

THE MESSENGER

Rev. Barton Buchanan, Senior Pastor Rev. Karen Curtis-Weakley, Associate Pastor

Steven Case, Youth Minister Kevin Harris, Music Director Chris Stumpf, Wedding and Childcare Coordinator

Volume XII Issue III

March 2009

Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15

Contemporary Worship Service 11:15 a.m.

Communion served every first Sunday of the month

MyChurch A message from Kay Bruhn

Please visit <http://www.mychurch.org/WUJCC> and sign up as a member of Windermere Union Church. The site is a social network for churches, and I have already set up a page for us. It's a wonderful way for us to reach out to each other and get to know the members of the church better. Each member can have their own page and add whatever content they'd like to share with other members or the Christian community. Each member also has their own privacy settings, so they can receive as little, or as much, information from other members as you desire. I am currently the only moderator, but as the site grows, I will need volunteers to help moderate. I have already sent invitations to join to those people who have their email addresses listed in the Church Directory. Please check your SPAM folders, as you might not recognize my email address, daydreamin365@yahoo.com. I can also be contacted by phone at 407-876-1732, if you have any questions or concerns.

March Stewards

Acolytes

March 1	Cameron Snell
March 8	David Hill
March 15	Parker Davis
March 22	Jeff Cox
March 29	Katie Snell

9:00 a.m. Ushers

March 1	Gary Bruhn and Martha Reece
March 8	Cheryl Tyndall and Marge Nagle
March 15	Don Snell and Gary Bruhn
March 22	Mike and Tiffany Taylor
March 29	Youth Group Member

11:15 a.m. Ushers

March 1	Maria Molina and Margie Seda
March 8	Steve and Mandy Collins
March 15	Bill and Carol Lanning
March 22	Chrissy and Brandi Emery-Bello
March 29	Denise Harbin and John Kummery

Invitation to Serve as Liturgist

Don't have time to serve the church by participating on a committee but would like to do something to serve the church? If you enjoy reading, please share your enjoyment, while you learn the scripture passages! During the first worship service each Sunday, the liturgist reads the Call to Worship, offers a prayer of Invocation (inviting God to join our worship service), and reads the scripture passage. We invite all who would like to serve as liturgist to contact Pastor Barton at 407-876-2112 or 407-963-8254.



Daylight saving time begins on Sunday March 8, 2009. Remember to set your clocks ahead the night before!



WINDERMERE
Union Church
United Church of Christ

Provoking thought. Inspiring spirit. Accepting all.





How Can Each of Us Create Church Growth?

by Barton Buchanan, Senior Pastor

Ernest Holmes once wrote, "Life is a mirror and will reflect back to the thinker what he thinks into it." I remember that when I first heard we create what we think, it was a bit disconcerting. That put a lot of responsibility on me. In other words, what I am experiencing today is the results of my thoughts and actions from last year. If I do not like where I am today then I can make changes today that can bring about the results I am wanting next year. This powerful reality is not only true individually but, also collectively.

Let's apply this principle to church growth. When we look into the metaphorical mirror as a congregation what do we see? How does Windermere Union Church show us what kind of thinking we have about church growth? We have grown by a little over the last two years. We are maintaining a membership of just over 200. Our other thinking has created an incredible congregation as far as worship, hospitality, missions giving and learning and

growing spiritually. I wish I had a dollar for every time I have heard one of us say, "It is a mystery to me why we are not packed every week." We seem to be doing the things that create the possibilities for new members. However, the fact that membership has not increased like we planned I believe we must ask, "What do we really think about our church growing?"

It is now very obvious to me that for a faith community like ours to grow in the ways we want it to then we have to change something. What if that something is the way we think about growth? I think we have a uniquely wonderful church. It is a place for growing, nurturing, taking a stand and putting into practice our beliefs, God loves and accepts everyone. I believe there are so many people who will benefit from participating in our church. There are so many ways we can be enriched by them sharing their gifts with us. How can each of you create church growth? What do you think about this?



Presents

A Special 11-Day Tour of Ireland and Scotland Created for the St. Luke's Exercise Group!

submitted by Denise Harbin

The folks at St. Luke's are going to Scotland and Ireland and you are invited! The 11-day tour will start in Glasgow then visit Loch Lomond and cruise Loch Ness, where the legend of the underwater monster was born. On to Culloden and Edinburgh, where we tour the castle. Ferry across the channel to Ireland, where we visit Dublin, then on to Blarney where you can kiss the famous rock for good luck. Enjoy a stay in Killarney before driving the Ring of Kerr with breathtaking sights of mountains and the coastline. Day 10 takes us to the Cliffs of Moher and a medieval feast at the Bunratty Castle. On day 11 we leave from Shannon airport to take home a lifetime of memories and stories to share.

The tour departs Saturday, July 18, 2009 and costs just \$2,358. double occupancy. This includes the 11 day/9 night tours and hotels, and 16 meals. Airfare will be determined separately, depending on your city of origination. Or use your frequent flyer miles!

For those of Scottish Ancestry, 2009 celebrates "Welcome Home" with special events at many venues! So if you ever thought about going to Scotland and Ireland, now is the time.

Space is limited, so get your reservations in now by calling our tour leader Denise Harbin at 407-363-0793.



March Totline

by Chris Stumpf, Childcare Coordinator

Hi!

Sorry I missed you last month; I have some catching up to do. I would like to thank everyone who had anything to do with the Children's Christmas program. I'm sorry I couldn't be there. As you may or may not know, I was having surgery on my foot at the time the Christmas program was being performed. I heard great things about the play and wish to thank everyone—thanks to the performers and the narrator, thanks to Kevin for his help with the music, and a special thanks to Angela for doing the job I should have been doing. I was lucky enough to receive pictures of the play about one hour after the performance, and I can't tell you how handsome the reindeer looked in the pictures—another special thanks.

A Special Message from the Easter Bunny

Parents, I need your help please. (This is a secret) There will be an Easter egg hunt at church on Easter Sunday between the two services. I need your help with candy and plastic eggs. Make sure that the candy is wrapped and the eggs are hinged, not two pieces. If you can help, please have the candy or the eggs at church by Sunday, April 5. Please give the items to Miss Chris; she is my special helper. Thanks so much. See you soon. Have a hoppy day.

Don't miss the "children's moments" during Lent. During Lent, there will be special guests introduced to the children. By Easter, the guests will be "flying high" - you won't want to miss this!

Children's Corner

Draw a large egg on a piece of paper, or get an adult to draw the egg and decorate the egg. Be creative—use crayons, markers, feathers, stickers, or use your imagination. There will be a prize for each egg. Please see Miss Chris for your prize.

The Spirit Of Saint Patrick

by Steve Case, Youth Director

We are in chaotic times. Once we get beyond green beer and leprechauns we learn that Saint Patrick was a man who was thrust into a chaotic situation and told to make sense of it. Once we get beyond shamrocks and "pots of gold at the end of the rainbow" we find a dedicated priest who brought light (both literally and figuratively) to people that were lost, cold and alone.

On Sunday March 15, at 8:30 p.m. the youth of our church will be leading a Vigil for Saint Patrick in the parking lot of our church. The prayers and writings of Saint Patrick still hold up today. This service, based on his liturgy, is a time for us to gather as one body, one church, one spirit, one hope, and one faith.

It is a chance to pray for those in our community who are going through hard times. It is a chance to pray for our leaders. It is a chance to pray for ourselves and our future. Everyone knows someone who had been affected by the crisis our country is in. Please invite friends, family, and co-workers as we gather in the church parking lot and create a soaring place for God's Holy Spirit.



Changing of the Colors during Lent

Purple table coverings will be used on tables in on tables in the narthex during Lent. The Season of Lent is penitence and preparation for Easter. It is a time of decision and recommitment—a time when many turned away from Jesus. We also experience the passionate feelings of holy week.

"During the church service your soul has been fed. Leave the sanctuary, enter the narthex to feed your body. Feeding soul and body gives nourishment to go forth into the world."



Happy Birthday to All!

- March 1 Lynn Stickel
- March 2 Roberta Blick
- March 3 Mark Guillette
- March 5 Connie Whiteside
- March 6 David Houseal
- March 7 Chris Schulz
- March 8 Danny Snow
- March 10 Bob Minnick
- March 16 Kari Samora
- March 16 Susan Savard
- March 18 Roger Seidner
- March 21 Sheri Kiddoo
- March 24 Alden Harak
- March 24 Linda Houseal
- March 26 John Kummery
- March 30 Marge Nagle
- March 31 Gerry Picard
- March 31 Jerry Nixon



Lessons in Oz

by Ann Gurley

Lessons in Oz, a new class led by Pastor Barton and Ann Gurley, continues on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The last class will be March 29. Please feel free to join us at any time! Bring your friends! Thoughtful teens welcome, childcare provided by calling Ann at 407-445-7201.



Join The Birthday Club!

Birthdays are great....and we want to celebrate with you! Please e-mail Ann Green at ggreen7@cfl.rr.com or call (407)

293-8892 with those special dates for all your family members so we can recognize and wish one and all a Happy Birthday!

Flea Market Event

There is going to be another Flea Market at the Windermere Union Church on Saturday, March 7. Tell your friends! Bring your stuff to sell! Keep your cash! Have fun!

Set up starts at 7 a.m. and the sale begins at 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.. There is a \$10 charge per spot and we will have some tables available for rent. No reservations needed.

We are going to need lots of volunteers to help, especially if we take donation items for the church to sell, such as bake sale items. We need help with selling coffee and doughnuts (we sold out last time), grilling hot dogs and selling lunch items, making and selling popcorn, holding signs to flag folks in from Maguire Road and from Park Ridge-Gotha Road, helping to carry tables and helping folks set up/break down. I also like to keep someone in the narthex to answer any questions someone may have about our church. If you can volunteer for just an hour, it will be greatly appreciated!












Please contact Margaret Cox at 407-340-7367 for questions or to volunteer your time.

**This event is weather permitting.*



March 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Traditional Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemporary Service 4:00 Junior High Youth Group 6:00 Senior High Youth Group 7:00 Lessons in Oz</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 223</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 6:30 Banner Class</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 9:30 Art Quest 9:30 Preschool Chapel 6:30 AA Meeting 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 11:00 Preschool Chapel 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 9:30 Preschool Board Meeting 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 Flea Market 9:00 Weight Watchers</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Traditional Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemporary Service 4:00 Junior High Youth Group 6:00 Senior High Youth Group 7:00 Lessons in Oz</p> <p>Second Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p> 	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 223</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 6:30 Banner Class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 9:30 Art Quest 9:30 Preschool Chapel 6:30 AA Meeting 7:00 Chancel Choir</p> <p>Worship Through <i>Song & Music</i></p> 	<p>12</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 9:25 Preschool Fire Drill 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Weight Watchers</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Traditional Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemporary Service 4:00 Junior High Youth Group 6:00 Senior High Youth Group 7:00 Lessons in Oz 8:30 Spirit of St. Patrick Vigil</p> <p>Third Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p> 	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 223</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 6:30 Banner Class</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 9:30 Art Quest 9:30 Preschool Chapel 12:30 Preschool Staff Meeting 6:30 AA Meeting 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 11:00 Preschool Chapel 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Weight Watchers</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Traditional Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemporary Service 4:00 Junior High Youth Group 6:00 Senior High Youth Group 7:00 Lessons in Oz</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p> 	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 223</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 6:30 Banner Class</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 9:30 Art Quest 9:30 Preschool Chapel 6:30 AA Meeting 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:00 PS Lunch N Longer</p>	<p>27</p> <p>NO PRESCHOOL</p> <p>Spring Break! Begins</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Weight Watchers</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Traditional Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemporary Service 4:00 Junior High Youth Group 6:00 Senior High Youth Group</p> <p>Fifth Sunday in <i>Lent</i></p> 	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 223</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>9:15 Preschool 12:15 PS Lunch N Longer 6:30 Banner Class</p>				

What You Need to Know About Bereavement and Grief

from the American Hospice Foundation submitted by Debbie Centeno

The death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult experiences. The bereaved struggle with many intense and frightening emotions, including depression, anger, and guilt. Often, they feel isolated and alone in their grief. Having someone to lean on can help them through the grieving process.

Don't let discomfort prevent you from reaching out to someone who is grieving. Now, more than ever, your support is needed. You might not know exactly what to say or what to do, but that's okay. You don't need to have answers or give advice. The most important thing you can do for a grieving person is to simply be there. Your support and caring presence will help them cope with the pain and begin to heal.

The better your understanding of grief and how it is healed, the better equipped you'll be to help a bereaved friend or family member:

There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Grief does not unfold in orderly, predictable stages. It is an emotional rollercoaster, with unpredictable highs, lows, and setbacks. Everyone grieves differently, so avoid telling the bereaved what they "should" be feeling or doing.

Grief may involve extreme emotions and behaviors. Feelings of guilt, anger, despair, and fear are common. A grieving person may yell to the heavens, obsess about the death, lash out at loved ones, or cry for hours on end. The bereaved need reassurance that what they're feeling is normal. Don't judge them or take their grief reactions personally.

There is no set timetable for grieving. For many people, recovery after bereavement takes 18 to 24 months, but for others, the grieving process may be longer or shorter. Don't pressure the bereaved to move on or make them feel like they've been grieving too long. This can actually slow their healing.

Helping a grieving person tip: Listen with compassion
Almost everyone worries about what to say to people who are grieving. But knowing how to listen is much more important. Oftentimes, well-meaning people avoid talking about the death or mentioning the deceased person. However, the bereaved need to feel that their loss

is acknowledged, it's not too terrible to talk about, and their loved one won't be forgotten.

While you should never try to force someone to open up, it's important to let the bereaved know they have permission to talk about the loss. Talk candidly about the person who died and don't steer away from the subject if the deceased's name comes up. When it seems appropriate, ask sensitive questions – without being nosy – that invite the grieving person to openly express his or her feelings. Try simply asking, "Do you feel like talking?"

Accept and acknowledge all feelings. Let the grieving person know that it's okay to cry in front of you, to get angry, or to break down. Don't try to reason with them over how they should or shouldn't feel. The bereaved should feel free to express their feelings, without fear of judgment, argument, or criticism.

Be willing to sit in silence. Don't press if the grieving person doesn't feel like talking. You can offer comfort and support with your silent presence. If you can't think of something to say, just offer eye contact, a squeeze of the hand, or a reassuring hug.

Let the bereaved talk about how their loved one died. People who are grieving may need to tell the story over and over again, sometimes in minute detail. Be patient. Repeating the story is a way of processing and accepting the death. With each retelling, the pain lessens.

Offer comfort and reassurance without minimizing the loss. Tell the bereaved that what they're feeling is okay. If you've gone through a similar loss, share your own experience if you think it would help. However, don't give unsolicited advice, claim to "know" what the person is feeling, or compare your grief to theirs.

Comments to avoid when comforting the bereaved

- **"I know how you feel."** One can never know how another may feel. You could, instead, ask your friend to tell you how he or she feels.
- **"It's part of God's plan."** This phrase can make people angry and they often respond with, "What plan? Nobody told me about any plan."

Continued on page 7



Treasurer's Report

by Allan Nagle, Treasurer

As is often the case, I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that I apparently overstated our 2008 tithes and offerings by \$20,000. The change involves confusion, on my part, about a \$20,000 contribution, which was originally designated for the balloon fund and subsequently allocated to tithes and offerings.

As a consequence of this error and the tabulation of all the 2008 expenses, our deficit last year was \$78,000 vs. \$55,300 estimated in our 2008 Annual Report.

The good news relates to our January 2009 results. Thanks to good tithes and offerings, our monthly income was \$44,000; well above budget and last year. Our January expenses were about \$37,500; somewhat less than budget and below last year.

The result of our January income and expense was a \$6,600 surplus. This compares with a \$700 budgeted deficit and a \$19,000 deficit last year. While this is a positive result, I believe we will be challenged throughout the year to contain our total year deficit at the \$8,800 budgeted level.

Our preschool had a good month in January, showing a \$15,000 surplus. For the seven month fiscal year-to-date (July 2008 –January 2009) the preschool recorded a \$2,000 deficit compared with a budgeted \$5,500 deficit.

Combining our church (1-month) and preschool (7-months) financial results, we registered a \$4,400 surplus.

Going forward, 2009 will likely provide plenty of financial challenges—for the world economy and for Windermere Union Church. I pray we are up to the task.

Fresh Start

submitted by Ann Green

Fresh Start is a wonderful mission led by Val Whiteside that provides and serves an evening meal on the 23rd of each month. The Fresh Start program is a short-term residential program designed for rebuilding and restoring the men who live there and are seeking a new beginning. An evening meal is provided for approximately 20-25 men. Thanks to Martha Reece, Ann Green and Kay Bruhn for preparing the meal in February (thanks to John and Ann Meyer for serving too). This is a mission that everyone in the church can become involved with by taking a date and preparing a meal, or donating food, bringing prepackaged cookies, health bars, etc., cereal, paper products or a cash donation to Val to offset her cost for the meal.

Thank You, Val, for the many years of your dedication to Fresh Start!

What You Need to Know About Bereavement and Grief

from the American Hospice Foundation submitted by Debbie Centeno
continued from page 6

- **"Look at what you have to be thankful for."** They know they have things to be thankful for, but right now they are not important.
- **"He's in a better place now."** The bereaved may or may not believe this. Keep your beliefs to yourself unless asked.
- **"This is behind you now; it's time to get on with your life."** Sometimes the bereaved are resistant to getting on with because they feel this means "forgetting" their loved one. In addition, moving on is easier said than

done. Grief has a mind of its own and works at its own pace.

- **Statements that begin with "You should" or "You will."** These statements are too directive. Instead you could begin your comments with: "Have you thought about. . ." or "You might."

For more information visit www.helpguide.org

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