

# The Carillon

First United Methodist Church

Volume 14, Issue 3

March 2008

## "Waiting at the Tomb"

**Holy Saturday**  
**March 22 @ 7:00 P.M.**  
**in the Chapel**

We often forget that day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Saturday was a long day of suffering for all who had loved Jesus and had found hope in him. Through the long hours they wondered if everything had ended.

This year we are offering a service that we are calling "Waiting at the

Tomb." It will be a quiet, contemplative service including meditations on the cross. We will gather at the Lord's Table for Holy Communion (a time of remembrance), lighting of the Christ Candle, and the lighting of individual candles. We invite you to take home this candle and place in a window. This is a symbol of the hope we have that Easter will come for us and for the whole world.

## Upcoming All Church Events

The Membership and Communications committee has several all church activities planned for this year. We hope to make it an exciting time for all ages. Times and events are tentative as of now. If you would like to help with any events or have some great ideas of other activities you would like to see at the church, please contact Jennifer Robinson at [jlrobinson111@hotmail.com](mailto:jlrobinson111@hotmail.com) or Jo Ann Belk at 482-2436 or [joannbelk@fcumc.net](mailto:joannbelk@fcumc.net)

☞ April – Progressive Dinner

☞ June 3 – Name Tag Sunday

☞ June 8 – Garden Tour

☞ July – Outside movie night

☞ July 18 – Hymn Sing

☞ July 20 – All Church Picnic

☞ August 23 – 3 vs 3 Basketball Tournament

☞ September – Music Festival

☞ October 25 or 26 – Halloween Tailgate (Trunk or Treat) and Chili Cook-off

☞ December – Youth Dinner Theater/Nativity Display



**Daylight Savings Time**  
**Spring Forward on March 9th**

# Birds and Flower Bulbs

By Charles Schuster



It's the middle of February when I am writing this article and the days are cold and ugly. They are talking about blowing wind and snow

drifts in the mountains that cause roads to close and drifts are adding up to 25 feet. There is a sink hole near the Mouse Trap on I-25 and traffic is backed up and politicians are doing more barking than making sense and I don't know who I'm cheering on to victory, and sometimes I wish the people running in my party would both lose except for the fact that, then, the people in the other party would win, and that could be worse. The snow is melting and there is mud all over the place and more snow is predicted and they tell me we are close to the end of Lent and by the time you receive this article we will be on a glide path moving toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

How is it with your soul? Have you had a hard winter or an easy winter? Has the cold been colder than it's been? Has the snow been deeper? Has the dark been more drab? Some winters are like this winter and we may not like it. Sometimes life is more down than up and we, sometimes, are apt to forget which way is up.

In the generous magic of God's time we see that things are often worse before they get better, and things are best after we have seen the worst. I think that is true today on so many levels. The economy

has tanked, and the war in Iraq has drug on. The presidential elections have produced the thought shared by Jay Leno who said, "If God had wanted us to vote God would have given us candidates." Of course, there are candidates who have put their lives on the line, and, for better or worse, we do have choices to make, and there is a sense of patriotic pride that comes in the fact that we, the people, will determine the result.

The Indian poet Tagore said an important thing when he said, "Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark." If Easter has anything to say to us it is that when we are in the darkest of nights, we can anticipate the brightest of new days. When we experience life at its worst we can begin to look forward to something incredibly better. The birds always sing when the dawn is still dark. The open tomb is most available when the cross is set in stone.

Here is what we know:

1. Good Friday is not remembered as a day when Jesus was crucified but as the prelude to the day when Jesus walked out of the tomb and death was no longer victor.

2. Maundy Thursday is not remembered as a day when Jesus announced he would be betrayed by Judas. It is remembered as the night Jesus broke the bread and shared the cup of the New Covenant in what has become a sacramental meal in our day and time.

We are not known as people who follow the empty dreams of a crucified prophet, we are known as a people who follow the eternal

hope of a Resurrected Savior.

The birds will sing, and flower bulbs will sprout and the grey, dark, days will yield to Spring and hope will come again.

Joel Goldsmith is right to say in his book The Art of Spiritual Healing, "The world is not in need of a new religion, nor is the world in need of a new philosophy; What the world needs is healing and regeneration. The world needs people who, through devotion to God, are so filled with the spirit that they can be instruments through which healings can take place, because healing is important to everybody."

The time has come for Easter to come and it will on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We will flower the cross. We will sing "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today", and the birds and flower bulbs will join in the song.

The religious right gets it wrong and the religious left doesn't get it.

—Jim Wallace

The time has come for Christian people, United Methodist people, to rise with the Risen Christ and proclaim healing and hope to a world that so desperately needs to be healed and to find a reason to hope.

Wayne Dyer wrote in his book There is a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem, "Strive to emulate all the great spiritual teachers you've admired and the ones you've become acquainted with. They live their bliss, they laugh, and they find joy in the seemingly most inconspicuous things."

# Membership Memos

## New Members:

*In Joyous Celebration! We rejoice and celebrate in welcoming our newest church member...*

**Andy & Alissa Burch:** Andy works for The Neenan Company. Alissa is a stay at home mom for daughters Miya, 3, and Jasmine, 2. They enjoy snowboarding and hiking. Andy also is active in fly-fishing and carpentry. Alissa enjoys cross country skiing, biking, reading and cross-stitch. She has a degree in psychology and is interested in the Stephen Ministry program here.

**Jim & Rita Dunaway** are originally from McAllen, Texas. They have been active participants in the Cross-Walk Contemporary Service. Rita volunteers at the hospital and Jim plans to start visiting the homebound church members.

**Woody & Janet Kurman Heselbarth,** originally from San Diego, CA. They have four dogs and in their spare time ski, bike, and backpack. Woody works for the US Forest Service as a Wildland Fire Dispatcher and

also is a white water boatist. Janet works for USDA-BLM-Wyoming as an Environmental Law Specialist. She also enjoys quilting and is involved with Schipperkes dog rescue.

**Barbara Kansteiner** is a retired therapist and enjoys gardening and biking. She is originally from Missouri.

**Dennis and Kay Lytle** come to us from Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Maryland. Dennis works for the USDA/NRCS. They have one son in college, Drew and a daughter, Rebecca, who is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Rynell Mather** is originally from Bismarck, ND. She works at Poudre Valley Hospital.

**Bob & Marge MacLeay** are from Greenwood Village, CO. They are both retired and active members of the Lion's Club on the local and state level. They have been very active in their previous churches in NY, MA, NJ and CO. Their daughter and her family live in Fort Collins.

## Deaths:

- † **Robert Cavarra,** FUMC's organist for many years
- † **Liz Case,** 86
- † **Lillian Lair,** 95
- † **Walter P. Peeples III,** husband of Andrea Peeples
- † **Helene Rehor**
- † **Francis Rickard,** 96
- † **Shirley Roberts**
- † **Lyle Senseman,** 70, father of Gary Senseman
- † **Nolan Winsett,** father of Joe Winsett
- † **Dean Duerfeldt,** brother of Carol Whitcomb
- † **Robert DeWitt,** 90

Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.  
—St. Augustine

## Honoree JoAn Hopkins

Each year, an independent committee of national mental health leaders selects honorees. These individuals serve as guiding lights for the depression community—people who, through determination and commitment, have made a difference.. JoAn Hopkins was nominated in the Primary Care category of health care professionals—psychologists, physicians, social

workers and nurses—who have demonstrated a unique approach to identifying particular needs in depression diagnosis and treatment. JoAn has been selected as the 2008 national award winner of the Primary Care Welcome Back Award\*. JoAn has been invited to receive recognition at a national awards ceremony in Washington D.C. in early May, and will

receive \$10,000 to give to the non-profit of her choice.

\*The Eli Lilly & Co. *Welcome Back Awards*, now in its tenth year, recognize those who have given extraordinary efforts to fight the stigma associated with depression and promote the understanding that depression is treatable.

## PART-TIME JOB AVAILABLE --

### Kids' Closet Coordinator Needed

Are you aware that our FUMC Kids Closet has been in operation for over three years. This program offers free gently used children's clothing to families in need. Kids' Closet was started by Children and Family Council and they believe it is now time to expand. It is currently open two times each month and is staffed by FUMC volunteers. With our newly expanded program, we are hoping to be open to the public 2 – 3 times per week, making it much more accessible to the community. We are planning to **HIRE** someone to coordinate this wonderful outreach program of our church. Responsibilities would include: staffing Kids' Closet whenever it's open, assisting clients as needed, hanging, sorting clothes and marketing Kids' Closet to the Fort Collins community. The job is for 8 – 10 hours per week. Ability to converse in Spanish is helpful. If interested, please fill out an application in the church office by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Questions, contact Bev Halperin at 482-2436, ext. 16 or [bevhalperin@fcfumc.net](mailto:bevhalperin@fcfumc.net).



### Club 56 Coordinator Needed



Something new and exciting is coming to FUMC! A vital, dynamic, unique youth program designed specifically for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We believe this program will be greatly beneficial for this age group. Many churches have developed this type of program and found it very successful. The goal for Club 56 is to re-energize this group and nurture their interest in their faith, in life issues relevant to their age, and ease the transition into our Youth program. Job responsibilities include: plan and lead Club 56 Sunday School and evening program,

organize and lead several monthly social events, and minister to the children in this program, approximately 8 – 10 hours per week. If interested, please leave a resume at the church office by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Questions, contact Bev Halperin at [bevhalperin@fcfumc.net](mailto:bevhalperin@fcfumc.net) OR Rev. Joel Kershaw, [jker-shaw@fcfumc.net](mailto:jker-shaw@fcfumc.net), 482-2436.

### Human Sexuality Workshop

The Youth Program is sponsoring a Human Sexuality Workshop for seventh and eighth grade youth and their parents. This workshop aims to break down the barriers that keep sexuality in the background of misinformation and ignorance. We hope that by encouraging honest discussion that we can help youth mature in healthy and productive ways. The

workshop will be facilitated by Rev. David Dalke and assisted by non-parent volunteers from the congregation. The workshop will be held at the church on Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5. Information and registration are available from Joel and the church office. Early registration due on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Consider signing up for this valuable

experience and join us for a candid look at human sexuality.

When the Christian reaches up as far as he can, God will reach down the rest of the way.

—Our Daily Bread

## Good Friday Requiem

FUMC Sanctuary Choir presents  
Mozart Requiem  
Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm



This is one of the greatest choral masterpieces of all time, which will be performed on Good Friday. Cynthia Vaughn, Janet Morrow-King,

Todd Queen, and Steven Taylor will join the choir as soloists along with instrumentalists in the orchestra. There will be open rehearsal on Maundy Thursday evening from 7:00-10:00pm. Dr. James Kim, Music Director, will present a pre-concert lecture at 6:15pm on the day of the performance.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Please join us for the annual FUMC Easter Egg Hunt! This year's hunt will be held on:

**Saturday, March 8**  
**at 11:00 am**

Children will hunt for their eggs (the littlest ones get a head start!), then enjoy refreshments, crafts, and music in the Parlor.

For each child attending the hunt, please bring 12 pre-filled plastic eggs to the church office no later than Friday, March 7.

This family-friendly event is sponsored by Children and Family Council.



## Campbell's Label & Box Top for Education

For sometime now the Community and World Outreach Committee (formerly called Church and Society) has been collecting Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education.

- ☞ The Campbell's labels will be sent to McCurdy School in Espanola, NM, in memory of Rev. Ty Curtis because of his long association with McCurdy.
- ☞ The Box Tops for Education are delivered to Putnam Elementary School, Fort Collins.

Collection boxes are located in the Fellowship Hall and outside of the church's office.

## Easter Breakfast



Plan to come to the church for Easter breakfast on March 23rd! Breakfast will be served from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The menu will be: a breakfast casserole, cinnamon rolls, fruit salad, coffee, tea, and juice. Cost: \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child 12 years and under. Proceeds will go to LAMMP (Larimer Area Methodist Mission Projects).

**C.O.S.R.O.W.**

**Commission  
On the Status  
and Role of  
Women**

# The Path to Ordination

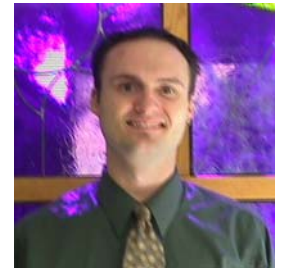
You might have heard that I went through an interview process in January. You might have heard that that interview went well. You might have heard something about it but if you are like most people you probably do not really know much about ordination (what it is, why we do it and how one gets there). Ordination is the church's way of establishing a person in vocational ministry. It is what most ministers in the United Methodist Church seek. You can be ordained as an Elder or a Deacon with different ministries implied for each. A Deacon often works beyond the local church in a variety of ministries. They might be a minister of music, a chaplain, or work in social justice issues. One Deacon in the Rocky Mountain Conference is a labor organizer in Denver. The possibilities are endless. An Elder most often works in the local church as a preacher and teacher to a congregation and it is this ordination that I seek.

While these two tracks of ordination usually have different ends they get there in the same way: the ordination proc-

ess. My process began when I was 16 years old. That is when I decided to become a minister in the United Methodist Church. If I am ordained this year I will be almost 29 making my process 13 years long. It all started with a few manuals that I worked through with Rev. Don Bird when I was in College. You read, reflect and discuss your possibilities for ministry. Then the District Superintendent assigns you a mentor from the clergy. My first mentor was Rev. Ty Curtis. Ty worked with me through another book and helped me through the psychological and aptitude testing required of candidates at this stage. Then you meet with the SPRC of your local church and seek the endorsement of that church's Charge Conference. It was the SPRC and Charge Conference of this church that endorsed me to the District committee on Ordained Ministry. After the district approves you then it is off to graduate school, where you continue to stay connected to your district committee. When I graduated from B.U. I came back for an interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry.

This group becomes the gatekeeper. When you get their initial approval you begin serving an appointment (I came here). Over three years they continue to evaluate you until you are formally approved.

Ordination does not mean that I am going away. It does not mean that I will be moving. It means that the church acknowledges my abilities for ministry and welcomes me into full membership in the church as a member of her clergy. I have sought this for a long time and while the path is confusing and difficult, it is all worth it. I want to encourage anyone thinking about ministry. If you ever want to know about the process I have become an expert and would love to help you find your way to vocational ministry. I want to thank this church for being such an enormous part of my path to ordination. Your support over the last nine years has made all the difference. Thank you!



*The nearer we  
come to Christ,  
the nearer we  
come together.*

—Jurgen  
Moltmann

## Befriend an International Student

It is estimated that approximately 90% of international students that come to study in the U.S. never set foot inside an American home. The Ft. Collins International Center has developed a program to bring together members of the Ft. Collins community and international students. Contact Lisa Bogdanski 206-4824 or Jean Griswold 484-5954 for more info.

## Young Married Couples

Looking for a chance to meet other Couples at FUMC? The Young Couples group meets on Thursday nights in the Upper Room (upstairs) from 6:00 - 8:00. We have a potluck dinner followed by discussions about topics from the Bi-

ble, about marriage and family, or anything that interests the group.

The first time you join us, we ask that you not bring food but



just come and join us for food and fellowship. Free childcare is provided for all ages in the nursery. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rob and Tracey Bean at 266-0252 or Rob and Emily Vangermeersch at 407-1084.

## Who's looking for a Vacation With A Purpose - VWAP?

Young persons starting their adventure called LIFE...retired persons with skills, experience, and zest for LIFE...other persons of all ages and situations. Our church can help you connect with a great variety of opportunities.



For example, there's Ben and Jennie (Olson) Bleckley who have taken their experiences at FUMC (leaders

of youth, college age, and young adults) to join the Peace Corps. In six months they have

completed much training, added enough language skills to settle into a little village in rural South Africa. There they saw a need, with the result of the Phokwane Youth Sports League. Photos and blog messages are in a notebook behind the desk in our library, or at <http://bjsouthafrica.blogspot.com>.

18 people from three LAMMP churches (ours, Ft. Collins Christ UMC, Loveland FUMC, and Denver's Trinity UMC) traveled to Lemoa, Guatemala last October as Volunteers In Mission (VIM). There they help build two parsonages and returned to

share with us the joys and concerns of that experience. You can find their photo story in the Fellowship Hall Kiosk computer.

In a multi-page **VIM Directory** under openings within our conference, in the US, or around the globe, you may find just the "Vacation with a Purpose" you've wished for.

Fliers about possibilities are at the OUTREACH center in Fellowship Hall. More? ask Mary Ann Henke 223-8725 or Grace Harris 282-7214.

## Holy Week and Easter Worship

### Walk the Labyrinth

March 17-20<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am—7:00 pm

March 21<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 am—12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

### Palm Sunday - March 16

8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 am "Jesus Mason", Rev. Charles Schuster

### Maunder Thursday - March 20

6:00 pm Seder Dinner and service in the Parlor

### Good Friday - March 21

7:00 pm, Mozart's Requiem in the Sanctuary

### Holy Saturday - March 22

7:00 pm, "Waiting at the Tomb" a contemplative service (meditation & communion)—Chapel

### Easter Day - March 23

6:00 am "Christ Jesus", Rev. Charles Schuster in the Parlor

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am "Jesus Christ", Rev. Charles Schuster in the Sanctuary

## LEARNING FOR LIFE



### **Self-Care Massage for Health, Beauty and Longevity**

Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese mind-body practice, offers some simple ways to improve health and well-being, without the use of any special equipment. At the February Double Nickel lunch, Kristine Metchikian demonstrated some simple self-massage techniques to reduce joint pain and improve flexibility and balance. Kristine will be offering a series of 4 one-hour classes on Thursday morning starting March 6 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. for \$20. To register, call the church office (482-2436) or Martha Conant (482-6997).

### **Exploring Reconciliation**

We're excited about the upcoming lectures to be delivered by Visiting Scholar **Dr. Miguel De La Torre**, associate professor of social ethics at Iliff School of Theology. On **4 successive Monday evenings starting April 28<sup>th</sup>**, Dr. De La Torre will explore reconciliation among peoples using his recent book *Liberating Jonah*. If you wish to read this book prior to the lectures, copies will be available for \$16 in the Church Office and in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.

### **Visiting Scholar Program**

The first two presentations by Visiting Scholars were more successful than we expected. Nearly 100 people attended each of the four lectures Dr. William Griswold presented on the Middle East. More than 45 people heard Dr. Pamela Eisenbaum's discuss Paul's Letter to the Romans. These two presentations plus the upcoming visit by Dr. De La Torre were supported by a generous donation in memory of Dr. Betsy P. Smith by her family. Contributions such as this will allow our program to expand beyond the walls of Fort Collins First United Methodist Church.

### **Missing DVD ...**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the DVD *Saving Jesus*? The Contemporary Theology Sunday School class used this DVD several months ago and others might be interested in it, so please help us locate it.

### **New Adult Education Resources**

On *Serious Answers to Hard Questions*, ten leading Christian and Jewish theologians explore such perplexing topics as the existence of evil and the relationship between religion and science. The *Great World Religions* course includes 12 30-minute lectures on each of 5 religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. These DVD-based studies will be available in the Adult Education section of the library.



# Senior W Notes from the Senior Council (Wise)

## Do You Have Questions? We Have Answers!

Whom do I call for home health care. How can I find out just what my Medicare covers? Where do you find those necklaces with the emergency buttons? When I have to give up driving, what are my options for transportation? Is there a list of all of the assisted living facilities in Fort Collins? What services and recreation opportu-

nities does my community/county offer for seniors? Katy Mason from the Larimer County Office on Aging is coming to Double Nickel on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> to give us answers to

questions like these and many, many more. Her office compiles and distributes a Resource Guide for Seniors. This is a program you won't want to miss.

In fact, you might want to bring a neighbor or friend who would benefit from the information provided.

Don't forget to dress in green in honor of St. Patrick's Day, as we gather at noon to enjoy Irish Stew!

Come a few minutes early to have your blood pressure checked.

## Care Package for Our Troops

The Double Nickel lunch bunch has been collecting miscellaneous small articles at the regular monthly meetings to be packaged and sent to our troops in Iraq. Food items include such snacks as: M&Ms, beef jerky, dried fruit, Vienna sausage, granola bars etc. Personal items

include such articles as: Chapstick, toothbrushes with caps, travel size soap, shampoo, tooth paste etc. If you attend Double Nickel, remember to bring your items for our Care Package. If you do not attend Double Nickel but would like to contribute to our monthly col-

lection, there will be a container on the stage in Fellowship Hall to receive your gifts.

*If you are impatient, sit down quietly and read about Job. If you are just a little strong-minded, go and see Moses*

## We're Taking You Out to the Ball Game!



The Spring Bus Trip is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll be heading to

Denver to see our winning Rockies take on the St. Louis Cardinals. Watch for more de-

tails about the trip in the Carillon and the church bulletin next month.

## ...Other Activities and Events on the Horizon

Members of the Senior Council and the Youth Leadership Team have met to plan some joint ventures. They decided that

intergenerational dialogue is important. The two groups are working cooperatively to schedule occasional youth and

older adult activities and/or events. All agreed that this is an exciting program area to develop.

# United Methodist Women—What's Happening at the 2008 General Conference?

This month's Unit meeting will be a potluck in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 9th, at 12 Noon. Judy Hill, will speak to us about the General Conference in Fort Worth, TX, and the issues of interest to United Methodist Women that will be

coming up this spring. Judy is a representative to the Rural and Small Church Initiative for the Western Jurisdiction and is also a lay delegate to the General Conference. Circle Vashti will greet us and Circle Abigail will host. All women 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and

up are welcome! Please join us!

The Executive Board will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 6th, in the Parlor.

## Spiritual Retreat

The annual UMW Spiritual Retreat for our conference will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, April 25-27, 2008. The theme this year is "Forming Our Spirits: Life as Prayer" and the Keynote Speak-

ers are two Rocky Mountain Conference leaders, Rev. Sharon McCormick, Spiritual Director and retired UM Minister, and Rev. Brenda Lear, Spiritual Leader and District Superintendent, Sunshine District. Please

watch the bulletin board for registration forms and information.

If you are getting weak-kneed, take a good look at Elijah. If there is no song in your heart, listen to David.

## UMW in Mission

It is difficult to select mission projects to showcase from the hundreds in America and around the world supported by United Methodist Women so we will just have to select a sampling here and there. How about the following in Southeast Asia? Methodist Mission in Cambodia's Faith Engine Ministry (FEM) program provides training for youth ages 18-25

interested in welding, auto-mechanics, motorcycle repair and basic driving skills. FEM also provides additional training to farmers who seek alternative income while waiting for the harvest season. Also in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam the Taiwan/Asian Church Women's Conference seeks to work ecumenically to support leadership training for women, empower-

ing them through their leadership involvement in church and society. The Martha O. Landon O'Neill Center in Cambodia, through the Birth to Child Program, provides expectant mothers with health training on hygiene, family planning, infant child care and nutritional needs for healthy families.

## The Carillon (Newsletter) Is Online

Would you like to read the Church's newsletter online? Let us know and we can put your name on our list of email subscribers. This will save on postage, printing and paper from over loading your life. Send me, stop by the church office, or call with your email address...[lynneellison@fcfumc.net](mailto:lynneellison@fcfumc.net), phone 482-2436

## UMW Circle Meetings in March

<u>Circle</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Abigail	Tues: 11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
Hannah	Wed: 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Conf. Room A
Kezia	Thurs: 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Home: Anne Kylan
Lois	Thurs: 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Village Commons
Mary	Thurs: 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Parlor
Rebekah	Thurs: 27 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 p.m.	Parlor
Sarah	Wed: 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Parlor
Vashti	Tues: 25 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 p.m.	Parlor
T.U.F.	Sun: 9 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m.	Bride's Room
Talitha (College) Call Dee Skelton, 482-1984 or Dea Carroll, 223-6530			

Interested in joining a circle for friendship, mission, study and spiritual support?

Call Lori Ailor, 490-1194, for information on each circle. She'll help you find a match!

## Special Thanks

Dear Church Family and Friends:

I would like to express my deep thanks and gratitude to each and every one of you who has helped me in one way or another through this difficult time. I have received many gifts of friendship and kindness, food, flowers, phone calls, and visits too numerous to respond to individually. Please except my friendship and thanks.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Maxine Stepp

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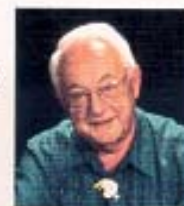
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### DATED MATERIAL

We're on the web:  
[www.fcfumc.net](http://www.fcfumc.net)

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## Stephen Ministry

2008 is a real milestone for the Stephen Ministry program at First United Methodist Church. We are celebrating ten wonderful years of providing one-on-one love and comfort to people who are hurting for any number of reasons. We will be forever grateful for the members of our church who ten years ago sacrificed much to prepare themselves to begin this wonderful ministry in our church. We are excited about looking forward to continuing to provide everything this special ministry has to offer.

There is always a need for more

ministers. In order to meet the need we are currently recruiting candidates for a training class we are planning next fall. During the sessions we will talk about feelings, Christian caring, assertiveness, when to use tough love, how to minister to those who are experiencing grief and many other related subjects. It is a wonderful time to get to know each other and to learn how to feel comfortable in sometimes challenging but rewarding situations.

We urge you to look into your hearts and if you feel the need to become part of a ministry to

help those who may be hurting for whatever reason, we would love to sit

down with you and explain the program. Please contact any one of our leaders, Karen Waldron, Emmalie Conner, Jill Phipps or Bill Rice or any of our ministers who are wearing a blue name tag at our Sunday morning services. It will be a very rewarding experience.

