

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

The Downtowner



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

In the ninth chapter of the gospel of Mark, Jesus tells us that "whoever wants to be first must be last of all..." He then goes on to pick up a child running near him and says these words, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

In today's culture, picking up a baby is considered one of the most endearing things a person can do. Politicians pick up babies. Moms stroll them in the park. Dads carry them on their backs. Grandparents take them to the beach. Babies are everywhere and we seem to be in love with each one of them.

In Jesus' day, this was not exactly the case. Children were considered something to be endured until they grew up and became "real" people. Children were

tolerated. Children were rarely acknowledged when adults were in conversation. Children were meant to *not* be seen and *not* be heard....until they grew up!

Although we picture Jesus with the child on his lap and think little of it, Jesus lived in a time much different than ours. Considering the time in which he lived, Jesus with a child on his knee while using our relationship with that child as an example of our relationship with God was remarkable.

Glenn Mitchell, an author and spiritual director, writes of this passage of scripture, "Scooping up a child requires letting go of whatever we're holding." He sees Jesus' act of spiritual parenting to be highly significant. We can only let go of the tight grip we have on things of this world when we loosen our grip and take the time to scoop "one such child" into our arms.

In today's world, our community has many "such children." We have plenty of children who could use a scooping – a little extra love, concern and attention. And, as we know, it will take each of us dropping many things we currently hold tight to – time, resources, energy, judgments – to do the scooping up of these children.

Yet there are others as well. "Such children" also include so many of us. At any moment a person standing right next to you, or on the other end of the phone, or across the bus seat or the pew, is in need of being scooped up and "loved on" as my grandmother would say. To do this loving, we must release the grip and let go of what we're holding on to.

During the month of October, we will be worshipping with these themes in mind; seeking to hear God's word for us and for our church in the midst of such need. I invite you to come and worship with us.

Grace and peace to each of you,

Pastor Cynthia Weems

New Member Sunday – October 18, 2009

If you are interested in joining our congregation in membership or have questions about our church, please contact Pastor Cynthia Weems at cweems@fumcmiami.com or 305-371-4706.

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.

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SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY
 Informal Service 8:30am
 Traditional Service *10:55am

WEDNESDAY
 Fellowship Dinner 5:45pm
 Prayer and Praise 6:45pm

SATURDAY
 Contemporary 7:00pm

*NURSERY PROVIDED

RESTROOM RENOVATION PROJECT!

In September, the Church Trustees approved the complete renovation of both lower level restrooms on the east side of the church. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to improve our welcome and hospitality to the community and congregation. **Will you consider supporting this important effort?**

The labor for the project is being donated and estimated total costs are \$22,000. We already have secured more than \$14,000 in donations which leaves us with **\$8,000 more to raise**. If you are able to contribute to this effort, please make your **checks payable to FUMC with "Restroom Renovation" in the Memo line**. Our goal is to complete the women's restroom by Thanksgiving and the men's restroom after the new year. Please contact Scott Galvin, Trustees chairperson, with any questions at Scott@scott-galvin.com or 305-895-1755.

HOW TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH

By *Larry Winebrenner*

One day Jack decided to start a church.

"You can't just start a church," his friend said.

"Sure you can," said Jack. "You sit on one end of a log and I'll sit on the other. We'll pray. We'll be a church."

"Two men sitting on a log doesn't make a church," insisted his friend.

Jack stood in front of his friend. He looked deeply into his friend's dark grey eyes. He spoke intently.

"Mark Hopkins said a student on one end of a log and a teacher on the other was a university."

His friend lifted his foot off the ground and slapped his knee.

"Boy, are you foolish," said Fred, Jack's friend. That was a university and one of the sitters was a teacher. Can you have a church without a preacher?"

Jack thought about that for thirty-seven seconds. He spoke.

"Then I'll preach. That'll make me a preacher." Fred threw his arms into the air.

"A congregation, Jack! You need a congregation."

"You and me. We'll be a congregation," said Jack.

"Not enough."

"You bring one. I'll bring one. We'll double the attendance."

"Still not enough," said Fred.

"How many do we need?"

"At least a hundred.

Jack did some figuring. Then he shouted, "It'll just take us seven Sundays if each of us just brings one new person each Sunday."

"You're crazy."

"No," said Jack. "Listen. First Sunday, two. Second Sunday, four. Third Sunday, eight. Fourth Sunday sixteen. Fifth Sunday thirty two. Sixth Sunday sixty-four. Seventh Sunday one hundred and twenty eight?"

Fred scratched his head.

"Yeah, but- -"

"But me no buts. I've proved I can start a church from scratch in less than two months," said Jack proudly.

"How about money. You need money to run a church." It was Jack's turn to scratch his head.

"What if everyone tithes?" he asked. "We might be able to get by on \$185,000 a year."

"How do you figure that?"

"If everyone works for nearly minimum wage of \$7.00 per hour, that's \$280 a week for fifty-two weeks, or \$14562. A tithe of that is \$1456.20 times one hundred and twenty-eight members is \$183,368.00. If everyone brings just one more tithing member each we'll have two hundred and fifty-six members and a total income of \$372,787 per year in just two months."

Fred's jaw dropped. Then he said, "You need one more thing to be a church."

What did Fred mean. What last thing was necessary for Jack to have a church?

The answer will be in next month's *Downtowner*.



Musical Spotlight
OCTOBER 10, 2009
5:00 P.M.

THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES
OF
THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MIAMI

Presents
"AN ECLECTIC MIX"
A CLASSICAL PIANO RECITAL FEATURING

Julia Mortyakova



Valentin Mihai Bogdan



YOUTH COOKOUT HIGHLIGHTS



The youth group had a wonderful time playing football, silly games and eating good food at the Huff home on September 20. Thanks to all who participated and to the Huff's for hosting us. Be on the lookout for the next planned event.

HEALTH NEWS

Submitted by: Linda VonCannon R.N.M.H.M

How loud is "too loud"?

Any sound over 85 decibels can potentially damage your eardrums.



That includes the average traffic jam, an MRI, blow dryers, power mowers, and even screaming children.

Devices that stream loud sounds directly into the ears, like hands-free phones and music players, can also cause ear ringing (tinnitus), a condition that is becoming **more common among young people** than it ever was before.

To check your risk for developing hearing loss, visit the "Dangerous Decibels" link on the American Tinnitus Association Website at www.dangerousdecibels.org/.

Source: American Tinnitus Association

*DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD SUPPORT OF
MUSIC MINISTRIES AT FUMC OF MIAMI*

Sponsored in part by the First United Methodist
Church of Miami

400 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132
For additional information call 305-371-4706
and/or e-mail umc1miami@fumcmiami.com

Don't miss it and spread the word!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Trustees: Meeting changed to September 30
Education: October 14 at 7:30 pm
Church Council: NO Meeting
Finance: October 28 at 7:30 pm



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Church office will be closed Monday, October 12 in observance of Columbus Day.



YOGA CLASS RESUMES!

Yoga classes will resume Wednesday, October 7 at 11 a.m.



FAITH IN THE CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Volunteers from FUMC, Temple Israel, Trinity Episcopal and Lotus House will gather for the **Community Garden Dedication and Planting Day** on Sunday, October 25, 2009 at 12:30 p.m.

The United Methodist Women (U.M.W.) will meet Saturday, October 3.

11:00 a.m.— General meeting.
12:15 p.m. Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.
All are invited. Please make lunch reservations with Circle Chairperson or with the Church Office.

Circle information:

- ◆ **Miriam Circle will meet Thursday, October 8, at 2:30 p.m. in the Epworth Village Green Room.**
- ◆ **Esther Circle Meeting will meet Friday, October 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Cauley Tea Room for lunch and program to follow.**
- ◆ **Ruth Circle Meeting—To Be Announced**



KEENAGERS

Keenagers will meet Friday, October 16, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.



THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

- ◆ *Gifts in memory of Dennis Cronk were received from: Bill & Lee Cronk, Jane & Bob Soenen, Sid & Karen Zylstra, and Burt & Arlene Varcoe.*
- ◆ *Gifts in memory of John Massey were received from: the Macfarlan Sunday School Class, Gloria Bolen, Janet Dressel, Larry Winebrenner, Elizebeth Carter, Anna Rordam, Douglas & Joanne Cheshire, Norma Deaton, Patricia & James Hurley, Dr. Carolyn Garwood, Frederick Cassity, Hugh Hardaway, Sr., Harry & Mary Robertson, CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc., Shirley & Everett Ness.*
- ◆ *A gift in memory of Elizabeth Snider was received from the Macfarlan Sunday School Class.*
- ◆ *A gift in memory of Gloria Russell (Virgil Zimmerman's daughter) was received from Larry Winebrenner.*

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

2009 CHARGE CONFERENCE

Please plan to attend our Charge Conference Sunday, November 15 at 2:00p.m.



SYMPATHY



Our congregation joins in prayers of sympathy for: *Odette Lightbourne and family* for the loss of her brother; *Bonnie Massey and family* for the loss of John Massey, who passed away September 9, 2009; *friends of Elizabeth Snider* who died on September 16 and *Patronie Hodge and family* for the sudden death of her brother.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00am Hot Meals Program	2 6:30am Homeless Ministry	3 9:00am Hot Meals Program 11:00 am UMW 7pm Contemporary Service
4 <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	5 9:00am NO Hot Meals Program	6 9:00am Hot Meals Program	7 9:00am Hot Meals Program 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30pm Education	8 9:00am Hot Meals Program 2:30 pm Miriam Circle 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	9 6:30am Homeless Ministry 11:30 am Esther Circle	10 9:00am Hot Meals Program 7pm Contemporary Service
11 <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	12 9:00am Hot Meals Program COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVANCE OFFICE CLOSED	13 9:00am Hot Meals Program	14 9:00am Hot Meals Program 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:00 Ad Council Mtg.	15 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	16 6:30am Homeless Ministry 11:30am Keenagers	17 9:00am Hot Meals Program 7pm Contemporary Service
18 <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	19 9:00am Hot Meals Program	20 9:00am Hot Meals Program	21 9:00am Hot Meals Program 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise 7:30 Finance Comm.	22 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	23 6:30am Homeless Ministry	24 9:00am Hot Meals Program 7pm Contemporary Service
25 <u>SERVICES</u> 7:30am Homeless Breakfast 8:30am Informal 10:55am Traditional	26 9:00am Hot Meals Program	27 9:00am Hot Meals Program 5:00 pm Homeless Ministry @ CPH	28 9:00am Hot Meals Program 5:45 Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Prayer/Praise	29 9:00am Hot Meals Program 6:45 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	30 6:30am Homeless Ministry	31 9:00am Hot Meals Program 7pm Contemporary Service



BIRTHDAYS FOR OCTOBER

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Hilda Chaviano | 11 Paul Dunn |
| Gui Galvez | Virgil Silas |
| Margaret Kern | 13 Bonnie Massey |
| 2 Louise Mercer | 14 Roberta Foster |
| Doug Sanders | 15 Willard Reinhardt |
| 3 Lauren Gooch | 16 Eustes Allen |
| 4 Susan Baggesen | 18 Don Baggesen |
| Seth Lewertow | 19 Richard Phillips |
| 5 Sasha Lightbourne | 20 Alihsan Yildirim |
| Miguel Perez | 22 Colleen Dempsey |
| 7 Amy Brown | 23 Lottie McMillan |
| John Galvin | 25 Damian Seymour |
| David Kjellstrom | 28 Julie Henderson |
| Georgia Sanders | |
| 8 James Walsh | |
| 10 Shayna Lewerton | |
| Virginia Lindsey | |



ANNIVERSARIES FOR OCTOBER

- 28 Cameron & Sandra Roe

SPECIAL DATES

- World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2009
- Columbus Day Observance, October 12, 2009
- Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2009
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2009

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Cynthia Weems cweems@fumcmiami.com
Church Administrator	Mayra Hernandez
Director of Music	Mihai Valentin Bogdan
Financial Secretary	Chantal Falby
Chef	Raul Abuchaibe
Custodian	Maria Lopez
Missionaries	Marilyn Beecher Delbert and Sandy Groves

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

October 3— United Methodist Women's meeting at 11:00 a.m.

October 8 — MIRIAM CIRCLE 2:30 p.m. in the Epworth Village "Green Room".

October 9 — ESTHER CIRCLE 11:30 a.m. at Cauley Tea Room for lunch and program to follow.

October 16 — Keenagers will meet with a covered dish luncheon. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

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



**Introducing Our 2009
Fall Sunday School Teachers
9:30-10:30 a.m.
All Children and Youth Invited**



**Nursery: Ginette Grey & Camille Smith
Grades K-2: Joanne & Sheldon Rattigan-Grey
Grades 3-5: Evonny Allen
Youth: Joyce Ivey**