

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



# THE MESSENGER

Rev. Donald N. Dial, Senior Minister

March 19, 2008

Rev. Edward A. Kellum, Associate Minister

## BLOOD DRIVE

First United Methodist Church

The Big Red Bus will be in the Family Life Center Parking Lot

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 from 9:00 AM—12 Noon**

It's spring and the world is all bright and shiny and looking new! It appears that all is right with the world. But people still need blood when they have been in automobile crashes, had elective or emergency surgery, hemorrhaged in childbirth, been through difficult chemotherapy...the list is endless. The only solution is blood from real live people who care and are able to ease the suffering. All donors need a photo ID. **Give the gift of life! Be a hero...donate blood!**

**Flowers are needed** on Easter morning for our Court Yard Cross to be beautiful. We depend on you to bring the flowers from your yard. We will be there to help you place your flowers and will be happy to take a picture of you and your family in front of the lovely cross, with your camera or ours.

**Join the Happy Lunch Bunch** for lunch at the Ivy House in Alachua on Thursday, March 27th. The Ivy House Restaurant in Williston opened a second restaurant in Alachua in the fall of 2007. We will leave the church parking lot at 11:45 a.m. and return around 3:15 p.m. Cost is \$4.00 for transportation and lunch is on your own. Please call the Church Office at 622-3244 to make your reservations.

### Our Caring Fellowship

**Keep in your prayers...** Albert Moss, Harold Meagher, Pat Hart, Aliene Mills, Lee Turner, Sharon McCarron, Margaret Seago, Jean Edwards, Gladys Winkle, Marion Brown, Nan Baxter, Helen McNeal, Sara Demaree, Imogene Edvenson, Doris Roberson, David Young, III, Heinz and Charlys Klahm, Dave Whitston, and Maxine Schelfhout.

**The Wednesday Night Dinner Menu for March 26, 2008** is Chicken, Rice, Gravy, Squash Casserole, Cole Slaw, Biscuits, Banana Pudding, and Ice Cream. Make your dinner reservations by calling the church office by noon on **Monday, March 24**. The cost of the dinner is \$6.00 and the children's meal is \$3.00.

**Deadline for included information/material** in the April 9, 2008 Messenger is Wednesday, April 2, 2008. Please submit all information to: [sue@fumcocala.org](mailto:sue@fumcocala.org) or to the Church Of-

### An Evening with Shakespeare...

We meet again Sunday, March 30th at 5:00 p.m. in the church office/library to view and discuss *Timon of Athens*. The story is about Timon, a man who was extremely generous with his friends as long as he had the means, but found the "friends" drifted away when he fell on hard times. He becomes cynical and misanthropic (look this one up) delivering some of the finest speeches Shakespeare ever wrote. Rev. Mac White and Norma Romeo will lead us as we watch to discover Shakespeare's Christianity and humanity. Join us in the church office/library as we view this play and then find parallels to situations we see and face today. Bring a brown bag supper or snack and/or a drink if you like. If you can't make it this time, consider joining us for *Pericles* April 13<sup>th</sup>. For more info call Virginia Oswald at 622-6798.

### Is God calling you to be His hands and Feet?

An opportunity is available to you to serve Him and your community. FUMC is responsible for a **Meals On Wheels** route and there are empty days on our calendar. The meals are delivered every day (Monday through Friday) and most folks volunteer one day a month. We are fortunate to deliver to clients at Trinity Villas located off of 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. just south of SR 40. There are elevators in the apartment buildings so there are no stairs to climb. If you have about one and half hours to spare on a Wednesday morning, please call Carolyn Chistolini at 622-5796 or Neil and Betty Williams at 854-7757. Our clients are so appreciative and you will be blessed each time you deliver the meals.

*Parish Nurse Notes...helping you care for your health...by Fran Widick*  
SEASONAL ALLERGIES AND POLLENS

If you suspect that you have seasonal allergies due to pollens, here are the steps you can take to minimize the exposure:

- Stay indoors on windy days during the pollen season and when pollen counts are high. Local weather websites usually have pollen count information.
- Don't mow the lawn or work in the garden.
- Keep all the windows and doors closed during your specific allergy season. This keeps the pollen out.
- Wash hats and jackets more frequently during the pollen season.
- Shower or bathe and wash hair before bedtime to get the pollen out.
- Don't hang laundry outside to dry as it can pick up pollen.
- Install a special filter into your central heating and cooling system that cleans the air as it comes in from outside. You can buy these from a hardware store.
- Buy a portable HEPA filter—High Efficiency Particulate Accumulator filters can remove dust mite droppings, pollens, molds, spores, animal dander and many other irritants. They cost \$100-\$200. Place it in the main living area of the house during the night to clean the air while you sleep. Then run it in the bedroom during the afternoon so the air will be clean while you sleep.
- Pollen counts are usually highest during late morning and early afternoon. Limit outside activity to early morning, late afternoon and evenings during allergy season.
- Put window air condition units on "recirculate" to keep out the outside air.
- Keep trees and bushes near the house well pruned to avoid heavy vegetation.
- Keep car windows rolled up while driving.

If you can minimize your exposure, you may be able to control your symptoms with minimal over the counter (OTC) medications. Start with using a saline nasal spray to wash out the allergen (pollen). Use OTC eye drops to relieve the dry itchy feeling. If the runny nose and post nasal drip continue, try an OTC antihistamine. Avoid using combination drugs if you don't have all the symptoms they treat. Use the least amount of medication that will control your symptoms. If you can't control your misery with these simple steps, it may be time to see your health care provider.

**Health Alert...**It's no news that this is the flu season and many are suffering with respiratory infections. Add to that the fact that there is a lot of pollen in the air causing allergic reactions in many of us. Here's what you can do to protect yourself and others:

- **Take advantage of the hand sanitizer dispensers** in the Narthex and the Family Life Center.
- **Refrain from using scented products** such as perfume and after shave lotion when you come to worship or other gatherings at church.

It's all part of taking care of yourself and others at the same time.

**Ruth Poirier Scholarship Fund...**This scholarship is for members of First Church, Ocala or children of members who are entering the medical profession and have already been accepted to nursing or medical school. Applications are available in the Church Office and must be submitted to the Church Office prior to April 1. Recipients from last year should already have Renewal Applications. If not, please contact Rhonda Mack at work (237-2164) or home (867-0892). These funds do not have to be repaid.

**Stephen S. McCready Scholarship Fund...**First priority for this loan shall be given to applicants who will be preparing to enter a professional church or church related career. This includes, but is not limited to ministers, Christian education professionals, music ministers, and individuals going into church sponsored mission fields. Also, first priority shall go to members of First Church. Applications for the Fall, 2008 school term are due in the Church Office by June 1. You will be notified when to come for your interview with the scholarship committee. A new application must be submitted for each year you need assistance. This scholarship is offered as an interest free loan to be paid back upon graduation.

# Kids for Christ

622-3244 Ext. #349

Sunday Morning KFC— Thank you for volunteering your time and donating the needed items to make the Easter Egg Hunt on March 15<sup>th</sup> a success! We will have a **Day Camp on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 4:00 p.m.** The cost per child is \$20.00. Extended care is available until 5:30 p.m. with an additional cost of \$5.00 per child. Registration forms need to be filled out and are available at the sign-in counter in Room 204. **If your child** is participating in Choir/KFC on Wednesday evenings and would like to have pizza before the practice, please call Nako or e-mail her at nako@fumcocala.org by Noon that day. We'll have pizza around 5:40 p.m. The cost is \$3.00 per child. **Helpers** are needed on Sunday mornings at the 11:00 a.m. service in May and June. Please contact Nako if you can volunteer. **On April 20th** there is a fifth grade trip to Easy Street. We will meet in the KFC Room at 12:20 p.m. and have pizza. At 1:00 p.m. we will travel to Easy Street and enjoy two hours of unlimited Miniature Golf, Go-Carts and Rock Climbing. The cost is \$20.00 per child and permission slips need to be filled out and given to Nako Kellum. We'll be back to the parking lot behind the Rich Building around 3:15 p.m.

**Caring Sponsors needed...**The FUMC Preschool wants to thank all of you who have lovingly given to the Ennis Wynne Scholarship Fund. So far this year, you have enabled three children to continue enrollment in the Preschool. This is a difficult economic time for many of our church and preschool families. Because of job elimination or cuts in working hours, some of our preschool families are experiencing real need. One of the best ways to help these families is to continue caring for their children in our preschool while the parents are looking for jobs. In order to do that, we need people in our church who will help to sponsor a child. If many caring people will donate a small amount to the Ennis Wynne Preschool Scholarship Fund, the Preschool can continue to provide a safe and loving, Christian place for the children to be. The Lord heaps blessings on those who provide for the smallest and most innocent of His people – those dependent on others for their well-being. May God continue to bless our caring church family.

**Check out our** new and improved FUMC Web Site. For the latest information and news on church events, programs and ministries, go to [www.fumcocala.org](http://www.fumcocala.org).

**On Saturday, April 12, 2008** the Florida United Methodist Children's Home will sponsor a **"Day on Campus."** Everyone is invited to experience the life of the children through music, worship, fellowship and a tour of the campus. See first hand how valuable your contributions are to the Children's Home. To reserve your spot, please call Nancy in the Church Office by Friday, April 4. We will leave the Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. sharp and return by 4:00 p.m. Lunch is provided at no cost.

**Passionate Worship: Divine Inbreaking**, is a conference held on worship April 11-12, 2008 in Gainesville and will focus on the elements of what makes passionate worship, providing resources for congregations with practical worship, exploring the use of theology, liturgy and the sacraments in worship, and reaching those outside the church. Join us in traveling to Gainesville April 11 & 12 for this workshop. Transportation will be provided from the church. Call the Church Office (622-3244) if you plan to attend and to enroll. The cost of this conference is \$65.00.

## "Thank-you"

Thank you to everyone who participated in "Everybody's Birthday Party". The tables were sponsored by: Eagles Nest, Open Door, Covenant, Friends, Seekers and Friendly Fellowship Sunday School Classes, Worship, Missions, Evangelism Work Areas, Children's Ministry, Green Team and the Sanctuary Choir. Kathy Murphy, Peggy Brown, Linda Gerds, Fran Smith and Mary Ann Hamrick served on the decorating team. Mahlon Tuck made and served the ice cream. The party was great fun and a time for fellowship for everyone.

Dear Church Friends, We couldn't begin to thank you enough for all you did for us during my illness. Thank you for the cards and concerns. We are both back on our feet, and doing well. Bless you one and all.

Jeanne Heubeck

Dear First United Methodist Church, I appreciate your donation to the American Cancer Society in honor of my father, Oliver Seago. My father was blessed to have so many friends who came from the church he loved. His faith was very strong and his love for God strong. Thanks you for your generosity.

Fondly, Cindy Thompson

**ATTENDANCE:**

for Sunday, March 16, 2008— 594  
8:30—142; 9:40—202; 11:00—250;  
Sunday School—305

**GIVING:**

for Sunday, March 16, 2008—  
\$15,242  
Year to date—\$229,148



**There are 6 seats remaining** for Women of Faith Infinite Grace Conference in Tampa, FL, August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The Conference price is \$45.00 and the week-end package with pre-conference is \$99.00. Contact Cindy Gude at 622-1635 or by e-mail CMGBaskets@cox.net for tickets. Hurry, don't miss out on this awesome weekend! Tickets will go quickly!

**Board of Lay Ministry needs you...**Now is the time to recommend nominees for all of the elected positions in the Florida Conference Board of Lay Ministry. For more information: <http://www.flumc.info/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000045/004518.htm>.

**Preparing for a disaster is not a walk in the park.** It requires that we think about what can go wrong and to be prepared for tragic events such as the tornadoes and severe storms that struck Lake and Sumter counties last February and those that devastated portions of Tennessee and Alabama only weeks ago. As we view these tragedies our faith is tested, but we recognize this is a time of crying need and we must respond by assisting those whose lives have been uprooted. That is an essential task of our Emergency Response Team. Throughout the church's conference people are being trained and prepared to help those who are impacted by severe weather, fires and other disasters. Our church and other nearby Methodist churches are beginning to stockpile items needed to provide assistance. One large need is for a trailer to carry supplies to affected areas. The Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Teams are looking for a trailer such as the one depicted above. If you or anyone you know can help fulfill this need, please contact either the church office (622-3444) or Burt Stephens (873-6177) who is heading-up this effort.

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