

*"The Church in the heart of the city with the city in its heart."*

# The Downtowner



**Pastor's  
Corner**

**D**ear friends in Christ,

Jesus had disciples and they often called him teacher. Indeed Jesus was the greatest teacher and his subject matter was God, people and relationships. Pastors are preachers and teachers as well. The same holds true for Christians in general. Every lay person who has accepted Christ as Lord and Savior is also a teacher. Most of the time you teach without words, but your examples of Christian living are exemplary lessons.

The main purpose of this last reflection is to say thanks to each and every member of First United Methodist Church of Miami. I want to thank you for the important lessons I have learned during my years of service among you. When you read these words you might not believe that you are included among the ones I consider teachers at FUMC of Miami. Believe me, you are a teacher!

The lessons came to me from certain individual members, but most of the learning came as the result of interaction with the church as a family of faith. Following I will list some of the valuable lessons I take with me, all thanks to you. All of these are equally important and due to limited space I can only list a few. Here they are:

The Church must truly be an inclusive family. I have seen so many instances of sincere acceptance and embracing of strangers, new members, young, old, men, women and persons representing a wide spectrum of life-styles. I urge you to learn more about the dynamic city that surrounds you and make sure that your doors swing wide open to reflect even more the world in which we serve.

I have learned that loving God also means loving Christ and his church as it is found in our local church. The love and loyalty that you have for this specific congregation, its history and place in the heart of the city is truly inspiring and it must continue. This church has a unique place in the history and future of Miami. Do all in your power to further its mission. Allow God's power to lead the way.

I have been humbled by the Christian example of the Saints who have slept in the Lord. Each death, each funeral or memorial service was a learning experience both sad and joyful. We should never forget their tireless service to Christ through this church. They all served in different ways. Some for a short time, for others it was a lifelong commitment. Remember the lessons of faith they have taught us! Christ needs all of our hands, feet, voices, talents and stewardship to continue the work of those who came before us.

This is a community of love! Myself and my entire family have been warmly embraced and sustained by loving words and actions. The love has been mutual as it must necessarily be when the foundation of that love is the love of Christ. The lesson is that the only classroom where we can teach about God is in one built on a foundation of Christ's unconditional love. Abide in the love of Christ!

(continued on page 2)

## Our Vision

God's transforming grace in Jesus Christ calls us to become one dynamic church of diverse people in downtown Miami, offering a new life of Christian discipleship to the community.

## Our Mission

To proclaim the gospel in all we do; to encourage and build disciples.

## Inside:

- Applying Bible Principles.....2
- Community Garden.....3
- Hurricane Prep 2009.....4
- Making A Difference.....5
- Announcements.....6
- Birthdays & Anniversaries.....7
- Calendar.....7

## SERVICE TIMES

<b>SUNDAY</b>	
Informal Service	8:30am
Spanish Service	*10:00am
Traditional Service	*10:55am
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Fellowship Dinner	5:45pm
Prayer and Praise	6:45pm
<b>SATURDAY</b>	
Contemporary	7:00pm

\*NURSERY PROVIDED

**(Pastor's Corner—continued from page 1)**

Every member, friend or visitor of the church has an important story to tell. I have been privileged to listen and learn much about many. The church is for people who are going through pain and joy. We all can learn from our mutual journeys of faith and even doubt. It is important to value and respect the different ways in which we all reach up to touch God. When we are prayerful God's touch will be felt when we least expect it. Look for the face of Christ in your neighbor's face.

I specially want to thank the children of FUMC of Miami. For seven years, Sunday after Sunday you came forward and sat down to listen to my questions and little stories. Sometimes I was able to amaze some with silly magic tricks with the intention of teaching a moral or spiritual lesson. But let's face it, I learned more from each of our kids. I learned some lessons with you that I did not learn from seminary professors. Remember that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who have child-like faith.

Finally, thanks to all of you who have been more than church members. You all have been companions on the journey of life and faith. Remember that we never stop learning if we travel with others.

God be with you until we meet again!

***Pastor Emilio***



*Please join us after the 11:00 a.m. service on June 28th for a reception in honor of Pastor Emilio and Hilda Chaviano in celebration of their retirement.*

## APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

By Kenneth L. Williams

**H**ere's a little true or false test. Be forewarned that the question is somewhat tricky. True or false: A Christian can expect to have all of his or her needs supplied by God.

On the surface, that would seem to be true. After all, Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." But what many people fail to realize is that this promise is a conditional promise. The reason God will supply all of our needs is based on Philippians 4:18 where the Apostle Paul describes how his needs were met by the Christians at Philippi through the sacrificial offering which they had sent to him.

In other words, although those first-century Christians gave to Paul with the desire of assisting him in his ministry to the early church, because of their giving, they earned the "right" to expect that God would fully meet all of their needs. Because of their willingness to share their resources with Paul, as he indicated in Philippians 4:17, fruit would abound to their account. They could then look to God to supply all of their needs. Although they did not "give to get," they would "get" because they gave.

That same principle holds true today. As one person expressed it so well, "We do not give to get, but when we give, we get." That's what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38. He indicated that by whatever measure we give, we will in turn receive.

Jack Hartman, a Christian businessman, said it this way: ". . . the more we give to God, the more this opens the channel for Him to see that we receive abundantly in return. If we withhold our giving, we are actually withholding the blessing that God wants to give us."

Someone described non-essentials in life as ". . . playing Scrabble on the Hindenburg or rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic." Maybe that's a picture of how you view giving as a non-essential, something not very important in the totality of life. Could it be that is why your needs are not being met in full?

Think about this: What would happen if you began to place a rightful priority on your giving, even to the point of giving sacrificially? You see, you would then have the "right" to claim Philippians 4:19 with the expectation that in response to your giving, God would meet all of your needs. Your obedience to God's direction in your life to give would then result in having Him meet your needs, even with the same "measure" that you give to Him.

# Creating a Community Garden

*Submitted by Rabbi Jody Cohen*

**“In a community of such affluence, that so many people, especially children, go hungry, is a sin. *Al chet she’chatanu l’fanechah*, for the sin we have committed by not caring sufficiently for those who suffer physical hunger, forgive us, pardon us, grant us atonement.” (Kol Nidrei sermon, 2008)**

The White House is doing IT...schools are doing IT... communities throughout the country are doing IT and now we are going to do IT, too! What is IT? IT is a community garden. From a seed planted last Yom Kippur, the idea for a Temple Israel community garden has blossomed into a reality. Thanks to the many members who responded so positively to the idea of turning temple property, which is lying fallow, into a garden to feed the poor and needy in our community, we are about to embark upon this exciting new venture.

Under the auspices of the Social Justice Committee, chaired by Gary Brown, Faith in the City (FITC - a coalition of religious institutions in Miami’s downtown center city area), and interested parties from the community, we are in the process of establishing the Temple Israel community garden. It is always difficult to single out individuals for fear of leaving out someone. However, we are indebted to long time temple member, Jo Anne Bander, for her invaluable support and input on this project. Through Jo Anne’s contacts in the slow food and community garden movement in Miami and nationally, we were able to involve professional gardeners in this project, including Macarthur Genius Grant winner Will Allen, retired FIU professor Marvin Dunn, who created a successful open community garden in Overtown, and Sam Van Leer, Executive Director of the Urban Paradise Guild in Miami.



The community garden will be located in the fenced area behind the temple kitchen. Using raised beds, we will grow herbs and vegetables, such as kale and collard greens. While some of the produce will be used at temple functions, most of it will be donated to Lotus House, a shelter for homeless women and infants in Overtown, whose founder and president, Constance Collins Margulies, is a temple member. Religious school and ECC children, congregants and members of FITC congregations will be able to volunteer to work in the garden.

In the coming months, we will continue to apprise the congregation of our progress and opportunities to donate goods, including, seeds, soil, gardening equipment, and money to fund the project. We appreciate the enthusiastic support of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, which is consistent with the Reform Movement’s social justice commitment to provide food for the needy and to be stewards of the environment.

*“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest...you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger.” (Leviticus 19:9-10, from the Yom Kippur afternoon Torah reading)* The creation of a community garden on Temple Israel property provides a unique opportunity for us to fulfill our role as a leader in the community we have served for the past eighty-six years.

# HURRICANE PREP 2009



It is time to start preparing your home and family for hurricane season which begins on **June 1** and runs through **November 30th**. History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threats among all major hurricane disasters. Plan now and be prepared!

**BEFORE THE STORM**— Although every storm threat is different, it is important to determine whether you will shelter in-place (at your own home or with a friend or family member) or whether you will evacuate. Make this part of your plan, so that you can secure your home and the items that you need **PRIOR** to a threat impacting our area.

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Your disaster supply kit should contain 3-14 days supply of the following items:

- ✓**Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person
- ✓**Food**
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  - Specialty foods for infants or the elderly
  - snack foods
  - non-electric (manual) can opener
  - cooking tools / fuel to be used **outdoors only**
  - paper plates / plastic utensils
- ✓ **Blankets / Pillows, etc.** (especially if you plan to evacuate to a public shelter.)
- ✓**Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- ✓**First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- ✓**Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- ✓**Toiletries/Hygiene items /Moisture wipes**
- ✓**Flashlight / Batteries**
- ✓**Radio** - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- ✓**Cash** - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- ✓**Keys**
- ✓**Toys, Books and Games**
- ✓**Important documents** - in a water proof container: insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc. Document all valuables with videotape if possible
- Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm
- ✓**Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- ✓**Pet care items**
  - proper identification/ immunization records
  - ample supply of food and water
  - a carrier or cage
  - medications
  - muzzle and leash

## PREPARE YOUR FAMILY SHELTER IN OR EVACUATE?

- ❖**Determine whether you will shelter—in at your home or evacuate.** If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive on their own; and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- ❖**American Red Cross Evacuation Centers**—Miami-Dade County and the American Red Cross will designate public evacuation centers to open based on the storm's strength and projected impact area. If you feel that your home is not safe or if you live in an evacuation zone, plan to evacuate.
- ❖**Emergency Evacuation Bus Pick Up Sites**—Miami-Dade Transit will activate specific bus pick up sites during an emergency evacuation. The pick up site and buses will have signs that read "Emergency Evacuation."
- ❖**Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program**—The Miami-Dade County offers the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program to all residents of the County that have special needs. In order to receive assistance during an emergency, residents must register with the county prior to hurricane season. Please call 305-513-7700 or email [eeap@miamidade.gov](mailto:eeap@miamidade.gov). Additional information can be found at [miamidade.gov/oem](http://miamidade.gov/oem).

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Community-wide  
Downtown Outreach  
Hot Diggity Dog  
Spring Festival

Saturday, June 20th  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fun for the whole family!

Bring your friends, families, coworkers and  
enjoy a FREE day of festivities.

Volunteers needed!

- \* Hot Dogs w/Special Toppings!
- \* Kids Activities, games, and bounce house!
- \* Live Music!

Please contact Ginette Grey for more info or  
church at 305-371-4706



ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN  
Vacation Bible School  
This year's VBS will be held  
June 15-19 - 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Theme:

"Studio Go! Game Show"

Please make plans to be here!

**REGISTRATION IS LIMITED.**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

VBS Volunteers Needed in the  
following areas: Bible teaching,  
arts and crafts, music,  
recreation/games,  
decorating, snacks.

If you are able to help, please call  
Amanda Lopez at 305-371-4706.



## WANTED: STOUT-HEARTED PERSONS!

We would like to use the van to collect children who would like to come to Sunday School and Church, but do not have transportation. This would require the services of stout-hearted persons who would be willing to be at the church by 8:15 – 8:30 a.m. And then again after church, returning the children to their homes.

**DRIVERS**



**NEEDED**

We need drivers and one extra person to just ride on the van (required by conference). We already have two Sunday volunteer drivers. This would only require an individual (or couple) to give one Sunday per month – each Sunday would be covered by a different driver and helper.

Would you like to serve the Lord and your church in this very special way? If so, contact Joanne Rattigan-Grey, 305 895-2845 or Wilma Baggesen, 305 751-4946 (e-mail [wilmabag@hotmail.com](mailto:wilmabag@hotmail.com).)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Trustees:** June 3 at 7:30 pm  
**Education:** June 10 at 7:30 pm  
**Church Council:** NO Meeting in June  
**Finance:** June 24 at 7:30 pm



## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

The United Methodist Women (U.M.W.) will not meet in June 6.

### Circle information:

- ◆ Miriam Circle and Esther Circle will not meet in June.
- ◆ Ruth Circle Meeting— To be announced.



Keenagers will meet Friday, June 19, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## Recruiting all Children! BRAND NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

Under the direction of Val Bogdan and assistant Joanne Rattigan-Grey the children's choir is now under way! We meet right after the 10:55 a.m. worship service every Sunday for 15 minutes upstairs in the Elementary 1-2-3 classroom. Children's choir is open for children ages 4-12 and there is no need for children to be able to read music.

There will be quarterly performances, so invite your friends and family for these special occasions. Questions? Please call Joanne at 305-747-0994.



## THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

- ◆ A gift in support of the Breakfast Club was received from Evelyne M. Green.
- ◆ A gift in support of the Restroom Restoration Project in memory of Lillian Gordon and Doris Terry was received from Elizabeth Carter.
- ◆ A gift in support of Friends of Music was received from Larry Winebrenner in memory of Doris Terry.
- ◆ A gift in support of Friends of Music was received from Reyna Sabina.
- ◆ A gift in support of the Homeless Ministry was received from Richard Norwood.
- ◆ A gift in support of Missions was received from Aida Johnson.
- ◆ A gift from Templers Alumni (White Temple Church) Sunday School Class was received for the Newsletter Fund.

*A special thank you to all these people for their generosity and continued support of our church and its ministries.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND SYMPATHY

Our church joins in expressions of love and support to Ginnie Cronk and her extended family. Our Brother in Christ Dennis Cronk died in an accident on May 17 while on vacation in Europe. Let us thank the Lord for Dennis, the memories of his life, and the gifts of joy and friendship which he left us.



We welcome into our church family Owen Patrick Weilbacher born May 20, 2009. Congratulations to his parents Ken and Julie Weilbacher and the entire Galvin and Weilbacher families

# JUNE 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>2</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>3</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30pm Trustees	<b>4</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 2:30pm Miriam Circle @Epworth 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry	<b>6</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program <b>NO U.M.W.</b> <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>7</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 8:30AM Informal *10am Spanish *10:55am Traditional	<b>8</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>9</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>10</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30pm Education	<b>11</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 2:30pm Miriam Circle @Epworth 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry	<b>13</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>14</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 8:30AM Informal *10am Spanish *10:55am Traditional	<b>15</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>16</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>17</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise NO Ad Council Mtg.	<b>18</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry 11:30am Keenagers	<b>20</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>21</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 8:30AM Informal *10am Spanish *10:55am Traditional	<b>22</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>23</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>24</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 11am Yoga Class 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30 Finance Comm.	<b>25</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>26</b> 6:30am Homeless Ministry	<b>27</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program Hot Diggidy Event <b>7pm Contemporary Service</b>
<b>28</b> <u>SERVICES</u> 8:30AM Informal *10am Spanish *10:55am Traditional	<b>29</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program	<b>30</b> 9:00am Hot Meals Program				



## BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE

- 6 Carlos Vazquez
- 7 Caryl Hipps  
Amara Rattigan-Grey
- 9 Gene Bridges
- 12 Olivia Samter
- 13 Veronica Brinsley
- 19 Edie Dreaden
- 21 Gloria Bolen  
Opal Winebrenner
- 22 Miriam Hutson
- 23 Larry Winebrenner
- 27 Matthew McGonigal
- 28 Ann Atchinson  
Wilma Baggesen  
Larry Ligon
- 29 Ginette Grey



## ANNIVERSARIES FOR JUNE

- 4 Sandra & Ken Carter  
Edie & Mike Dreaden
- 12 Norma & Bill Mercer
- 23 Nancy & Gui Galvez

## SPECIAL DATES

- Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2009
- Flag Day, June 14, 2009
- Father's Day, June 21, 2009
- First day of summer, June 21, 2009

THE DOWNTOWNER, USPS 404-830, is published monthly for \$10.00 per year by First United Methodist Church of Miami, 400 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132. PERIODICALS postage paid at Miami, FL. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE DOWNTOWNER, 400 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132-1913. E-mail may be addressed to: [umc1miami@fumcmiami.com](mailto:umc1miami@fumcmiami.com)

VOLUME 27

JUNE 2009

NUMBER 6

## PERIODICALS MAIL

### First United Methodist Church of Miami

400 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33132-1913

• VOICE 305-371-4706 • FAX 305-371-4707

### CHURCH STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Emilio Chaviano
<b>Church Administrator</b>	Mayra Hernandez
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mihai Valentin Bogdan
<b>Program Director</b>	Amanda Lopez
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Chantal Falby
<b>Chef</b>	Raul Abuchaibe
<b>Custodian</b>	Maria Lopez
<b>Missionaries</b>	Marilyn Beecher Delbert and Sandy Groves

---

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

United Methodist Women's **will not meet in June.**

Circle Meetings: MIRIAM and ESTHER CIRCLE **will not meet in June.**

June 19 — Keenagers will meet with a covered dish luncheon. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Circle Meeting: RUTH CIRCLE— **To Be Announced**

---



Happy  
Father's Day  
June 21, 2009

## Hooray for fathers

A Houston newspaper asked readers to send in thoughts about their fathers. Letters flooded in, and what people wrote about their fathers is most inspiring.

A few comments:

- Dad was always there for me. He sacrificed to make sure that we had what we needed.
- When disappointment came my way, Dad said, "Son, real life ain't about getting what you want but more about doing something with what you get."
- My dad was disabled, but he worked hard to make sure we children had a good education and lived moral lives. He would say, "I want you to succeed more than I did."
- My dad wanted us to be Christians and took us regularly to church.

What would you write about your father?