

NEWS & VIEWS

TUSKAWILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Word From Our Pastor

March 2008

Goodness Gracious!

We know it when we see it – a smile from a stranger, the laugh of a child, an elderly couple walking hand in hand. We can't put our finger on it, but there is something deep within us that experiences such events as good. We don't have to think about it or analyze it. It does not occur to us to suspend judgment on such happenings. We immediately resonate with goodness.

But what is goodness? What does it mean to call something good? We hear the narrator of the commercial tell us that the food is filled with wholesome "goodness." Someone comments that a certain individual is a "good" musician. Upon receiving positive news, we respond, "Oh good!" The parents tell their child to be "good." It is fair to say that the word "good" suffers from overexposure, which may desensitize us to its influence. This is unfortunate, for goodness is something that should always have an impact on us. The dictionary defines goodness as "the quality of being good in any of its various senses; excellence; virtue; kindness; benevolence; as, the goodness of timber, of a soil, of food; goodness of character, of disposition, of conduct, etc." I believe we can wrap up the definition of goodness as that which reflects the highest and best.

Part of enjoying life is being a witness to those things that, in essence, reflect goodness. For example, it is fun to watch people who are "good" at what they do. It fascinates us to see an actor, artist, preacher or musician perform his or her craft with excellence. This fascination with goodness has something of the pull of the divine in it, for goodness points beyond us to the source of all. I believe this is what the Psalmist had in mind when he wrote: *The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of his hands* (Psalm 19:1).

As we prepare ourselves for Easter, let us open our eyes to the goodness of God all around us.

With Great Expectations,

Charley Reeb, Pastor

Inside this issue:

TUMC/ECWP Program & Activities & Super Seniors	2
J*A*M*N Ministry- Children's Programs	3
Youth News	4
Missions	5
Children's Activities	6
Birthdays/ Anniversaries	7
Calendar & Special Event- Insert	

Upcoming Sermons – Rev. Charles Reeb

You are invited to hear Rev. Reeb's Sermon Series on the 23rd Psalm:

Mar. 2 - "The Shepherd Comforts Us in the Valley"

Mar. 9 - "The Shepherd Protects and Heals Us"

Mar.23 - "The Sheep Praises the Shepherd"

ECWP- Early Childhood Weekday Program

ECWP - Early Childhood Weekday Programs is a ministry at Tuskawilla UMC for its members and the community. We are committed to provide not only a positive social and educational experience for your child but also to spread the message of Christianity to God's children.

What's Happening at TUMC Early Childhood Weekday Programs

February 25 - Preschool Registration 2008 - 2009

Please check our website at www.tumcfl.org and go to Weekday Programs for classes, tuition and fees. Contact the Preschool office at (407) 699 - 6012 for information or a tour.

March 6 - 28 Mission - The Heifer Project

ECWP and TUMC Children's Ministry are joining together to support the Heifer Project - ending hunger and caring for the Earth. Our Ark banks will be available to collect pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars to help the children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. The animals include heifers, sheep, goats, ducks, geese and rabbits.

March 15, Saturday - Easter Celebration

This will take place in the Fellowship Hall and on the church grounds from 9:00am - 11:00am. Tumc Children's and Youth Ministries with ECWP are celebrating and rejoicing in this wondrous time of new life with songs, crafts and an Easter egg hunt. Details to follow.

March 29, Saturday - Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) Round Up

At the Round Up children can have a fun filled morning of activities specifically geared to their age group while parents can meet VPK Providers in Seminole County, register and receive their VPK Certificate. If you plan to register, please remember to bring the following; Proof of Florida Residency(Drivers License); Birth Certificate/proof of age; Child's Social Security number (not required but appreciated).

Eligibility guidelines are as follows: Summer 2008- program is available to all children who turned 4years old on or before September 1, 2007 and who are eligible for kindergarten in Fall of 2008. The Fall 2008-2009 program is available to all children who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2008 and are eligible for kindergarten in Fall of 2009 - Birth date range 9/2/03 to 9/1/04.

** TUMC Early Childhood Weekday Programs is a Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) Provider for the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole County. The VPK program is a state of Florida funded program for our PreK children and the families.*

SUPER SENIORS LUNCHEON

Super Seniors invite you to their monthly luncheon where they meet for fellowship and at times have invited guest speakers who provide rather valuable bits of information for our senior population as well as for anyone who attends. This month the meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. Matt Herba will be our guest speaker and he will speak about health and wellness for seniors. Please bring a covered dish to share and join us for food, fun and fellowship. If you would like more information on this wonderful program, you may contact Judy & Bob Walker at 407-365-8878.



J[#]A[#]M[#]N MINISTRY

The Children's Ministries of Tuskawilla United Methodist

HEIFER MISSION PROJECT – This month we are joining with ECWP to raise money and awareness for the Heifer Project. Please help us educate the children about helping and serving others. Arks for money collection will be available March 2nd and will be collected March 30.

NURSERY NEWS – We welcome Ms. Jen Cosenzo to the Nursery Staff. Jen is a student at Valencia, working on her degree in Sign Language Interpretation. She is in the nursery from 9:30-12:30, so stop by and welcome her to the team. Remember nursery is available at all three services and is located in rooms 1/2.

SONshine NEWS – Children ages 3 (who are toilet trained) - 5th grade are invited to come and join in fellowship with one another during the 11:00 worship service. Children wanting to attend must be registered by an adult in the church narthex prior to the 11:00 service. Immediately following the Children's Moment the children are escorted to the Fellowship Hall for the remainder of the hour. ALL children must be picked up and signed out by a parent or responsible adult.

CHERUB & TUSKAWILLA YOUNG MUSICIANS – Each Wednesday night, children age 4 -5th grade are invited to come sing, dance, share and have FUN! We meet in the choir room from 6:00-6:40. Friends are always welcome!

ACOLYTES WANTED - While it is amazing how the children have stepped up for this important ministry, we still need more children to come on board. Children grades 2-5 are encouraged to attend the Acolyte Training taking place on March 9 at 10:15 in the church sanctuary. To register to attend, please email Kelli O'Reilly at children@tumcfl.org.

CHURCH WEBSITE – Please check the website often for upcoming events, changes, and for a downloadable copy of the March calendar. You can access the site by going to www.tumcfl.org.

Upcoming events:

CHOIR PERFORMANCE – The children will be singing March 2 at the 11:00 service. All choir members should be in the sanctuary by 10:30 to practice.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – Will be Friday, March 7 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Popcorn and drinks will be available. Reservations are required by March 3.

EASTER CELEBRATION – Mark your calendars for March 15 because we are joining with ECWP in an Easter Celebration. All families are encouraged to join us from 9-11 for breakfast, crafts, singing, and of course an EGG HUNT! The cost is \$5.00/child or \$12.00/family. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY MARCH 10!**

TWEENS EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT – Kids in 4th & 5th grades are encouraged to join us at 3:00 on March 16 for a scavenger hunt at the Oviedo Mall. After the games we will go to Steak & Shake for dinner. Kids need to bring money for their meal. We need adult chaperones and drivers for this event.

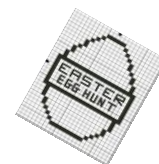
BAHIA SHRINERS CIRCUS – 6 ticket vouchers are still available for the April 12 and 13 performances at the UCF Arena.

Please register today for these events by calling the church at 407-699-8155.

CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?



As part of the Easter Celebration scheduled for Saturday, March 15, we will be having an Egg Hunt. We have the eggs but we need the fillers. Donations of wrapped hard candy, and small prizes that can fit within the eggs are needed to help make this Hunt a successful day of fun. Please leave your donations in the baskets provided in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall by March 9. Thank you from the heart for your kindness and generosity.



YOUTH AT TUMC

Summer Mission Trips Planning Begins

A mandatory mission team (s) meeting will be held on Sunday, March 2, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the youth room. Anyone considering participation in one of the youth summer mission trips and their parents should attend this orientation meeting. The dates for this summer's mission trips are as follows: **TEA Meffort Mission** (rising sixth graders through rising ninth graders; high school leaders) – **June 15 – 21, 2008**; **Choctaw Mission** (rising ninth graders through rising college freshmen) – **July 4 – 13, 2008**. High school mission trip participants may earn **Bright Futures** community services hours. Information regarding this opportunity will be available at this meeting.

Also, mission trip cost and plans, qualifications for mission team participants, fundraising information and mission team applications will be presented. Bring your calendar and your questions!

Confirmation Class of 2008 Begins

Sunday, March 2, from 5:30 – 7:00 will be our first Confirmation class for 2008. If you or your child has a desire to be a participant in this year's class, and you have not yet registered, come to this first class, or contact Kathy Rexroad at youth@tumcfl.org.

Seeking Summer Youth Interns

The youth ministry is seeking persons to serve as summer youth ministry staff. This is a twelve-week position, beginning May 25 and ending August 17, 2008. Some of the duties involved are leading small groups and Bible studies, planning summer mission trips and events, and administrative work. All applicants should be a high school post-graduate of 1 year, an active participant in a local church, and in the process of discerning a full-time call to ministry. Youth ministry leadership or internship experience is a plus. Applications are available on-line, or contact Kathy Rexroad in the youth ministry office at youth@tumcfl.org, or 407-699-8155.

Deadline for application is March 31, 2008.

A FOND FAREWELL

Dear TUMC Family,

It is with great pain and also excitement that I announce to you Andrea and I will be moving to Dallas, TX. The pain is leaving such a great church family at TUMC and the excitement is seeing what the Lord has in store for the Pender family in Dallas.

Over the past four years Andrea and I have been truly amazed by TUMC and how the Lord works in the lives of those who are family in this church. We have a church with a great pastor, great office staff, and most of all a great body in Christ. I have seen amazing things, God things, in my short time here. Lives have been changed, outlooks refreshed, out stretched arms to others and personal growth in Christ is abundant. That is the measure of a great Church to be following Christ and being transformed in the process and it is so hard to leave this great transformation and family.

My prayer is that TUMC continues to grow, continues to extend the hands of Christ and continues to be the warm, caring and loving family that it is. You are the ones who make the church great, you are the reflection to the community that shows Christ's love in an unloving world, and you are the ones who take care of the TUMC family. It is with great sadness that I will not be able to continue on this journey with you in body, but know I will always be on the journey in heart.

With great love in Christ's name,

Will & Andrea Pender



MISSIONS 2008

The TUMC Missions Team announces that its featured mission for the Month of March is the “2008 Walk to Defeat ALS” which is sponsored by the Florida Chapter of the ALS Association. Some of you may know that “ALS” is an acronym for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or, as it is more commonly known, Lou Gehrig’s disease. The ALS Association was formed for the purposes of serving the needs of those living with ALS and their caregivers. ALS has cast its shadow over our TUMC family. Many of you may know that Cedric Campbell, the husband of Lynn Campbell, our hard working church secretary (and stand in preacher), has ALS and Lynn, in addition to fulfilling her many other obligations, is his primary care giver. It is this special connection between a devastating disease and our church family which led the Missions Team and Church leadership to select this worthy cause as a mission for our congregation.

Participation in this mission by walking and/or sponsoring a walker affords church members an opportunity to reach out and show their support for Cedric and Lynn as they each battle this disease in their own way. It also affords each of us an opportunity to fulfill the promise we made as church members, to belong, grow and SERVE! Finally, if you are a walker, then participating in this mission will give you an opportunity to enjoy a healthy walk on what should be a beautiful spring morning. If you aren’t into walking, then, by making a donation, you can show your support for the Campbells and play an important role in the competition between the TUMC affiliated teams.

At this time, the Journeys Sunday school class (*Cedric’s Journey*) the TUMC Youth, Children (*Cedric’s Kiddie Korral*) and ECWP(*Cedric’s ‘lil Ponies*) are already sponsoring teams for the walk. In fact, the Journeys class has challenged the TUMC Youth to see which team can raise the most sponsorship money for the walk. Remember anyone can participate in the walk by joining an existing team or by forming their own team. It is as simple as going to the www.alsafl.org website and following the easy directions. Look for the various TUMC team walkers to contact you seeking your sponsorship for their walk. Please open your hearts and your wallets in support of them, ALS and this very special mission.



Free Ways to Help TUMC

After you put your offering in the plate, do you ever wonder how you can give more to the church? God has filled your heart with the desire to give but the wallet is empty.

Here are some simple solutions that won’t cost you anymore than you already spend.

- Bring your newspapers to the recycle bin. We don’t make a lot of money on this but every little bit helps and your papers won’t end up in the landfill.
- If you shop at Albertson’s, pick up a Community Partner card in the Narthex. Every time you shop, ask the cashier to scan your card. A percentage of your purchases will be sent to the church.
- Do you have good, used items you’d like to get rid of but not sure what to do with them? Take them to a place, such as Quik-drop, and they’ll advertise your items on e-bay. After the item is sold, ask Quik-drop to send a check to the church instead of to you. Perfect solution – you clean out your closets and the church benefits from your efforts.
- Are you a coupon shopper? Next time you use a Buy 1, Get 1 free coupon, donate the “free” item for our food pantry.
- Buy Scrip cards from the youth for your everyday purchases – Fast food, restaurants, groceries, gas, movies, etc. Stop by the Scrip table on Sunday morning to place your order and the cards are usually available by the end of the week. You can also pick up a list of available cards, fill out the order form and drop it and your check in the office.

Thanks to Nita Seng for this great advertising idea!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

2 Beth Frazee, Joanna Polk, Dorothy Smith
3 Stuart Cooley, Brian Corton, Phil DonLevy,
Meghan Gay, Lacey Taylor
4 Steve Berghane, Rich Graves, Michael LaMott,
Carl Wendt
5 Dennis Anastaio
6 Megan Hamilton, Rob Phillips, Chris Wherrell
7 Neil Allen, Emilee Moore
8 Margie Jacobs
9 Rick Brown, Terry Even, Ray Martin, Judy Nielsen, Larry
Van Ore, Fred Wascura, Holly Wascura, Cheryl Whetzel
10 Megan Whitley
11 Nicholas Berghane, Donald Childs, Ariaiah Todriff
12 Amy Moore, Janice Seltzer, Jerry Sharp
14 Jenny Wherrell
15 Charlotte Becker, Martha Glavin, Jennifer Graham,
David Snider
16 Rex Straw, Brianna Tague
17 Patti Anastario
18 Naomi Briggs, Christopher Martin
19 Gregory Aplin, Brad Liebknecht, Pamela Phillips
20 Leni Schmidt
22 Chelsea McLintock, Travis Storm
23 Carol Ousnamer
24 Rachael Herrera, Morgan Nelson, Miranda Tague
25 Shari Douglas, Arthur Hennings, Ron Zitza
26 Millie Alkire, Fred Glavin
27 Matt Dukes, Keilee Quinn
28 Maria Lucanegro, Craig Stoughton
29 Ann Detwiler, Hadyn Polk, Alicia Potts
30 Lee Hyde



4 Hal & Jan Larkin
10 Mike & Lynn Lyons
11 Bob & Lydia Giffin
22 Mark & Brenda Holmes
26 Terry & Kim Neisler
30 Fred & Martha Glavin



Happy Anniversary

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

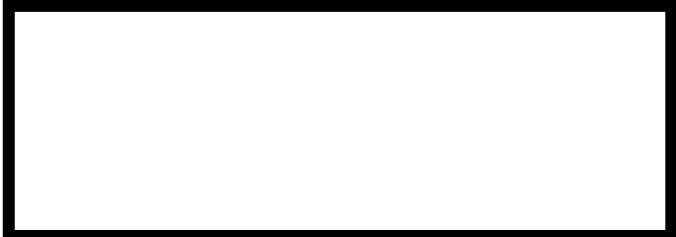
The March Newsletter deadline will be **Thursday, March 19, 2008**. For your convenience, you can E-mail your Newsletter articles to office@tumcfl.org or fax it to 407-699-9419. The church office reserves the right to edit any contributed articles for length and clarity.

**TUSKAWILLA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

3925 Red Bug Lake Road
Casselberry, FL 32707
Phone: 407-699-8155
Fax: 407-699-9149
Email: office@tumcfl.org
www.tumcfl.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #8051
Mid-FL, FL

BELONG. GROW. SERVE.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Mar 7-8: Lay Speaker Training/Weekend of Learning @ Stewart Memorial UMC, Daytona Beach
Mar 8 - Summer Day Camp Training event @ Pine Hills UMC, Nowell St. Orlando

EASTER EVENTS AT TUMC



- March 15** - Easter Celebration (Easter Egg Hunt, craft and refreshments) for children up to grade 3
- March 16** - Easter Cantata - "On a Hill Too Far Away" - 8:30 & 11:00 am
- March 16** - Easter Scavenger Hunt & Dinner at Oviedo Mall - Grades 4 & 5 (*Tweens*)
- March 21** - Good Friday Service - 7pm
- March 23** - Easter Sunday Services 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 am - All services held in the Sanctuary

