

NEWS & VIEWS

TUSKAWILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Word From Our Pastor



New Life in Christ

Jesus Christ is risen! The risen Christ, as he presided over the first church council meeting, instructed the eleven disciples to go unto the nations and baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt. 28:19). Jesus, the Normative Gaze of Our Existence, commanded his followers to baptize others into a new life which is grounded in the Divine Triad, the God of New Happenings.

Baptism is the sign of new life through Jesus Christ. It is an initiation and incorporation into Christ (*UMH, p. 33*), and the immersion into a polychromatic community (*I Cor. 12:13*) as we enter into a new narrative, and God begins to reedit the contours of our souls (*sanctifying grace*). This new life is filled with new images and pictures that signify our participation in Christ's death and resurrection (*Rom. 6:3-5*); a washing away of sin (*I Cor. 6:11*); a reclothing in Christ (*Gal. 3:27*) and a liberation into a new humanity in which barriers of division whether of sex or race or social status are transcended (*Gal. 3:27-28*).

The above listed images, and there are more, highlight and choreograph our corporate existence in Jesus Christ. Christian existence is about new pictures, engineered by The Holy Spirit, being flashed onto the screen of life by disciples of Jesus who are committed to the transformation of life. Through powerful and dramatic life-giving and life-altering gestures, we impact a cross-section of people each and everyday. Can you think of some pictures being flashed in our midst? Let me share a few snapshots from our July 2008 archive: Look at 3 year old Kimberly Anne Smith at baptism; trustees leading us in a workday; rooms 20 and 28 restored with new carpet and fresh paint; two strangers (a young, pregnant mother and an unemployed man) receiving financial assistance and food; a family of four joining the church; members responding to serve as liturgists, greeters, ushers, and choir members; youth journeying to be in missions with our Choctaw friends in Philadelphia, Mississippi; children running around at the ice cream social and summer camp; adults concluding Disciple Bible 1 with a communion celebration; and the Tuskawilla Church welcoming Kimberly, Naomi, and me at a Sunday reception and a Super Senior's Luncheon.

Our collective life and witness in Jesus Christ is embodied through such new images of passionate worship, intentional discipling, radical hospitality, salty service, and extravagant generosity. As we enter more deeply into Christian existence, our lives become ever more cruciformed by the power of the Holy Spirit and our intentional acts of engagement with others. It is, if you will, a "*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*" happening. God is molding and making us after God's will and baptism reminds us of God's radical grace and new life in us.

Walking With Jesus,

Dwayne J. Craig

Dwayne Craig, Pastor

AUGUST 2008

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"True wisdom is in living near Jesus everyday; True wisdom is in walking where He shall lead the way."

Anon.

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.



ECWP - A Ministry at TUMC



Spread the word! Tell your friends and neighbors!
ECWP - a preschool with a difference. We offer music, PE and Spanish classes as part of the School's curriculum.

SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Call the school at 407-699-6012 for more information regarding this and other activities at the school.



Food Pantry

The United Methodist Women want to thank all of you who donated to the Food Pantry in July. The donations were amazing. It is so exciting to be part of such a generous and giving church. Remember - Communion Sunday is not only a day for our souls to be fed - but it is a time for us to help feed. Look for the Food Pantry collection area in the Narthex.

Cooks for Books!

The United Methodist Women will be having a Bake Sale to raise funds to purchase new book shelves for the new TUMC library on Sunday, August 3 after each service. Bring a donation of a baked good and/or come ready to buy some Tasty Treats! Cooks for Books! Let's make this library happen. Our initial goal is \$1,000 for bookcases and supplies.

Greeting Cards

Do you know of someone who needs to be encouraged or uplifted? The United Methodist Women have a wonderful Greeting Card Ministry, but we need your help to make it work. Email or call us with the name and address of someone who could use a word of encouragement at umw@tumcfl.org or call Mindy at 407.222.4792. Be sure to include the name and complete mailing address, as well as brief details so we will know which type card to send.



SUPER SENIORS

Please join the Super Seniors on August 7, for their monthly time of fun and fellowship! Please bring your favorite dish to share at noon in the Fellowship Hall. For information about the group, you may contact Larry VanOre at 407-695-7602.

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

The Children's Ministries of Tuskawilla United Methodist

Brrrrring! It is almost time for school bells to ring. Are you looking forward to the children going back to school and returning to a well organized routine? Or are you preparing for your "baby" to begin their first year at school? Whether you are an old pro or a newbie to the school game, it can be a very busy time for you and your children.

As school begins, your child will be swamped with opportunities to participate in organized sports, musical groups, and civic organizations. While you are weighing all of the options, don't forget to ask God's input. And don't forget to check what the church is offering you and your children. You see sports careers, musical brilliance, and civic organizations eventually will come to an end. But a life with Christ is forever. Have a great school year! God bless, Kelli O'Reilly



Jesus 'Gave' Us the Power to Tell Others About God. *Aha!* If you don't know, Power Lab was all about the Miracles of Jesus. And the opening statement and response, was just one of the daily verses (and LOUD responses) that the children learned during VBS. During the week of June 23-27, we shared the word of God with approximately 115 children ranging in age from 3-11. While the first day was extremely rocky (to say the least), the wonderful volunteers stayed committed to the cause. Without the dedicated volunteers who ran the registration tables, who organized the stations, served as runners, were crew leaders, ran the sound equipment, took pictures, performed skits, and performed the music VBS would not have been possible. I can't thank YOU enough for your prayers, your donations, your commitment, and your love. We will also be able to deliver Bibles to those children who do not have a home church. You might ask what the most amazing miracle of the week was. Witnessing approximately 30 children ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Miracles never cease!

Nursery News

We have a wonderful nursery, staffed with wonderful, caring adults. Let us take care of your children as you worship. Nursery is located in Room 4/5 and is available during all worship services.

Volunteer Opportunities - More volunteers are needed to work once a month during the 11:00 worship service.

I am also looking for volunteers to help establish an infant nursery. If you are interested in volunteering, please mark your calendars for our next meeting which will be August 31 from 12:20-1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. **Please bring a lunch.**



SONshine News



Children ages 3-2nd grade are invited to join Mrs. Whetzel following the Children's Moment for a worship service designed just for them. Young children must be completely toilet trained, able to sit through Bible story time and follow directions. **All participants must be signed-in for SONshine and have a name tag before leaving the church.** Registration book and nametags are located in the sanctuary narthex.

Change is coming - I am looking for 3rd - 5th graders to help in leading a new SONshine Worship Service for children age 3-2nd grade. We need singers, musicians, dancers, liturgists, ushers, and acolytes. If you or your child would be interested in joining the SONshine Worship Team, please plan on attending the Worship Meeting on August 31 at 9:45 in Room 28 CD.

Volunteer Opportunities - Volunteers are needed to help with sign-in, music, and storytelling. If you would like to join this team of WONDERFUL volunteers, please plan on attending the meeting on August 24, from 4:00-5:30 pm in Room 30.

Sunday School News

Currently Sunday School is available for children age 4 - 5th grade from 9:45-10:45 each Sunday. **Please note that there will be class changes in September.**

Pre-K - K - meet in Room 14 of the Education Building

Grades 1-3 - meet upstairs in Room 28AB of the Education Building

Grades 4-5 - meet upstairs in Room 28CD of the Education Building

Volunteer Opportunities - I am looking for assistant teachers and substitute teachers. Please prayerfully consider joining this important ministry. Join us for a Sunday School Meeting on August 24, at 12:20. **Bring a bag lunch.**

Change is coming - Beginning September 14 at 9:45, we will be adding a new Preschool Sunday School Class. This class will serve children ages 3 & 4. Children must be 3 years old by September 1.

YOUTH AT TUMC

High School Mission Trip to Choctaw Mission

Our high school youth traveled to Carthage, MS, to work with the Choctaw children, youth, and adults from July 7-13, 2008. We began our mission by staying at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach, FL, where we worked on growing in unity as a team. However, only 2/3 of our team was there since the Choctaw youth were a part of our leadership for VBS this year.

As we returned home, we reflected on James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face **trials** of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything."

The **trials** we faced were shared: Need for patience, lack of unity as a team (whole team had not planned together; conflicts; didn't know one another – and the kids played on it!). Poor listening skills, need for humility, losing one of our 5 classrooms, a team member leaving early due to a death in the family, exhaustion and low energy levels. Lack of confidence in our leadership abilities, reacting to our emotions, heavy rain and humidity, vehicle in disrepair, need for water, supervision of one specific Choctaw youth, fear of the unknown for the first-timers, dysfunction & negligence of the Choctaw families, giving personal testimonies re: making choices, forgetting to love one another, going out of our comfort zone, rebelling against opening up on our unity retreat and only having 1 refrigerator for 23 people!

We were each able to recognize a way we had **matured** in our faith: Developed more patience, all bad things can be used for God's glory, we stretched outside of comfort zones, put others first, grew in confidence as leaders, opened up more – got to know more people, got past gossip & arguments, saw things through other people's eyes, not just mine, recognized how spoiled I am, recognized where God's hand was at work, need to help others in need while you have the chance, love better-have more patience, not take as much for granted, don't focus on tasks accomplished, but on love, more hopeful looking at the changes in the Choctaw community in the past 5 years, I am a part of the Choctaw family, trust in God.

We can't forget the **blessings** we received: A refrigerator was loaned by the tribe, the kids response to us, the Choctaw youth leaders stepped up, not having the 5th classroom, relaxing during our extra day on Saturday, meeting kids who believed in God despite their difficult lives, close-knit Choctaw families, Choctaw youth leaders excelled despite less training, Choctaw adults loved and gave generously, adults have committed to helping raise funds to continue to train leaders, Okahomma won 3 times!!, newer dorm, Mercy Me in concert at Choctaw Fair, Kristen's going away speech as princess focused on others not herself, relationship with adults grew, Choctaw youth filled in for our missing team member willingly, our bus, they feel like we're a part of the family and appreciate us!

Thanks to all of you who through your prayers and gifts were as much a part of our team as we were!

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT EVENT

Lay Speaking Training

Lay Speaking Ministry in the East Central District invites you to a Weekend of Learning on Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20, 2008 at Ocoee Oaks UMC, 201 S. Clarke Rd., Ocoee, FL 34761

Each 10 hour course is a two day event:

Friday from 5:00-9:00 PM (includes dinner).

Saturday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (includes continental breakfast and lunch).

Cost is \$45.00 for each course and includes materials, meals, and snacks.

Pre-registration required. These courses are open to everyone. If you have previously completed the Basic Lay Speaking Course then upon completion of one of these courses you will receive your Certified Lay Speaking Certificate. Either of these courses will serve as the three year renewal requirement to renew your Lay Speaking Certification.

For additional information contact: Lynn Campbell, Director of Lay Speaking at 407-699-8155 or email at 9937@bellsouth.net.



Things to know!

Recycling - TUMC recycles newspapers? They will also accept: clean magazines, catalogs and clean office paper. At this time they will not accept telephone books. These can be dropped off in the collection bin located in the parking lot behind the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Celebration - ECWP will celebrate 20 years as a ministry of TUMC? Watch for further information.

Promotion Sunday - If your child is entering 3rd grade this school year, please make sure we have their name for Promotion Sunday. All names must be received before August 24.

Slime Time - Slime Time is coming November 1! REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 22! Slime Time is a follow up event to VBS POWER LAB. **Slime Time Committee meeting is September 14 at 7:00.**

Back to School Party (K-5) - Kids bring a school supply and \$5.00 for lunch and join me on August 17, from

TUMC MISSIONS 2008

- We are collecting supplies and bottled water for Summer Blast which is hosted by Community UMC.
- **SAVE THOSE SHOE BOXES, OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD IS COMING SOON!!** When shopping for back to school shoes, please remember to save your shoe boxes. We will be filling those boxes with items for needy children. Watch for details!
- We continue to pray for the Elizabeth House, one of our ongoing Mission projects, who are in need of the following items: Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toilet-paper, paper towels, paper plates, dish-washing- soap, laundry soap, hand-washing soap, cleaning products, bleach, trash-bags, all sizes diapers, baby wipes, pull ups (4T) for boys and girls. Tylenol, drinks for the kids, can goods and snacks.

TUMC Missions Team

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated money for my summer mission project in Daytona Beach! So many people responded that I now have more than enough support and can give the excess to fellow students who need it. I also thank my Lord God for answering my prayers and for providing me with a church family who helps me in times of need. Some of the things that we did as outreach this summer included: going to juvenile detention centers to encourage and talk to the teenagers there, having a free cookout and car wash for our hotel's guests and staff, going out to have conversations with people on the beach and college campuses, and having an appreciation dessert for our employers. This summer was a great success, both for the lives of many new believers in Christ, and my own spiritual growth. It was an experience that I will never forget, and has made me anxious to take my knowledge back to Barry University's campus this fall. Thank you so much.

Jessica Dudney

To my Church Family : "TUMC has been my church family since 1984. I am a very blessed person because of this. You are always willing to help people when they need it, whatever the cause. I thank you for your generous support in helping Jessica meet her goal for the Campus Crusade for Christ summer project in Daytona Beach. I think you are wonderful! Thankfully, we don't have to miss church very often, but when we were out of town for Father's Day, I commented to Richard on how much I missed seeing all of you on Sunday morning. May God bless each one of you." Sincerely in His Name

Shirley Dudney

TUMC:

Thank you sincerely for your generosity of time and finances. We asked and you listened and responded. Thanks to you, we now have new air conditioning units and new carpeting in Class rooms 20 and 28 and insulation in the Fellowship Hall and Education Building. Thanks to an additional donation, we were also able to paint and re-carpet the office. After August 17, you are invited to drop in on any of these areas and see the completed projects. Thank You!

Board of Trustees

Thank You, TUMC

It was a sad time but the outpouring of love and support that you gave me helped me during my time of grief. I am so grateful to all of you for your caring. From the choir to the reception, I felt so loved. Thanks to Rev. Craig, Joseph and the Chancel Choir, Super Seniors and Mary Martha and all of you who attended the service and or made a gift to the church in Jim's name. God bless you all at TUMC.

Grace Leedy

What a welcome!

Immediately following announcement Sunday in June, Kimberly and I began receiving cards, notes and emails from several of you here at TUMC. What excitement you expressed at the appointment. These went a long way to making this transition as smooth as it has been. Heartfelt thanks to the Staff for helping me get settled, to UMW for their wonderful welcome basket, the Trustees and the SPR Committee for all that they did to facilitate our arrival. Thank you for the stole that was presented to me on that first Sunday and the gifts given to both Kimberly and Naomi. You followed this up with a lovely reception on that next Sunday and left no doubts in my mind, that you are indeed a loving church. We feel truly blessed to be here with you and look forward to the future. Thank you, thank you!

Pastor Craig, Kimberly and Naomi.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

- 1 Grace Leedy
- 2 Hal Larkin
- 4 Colton Nowlen, Debbie Spitzer
- 5 Terri Aplin, Bill Jones, Bob Noble
- 6 Caleb Briggs, Lori Detwiler
- 8 Linda Charlton, Tony Curtin, Olivia DonLevy,
Jennifer Holloran, Cindi Sturgess
- 10 Matt Dupree
- 11 Terry Neisler
- 12 Bill Gorman
- 13 Ricky Herman, Brendan Herrera, Beth Love,
Jacob Tague, Jordon Tague
- 15 Tara Celenos, Stephanie Hoback, Cassandra Schuchart
- 16 Neal Bridgwater, Jessica Reuter
- 17 Irene Adkins, Alan Moretz, Shin Quinn
- 19 Leanne Prokop
- 20 Austin BeMent, Jeremy Jones
- 21 Jonas Allen, Justin Aplin, John Peres
- 22 Yvonne Dulakis
- 23 Donna Chambliss
- 24 Tom Hendricks
- 25 Randi Even, Tabitha Tindell, David Townsend
- 27 Michael Bessmer, CeCe Calhoon, Sarah Cox
- 28 Carol Baker, Brandon Caskey, Bob Giffin, Luke Irby,
Heather Politsch, Mitchell Ross, Allison Taft
- 29 Elizabeth Saunders
- 30 Stephanie Ege, Laura Hatton, Jeffrey Russell,
Lindsay Weaver

- 1 George & Thera Woodruff
- 3 Warren & Sandy Hill
- 4 Douglas & Lavonne Hunt
- 6 John & Donna Chambliss
- 7 Doug & Cherie Peters
- 8 Freddy & Rachael Herrera
- 8 Lennie & Paula Burke
- 11 Corky & Jean Arthur
- 12 Michael & Kelli Vitale
- 16 Greg & Kathy Rexroad
- 18 Thom & Cathy Moore
- 25 Terry & Randy Even; Cedric & Lynn Campbell
- 29 Dan & Deby Talley



NEW MEMBERS

Walt, Charlotte, Madelyn and Kaitlyn Yates officially joined the TUMC family on Sunday, July 20. The Yates family have been attending church for several months now participating in several church events. We welcome you and look forward to serving with you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The September Newsletter deadline will be **Thursday, August 14, 2008**. For your convenience, you can e-mail your Newsletter articles to office@tumcf.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
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BELONG. GROW. SERVE.

A LOOK AT AUGUST

August 7 - 8 - Youth 30 Hour Famine Lock in/lock out

August 8 - 9 - ECWP/TUMC (children) Rummage Sale

August 11 - United Methodist Women Meeting

August 15 - 16 - Sing - a - Song 2008!

August 17 - Back to school party (K - 5)

August 18 - First Day of School - Orange & Seminole Counties

August 22 - 24 - Conference Lay Speaking Course at LEC

August 26 - Voting Day

August 31 - 5th Sunday Churchwide Pot Luck Lunch