

# NEWS & VIEWS

TUSKAWILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A Word From Our Pastor

APRIL 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

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# 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

### Preschool Registration 2008 - 2009

Please check our website at [www.tumcfl.org](http://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. Registration currently underway.

### April 13 - 14

TUMC will honor the Early Childhood Weekday Programs (ECWP) and staff at the 11:00 am Sunday service. All TUMC/ECWP children and their families are invited to attend this service and share in this time of appreciation and celebration. On Monday, the staff will be honored at an Appreciation Luncheon at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

### April 19 - ALS Walk/Mission

ECWP joins with TUMC to participate in the Walk to Defeat ALS at Baldwin Park. Our team is aptly named, Cedric's Kiddie Korral.

### Looking Ahead:

Registration begins on **Monday, April 21** for Summer Camp 2008. The dates and themes are as follows:

June 30 - July 3..... Celebrate the USA                      July 7 - July 10 .....Safari Adventure

July 14 - July 17.....Splish, Splash                      July 21 - July 24.....My 5 Senses Blast

One time non-refundable registration fee of \$30 per child is due at sign up.

*\* 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, April 6 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

In **May** the Super Seniors are planning a Rivership Romance Cruise as the event for that month in place of their normal luncheon. You are invited to join them at this event. If interested please contact Larry VanOre at 407-695-7602. It promises to be a time of fun and fellowship.



# **J<sup>#</sup>A<sup>#</sup>M<sup>#</sup>N MINISTRY**

*The Children's Ministries of Tuskawilla United Methodist*

**ALS SUPPORT** - Our children's team named Cedric's Kiddie Korral which is registered as part of the church's Mission project - Walk to Defeat ALS is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 19 in Baldwin Park. The little ones need your help for this event so please register to walk with us on this day or support the team with your prayers and financial gifts.

**HEIFER MISSION PROJECT** - Thank you to all who helped with the March mission! Look for the totals in the April bulletins.

**SONshine NEWS** - Children ages 3 (who are toilet trained) through 2nd grade are invited to come and join in fellowship with one another during the 11:00 worship service. Parents must register their children prior to the 11:00 service. Registration for this is done in the Narthex. 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.

**TWEENS TALK IT OUT!** - Students in grades 3-5 are invited to join Kelli O'Reilly for a discussion group. Topics are all easy to relate too and fun! Talk It Out! will meet in Room 20 immediately following the Children's Moment at the 11:00 service. Children will be brought to the Fellowship Hall for pick-up by a parent.

**CHERUB & TUSKAWILLA YOUNG MUSICIANS** - Each Wednesday night, children age 4 -5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come and sing, dance, share and have FUN! We meet in the choir room from 6:00-7:00. 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 April 6 at 10:30 in the church sanctuary. To register to attend, please email Kelli O'Reilly at [children@tumcfl.org](mailto: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](http://www.tumcfl.org).



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**NO CHERUB OR T.Y.M. CHOIRS APRIL 2.**

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT** - Will be Friday, April 4 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite family game and snacks to share! Drinks will be provided. **RSVP before April 3.**

**VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING IS COMING!** - All interested in working with VBS are encouraged to join the information and volunteer meeting Sunday, April 20 immediately following the 11:00 service. Please bring a bag lunch and come to be IM-"POWERED!"

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING** - All interested in joining the Sunday School team please plan on attending the teacher meeting April 6, at 12:00. Lunch will be served and you'll have the opportunity to meet the existing team! **RSVP before April 3.**

**ECWP STAFF APPRECIATION SUNDAY** - We will honor the staff members of our preschool on April 13 at the 11:00 service. Please come, meet and show your support for the individuals who carry out this important outreach program.

**BAHIA SHRINERS CIRCUS** - Six ticket vouchers are still available for the April 12 & 13 performances at the UCF Arena. Please register today for these events by calling the church at 407-699-8155.

## YOUTH AT TUMC

### Confirmation Class of 2008

Confirmation classes are currently underway for our unday, 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](mailto:youth@tumcfl.org).

### Summer Mission Trips

This summer's mission trips are as follows: **TEAMeffort 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.

### Summer Youth Interns

The youth ministry is currently accepting applications from young persons desirous 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](mailto:youth@tumcfl.org), or 407-699-8155.

## MISSIONS 2008



The TUMC Missions Team is gearing up for 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, has ALS. 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. The following teams are registered to walk: the Journeys Sunday school class (*Cedric's Journey*) the TUMC Youth (*Cedric's cowpokes*), Children (*Cedric's Kiddie Korral*) and ECWP (*Cedric's 'lil Ponies*). 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](http://www.alsafl.org) website and following the easy directions. The excitement is building, registration has been steady and many are gearing up to participate in this event which in addition to its primary reason, promises to be a wonderful time of fellowship. We look forward to walking hand in hand with you and others on April 19.



*Under normal circumstances we do not get to choose our families. We can however choose our friends. We feel truly blessed that somehow we managed to have both whether by choice or design, we got you TUMC. Your outpouring of love and support which we encounter and which you give to us so easily is overwhelming. So, as we claim you now as family and friends, please know how humbled we feel but what a joy it is to be so embraced by God's people. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all that you are doing and for all that you are, and we ask for all of you God's continued blessings.*

*Sincerely,*

*Cedric & Lynn Campbell*

## THE TRUSTEE BOARD AT TUMC

As the caretakers of TUMC property, the Board of Trustees are mandated to ensure its upkeep. For several months these dedicated members have been hard at work to ensure that when the premises are being used, safety and esthetics are at a premium. The following report describes a sampling of the work they do. We at TUMC wish to express our gratitude for their faithfulness.

"We are especially grateful for the Gifts of 200 new chairs and for the professional repairs and re-painting of our parsonage. Through the generosity of the congregation, we were also able to replace the roof on the parsonage and repaint the interior of the fellowship hall. Classrooms 24 & 26 were finally refurbished; the walls and ceilings were repaired and repainted. Central air conditioning, new carpeting, and base boards were all installed.

The large playground received some long due attention, the redwood play center was repaired and repainted. New slides were installed, we removed two sick trees, and the new picnic tables and a new swing set were added. The landscaping has been improved around most of our campus. It is especially noticeable by the preschool offices and the front doors to the fellowship hall. The courtyard has been improved with new gardens and a fence to hide the AC units.

Some less glamorous work took place last year. The stairs at the classroom building needed to have major repairs to the steps. The irrigation system is working again in most areas. The choir room air conditioner system was modified and repaired. The pool table was finally moved up to the youth room. Two storage sheds were resided and painted. After all of that we still found the energy to change some light bulbs, rake leaves, trim trees and pull weeds, replace doors and a few other things. Thank you for all of your help and support and we look forward to continuing to serve TUMC.

The T.U.M.C. Trustees

*"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded"*

*2 Chronicles 15:7*



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

2 KeiLissa Bailey, Vanessa Martin, Michael Vitale  
3 Gary Miller  
4 Tracy Whitley  
5 Kim Helenthal  
6 Matthew Childs, Danielle Eidson, Patrick O'Reilly  
8 Melissa Bailey  
9 Amy Brubaker, Lisa Brubaker, Carol Wascura  
10 Carol Wiginton  
11 John Kemp, Jim Leedy, Greg Parrott  
13 Ray Holton  
14 Sara Brubaker, Stan Sturgess  
15 Linda O'Reilly  
16 Steve Ireland, Doris Lane  
17 Catherine Wilkinson  
18 Joseph Cave  
19 Cheryl Lane, Donna Long, Andy O'Reilly, Tom Shaw  
20 Tollis Patterson  
21 Keithan Bailey, Maria Martin, Debbie Schuchart,  
Sheryl Zimmerman  
22 Carson BeMent  
23 Catherine Buckner, Mark Buckner  
25 Bob Bollet, Felicity O'Reilly  
26 Ayla Todriff  
27 David Adler  
28 Andrew Courtney  
29 Thomas Courtney  
30 Freddy Herrera, Elliott Saunders, Otilio Smith



1 William & Cheryl Whetzel  
6 Doug & Nancy Grossman  
8 Terry & Mary Jane Turner  
9 Bud & Minna Senko  
12 Tom & Sally Hendricks  
13 Roy & Joan Ray  
25 Larry & Judith Van Ore  
28 John & Desiree Dannecker  
29 Travis & Mandy BeMent



Happy Anniversary

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The May Newsletter deadline will be **Thursday, April 17, 2008**. For your convenience, you can E-mail your Newsletter articles to [office@tumcfl.org](mailto: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.



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**TUSKAWILLA UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

3925 Red Bug Lake Road  
Casselberry, FL 32707  
Phone: 407-699-8155  
Fax: 407-699-9149  
Email: [office@tumcfl.org](mailto:office@tumcfl.org)  
[www.tumcfl.org](http://www.tumcfl.org)

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