7:30 pm
AA at 7:30 pm

SATURDAYS

AA at 5:30 pm

TNT OCTOBER LINE UP: AMY LUCEY & A SING ALONG

The regular monthly meeting for TNT will be held on Friday, October 24, starting with fellowship at 11:30 am. Join us for a delicious lunch of Chicken Cordon Bleu. Cost is \$6.00. Entertainment: Amy Lucey, who will bring us a sing-along!

ANOTHER SUMC YOUTH GOES TO SEMINARY!

By Stephen Heuston

Casey Hickman recently graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida and started seminary in September at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. She grew up at Suntree and was an active member of the youth program. Casey felt a strong call on her life to become a pastor and to serve in full-time ministry. She has been accepted as a candidate for ministry with the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Please pray for Casey during her time in divinity school. Casey would love to hear from her friends at Suntree so please send her a card at: 4800 University Drive, Apt. 17A, Durham, North Carolina, 27707, or an email at casey.hickman@duke.edu.

NEXT INSIGHT MINISTRY MEETING IS OCT. 10

By Jan Janicki, Facilitator

Our October meeting of InSight, a support group for those living with vision loss, will meet Friday, October 10 from 9:30-11:30 AM in Rooms 101-102. Dr. Michael Ronsisvalle, a Christian counselor here in the Suntree area, will be our guest speaker. He will talk to us about some of the emotional issues we face as we grieve the loss of sight.

All are welcome to join us. For information, contact Jan Janicki at 242-0877 or Eileen O'Connor in the church's Congregational Care office.

Ka Bloom!

THANK YOU
for
donating
flowers for our church services.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2

Operation Christmas Child

October 3-5

EDGE Beach Retreat

October 5

Brevard Zoo date

Cancelled

October 6

Theology at the Tavern

October 10

Insight Support Group

October 12

Bloodmobile is here!

Oct. 12-Nov. 12

UMW Honey Ham Sale

October 18

Attic Treasure/Bake Sale

October 20

Theology at the Tavern

October 24

TNT Luncheon

October 25

Trunk or Treat

October 26

Space Coast Flute
Orchestra Concert

November 1

Christmas Bazaar!

November 12

Last Journey dinner/
classes of the season

November 14

Insight Support Group

November 16

New Member Orientation

November 16

Central Florida Winds
Concert

November 17

UMW Study: Native
American Peoples

November 17

Theology at the Tavern

November 27

Thanksgiving Dinner

SUPPLIES DELIVERED TO UMCOR

Thank you SUMC! The side photos were taken when George and Lee Thompson delivered the Suntree United Methodist Women's sewing & school bag relief kits and checks for flood buckets to the UMCOR Depot in LA. The Sager Brown Depot is about 80-90 miles west of New Orleans. Below: some of the ladies sewing and packaging the school bags that were sent.



- 30 sewing kits
- 50 bags of school supplies
- checks for flood buckets



2 Timothy vs 20-21: "In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for the ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work."

THE BEACH CHAIR

By Brad Shea

It was a hot, dusty day in Cuba, and I stood with our Cuban friend and translator, Dalvis, on the dirt road in front of El Redentor waiting for the buses that would take 120 church members to the beach. A beach day is very special to our sister church congregation. They can only go once a year when our Suntree caravan provides transportation.

I knew this was going to be another amazing day in Cuba. Excitement hung in the air as we waited for the buses to arrive. Dalvis speaks excellent English, and much of what I now understand of Cuba came through his words. As we were waiting for the bus, he told me the story of his fold-up beach chair.

When Dalvis's wife, Yoanky, was pregnant with their son Isaac, complications in the pregnancy caused her to be confined to a hospital bed for the last 4 months. In Cuba, doctors and hospital stays are free, but you have to provide your own linens, meals, medications, extra beds, and much of your own nursing care. Dalvis spent his days working at the docks as an inspector and computer technician. His nights were spent comforting and praying with his wife. This aluminum lounge chair was his bed. The chair's webbing was made from straps used to bind crates together. Dalvis had taken used straps from his work and woven them into webbing for the chair.

Since that day, I have thought a lot about those straps. They were "throw away" and used, but in the hands of their creator they were re woven and used to provide comfort and support to another. I am convinced, with Dalvis, that if we place our lives in the loving hands of God, He will take the ordinary and the broken and restore us to be used in His Kingdom. Through God, all things are possible. Can God use ordinary, but recreated people like you and I to heal, to reconcile, and to draw others to Jesus? Absolutely! He is the Master, the One who restores.





Christmas Gifts

Plans are underway in the Music Ministry to make the holiday season at SUMC a very special time of giving.

Rehearsals for the Friday, December 5 production titled "Christmas Gifts" begins **Monday, October 6.**

Anyone interested in participating in this heartwarming program is encouraged to join. Simply show up on the first night of rehearsal at 8:00 pm in Room 106.

The evening will be a variety show that includes music, drama sketches, & involvement by many different groups within the church, including our youth & children!

To keep in the spirit of the season, admission will be a "gift" (*more details as to the nature of the gift will be published next month*) to help families in Brevard County who are being impacted by the current economic conditions in our community.

Consider getting involved!

DISCIPLE CLASSES OFF TO A GREAT START

By Jan Janicki

The 2008-2009 Disciple classes have begun and are off to a great start. There are 9 classes, taught by 10 Disciple teachers, to accommodate the 120 who registered for classes this Fall. The theme chosen for this year is Run With Perseverance, taken from Scripture found in Hebrews 12:1.

Pastor John Hill comments, "I really think this is a great theme because it reminds us that the Christian life is one that we have to work at. We are not saved by works, but it is the works we do that help us to live the life that Christ has called us to. Bible study is one of the most important things we can do as we seek to become the people Christ has called us to be."

The Disciple classes are the largest adult education program offered at SUMC and is a Bible study available to everyone. "I feel strongly about keeping in God's Word, and this is a great way to do that and be a part of a group of people who share their struggles and growth. It's great!" says Catherine Larrea, the Disciple Program Coordinator.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA REHEARSALS START IN OCTOBER

If you enjoy singing, Robert Lamb, director of SUMC's Traditional Music, is looking for YOU!



"If you enjoy singing but are unable to commit to weekly services, now is your chance to join us," encourages Robert. Rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata begin on Thursday, October 2 at 7:00 pm in the Traditional Choir room (room 406). The program, "A Family Christmas" will be presented on Sunday morning, December 21, at the 9:30 and 11:00 services in the Sanctuary. The choir will also participate in the musical production "Christmas Gifts" on December 5.



October is pastor appreciation month! This is a special time when we take the time to say thank you to our wonderful pastors. This would include John and Terri Hill, Clarence Van Ens, Joel Lusz, and Rick Jones. Take a moment to stop them in the hallway or send them a card or do something special for them. Staff Parish believes we have a richly talented and spirit-filled team of pastors, each of whom uses their unique gifts to further the kingdom of God at Suntree. Let them know how much we love them.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

As we approach the finishing touches on "our house", thanks goes to everyone who has participated in this huge effort. There is another six weeks or so to go before we turn "our house" over to the owners. To all the small groups & individuals who provided lunch and who came to the site to build, thank you, thank you.



BACK PACK DISTRIBUTION AT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

I still love the excitement of new school supplies: the feel of freshly sharpened pencils, the crisp look of a new crayon, the smooth clean lines in a notebook, and a brand new backpack. I may have hated going back to school, but I loved my new school supplies! On August 15 I had the joy of helping to load and deliver 170 backpacks that our church contributed to our partner church in south Melbourne, Christian Fellowship Church of God in Christ. It was an amazing day.

Throughout the day families arrived to register for the giveaway. Lunch was provided, as was a wonderful music performance

By Ellen Lane



By Michael Bouvier
Melbourne's Christian Fellowship Church of God in Christ held a Bazaar Saturday. a handmade quilt for a raffle. Central Baptist Church sent members of the Clown Ministry: Michael "Joker" Roberti and Thelma "Raggedy" Bover. Bud concentrating on obedience activities. Officer Rodriguez showed padded sleeves and other "tools of the K-9 trade." He mentioned that they would not demonstrate

The event was written up in Ebony News

by our Impakt Praise Band. There were two precious little girls who attached themselves to Amber Carroll as she taught them the moves to the songs.

Old, young, different colors of people — some Christian, and some not — sang and danced under the broiling sun. Just before the Contemporary

Praise Band (led by guitarist Jay McDonald) was to start their gig, the skies opened up. Everyone was forced inside and our musicians did not have the chance to perform. It was disappointing, but such is life in Florida on a hot August afternoon. The backpack distribution was the last event of the day. It was an incredible sight. Smiles of joy and gratitude were on every child's face. It was as much fun as Christmas time.

A very special thank you to Ann & Johnny McCandless, who volunteered at the event, to the Impakt Praise Band for their incredible gift of time & music, to the Contemporary Praise Band and Jay McDonald for their efforts, especially since they were rained out, and to the young men who gave up their last day of summer vacation to pack and load the backpacks: Michael and Andrew Lane, Justin Kardach, Sam Hartford, & Justin Callari.

UMW HoneyBaked Ham Gift Certificate Sale!

SUMC'S UMW will sell gift certificates Oct 12 - Nov 12 that can be used at any nationwide HoneyBaked Hams stores or on-line store. The perfect holiday gift for anyone on your list. Profits from the sale will go to the FI Children's Home and to our Dorcas and Lydia Circles to help fund their charitable work. For info or gift certificates call Lee Thompson at 507-4460.



TROOP 224 NEWS: SCOUT YEAR PLANNED

By Don Hemmenway

The leaders of Troop 224 spent two busy days at a planning retreat campout in August to develop the program plan for the 2008 - 2009 scout year. The first campout will be the Central Florida Council Scout Camporee at Camp La-No-Che. This will be a gathering of over 4,000 scouts from across Central Florida. The scouts will spend a day working on Governor Crist's "Serve to Preserve" Award by working in a hands-on conservation learning experience, followed by a Saturday evening extravaganza featuring live rock music, juggling & magic shows, and a laser light show. The Boy Scouts will also host Cub Scouts from Pack 224 for dinner and teach them Dutch oven cooking skills to prepare a variety of dessert treats.

Plans for October include a "Discover SCUBA" activity to try out the sport of SCUBA diving, and a swimming and snorkeling campout at a Florida spring.

The boys have selected the following program themes for the year:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| October Aquatics | February Specialty Cooking |
| November Backpacking | March Eagle Merit Badges |
| December Space Exploration | April Science & Technology |
| January Sports | May Fishing |

If you are interested in checking out Troop 224, contact Scoutmaster Don Hemmenway at 259-5931, or Charter Organization Representative Ellen Lane at 259-4841.

SUMC CROSS TOWER & MEMORIAL GARDEN AREA KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

By Jan Janicki

Have you seen our 75 foot Cross Tower as you drive Wickham Road? SUMC's Cross Tower and Memorial Garden is a beautiful place on our church campus, and the cross can be seen from Wickham Road, day or night.

The Cross Tower was the first construction on this site, with funds being given by the Loyal and Sue Blackwood family in 1992. The first cross broke in two during construction when the lifting sling was not secured properly, so a second cross was created and installed. (The groundbreaking for our new church was in 1993 and we moved into our new facility in December 1994.)



In 1997, when the Dining Room was being constructed, the Cross Tower stood alone with only a soil and rock base. At the time of construction, the Memorial Garden was created at the Cross Tower — a 3-foot wall with a concrete walk around it and landscaping.

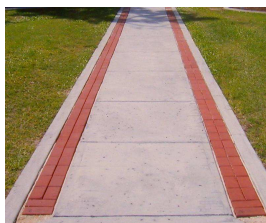
Two years ago, the weathered sections of the Memorial Garden were repaired, the water system was updated and electrical power was installed. New lighting followed for the Cross Tower using flood lights to replace the previous lighting.

An Eagle Scout project gave us the memorial bricks, numbering 233, that now lead from the Sanctuary to the Memorial Garden. In the next few months, 21 more bricks on order will be installed. Three beautiful weeping willow trees were added and the original concrete benches were replaced with engraved granite ones. There are now four benches, one each in memory of Jean S. Davis, Doris Heacox, a general one "In Memory of all our loved ones" and one for Barbara Ann Scaplehorn. One willow tree is dedicated to Nikki Hosken; another is dedicated to Mac McElroy. The area is a beautiful place to remember loved ones and to reflect on God's love.

The Memorial Garden falls under the direction of the Trustees but does not use any of the church budget. It is a self-sustaining ministry, using the funds given in memory of those who have gone on before us.

Bob Davis continues to be dedicated to the development and support of the Cross Tower and Memorial Garden. "It is my passion," he says. And he notes with affection that, "There is no other like the one here at SUMC anywhere in the area."

Why not take a few moments to walk out and see this wonderful area of solace and beauty right here on our church grounds? And while you are there, lift up a prayer in memory of all your own loved ones.



MULCH MOVERS

By Ellen Lane

Did you notice the mountain of mulch in the church parking lot the week before Labor Day?

There were 18 boys & 8 adults from BSA Troop 224 who spent **98 man-hours** moving & distributing it to our playgrounds.

Thank you to **Scouts:** David

Murphy, Tom Murphy, Ryan Page, John Obzut, Aleks Bologna, Michael Lane, Sam Hartford, Devin Sweet, Stephen Seidl,

Josh Hemphill, Cody Pimentel, Ben Joseph, Johnathan Hogue, Julian Mayers, Kevin Sieck, Andrew Loso,

Phillip Armstrong, Sean Carr; **Adults:** Brian Seidl, Bob Lane, Bruce Sieck, Lara Sieck, Tom Murphy, Sharon Hartford, Perry Hartford and Don Hemmingway; and **Siblings:** Malea and Elana Sieck. A very special thank

you goes to Sharon Hartford, Brian Seidl, and Bruce Sieck for the outstanding job they did cleaning out & restoring the storm drain on the playground.

"The playgrounds look terrific now and are a safe place for the preschoolers to play. Thank you and a big round of applause for your service and commitment to the church and school."

Susan Blumenthal,
SUMC School Director

DON'T MISS OUR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!

The 2008 Christmas Bazaar Extravaganza will be held on Sat., November 1. You won't want to miss it! There'll be something for everyone!

Come and have breakfast. Then shop and have lunch. Of course, you'll want to shop some more! We will have community artists and a Kids' Korner with face painting and cookie decorating! Check out the Book Nook, Coffee

House, and, of course, check out the baked goods sale. It'll be delish!



If you would like to get more involved in making this event a success, there are still plenty of opportunities to help. Turn the form into the church office. There are jobs for everyone. (See list on right). All ministries are encouraged to participate. There's nothing like getting involved to increase one's level of fun! Come out...support the church...meet new friends & fellowship with old ones.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY SPREADS PRAYERS, GOD'S LOVE

There's something comforting in hearing knitting needles click. Knit three; purl three. Knit three... hear the click? The compassion and love of knitting & crocheting have re-

cently been combined into a prayer ministry thanks to Joni Van Kley, who is organizing the ministry, and the SOKs Sunday school class, who provided seed-money for the yarn.

Each shawl is lovingly made and prayed over by the person who makes it, the SOKs class, and others who are available for prayer, includ-

Christmas Bazaar
an
Extravaganza
Event

Where would you like to serve?

November 1 8am-2pm

- KIDS KORNER CHAIR
 - Face Painting
 - Cookie Decorating
 - Story Telling
 - Thumbprint Art
 - Pictures with Santa
- KITCHEN SERVICE
 - Cashier
 - Clean-up
 - Servicing
- GREETERS
- SET UP
- TEAR-DOWN
- TRAFFIC CONTROL/PARKING
- GOLF CART TRANSPORTS
- BAKED GOODS
- BOOK NOOK
- COFFEE HOUSE

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____



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DORCAS CIRCLE'S ATTIC TREASURES, BAKE SALE

By Merle Gelles

The Dorcas Circle will be having its Attic Treasures and Bake Sale on

Saturday, October 18 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Dining Room.

We count on the congregation for support. Donations of saleable old and new treasures are welcome. We will accept anything the members can carry, including but not limited to small appliances, cookware, glassware, antiques/collectibles,



seasonal items, jewelry, bedding, linens, books, toys, sporting goods, tools, pictures, mirrors, silk flowers, CDs, DVDs, miscellaneous items, and baked goods. We will also accept new items and bake goods. Bring your donations to the church Dining Room between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 17.

Need help making your deliveries? Call Merle (504-9917) if you live in Viera or Frances Howard (259-4086) if you live in the Suntree area.

Money raised goes to charities Dorcas Circle supports, including Daily Bread, The Haven, Salvation Army Women's Shelter for Domestic Abuse, Make A Wish Foundations and others.

CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF

All seventh graders and their parents are invited to an informational session to find out about this year's Confirmation Class. Join us in the LOFT on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 11:00 a.m. to hear all the details. Older students who have not been confirmed in the United Methodist Church are also invited to attend.

Questions? Contact Youth Pastor Joel Lusz or Confirmation Class facilitators

Polly & Tim Pirlo at 751-9467.

