

AUGUST 2011



Building Location:
331 W Osceola Ave
Clewiston, FL. 33440-3008

Mailing Address:
352 W Arcade Ave
Clewiston FL. 33440-2802

Phone: (863) 983-5269
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

Sundays:

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Mondays:

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Tuesdays:

6:00 p.m. Art Class: LEC
7:00 p.m. Hispanic Home Church (FH)

Wednesdays:

8:30 a.m. Prayer Team
(Sanctuary)
12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Food Pantry Open
6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids
6:45 p.m. Youth and Adult Bible Studies
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursdays:

Precept: 9:30 a.m.
4:00 p.m.
6:45 p.m.
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

CLEWISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John C. Hicks - Senior Pastor



I was listening to the radio the other day and they were challenging people to guess what was number one on the station's list of communicating pleasure to someone. There were many guesses, but Laughter was number one.

Let's give thanks to God for His gift of laughter; it's a wonderful blessing and a great tool of encouragement!



A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (Proverbs 17:22) Laughter is the greatest cure of all. Life is extraordinary in the moments when we are laughing so hard we can barely breathe. These moments of deep laughter are divine in the sense that they cleanse our mood and set our mind on a positive track.

The Bible first mentions laughter in Gene-

sis 17:17 and 18:12. Unfortunately, Abraham and Sarah used the gift of laughter in a negative way. They laughed at God and at his promise to give them a son! Abraham fell face down in laughter at this news; he was 99 years old at the time! His wife Sarah was 90! She also laughed when she heard the news, but when the Lord confronted her, she denied it.

Despite their snickering, Sarah bore Abraham's son nine months later. They named him "Isaac"; the name means "laughter." Sarah commented, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me" (Genesis 21:6).



While we can abuse the gift of laughter, God can also use our joy and even our laughter as a witnessing tool, pointing people to His blessings and power. Psalm 126:2 speaks of the laughter and songs of joy that filled the air as God's people returned to their homeland after

years in exile. And as the nations around them witnessed the joy of God's people, they proclaimed, "The LORD has done great things for them."

Laughter comes in all styles and shapes: from the true belly laugh, to mere chuckles, to giggles and cackles, to nervous laughter, to the polite, social laugh, to an occasional snort.



And, I might add, even a silent smile or quiet groan at a good pun!

Laughter is contagious!

While you may not laugh right out loud at the following groaners, I hope that at least one or two of them will bring a smile to your face.

And I hope you will share that joy with others. As humorist Josh Billings once said, "Laughter is the sensation of feeling good all over and showing it principally in one place."

Now for a few groaners:

- Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.
- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- If you take a laptop computer for a run, you could jog your memory.
- In a democracy, it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
- A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulting in Linoleum Blown Apart.
- You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- A hard-boiled egg is hard to beat.

Let's serve the Lord and his people by spreading joy, fun, and laughter every day!

Pastor John



Life's Simple Pleasures

The radio contest mentioned on page one got me thinking about my own personal list of what I might consider life's most satisfying simple pleasures.

They say the best things in life are free. It's the simple things, the simple pleasures, like sleeping in, an ice-cold Coca Cola on a hot day, a good hair day, a tender kiss, a comforting smile, a good hug, a kind word or a few words of encouragement that can really bless us in our day.

Life is filled with simple pleasures, the little satisfying effects you never really anticipate, but always take great pleasure in. They are the gifts of life that we celebrate each in our own way.

Here are more simple pleasures that I have on my list and give thanks to God for:

- + Lying in bed on a Rainy Day.
- + My dog excitedly greeting me when I come home.
- + Finding money I didn't know I had.
- + Clean, fresh linens on my bed.
- + The smell of fresh baked cookies.
- + A child's smile or laugh.
- + Helping someone in need.
- + When I find exactly the right Bible verse.
- + A sermon or program coming together.
- + Finishing a project + Creative baking.
- + A small gesture of kindness from someone who cares for me. + Free stuff
- +Swapping stories with friends.
- + Spending quite time with Kathy.
- + My dog curled up at my feet sleeping while I type this.

I believe life is in the details. Ongoing small gestures can mean so much more than one grand display of love. Simple pleasures throughout the day can be far more gratifying than one amazing weekend. When you connect the dots between all these little joys, life seems fuller and more satisfying.

What are some of the simple pleasures you've been enjoying lately

(Continued from page 2)

NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON

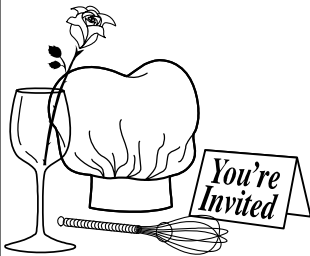


**Thursday, August 18, 2011
12 noon**

All of our teachers are invited to join us in welcoming the new teachers to our community!

If you can help, please contact Kathy Hicks or the church office, 983- 5269.

COOKING TEAMS NEEDED



We are re-starting our Wednesday night fellowship dinners August 10. In order for this to work, we need groups or teams to sponsor one of our Wednesday evening meals. You don't have to do it alone! Pastor John is forming ministry teams to cook and serve. Why not volunteer to be on a team and help on one Wednesday night? No experience is necessary, and the fellowship is great. What is needed most are warm bodies with a willing heart. Call Pastor John at 983-5269 or 983-7041 if you or your group would like to do one of the Wednesday Fellowship dinners or if you would like to be on a team or if you would be willing to help on a Wednesday night. If it's not your cup of tea, you can always bow out gracefully. No long term obligation is required.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS IN AUGUST



Wednesday, August 10 – Spaghetti, Sponsored by the Food Pantry Ministry

Wednesday, August 17th – Missions Night for Pat and Melinda Edmiston. Pork Loins and Ham.

Wednesday, August 24th – PJ's Special Meat Loaf, Macaroni and Cheese, more!

Wednesday, August 31st – Open for adoption

Volunteers are the heart of Our Church



We need you at church to help ministry happen!

There are a lot of little things around the church that need your helping hands. Could you volunteer an hour or two to fix children's packets or help straighten the pew envelopes, help with the Wednesday Food Pantry, or help with a mailing, or help fold newsletters and bulletins, or make minor repairs, or paint, or do a myriad of other needed things.

It's all of working together that makes God's ministry at First United Methodist Church happen! We need you!

Dial A Friend! Have you missed someone in church? Why not give them a call to check on how they are doing? Do you know someone who has been away for a long time? Why not take an opportunity this month to invite them back to church?



PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID...BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN RESPOND TO A VISION

Danielle Jean spoke at the June luncheon of United Methodist Women, as well as the July supper. She is a member of FUMC, is actively involved as a shepherd and a Sunday School teacher, while currently teaching 7th grade Math at the Middle School.



She has been burdened for her native land of Haiti, especially since the earthquake, and looking for a way to give them long-term help. With much prayer, she realized that would only occur if their children were educated.

Danielle shared Haiti's need for a school in a remote area north of Port Au Prince where the children have had no education. Her vision is to start a one-room school in that area. This meant acquiring a building with expansion possibilities, plus land to put it on.

This project started several months ago as she voiced her concern to her students and faculty. They began giving her school supplies, and blue jeans for school uniforms. It will cost about \$100 monthly for a teacher and approximately \$150 a year for each student. Her goal is to start with a minimum of 50 students.

After hearing her vision and the way God has gone before her every step of the way, hearts were moved and the United Methodist Women wanted to become a part of that dream. On that June day they voted to make a donation of \$600 to sponsor four children.

Danielle went to Haiti for a week following that meeting. When she reported to UMW in July, they responded with another \$150.

While in Haiti she had land donated for the school!!! She was also able to meet with the Reverend Caleb Lucien, the National Director of Hosean International Ministries (HIM) has pledged \$10,000, but the

projected need is \$25,000. She invited Pastor Caleb to come to Clewiston, which he did. He spoke to the adult Sunday School classes and also during worship on July 17th. He told us, "If you are going to dream, dream big because our God is a BIG God."

Although she will work through that organization, help from anyone will be gratefully accepted. Any help will be appreciated, but monetary gifts are the best & most economical way to help because of shipping costs. A line item in the church budget has been established and checks may be made out to First UMC, marked "Haiti relief/COGPOW," an acronym for "Child of God, Person of Worth." Inspired by one of Pastor John's recent sermons, Danielle has chosen COGPOW for the school's name.

Danielle is "dreaming big" and praying that many will be led to give so this school will become a reality.

She recognizes that all the responses to her vision are a miracle and a direct answer to prayer, giving God all the glory.

Next fellowship luncheon: August 6th at Noon in the LEC. Everyone bring a salad to share.

FLOWER DUTY FOR AUGUST: Friendship Circle THINKING AHEAD: The annual Membership, Nurture and Outreach supper meeting will be Tuesday, September 6th at 6:30pm in the LEC. Mark your calendars now. It will be a catered meal and a head count will be needed. Expect our calls.

UMW Bible studies resume in September. Morning Bible Study, which meets at 9:00am in the Trinity Room, will begin a new Beth Moore study, "To Live is Christ: The Life and Ministry of Paul." Books will be ordered in August and the first class will be September 13th. Kathy Hicks is the Teacher. The First Monday Bible Study, which meets at 11:45am in the Pastor's office, will begin a new Women of Faith study called "Knowing God's Word." Sandy Stitt is the teacher. Mark your calendars for a great study year.

CHURCH LIBRARY

“Check a current list of the most popular “how to” titles and see how many deal with becoming free—in finances, health, work, attitudes, and relationships. Publishers know that in our relentless quest for a fulfilling life, hang-ups are out and personal freedom is in. It’s no surprise, then, that one of the world’s most enduring bestsellers, the Bible, is all about emancipated living. But the Scriptures offer the unique perspective that true freedom is found by obeying Almighty God, not by living according to our own desires.”—David McCasland.



Some “how to” books in the church library that you may want to read:

1. **Where Do I Go from Here, God ? by Zac Poonen** (1972)—A valuable tool for those with a genuine desire to find the will of God.
2. **God Guides your Tomorrows by Roger C. Palms** (1987)—How to be confident that God is leading your life.
3. **Full Assurance by H. A. Ironside** (1968) —How to know you are saved.
4. **Coping with Criticism by Jamie Buckingham** (1978)—Does criticism emotionally devastate you? The author takes the risk of exposing his own struggles and inadequacies to help you deal with criticism.
5. **How You Can Help Others by Samuel M. Shoemaker** (1946)—Chapter titles: What It Takes to Help People, Responsibility, Understanding People, What Fellowship Does and Helping People Keep Normal.
6. **How to Stop Worrying and Start Living by Dale Carnegie** (1948)—Gives You a number of practical, tested formulas for solving worry situations; tells how many famous men conquered worry.
7. **How I Got to Be Perfect by Jean Kerr** (1978)—Motherhood, home and survival in general get it again as Jean Kerr passes on some hard-earned pieces of wisdom from her war years on the domestic front.

The library will open at 5 pm on Wednesdays beginning the first week of August. Please contact the Office Manager, Alice Whitt, to get into the library at other times. The library is located on the west side of the sanctuary.

The purpose of the library is to provide a wide variety of materials for use by members of the congregation to help in nurturing personal growth in faith and understanding of Christian life.

Jesus Saves



Jesus and Satan have a discussion as to who is the better programmer. This goes on for a few hours until they come to an agreement to hold a contest, with God as the judge.

They sit themselves at their computers and begin. They type furiously, lines of code streaming up the screen, for several hours straight. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes, taking out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces that the contest is over.

He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, "I have nothing. I lost it all when the power went out."

"Very well, then," says God, "let us see if Jesus fared any better."

Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished.

He stutters, "B-b-but how? I lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact. How did he do it?"

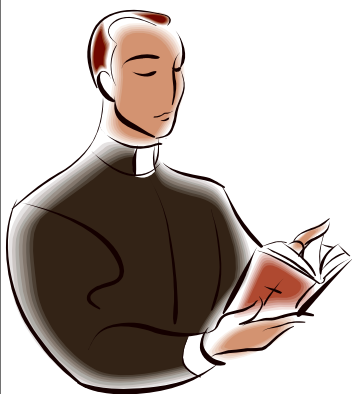
God smiled all-knowingly, "Jesus saves."

UMC 101: HOW MANY UM MISSIONARIES ARE THERE?

In August, the General Board of Global Ministries commissioned 16 new missionaries. Nine are called "standard support" missionaries, commissioned to deliver compassionate service and Christian ministry on a full-time basis throughout the world. The other seven are "US-2s," young adult missionaries who serve two-year terms in the United States. They are the first in their service categories to be commissioned since 2002, when unexpected financial shortfalls prompted a freeze on the assignment of new missionaries. The agency has not yet resumed regularly training and commissioning missionaries.

The new missionaries joined the board's other commissioned personnel who serve in a variety of categories. As of Sept. 1, 102 people serve in "non-commissioned" roles and more than 250 work through partner churches. The total number of mission personnel is 1,069, serving in 70 countries.

WHY GO TO CHURCH



reasons for not going first.

Excuse: Church is boring.

Every Sunday many people go to church while others are sleeping or engaged in other weekend activities. Since our weekends are limited, should we spend part of it in church? Let's look at some of the popular

"It is repetitious, predictable and a meaningless ritual. I would rather sleep in. I work hard all week and I deserve it!"

Answer: Church is repetitious but so is life. The days of our lives are structured around cycles of work, eating, family and recreation times. Any of these activities can become boring if we don't strive to find something interesting or enjoyable about them. Sunday mornings at church are a time to make new friends and renew old ones; to learn about the Bible and share problems as well as to thank God for another week of life.



The objective in going to church is to seek to build our relationship with God and others. Many people go to church to fulfill an obligation through some ritual and so are reduced to actions without meaning. Church worship is all about an encounter with God and others that changes who we are. Not going to church on a Sunday morning because you deserve a sleep-in does not explain why you miss church on Saturday or Sunday night. The problem is much deeper than the time of the day - it is a matter of selfishness.

Excuse: Why bother going to church when all they want is money!?

Answer: If you choose to get involved in any kind of group, be it the PTA, Boy Scouts or whatever, it will cost you in time and money. It is true that, if you don't get involved in anything, you will have maximum control of your

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time and money. However, you will miss friendships and opportunities to be a good influence in the lives of others. Each of us decides where to spend our time and money. Each of us will either invest it in some purpose or waste it on the pleasures of the moment. Jesus said that there is an eternal investment that will not fade, rust or decay when we do good works that show our love for God and others ([Matthew 6:19-20](#)).

Ponder this! You do not control your life. You cannot guarantee that you will be alive the next week, day, hour or moment. Human life is a gift from God and He controls the measure of it ([Psalm 139:16](#)). Our intelligence, talents and appearance are largely determined by genetics (which is to say by God who made us individually unique). Therefore, who we are, when and where we are born, how long we live, etc., are all gifts from God. Is it unreasonable for God to ask for a portion of it to acknowledge Him and His sovereignty?

Excuse: People who go to church are a bunch of hypocrites!

Answer: Churchgoers pretend to be good for a few hours on Sunday morning but they are like everyone else the rest of the week. A [common misunderstanding](#) about church is that it should somehow make us better people. As discussed above, it is not the action of going to church, but the encounter with God and others that changes our lives for the better. Most people who go to church do not understand this and thus do not seek to have life changing experiences through worship and church activities.

Christians are humans who believe that Jesus is God and that He has made us acceptable to Himself by paying the penalty for our sins on the cross ([Romans 6:23](#)). Therefore, what makes Christians unique is not the outward ap-

pearance but what God has done on the inside by changing the soul and mind ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Those who sincerely call upon Jesus to save them from their sins experience a spiritual birth that gradually transforms the mind and behavior conforming us to His will ([John 1:12](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#)).

Christians can be seen to be hypocrites more easily than someone who does not profess any beliefs because Christian standards are defined in the Bible, whereas personal standards can be changed to fit circumstances or are unknown to others. The bottom line is that all humans are hypocrites because we all fail to consistently live up to any standards of behavior that are defined. The difference is that Jesus forgives the hypocrisy of believers and has sent His Holy Spirit to guide and transform those who know Him as Savior and confess Him as Lord ([Romans 10:9-10](#)).

Excuse: Church is unnecessary since private prayer and Bible study can be done without others.

Answer: The Bible says that believers must not keep apart from other believers ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#)). It is true that we are influenced and be-



come like the people we associate with. Also, by getting together, common beliefs are affirmed and ways to overcome problems are shared.

There are three spiritual pillars to have a strong Christian life: personal prayer, Bible study and fellow believers. To rely on less than all three is like trying to sit on a one or two-legged stool. Three legs are needed for a firm foundation and proper function.

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Excuse: Churches impose a bunch of rules and then make you feel guilty if you don't measure up.

Answer: One of the biggest reasons for the breakdown of families is the lack of moral standards. Most people who call themselves Christians cannot even say the Ten Commandments much less live by them. Without moral standards, it is easier to do your own thing and not feel guilty about it. Guilt is part of our conscience and is a gift from God to help us do good.

It is true that sometimes people make us feel guilty. During these times it is important to seek God's view through [prayer](#) and reading the Bible. This means it is necessary to be familiar with the Bible enough to discern whether others are making us feel guilty or if God is trying to get our attention. I am convinced that there are many Christians who are doing good works out of guilt rather than because they want to love and serve God. **The \$20**

The \$20 and the \$1 Bills

Two well worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired - a twenty and a one. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The twenty reminisced about the interest-

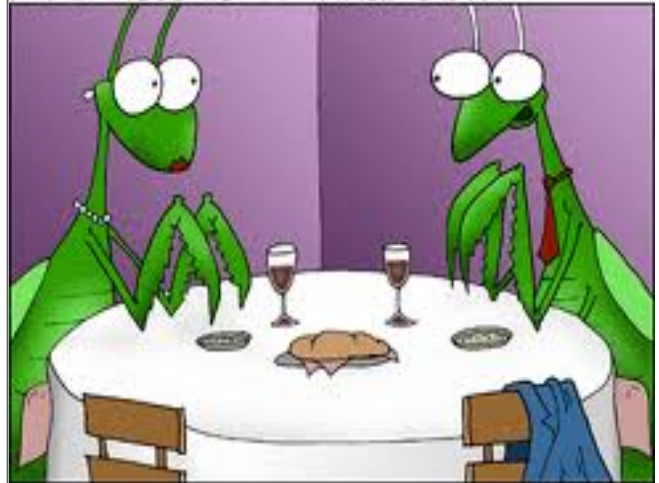


ing life he had, traveling all over the country. "I've been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Las Vegas, Atlantic City," he said. "I even went on a Caribbean cruise. Where have you been?"

"Oh," said the one dollar bill, "I've been to the Methodist church, the Episcopal church, the Lutheran church."

"What's a church?" asked the twenty.

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10-27-2006

WHAT ME? ... OH NO, I'M DONE PRAYING ... I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL PRAYING!

And the Editor's favorite is:

Muslim Terrorist Training School



BIRTHDAYS

Mason Koetje	Aug.1
Adrian Pacheco	Aug. 1
Timothy Stiles	Aug.1
Angie Douthit	Aug.2
Thomas Perry	Aug.2
Earnest Rawls	Aug.2
Lauren Hall	Aug.3
Elizabeth Johnstone	Aug.4
Marin Janette	Aug. 5
John Jace Swindle	Aug.5
Walter Vaughn	Aug.5
Odessa York	Aug.5
Willie Durden	Aug.6
Caroline McCray	Aug.6
Robert Pearce	Aug.7
John Drake	Aug.8
Thersa Simmonds	Aug.8
Nancy Hainley	Aug. 9
Walter Mc Kown	Aug.9
Thomas Perry	Aug. 9
Bryce Barnes	Aug. 10
Rebecca Rawls	Aug.10
Donna Stiles	Aug.10
Sinead Mc Manus	Aug.12
Grady Goodroe	Aug.13
John Mila	Aug.13
Steven Gwyn	Aug.14
Ann Pearce	Aug.14
Silva Jones	Aug. 16
Carla Wheeler	Aug. 16
Austin Adams	Aug. 17
Kenneth Lazere	Aug. 18
Natalie Bermeister	Aug.19
Joey Miller	Aug. 19
Juanita Browning	Aug. 20
Case Griffin	Aug. 22
Steven Harn	Aug.22
Marie Molina	Aug.23
Danielle Soles	Aug.23
Bill Griswall	Aug.25
Robert Egley	Aug.26
Wren Keen	Aug.26
David Adams	Aug.27
Harlan Griggs	Aug. 27
Lisa Bender	Aug. 28
Seanluke Bender	Aug.28
Kamryn Caulkins	Aug. 28
Lyndsey Robinson	Aug.28
Brandie Guasp	Aug. 29
Manny Quesada	Aug.29

ANNIVERSARIES

Steven and Deborah Gwyn	Aug.3
Thomas and Lauren Gwyn	Aug.8
Mark and Silvia Jones	Aug.9
Jerry and Karen Cochrane	Aug.10
G.W. and Amanda Barnes Crawford	Aug.12
John and Vonita Mack	Aug.12
Tim and Dolly Burke	Aug.12
Adolfo and Ginny Pena	Aug.16
Donnie and Brittani Barnes	Aug.16
Bobby and Danielle Soles	Aug.18

CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

GREETERS

Please call the office if you would like to be a greeter on Sundays.

First
United Methodist
Church
of Clewiston, Florida



Thank you

Dear Pastor John,

Thank you and everyone else working with the church that helped in providing me with the scholarship. I'm sure it will be very helpful in the upcoming months. It means a lot to know I have support from my church family. I'll make sure to keep in touch.

Martin Crawford



The Rest of The Story

In fifth grade, my teacher liked to listen to Paul Harvey during our lunch period and have us write a short synopsis of what we heard. We received the base of the story, but invariably, Paul Harvey would come back at the end with “the rest of the story”, adding details which enriched what we had first heard and helping to make the story more complete.

Last Year, we as a church went through the whole Bible based on the book, “The Story”. Each week our Sunday School classes studied a chapter and I preached from that chapter. It was a wonderful experience to go through the Bible together as a church family.

I also realized that there was more to “the story” in the Bible than we had time to cover each week. God has led me to preach through the Bible again, once again using the book, “The Story”, as a template. As you remember, “The Story” is 31 chapters long and is written in chronological order, making it a good tool to help us understand God’s story in the Bible and what that means to us.

My plan is to start in September. We will have copies of “The Story” available for those who need a copy, and encourage everyone to read and follow along each week as we journey once again through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This time through, I will add some more details which, like Paul Harvey’s “The Rest of the Story”, should enrich what we first heard and help make God’s story for us more complete.

Each week, I will send out the Scripture references on which God has led me to preach as we journey once again through the story and messages God has given us in His Word.

Journeying through God’s word with you,

Pastor John

Van Drivers Needed!

We have been blessed with a wonderful ministry outreach on Wednesday nights, with a large number of children coming to our church for dinner and Kingdom Kids. Many of these kids need a ride in order to come. Until recently, the ministry of picking up these kids has fallen on one or two people. In order for this ministry to continue, however, we need a number of people to help share the load by volunteering to drive one or two Wednesdays a month. This ministry would involve picking them up for dinner at six o’clock, and then taking them home around 7:30 p.m. Call the church office or see Pastor John if you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry outreach.

AUGUST 2011

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
 One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Noon: UMW Fellowship Luncheon in LEC
7	8	9	10 6 PM Dinner, Spaghetti	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 6 PM Dinner, Pork Loin/Ham	18 12 Noon: Teacher Luncheon	19	20 K0ristian Way's Wedding
21	22	23 7 pm: Ad Council Meeting	24 6 PM Dinner, Meat Loaf	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 6 PM Dinner, Open		PRECEPT CLASSES SEPT 1st: Pickup Lesson Materials. SEPT 8th: All Classes Start	



**First United Methodist Church
352 West Arcade Avenue
Clewiston, Florida 33440-2802**

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E-Mail us at: FIRSTMETHODIST@aol.com**



**As Christians
we have God's Spirit in our
hearts, and are
*Keepers of the Flame.***

***Do not
put out the Spirit's fire!***