

September 2021

Monthly Publication



TECHNICAL RETROSPECTIVE

2 Corinthians 12:9

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

“Adversity reveals genius, prosperity conceals it.” ~Horace

The past year and a half has produced a boatload of adversity which has brought us to our knees (in prayer) many times over.

As we anticipate the waning of this pandemic and hopefully an eventual full return to normal I thought it might be good to remember the promise of God as one endures adversity. Not only does He walk with us through tough times, (Psalm 23) God also opens new avenues of opportunity as we persevere.

Let’s rehearse one of those “genius instances” revealed in the past year.

Let’s see one place where God’s power was made perfect in our weakness...

It was a year ago this month that we opened up for in-person worship after 6 months of strictly online worship services as the COVID-19 pandemic initially spread across our country. From mid-March through mid-September 2020 most of the country was shut down and almost immediately we started daily video messages reaching out with devotions, tours of the church, interviews with staff and parishioners, updates on local pandemic-related issues and music from Pastor Don’s piano, my guitar, Fonda’s organ and Pastor Bo’s bell.

We attempted to keep the spiritual connection strong, always encouraging and uplifting—some say they got to know the pastors even better than in normal times because of those daily videos. Our pastors and staff kept calm in the midst of the storm and carried on in creative and innovative ways in order to provide the safest pastoral care and spiritual leadership possible.

In addition to the daily videos, our technical team also produced virtual worship with our music teams from both the Traditional and Contemporary services for each of the Sundays during the shut-down. Again, these were labors of love—major adjustments from the usual ways worship had been offered before. But what was learned then has come to benefit our ministry now in significant ways!

You will notice a new way of reporting our weekly worship attendance in the Sunday bulletins, the Tuesday emails and our monthly newsletter, *The Messenger*. In addition to our in-person attendees, it only makes sense to report numbers of on-line attendees as well. We happen to have very reliable data to know how many are watching on-line so we are beginning to report those numbers.

For example, Sunday, August 15, we had in-person 375 in all three services which is low for even August in Englewood. However, our online viewership was 710 for a total of 1085. That number represents individual devices (TV, iphone, ipad, computer) that stayed connected for an extended amount of time of the service and in each case more than one person very well might be watching. The total happens to be an August all-time high number in worship at EUMC! Notice that our on-line attendance is close to **DOUBLE** our in-person attendance!

This is amazing and while there's nothing like being physically present in worship, it is such a blessing to have this mode of connectivity with people not only in Englewood who are not ready to get out yet, but others from all around our country and world!

We thank God for our Technical Team of Stephen Eitrem, Rick Krieger, Dean Rice, Roger Thomas, Shannen Smolinski, Marci Spearman, Bill Davies and Dick Cottingham. These folks make it possible for people to worship from home whether they are in Englewood, upstate New York, Gunnison, Colorado, the British Isles or Japan (and yes, we have several worshippers from across the big water in several different countries!).

So, when you see one of these tech team members around church, please thank them for the over and above work they do in getting the Word out and allowing the Love of God in Jesus Christ to be spread across our land.

You are Loved!

Pastor Vic



A WORD FROM PASTOR BO....



A strange place can be extraordinarily refreshing. I remember it was an early morning in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, a while back in my memory. As I recall,

the sun rises early, around 5:30 am, and lazily struggles to set around 9:00 pm. How strange it is to wake up as the rare sunshine prickles over the magnificent Douglas firs and the misty sweet-salty air off the Pacific Ocean tickling my nose. How surreal the hilltop looks at 8:30 pm, as the sun slumped over the tall treetops refusing to retire. Although it is fresh to start a new day in a strange place, my yearning for home deepens. The longer I am away from home, the lonelier I feel, more and more I miss home. How I would miss folks back home. The beautiful *Raincouver*, Vancouver is also called, can be an extraordinarily wonderful place, but still, I yearn for the journey back home.

A strange place can be surprisingly refreshing. In the freshness of the Spring, the changes are inevitable. The majestic oak trees disrobe as they put on a brand new coat of chartreuse green leaves. The brilliantly colored flowers adorned the sidewalks. The dazzling golden bells on the forsythia branches silently reverberate beautiful praises unto us. As an indescribable scent of sweet fragrant flowers flowing over the neighbor's fence onto our faces, we, too, begin to transform. An extraordinary moment can be amazingly revitalizing.

A strange place can be strangely refreshing. As we know, tradition is essential for the church. If a church values traditions yet attempts new changes, it will constantly bear fruit, like a tree planted by the streams. However, if a church sticks only to "the way we were" and refuses to adapt to the changes of its surroundings, it soon becomes like a giant fallen tree in the forest, majestic it once was.

Our host church in Vancouver is a small church with about 70 active members, but they dared to invite and host 140 pastors from around the globe – I was the furthest traveler from North America. This

small church found its balance in both traditions and changes. To be a balanced church in both practices and changes, all the people in the church seek unity in Christ; thus, creating a beautiful mosaic of love, service, and hospitality. Every generation experiences change. Understanding their changes, this kind of *giving* church will be the leading church of the future.

The various sufferings this small church in Vancouver went through in the past; their colorful seasons of pain became ingredients for their big dreams and their grander ministry for the Lord. We, too, have experienced the various seasons of suffering in our growth over the years. The suffering is indeed excellent compost for the tree of tomorrow. We are planting a tree of tomorrow with renewed vision, passion, dedication, and love. We learned that God turns our pains into significant gains from the experiences gained from recent and current hardships. *Jesus is God's wounded healer: through his wounds, we are healed. Jesus' suffering and death brought joy and life. His humiliation brought glory; his rejection brought a community of love. As followers of Jesus, we can also allow our wounds to bring healing to others.* (The Wounded Healer – Henri Nouwen)

We can see the worth of having a great dream. Everything begins from a small dream that one has during hard times. If you are going through hardships now, use those hardships as ingredients for plans for your future. If you are doing well now, be thankful and turn your success into ingredients for serving others. Be grateful for those who are in difficult times. Once again, use those sufferings as instruments to complete dreams from God. Take and make them as a fertilizer for your future dreams. Moreover, be happy and be joyous in the Lord.

May our Lord continue to bless us as we walk our faithful journey into His ministry...

Blessings in all you do.

Pastor Bo



Ms. Amy's Adventures

Happy September and Welcome Back to School! What an awesome summer we had! We have had so much fun starting the school year off with new classrooms, friends, and teachers.

This past month we have done a lot of shopping. We bought furniture and materials for the classrooms, replenishing each classroom with needed materials to enhance learning, and buying books, and fun new toys. It is very exciting! The blessing in all of this is that these items can be purchased because of the incredible donors we have at the school. Our Adopt a Classroom sponsors have provided us the means to supply the classrooms. With every purchase I thank God for these wonderful people.

As we continue our school year, my request to each of you is this... Please put the school, the staff, parents, and children in your prayers. God Bless.

Love,

Amy, Heather,

and our Amazing Team

Thank You!

I want to thank you for a wonderful send off to my retirement.

The reception was beautiful.

The decorations were so well thought out and the people who attended were exactly the ones God ordained to be there.

I received wonderful cards and gifts and the slide show was amazing.

This was one very special piece to a puzzle of my last 13 years that I will treasure always.

*Thank you again,
Patty Tuff*

What is Family Ministry?



This is a question that I have asked myself about 1000 times since I was hired here at Englewood UMC. Most often when people hear Family Ministry, they think of parents and children, but family is so much more. Family is a group of people who care for one another. Family is not only bound by blood, but by love, trust, kindness, and especially faith. Family Ministry is bringing all those characteristics together and finding new ways to engage with one another and surrounding community. Youth with older generations, new parents with empty nesters, single parents with widowers, are just a few ways to bridge the generational gap that happens in churches all over the country. Finding similar interests and topics to learn, share, and grow together on our faith journey is how I begin to describe Family Ministry.

I am looking forward to meeting as many people as I can over the next few months. The best way to develop new ideas and programs is to talk to people, find out their interests and their dreams. So, anytime you want to chat about how you see Family Ministry growing, come see me! If you have some great ideas, come see me! If you want to be a part of this ministry, COME SEE ME! My door is open! If you think you have nothing to offer Family Ministry, come see me! I am happy to help you find your place! There is nothing better than imagining and creating new ways to share Jesus!

My family and I are so excited to be here! The hospitality we have received is overwhelming! This truly is a congregation who serves, and we welcome the chance to serve alongside you!

See you in the Spirit filled Space!

Beth Ann Smolinski

Director of Family Ministries



At Home

Janet Albrecht
 Jenny Chastain
 Joe Croce
 Phyllis Eastlund
 Shirley Grayson
 Helen Funk
 Lori Ierardi
 Howard & Nan Jackson
 Deborah Larsen
 Betty Madison
 Geri Meneely
 Roger & Barb Molendyke
 Jackie Morton
 Ruth Runyon
 Wanda Staneszewski
 David & Val Stevens
 Adele Stewart
 Mary Thompson
 Bob & Lorraine Turner
 Helen Williams
 Gina Willis

At Nursing Home or Assisted Living

Fran Altman—*Brookdale*
 Rod & Joan Bentson—*Tuscan Gardens
 on Venetia Bay*
 Alice Buck—*Gardens of Venice*
 Margaret Cypher—*Life Care in Punta Gorda*
 Ruth Davidson—*Bay Breeze*
 Maude Drinks—*Grand Villa*
 Sandra Dussault—*Heritage Oaks*
 Doris Finn—*Grand Villa*
 Marjorie Fitzgerald—*Family Affair*
 Dorothy Hill—*Liana Memory Care*
 Claude Lanham—*Manor Care*
 Mary Alice Lanham—*Jacaranda Trace*
 Charles Lindberg—*Heritage Oaks*
 Sam & Thelma Lloyd—*Heritage Oaks*
 Audrey MacEhiney-Rogers—*Towers of Venice*
 Carolyn McCallum—*Grand Villa*
 Loraine Melnichok—*Grand Villa*
 Jim Roch—*Brookdale—Venice*
 Jeanne Sawyer—*Inglenook*
 Doris Scott—*Heritage Oaks*
 Marilyn Smith—*Summerfield—Bradenton*
 Audrey Volz—*Drury Lane*
 Janet Wilson—*Heritage Oaks*
 Millie Wischnowsky—*Heritage Oaks*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Do you live alone? In need of company? Would you like someone to visit, enjoy your company and pray with you? Congregational Care Ministers are on hand to visit with you on a monthly basis, sharing their ministry through prayer and communion.

Please call Pastor Don at 941-474-5588, ext. 252
 to request a CCM minister.



Heartfelt Thanks!



EUMC has been involved in helping churches in Cuba since Dan Christopherson's first trip in 2007.

Today we have 3 sister churches in that island nation. It is customary in Cuba for churches to send out pastors-in-training to start new fellowships, using their small homes as the meeting place. Through a generous donation from a EUMC member, we were able to purchase this house in Jarahueca in 2020. As you can see, homes are not "move in ready" and bathrooms and kitchens are the first projects to be undertaken. The work on this house has begun, however government regulations, the continued embargo and the COVID pandemic has, understandably, slowed down the work. A recent email to Dan Christopherson from a Cuban pastor gives thanks for the prayers and help we here at EUMC and Southwest Florida have been able to provide.

"Beloved brother and friend,

Thank you, thank you very much for your love.

Thank you for your Faith, which encourages and motivates us so much.

Thank you for strengthening and encouraging us.

Thank you for your beautiful and great friendship.

Thanks for your true sincerity.

Thank you for your continued help and collaboration.

Thanks for your sincere brotherhood.

Thank you for your care.

Thank you for your efforts and sacrifices.

Thank you for offering the other Cheek and also the Tunic,

thank you for taking on the burden and walking the second mile.

Forgive me for using the word you, please don't look on it as a disrespectful expression.

It is that for us you are someone very special, someone very close, and familiar, you are a great friend, a true brother, a loving earthly father, you are very familiar to us, and your smile fills our hearts and cheers our souls. You inspire our lives.

We greatly appreciate your efforts and actions to bless the Church in Cuba, not even the world economic crisis has stopped you! I know that you are not giving what is left over, but that you are sharing what you have.

That many do not value. The grateful ones recognize it and value it a lot.

Thank you very much Dan Christopherson.

God bless you a billion times more.

We wish you the best and greatest.

A strong and tight hug from all our family, we will never forget what you have done for us, thank you for your love, kindness, mercy, friendship, and discretion, towards us, thank you because we do not deserve anything of all that you have offered us unconditionally.

Thank you my beloved brother and good friend. In the love of Jesus, my family greets you."



Nancy Prins, Chair
Missions Committee

Memorial Gifts



Non-Designated Giving:

In Memory Of: Harry Baltzer
Given By: Don & Anita Wall

In Memory Of: Karen Dunn
Given By: Catherine Grace Drescher

In Memory Of: Howard Frame
Given By: Ruby Frame



Automatic Withdrawal.....

Did you know you can have your tithes to EUMC made monthly from a checking account? For those who may be looking for a convenient way to give, it is possible to make monthly gifts via automated clearing house (ACH) transactions.

If interested, you may obtain an authorization form from the church office that will need to be completed. You will need to attach a voided check and return it to Susan Kokomoor, Financial Secretary.

Debits are made the 15th of each month and will be credited to your annual giving statement/record. A great way to give!

Memorial Corner

7/20 *Thomas Greer*

7/22 *Lee Waddle*

8/01 *Dick Howell*

8/01 *Tommy Briggs*

8/2 *Claude Lanham*

8/3 *Charlotte Harris*

8/15 *Joseph Walton*



Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.



Comparative Financial Operations/Performance For the 7 month period ending July 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Tithes & Offerings	\$949,982	\$1,175,443
Cash Expenditures	<u>-\$866,413</u>	<u>-\$880,805</u>
Tithes & Offerings		
Less Expenditures	\$ 83,569	\$294,638

Family Promise Note.....

I remember when I was a child always be-friending kids that others shied away from. I also remember running to help our elderly neighbors. Whether it was reading stories with kids who struggled or needed a friend, collecting rocks with them, helping a neighbor carry their groceries or shoveling sidewalks for those who couldn't anymore, it didn't matter, whenever I was helping someone, I was a happy girl! That is still true today. I receive my greatest fulfillment when I am in service to others. You see, I come from a family of 12 children and thanks to my Mum's influence; helping others has always been an important part of growing up. Maybe it was her way of knowing where we all were or keeping us in line and out of trouble, Hmm...

As an adult I continue my journey in service and have embraced opportunities to learn about other cultures and social issues. As a result, I became immersed in volunteering for many different community outreach programs including Family Promise of South Sarasota County.

Family Promise serves a vital purpose to those families experiencing a housing crisis. They exist to ensure that homelessness for children is rare, brief, and non-recurring. As the church coordinator for EUMC I have worked alongside so many volunteers whose passion is to serve the less fortunate children and families of our community. I loved talking with the volunteers about their experiences and watching them live out the joy of bringing renewed hope for a brighter future to so many. Together we are truly making a difference.

For me volunteering, in this position, has been the gift that keeps on giving. Walking beside these parents as they push through so much to create a better life for their children has been life changing for me. These experiences have increased my awareness of the mission field right outside our front door. They have also enabled me to grow and expand my skills on so many levels. At times, while focusing on helping others, volunteering has helped to reduce the stress in my own life. It has also provided me with a renewed sense of purpose.

While I don't know exactly what that "renewed sense of purpose" means for me or where God may be leading me, I have chosen to be still, know that He is God and trust He has great plans for me.

As a result, I have prayerfully made the decision to step down as the Family Promise Coordinator for EUMC. What I do know is that my journey of service is forever changing and no matter where God brings me, I will continue to joyfully grow and be blessed in ways I would have never imagined.

I want you all to know that the success of the Family Promise program here at EUMC was made possible by each of you and your willingness to give of your time, talents, financial support, prayers, and encouragement. I am beyond grateful for your commitment over the last (7) seven years and for your ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm you displayed on a continual basis. This community outreach would not have been possible without you. I know you will be faithful to continue serving these children and their families as well as being an incredible resource and support system for the incoming coordinator, and I thank you for that.

In closing, if you are asking yourself... "Has this door been opened for me (us)? Is this where God has been nudging me (us) to serve?" I encourage "All" to pray about the next step in your journey of service and consider this opportunity to allow God to do His life changing work through you as the Family Promise Church Coordinator for EUMC.

Go ahead, take a leap of faith, fulfill your purpose and let yourselves be immersed in the joy of service!

Thank you for allowing me the Honor and Privilege to serve with you. Many blessings and much love to all!



Forever Growing In Christ,

Maria L Ciampi

**** 90 (or over) Years Young!**

9/05 Jenny Chastain **
 9/08 Mildred Spellmeyer **
 9/08 Pauline Smith
 9/09 Roger Thomas
 9/11 Howard Travis **
 9/14 Janet Wilson **
 9/22 Jean Clark **
 9/23 Don McCormack **

Happy Birthday



September Super Senior Birthdays

Super Senior Birthday Registration

Name _____

Birth Date ____/____/____

Month Day Year

Are you a Super Senior of four score years or more? We have the names and birth dates of many of our 80 (or more) years old, but we want to recognize ALL of these honored members. Please register your birthday if you haven't done so already. Just call the church office or send in the registration form.

The Super Senior birthdays are listed each month in the Messenger. Help them celebrate their super birthday by congratulating them on their special day.

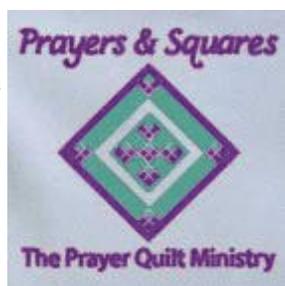
New Members Class

The new members classes will be held September 15th and 22nd for those interested in joining the church. Classes are from 6:00-8:00 p.m. (the meeting room will be announced). Membership joining Sunday will be on September 26th during the service you attend.

The classes are a great way for Pastor Vic to get to know you as well as for you to know him, and to learn the history of EUMC.

If you are interested in joining the EUMC family call the church office at 941-474-5588 ext. 105 and let Teresa know you're planning to attend the classes.

September often brings the beginning of *changes* to our lives in various ways. Shorter days lead to longer nights with cooler temps. Some of our most favorite holidays and faith-filled journeys are on the horizon, and we anticipate the arrival of our seasonal neighbors and friends from across the globe. As time passes, and our lives experience the mountains and the valleys of life, *Prayers & Squares, the Prayer Quilt Ministry* has had to evolve, take a back seat to COVID, and will begin going through an investigation as to the possibilities of continuing, or changes that will happen.



As the leader of Prayers & Squares, I have been wanting to address what will happen with our ministry in the months to come. I will begin working with our church staff and trying to schedule an investigation and discussion meeting soon.

Please watch your Sunday bulletins for news and also your Messenger.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

With the Light, Love and Peace of Jesus,

Jane Parker

firstjp@aol.com

941-564-6844



**Sometimes you MUST look up
to see beauty!
(This beautiful orchid is blooming in a tree
in front of the EUMC office.)**



*"The harvest is plentiful
but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the
harvest,
therefore, to send the
workers into his harvest
field." Matthew 9:37-38
NIV*

One of the most important outreach ministries is the ability to teach school children about Jesus. Very often, this is the only contact they have with their Savior. It's a phenomenal chance to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus in a community setting. EUMC partners with Children's Evangelism Fellowship in Punta Gorda, an organization that allows us access to Vine-land and Myakka River Schools through the **Good News Club!**

If you love children, and want them to learn how Jesus can help them and guide them through their life, then this is your calling!

For more information please contact:

Deb Parascondola

Interim Children's Ministry Director
941-474-5588 ext. 257



In partnership with Living Hope Church, 1,295 "mostly" food items were collected at the August 8th food drive. We also collected \$120 in monetary donations.

Helping Hand is very appreciative of the food, money and help of the EUMC Youth!

Thank you to all who contributed!

Jesus and Pizza



Every Wednesday

For ages VPK thru 5th grade

From 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Room 300

(Second floor of Education Bldg.)

**This is a great time for kids to play,
eat pizza, and learn about Jesus!**

R.S.V.P. to the church office,

941-474-5588,

**is appreciated for pizza order, but
not required.**

Sanctuary Choir & Voices in Bronze



Both groups will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 2nd. The Voices in Bronze will meet at 5:00pm and the Sanctuary Choir will meet at 7:00pm in the Music Suite at the west end of the Fellowship Hall.

Come join us and see what fun we have together as a musical "family". New ringers and singers are always welcome.

Fonda Davies,
Director of Music



IGNITE

Englewood UMC Youth

His word is like a fire in my heart, I can't hold it in. Jeremiah 20: 9

Our youth are back in school! As we start each day, it is good to remind ourselves that we have a loving Father among us who cares for us.

Zephaniah 3:17 says *“For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”*

I encourage you to read this passage together with members of your family or a friend. Remain hopeful when school gets you down. Spread joy to those around you as you go about your day, because someone else may be going through stuff that stinks and we can shine the light of God’s love to them!

Go with God!

Chrissy

Email: chrissy@englewoodumc.net

EUMM

**Country Breakfast
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

**The first breakfast will be
held on November 13th.**

**If you are able to help
contact:**

**Rick Nelson
941-473-7978**



EUMW

**Wednesday Morning Craft Group
Meets every week in
Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.**

**Anyone that interested in working
on the many crafts are invited to
join the group.**

**Your help will be greatly
appreciated.**



Book BuzzCroissants

September is a time that means our snowbird friends will soon be back. It is also a time when we are really weary of the heat and looking forward to autumn's cooler days.

Now we can take our returning friends to Venice Avenue for a café lunch. If you haven't been to *Le Petit Jardin Cafe* for their croissants, plan to go and enjoy a real treat. It is my understanding that the proprietor buys his butter for his various recipes from France! The croissants are so light and fluffy. Delicious!

And speaking of croissants, they are really not French - the croissant was first baked in Austria. And the shape is anything but an accident. This popular pastry dates back to 1683. In that year an army of more than a hundred thousand Ottoman Turks was besieging the city of Vienna. They surrounded it for months, and residents inside the stout walls began to wonder if each day would be their last.

When the Turks tried tunneling under the walls, bakers working through the night heard the digging sounds and raised the alarm. This early warning prevented the Turks from breaching Vienna's walls and helped save the city. Eventually an army under Polish King John III reached Vienna and drove the Turks away.

The bakers celebrated the end of the siege in a remarkable way. They copied the crescent moon from their enemy's flag and turned it into a commemorative pastry. It was called a Kipfel (German for "crescent"), and it honored a victory that might never have happened but for the bakers themselves! So now you know why croissants are shaped like they are!

Le Petit Jardin Cafe is a very small restaurant with artwork on the walls, easy chairs, and a yummy luncheon menu. After a tasty lunch you might want to take home one of their rich desserts and of course, a croissant or two to enjoy for tomorrow's breakfast!

Bon Appétit!

Pam Heady,

Your Church Librarian

Guide Team

We will be using this forum to keep you abreast of actions that the EUMC Guide Team takes on behalf of the church. At its August meeting, the Guide Team discussed and/or acted on the following:



- We are delighted to report that Sarasota County has finally approved the building permit application for the rummage sale storage building! We hope to see the slab poured and the building erected as soon as the contractors can be scheduled.
- Cost overruns for the rummage sale building will be financed through a line of credit with Englewood Bank to be repaid from rummage sale proceeds.
- Discussed the 9:30am contemporary worship services that have been held in Fellowship Hall. Evaluation surveys have been solicited and will be reviewed. If you have any comments, please address them to the Guide Team and mail them to the church office or e-mail them to: info@englewoodumc.net with Guide Team in the subject line.
- We will be hosting a welcome reception for Beth Ann Smolinski, Director of Family Ministries, on Sunday, September 12 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11am service. Please come meet Beth Ann and her family!
- Discussed the feasibility and timeline for safely starting up our Wednesday night dinners and programming once again.
- Decided to host "Town Hall" meetings likely in October 2021 and January 2022 to keep EUMC membership abreast of church happenings. We expect to offer these Town Hall meetings in-person and via livestreaming. The date for the October Town Hall meeting is expected to be determined in early September.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Beth Harrison

Business Administrator

Jesus, With Us

In His Word Jesus told us we would have troubles. Indeed, we have seen many in the last year, or more. Jesus also tells us how we should handle these troubles. Do you take His advice?

This month Jan Brook-Harte Rasile reminds us through Jesus' words "*Be of good cheer: it is I do not be afraid.*" Mark 6:50

If we read what comes before this verse, it's an amazing story. John the Baptist had just been beheaded by Herod at the request of his wife Herodias, and her daughter.

The disciples were exhausted having been too busy of late, to even stop to eat. But when they heard of John's demise, they went to retrieve the body for burial. Then they went to the Lord to tell Him of all that happened.

So, after all of this, the Lord sent them by ship into a desert place for rest. But the people saw them leaving and figured out where they would likely land and went ahead to wait for them. Sure enough, when they arrived, people from surrounding cities were waiting for them.....5,000 men plus women and children to be exact.

You know the story then of feeding 5,000..... And once again, it was the disciples who were called on to survey the crowd for supplies, (which turned out to be only 5 loaves and two fish,) and then organize and implement the distribution of the feast that resulted from Jesus' blessings the tiny supply and turning into abundance. So, they were not only in charge of distributing the multiplied feast, but also in picking up the twelve baskets full of leftovers.

When they had finished, the Lord sent them away in the boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while He stayed back to dismiss the crowd and retreat into a mountain to pray.

When night came, the disciples were in the middle of the sea with wind blowing so hard they could not even row against it. I'm sure they must have been exasperated by this time, and probably afraid of capsizing in the storm, too. It was just one thing piled on top of another. Would they never catch a break?

But Jesus was completely mindful of everything that was going on. Jesus had seen it all and came casually walking on the water next to them.

The disciples freaked out! They thought they were seeing a Ghost! That's when Jesus says, "*Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.*"

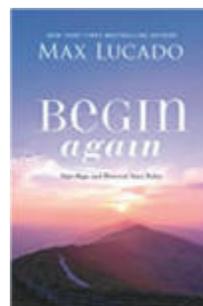
Have you suffered loss lately? Are you stressed and exhausted by circumstances of your life? Has your heart hardened like the disciples were.....so busy doing good that they forgot who they were doing it for? Does something like another storm happen just about the time you think you're finally going to get some rest?

Our wonderful, amazing Lord Jesus sees what is going on. He comes walking on water above the storm and says, "*Be of good cheer. It is I. Be not afraid.*" If we let Him board our ship. The wind will cease....and we will be safe. If we look at the storm, it will overwhelm us. If we look at the One who commands the storm, we can rest.

Today try to put aside all that stresses you; focus on Jesus. Call out "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; and then be still. His peace will overcome.

Barbara Terardi

Prayer, In His Presence



Pastor's Wednesday Night Bible Study

"Begin Again" by Max Lucado

October 13-November 10

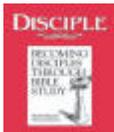
6:30 Doan Chapel

Teacher: Pastor Bo Sim

It is recommended that those taking the class purchase their own book by October 1st and have first 5 chapters read by October 13th. The book is available on Amazon.com & Christianbook.com Please contact Joyce in the church office if you need assistance, 941-474-5588 ext. 261.

Disciple Classes Beginning in September - Facilitators Needed

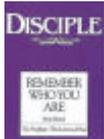
Disciple classes are intensive and transformative. They have 6 days of homework and a weekly 2—2 1/2 hour class. As the name implies, they are an excellent step in an individual's spiritual growth. They require a commitment but are often a pivotal study for those who take it. They typically begin in September and conclude in May. If you are interested in taking Disciple I, II, III or IV or if you would like to facilitate a class, please contact Joyce at Joyce@englewoodumc.net. You must have taken Disciple I to facilitate or take classes 2-4. Classes 2-4 can be taken in any order.



Disciple I “Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study”
Spans the entire Bible in 34 weekly lessons.
Date, time & facilitator will be announced.



Disciple II “Into the Word Into the World”
Concentrates on Genesis, Exodus, Luke & Acts in 32 weekly lessons.
Date, time, facilitator will be announced.



Disciple III “Remember Who You Are”
Concentrates on the prophets and the Letters of Paul in 32 weekly lessons.
Facilitated By John & Jackie Ruthman.
Tuesdays, 6 pm by Zoom. Orientation September 9,
First class September 14th



Disciple IV “Under the Tree of Life”
Concentrates on The Writings of the Old Testament, Gospel of John & Revelations in 32 weekly lessons. Facilitator needed.
Classes begin September 2022.
Date & time to be announced.

Financial Peace University

Wednesdays, September 22-November 17

6:30pm in person* Room 102

\$100 per household & includes one year subscription to:

“Every Dollar App”

Facilitated by Rick Krieger

Sign up by calling the church office or through our website under Discipleship

*Possibility of Zoom class instead, depending on circumstances.



A New “Fresh Expressions” Fishing Ministry Is Forming!



If you would like to help with getting the boat pushed out to sea and the poles in the water, please come to an organizational meeting at 12:30pm on Sunday, September 5th in Room 102 in the Lampp building.

If you have any questions or cannot attend and want to participate, feel free to email Gary Doss at:

jlysdiministries@gmail.com

Part 4 “History of Englewood and the Church”

CHANGE ISN'T EASY

In 1958 the Rev. Ralph Jones came to our church and must have found discord, for he admonished the Board that there was “need for cooperation and all negative criticism (should) be nipped in the bud.” Lacking the \$600 for termite control of the church and parsonage, the Board settled for fogging the parsonage garage for fleas, and the minister helped get rid of unused lumber and cleared shrubbery. After all, the minister now received \$3700 plus \$300 expenses for his family and wife, Mary and four children.

Programs expanded as Board approved the use of Fellowship Hall by the Explorer Scouts and other youth activities, including dancing. The Hot Rods, a young men’s group, used our facilities for Sunday night suppers. A Brownie troop was sponsored, and altar boys were outfitted with new robes. A monthly newsletter was initiated. Circle women took charge of Family Night dinners while their husbands supplied the programs.

Records for 1959 show “a balance of \$172.34 in spite of the financial condition earlier in the year”—no explanation given. Average receipts in April were \$19 per Sunday. The Education Commission was still pleading for eight more classrooms, but the Sunday School was making contributions to the Children’s Home at Enterprise, was providing a Junior Choir, Junior Church, and a church school library on movable wooden racks in the Fellowship Hall. After much discussion about the effect on the attic exhaust fan, the Board decision was to open all sanctuary windows during worship services, to augment the hand fans in the pews. Among the board members in 1958-59 were: Emily Sims, the Irvin’s, Carl and Elinor Eklund, Dr. John Flower, Ruth Hart, Harry Merrill, Jessie Wood, and Lottie Lamp.

STEPPING FORWARD

Optimism marked the decisions of 1960 as plans were drawn for a new sanctuary; the parsonage was enlarged with help from the Board of Missions again; and a Building Fund Drive was scheduled for 1961. The organist, Norma Sawn, was paid a salary; communion rail offering was discontinued; and parsonage finally got a new well.

Another big step was the meeting on October 3, 1961, of 13 men to organize a men’s club. Thirty-two attended the second meeting, and Clifford Hill was elected president. That fall the women held a successful bazaar and netted \$422. In fact, Rev. Jones reported growth throughout the district in 1961, but he made this statement to the press; “Naturally I am interested in Sabbath observance, and I hope the stores can stay closed, at least on Sunday morning.”

A NEW CHURCH AT HOME

The original church building was moved from Magnolia Street around the corner to face on Green Street; and groundbreaking for the new sanctuary was held on Sunday, August 12, 1962. On December 13, 1962, a bill was presented for the completed building by Bailey R. Jones, contractor. The cost was \$40,491.

Christmas services were held in the new church home, and thereafter a letter to Bishop Henley expressed the gratitude of the congregation for the leadership of Ralph Jones in achieving this goal before his transfer elsewhere. The current pastor, the Rev. Addison Hardee, thanked the church their reception of him and his family.

At the quarterly conference on May 9, 1963, a resolution by the Official Board was approved to recognize the outstanding contributions of the Lampp family, the oldest in the church membership as follows: “The old sanctuary which has been renovated into a youth building be hereafter known as: **THE LAMPP YOUTH CENTER OF THE ENGLEWOOD METHODIST CHURCH.**”

Absence of records from May 7, 1963, to February 2, 1966, leaves a sad gap in our history.

Englewood United Methodist Church
700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood, FL 34223
Phone No. 941-474-5588 Fax 941-475-2865
Website: www.englewoodumc.net

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September 2021

THE MESSENGER

A SERVANT CHURCH

*Following the example
Of Jesus Christ,
The Englewood United
Methodist Church
Shall strive to make God
And His Kingdom
More real through our
Caring, worship, study
Fellowship & outreach.
To this end, as a
Servant Church,
We offer ourselves
And our facilities
For the Christian growth
Of all persons.*

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Adopted 1978 Revised 1989

