

Would You Believe?

January 2008

NEWS IN THE PEWS



THE BIG NEWS OF THE MONTH IS THAT BETSY DIXON AND CARL ASHLEY HAVE COMBINED THEIR TALENTS AND COMPOSED A SONG WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE OUR NEW STATE SONG. Betsy

wrote the words and Carl

composed music and entered it in a contest for a new state song. There were over 200 entries and theirs was selected as one of the top 3. Now one will be selected from these three by popular vote so those of you who have a computer, please vote. You can listen to the top three and cast your vote by January 10th by going on www.justsingflorida.org.

Those of you who missed the Neighborhood Dinner on December 9th, not only missed good food and good fellowship but also an excellent talent show. I never cease to be amazed at the talent we have among us. I especially want to point out the talent of some of the young folks.

We often enjoy the talent of Katy Gocio playing her flute during the worship service. Katy is a junior at The School of the Arts. She has been taking flute lessons for 8 years. She works one afternoon each week with students at Highland Elementary School who are interested in getting into the School of the Arts. She also helps with birthday parties of children hosted by her mom's photography studio. She helps with the costumes and also works on modeling techniques with the young girls and is assisted in this by Melissa Myers.

How about the Wade family? Isn't it nice to have Emily and Dave accompany the singing? And wasn't it wonderful to have Megan in the choir and sing a solo in the talent show? Now we just need to get Jen on the piano to accompany and make it a

real family thing!!! Megan was the star in the fall production at Lake Worth Christian and I understand did an excellent job!!!! We all need to be informed when she is doing this again!

Speaking of a talented family---I just can't get over all the talent in the Tate family!!! Caroline Tate (age 13) is the youngest child of ruling elder Buddy Tate and his wife Debbye. LOPC is the only church she has ever known. Growing up in the Tate house has meant a lifetime of exposure to music for Caroline. As a toddler, she would sit on the piano bench watching big brother Keith and big sister Valerie playing. As she grew older, her musical interest zeroed in on guitar. After about two years of formal lessons, though, she decided she wanted to try the piano. Eighteen months ago her formal lessons began, but not in the usual fashion. (This is almost unbelievable. Have you ever heard of piano lessons over the telephone?) Caroline is taught every Monday morning by her grandmother, Amelia Tate, from her home in Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Tate teaches Caroline over the phone! She recently told Debbye that this has been a golden opportunity for her to get to know Caroline. Caroline's grandmother has taught piano for over 50 years, but Caroline is her first long-distance student. In less than two years, using a difficult classical method, Caroline has advanced to an intermediate level.

Caroline loves to compose her own music for piano and guitar. She debuted one of her compositions, "All for You", at our recent Surf 'n' Turf fundraiser. She debuted as an "official" church pianist performing the postlude on November 28. Caroline says that music is an important interest she shares with her brother and sister. On the rare occasions that the three of them are together, there is plenty of music to be heard.

Caroline (whose name means "Joyful Song") is an 8th grade home school student. She loves all kinds of music, except rap (for which her parents are most

grateful!). She hopes to go to Belhaven College as a piano major and wants to be a composer someday.

Caroline was the one I wanted to feature this month because of her talent as well as the unique form of piano lessons but then there is her "Big Sister, Valerie". Val, a junior at Belhaven College, conducted the choir, sang a solo and gave her testimony during the church service on Dec. 16--what a treat!!

Valerie Tate auditioned for and was selected to be the only soloist for Belhaven College's annual Singing Christmas Tree performances! She stood at the very top of the tree to perform the solo, "O Holy Night". This is a large outdoor two-night concert that attracts a big crowd from all over the south. She also had the lead in the operetta at the college in the fall. Along with this, Val made A's in her classes.

As you know, Debbye and Buddy have a son, Keith, who is equally talented. Lt. JG Keith Tate, serving aboard the *USS Ponce* in the Persian Gulf, was recently promoted to the position of "Jr. Officer of the Deck". When he's not on duty, he enjoys the fellowship at the Tuesday night Officers' Bible Study. He says the *Ponce* is blessed to have an excellent chaplain. Keith claims that when he comes home, he wants to fly to California, rent a big SUV, and then drive clear across the country just so he can look at thousands of miles of *land*! His deployment is expected to end in late January or early February, depending on conditions at the time.

I look forward to the day that the Tate family will have their own Talent Show!!!

My, how the Lord has blessed the Tate family with talent and we as a church family are blessed to have the Tate family. The parents are not lacking in talent either. As you know Buddy is a wonderful part of the staff at the Moody Radio station, WRMB and as mentioned above, he is an elder here at LOPC and teaches an adult Sunday School class with Debbye. They're studying Christian marriage and family life. Debbye teaches a women's study on Wednesday nights.

We have several weddings to report. Henri Dietlin and Olga Rybalkina were married on Dec. 15 at LOPC. Theirs was a real international wedding with Henri being from Switzerland and Olga from Ukraine.

Judy Lehtinen went to Holland for the wedding of her son-another wedding with an international flavor. Raymond and Aletha Shepley attended the wedding of Aletha's grandson in St. Augustine. They had hosted a shower for their future granddaughter in Crescent City this fall.

And John and Carol Brandt have a new grandson, born Dec. 2nd in West Palm Beach. They now have two grandsons and a third will be arriving in 2008. I think Grandpa is already planning many fishing trips with the grandsons.

Our love and prayers continue to be extended to the Bradys who are still in Tallahassee where Leilou is recovering from a fall. If you want to send cards or call, her address is Consulate Health Care, 1650 Phillips Re., Tallahassee, FL 32308 and the phone number is 850-216-3168.

Since I did not get an article in last month, some of this news is rather "stale" but I will included a little of it anyway. Christy Gauger and her helpers did an excellent job with the Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. It was good to see such a willing spirit of so many of our folks to pitch in and help.

The Browns had a houseful of company for Thanksgiving. With Hazel's good cooking, I can understand why the family all likes to come there!!! Whenever we have pot luck dinners, I always try to find out what Hazel brings and have never been disappointed. Amanda Backus was home for Thanksgiving. Wilma Herbert's daughter and husband from Sarasota were with her for Thanksgiving and will be back for Christmas. Wilma may be returning to Sarasota with them for a short visit. Mary Downing and Justin Forester were home for Thanksgiving and will be back for Christmas. Mary Alice Baker enjoyed a visit from her daughter and granddaughter for Thanksgiving. Since they will not be coming back for Christmas, they celebrated both holidays in one and then spent some time at Disney--a most memorable time together. Mary Ann Griffin spent Thanksgiving with Michael and his family in Washington, DC and will spend Christmas with her other son, Patrick and his family.

Weegie Armstrong enjoyed a visit with her grandson from Gainesville for a few days the week before Christmas. Dot Cole flew up to be with her family in Virginia for the holidays. We were thankful she decided to fly rather than driving

alone!!! Marlene went with a friend and met other friends in Las Vegas for a few days. They returned here and the next day, set out driving up to New Jersey to spend Christmas with her daughters. Thomas Kauper flew to Pennsylvania for the holidays with his family there. Betty Figari went to New Jersey with one of her daughters to visit another daughter. Charlotte McKee will be going to Charlotte to spend Christmas with Billy and his family. Kathleen will also fly in to Charlotte for a wonderful family time together. Can't you just guess that the youngest McKee will be the center of attention??? Carol Huber and her family will be with Bill and Betty McKee for Christmas. Anna May Kinser is going to John and Pat's in Macon. Lynn and Dianne will spend the holidays with Amy and her family in Atlanta. Larry and Betty Roff are going to Chattanooga where their children and grandchildren live. Ellen Pearl will be with her daughters in New York. Dorothy Brindle will spend Christmas with her daughter in Orlando and son and on New Year's Day will fly up to New Jersey and visit with her grandson who has returned from Iraq. Ruth Harvey will enjoy family gatherings at her daughter's in Vero Beach and I am happy to say that I will be with Doug's family in Tennessee. (An observation in reading over where folks are going, it seems that the majority are spending time with daughters rather than sons, although there are a few of us who are blessed with sons with whom to spend the holidays--Do you think I am just a little prejudiced?

Nancy and Bob Lee are looking forward to time with Jeff and Jenny over the holidays. Eleanor Rose is also looking forward to a visit from her daughter as well as her grand daughter and her husband.

John and Pat Olson were down for a short while but went back north to be with their family for Christmas. They will be returning on Jan. 3rd so we look forward to seeing them then. Judy Morgan was also here for a little while and then went to be with her daughters and grandchildren for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Many of us will have wonderful memories of this Christmas season but let's all stop and consider the real reason for the season and start 2008 with a renewed dedication to our Lord and Savior who has blessed us all abundantly and as a church family, let's get to know and love one another better during this year of transition.

Susan Campbell was voted the Special Ed Teacher of the Year at Palm Beach Public School. Her name is being submitted as a candidate for state teacher of the year. Susan teaches a gifted class, which requires students to have an IQ of 132 or better for admission.

Carolyn Kullmar

FROM THE PASTOR



If I had realized at the beginning of my years at LOPC what I realize now, there are some things I would have done differently—one of which I now explain.

The phrase *means of grace* refers to the conduits through which God gives saving and sanctifying grace. Two of the most important of these means are prayer and Scripture. The rest of the list includes, but may not be limited to, sacraments, worship, discipline, and the church. While the latter list is obviously important, each one of its parts is dependent upon Scripture and prayer.

As often as possible I have emphasized that Christians are more susceptible to and more influenced by culture than by the Bible. For clarity, culture can be defined as the customs and practices of people groups. We submit to the power of culture both actively and passively. We accept its instruction, and we yield to its shaping to such a degree that we culturally respond to the Bible instead of biblically responding to culture.

In Acts 6 we read the following instruction. “Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.’ 3 ‘But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.’ 4 ‘But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.’”

Here is what I would do differently as pastor of a church. Although it would be hard to break the current cultural expectation as to what a pastor

should be and do, I would kindly, patiently, but very deliberately follow the powerful principle stated and required by the apostles in Acts 6.

Several facts become very clear when we look at the relationship between today's church and today's culture. First, the church is generally not healthy from the biblical perspective. Second, church leaders take their instruction from business models as to how to define and produce a healthy church. Third, regardless of the biblical instruction that Christians should evangelize and educate toward producing strong worshipers of God, the average church is, without even realizing it, much, much more human centered than Christ/God centered. Fourth, churches are commonly evaluated by the degree to which they "meet my needs" and the degree to which one "likes" the church from a consumeristic perspective that the customer is in charge. Fifth, Pastors do the jobs which Scripture assigns to Elders. Elders do the jobs which Scripture assigns to Deacons. Deacons are frequently left frustrated by lack of clarity as to what they are to do biblically. Sixth, and here is the explanation for mistakes described in one through five: pastors give comparatively little (actually sinfully little) time to prayer and the studied ministry of God's Word.

Healthy churches are documentably pastored by men who refuse to let the church be defined by culture, and who truly (i.e., biblically) meet the needs of the people with studied preparation for, and passionate delivery of the content of "the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God." The Spirit has promised to bless the preaching of His word, and biblically healthy churches are biblically pastored by men who "give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word" without allowing themselves to be distracted by cultural and consumeristic expectations.

Pray with me that your next Senior Pastor will be such.

Lynn Downing

Larry's Column

"OUTREACH MENTALITY"

That's what we need here at LOPC. And that's why our "Fanning the Flame Team" has identified cultivating an **OUTREACH MENTALITY** as one of the primary goals for 2008. When this becomes

a dominant characteristic of a church (which we earnestly desire here), it becomes the instinctive attitude that influences all we do.

How does an **OUTREACH MENTALITY** come about? It won't do to pass a motion about it in the session meeting. It won't do to adopt it as a goal in a committee meeting. It won't do to devise a program for it. It won't do to put it on a banner to hang on the wall. It won't even do to have the ministers commit to it and preach about it. It comes about when every member of the church intentionally fans that particular flame ... **OUTREACH MENTALITY** ... in his or her own heart.

In other words, a church with an **OUTREACH MENTALITY** is one in which all the members eat, sleep, think, dream, and pray about ways in which they can reach out to their lost neighbors, friends, and relatives. And this happens not because of a sense of duty or compulsion, but rather as a natural result of a growing love for the Gospel, for the Lord, and for the lost. We look forward to this becoming the most exciting thing taking place in our church in 2008 because of the excitement about it that will be growing in every heart, including yours!

The Fanning the Flame Team has commissioned Jay Myers to assemble an outreach committee. It will be their joyful privilege to brainstorm about ways in which we can all encourage one another to cultivate this **OUTREACH MENTALITY** not just in 2008, but as a permanent attitude in the years ahead. This will be especially important as we prepare for the transition ahead to the leadership of the next Pastor the Lord will bring to us.

I will be preaching about this **OUTREACH MENTALITY** on Sunday morning, January 27th as we look at Jesus' words in Matthew 9:37-38, *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.* We have traditionally thought of this passage in terms of prayer that God will raise up more foreign missionaries, so that we might send *THEM* out. But as we'll see on that Sunday, this is a prayer that God will raise up more of *US* to be laboring in the harvest fields right around us.

As one of the ways to go about such praying, the session has officially called on everyone to devote

one day a month to fasting and praying that God will create this **OUTREACH MENTALITY** in our midst, and that as He raises up each of us to be laborers in His harvest, we might see many brought to saving faith in Christ right here at Lake Osborne. The elders suggest that this be done on the second Tuesday of each month, just prior to communion Sunday. I hope you will do so on Tuesday, January 8th and that you will apply what we learned about fasting in last month's time of focus on spiritual warfare.

In addition, with **OUTREACH MENTALITY** as our goal, it is very fortuitous that R. C. Sproul's annual Ligonier Conference in Orlando from March 13 - 15 will focus on this topic. The theme is "Evangelism According to Jesus." Guest speakers include Sinclair Ferguson, Joni Eareckson Tada, and John MacArthur. We hope to see many of our members attend this year because of the connection with our **OUTREACH MENTALITY** goal. You can register at www.Ligonier.org. Do so soon, since last year's conference sold out weeks beforehand!

THROUGH THE MONTH AHEAD ...

Dec. 30 ... Fifth Sunday Luncheon. Bring some of your left-over Christmas goodies (not just cookies and pies, but hams and turkeys and chickens, along with corn and potatoes and salads!) to share. Invite friends and make this one of the ways we cultivate that **OUTREACH MENTALITY**. There will be no evening service that day, but we'll spend a few minutes toward the end of the lunch praying for God's blessing on the year ahead.

Jan. 6 ... Boxing of the Greens. We had great help hanging the greens. Now we need help putting them away until next year. It's more fun to hang them than to box them, but show us your "servant heart" by coming at 5:30 to lend a hand in this necessary part of the process. We will finish the evening with a brief time of informal song, sharing, and prayer.

Jan. 7 ... Men's Fellowship Dinner. This newly revived ministry has enjoyed an excellent start.

We'll resume with a cookout on that first Monday of the New Year. Bring a lawn chair, an appetite, a friend, and a few bucks!

Jan. 9 ... Annual Ministry Review / Preview Dinner. Our midweek family night dinners will resume on that second Wednesday in January. On this first gathering of the New Year, we will all remain together to hear praise reports from ministry highlights of 2007, and to be challenged toward ministry goals for 2008. This will be an especially important dinner meeting for the whole church as we will receive the 2008 budget the session has adopted, and as we talk and pray about the pastoral transition process that will commence this summer.

Jan.10 ... Deadline for Voting on State Song. Remember that Betsy Dixon and Carl Ashley were among the hundreds who entered an original composition in the contest for a new official song for the state of Florida. Theirs was one of the three finalists chosen by a panel of judges. The actual winner will be selected by popular vote on-line. Please cast your vote before the Jan. 10 deadline. You can do so by going to www.justsingflorida.org and following the instructions there. Their song is titled "Florida, My Home." By the way, it is the only one of the three finalists to refer to God.

Jan. 13 ... Samuel Sermons on Sunday Nights. Our Sunday evening services will resume on January 13th. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper for the first time in the new year at that service. And Pastor Roff will begin a new series of sermons in 1 and 2 Samuel, looking at principles of spiritual leadership in the lives of Samuel and David.

Jan. 18-20 ... Spiritual Life Seminar with Donald Whitney. This is for everyone in the church (as well as friends in the community and from other churches, so spread the word!). Be sure to fill out the registration form in this newsletter if you haven't already done so. We need to know how many to expect so that we can have adequate handouts prepared. Even if you can't come to all the sessions, be sure to come to the covered dish dinner program that Saturday evening. Dr. Whitney will be talking about how to lead family worship, an

essential (but often lacking) dynamic in spiritual health.

Jan. 26 ... Dinner Fellowship for Single Women.

The deacons will host this special evening for single women of all ages and whatever status (unmarried, divorced, or widowed). Special guest speaker that evening will be Sharon Virkler, a new friend here at LOPC. Sharon grew up as a PK (“preacher’s kid”) in New Jersey. She is campus nurse at PBA University. She has assisted in leadership ministry with single women in other churches, and as a single woman herself has written and published an excellent book, titled “Anticipatience.” Please call the church office or note this on a blue card. We encourage you to invite single women friends who might benefit from this gathering. It will be at 6:00 pm on Saturday, Jan. 26th in the Fellowship Hall.

Feb. 3 ... New Adult Sunday School Term.

Two classes continue through June: John Brandt’s study in Romans, and Lynn Downing’s use of R. C. Sproul’s Bible Survey. New topics for February through June will be announced for the classes taught by Dick Peterson, Buddy Tate, and Larry Roff.

Feb. 3 ... Inquirer’s Class.

This Sunday afternoon lunch and study is for all who are interested in learning more about LOPC, with a view to becoming members of the church. Lunch will be provided by the church. Afterward, the pastors will summarize what it means to be a Christian, what we believe as Presbyterians, what is expected of church members, and what ministry opportunities are available in this church. The afternoon will conclude by 4:00 pm. Please make reservations on a blue card or by calling the church office.

ARTICLES ...

Christmas Music.

Please find a musician and offer a hug of appreciation for all the hard work these wonderful people have expended in providing beautiful music through the Christmas services. Don’t forget to include young people who have been among them.

2007 Contributions. IRS rules require that churches record contributions in the year in which they are received. A check dated 2007 but received by the church in 2008 must be recorded as a 2008 contribution. Checks mailed and postmarked in 2007 but not received by the church until 2008 are exceptions. They will be recorded as 2007 contributions. Thank you for your ongoing support of the God’s Kingdom.

Third World Gifts.

On a recent Sunday morning, Pastor Downing offered a suggestion about gifts that honor loved ones and at the same time give assistance to those in need in the name of Christ. You can make a donation to provide a goat or a pig to a Third World family living in poverty, or help pay for a fresh water well for a village that has to hike long distances carrying water back home. Learn more about this at www.worldvisiongifts.org. You can also contact Terry Kennedy for similar ideas with the Aids ministry he and Betty carry on in India.

Church Web Site.

Are you taking advantage of the church web site. There is a wealth of helpful information there. You can access it at www.LOPCA.org. Here are some of the features available.

Sermons – listen to sermons from both Sunday mornings and evenings

Blue cards – send in prayer requests, Wednesday dinner reservation, or questions

Pastor’s Blog – read articles from Pastors and post your own comments in response

Youth – notices of events and pictures from recent

Staff – email addresses to contact pastors, office staff, or officers

Resources – links to denominational sites, Bible study tools

Missions – learn about the missionaries and ministries we support

Sunday Bulletin – look over the worship service before coming on Sunday

Newsletter – read last month’s “In the Pews”

Recall Notice.

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Subsequential Internal Non-Morality" or more commonly known as S. I. N., as it is primarily expressed. Some other symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: P - R - A - Y - E - R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

- 1 Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience (long suffering)
5. Kindness
6. Goodness

7. Faithfulness

8. Gentleness

9. Self control (temperance)

Please see the operating manual, the B. I. B. L. E. (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING:

Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded.

DANGER:

The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention. GOD

P. S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by "knee mail"

Larry Roff



LOPC SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE

Friday through Sunday, January 18 – 20, 2008

with Guest Speaker Donald Whitney
author of *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*

This weekend conference is a major part of our on-going pursuit of church health here at LOPC. It will provide wonderful assistance to everyone who participates. The theme of godly living will be developed with very practical down-to-earth applications that fit every life, young or old, single or married, mature or new believer.

Don Whitney is Associate Professor of Biblical Spirituality and Senior Associate Dean at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the founder and president of The Center for Biblical Spirituality (www.BiblicalSpirituality.org).

His books on spiritual life have become “must-reads” and come highly recommended by such men as R. C. Sproul (*The Holiness of God*) and J. I. Packer (*Knowing God*). In fact, Packer says Whitney’s book on “Spiritual Disciplines” is one of the best things out there on that subject! Copies of his books will be available for purchase at the conference at discounted prices.

Here is the anticipated schedule for our weekend conference in January.

Friday evening

Session 1 – The Discipline of Prayer

Session 2 – The Discipline of Meditation

Saturday morning

Session 3 – The Discipline of Journaling

Session 4 – The Discipline of Fasting

Session 5 – The Disciplines of Silence & Solitude

Saturday evening

Covered dish dinner

Session 6 – The Discipline of Family Worship

Sunday morning

Session 7 – The Discipline of Learning (Sunday School hour)

Session 8 – The Discipline of Corporate Worship (Worship service)

We will be inviting friends from the community and from area churches to join us. Since there will be printed hand-outs, we need to have registrations ahead of time. The registration fee will be a modest \$10/person, \$15/couple or family. Send checks to the church office (2101 Sixth Avenue South, Lake Worth, FL 33461), marking them as registration payment for the “Spiritual Life Conference.” You can tear off the form below and send it in with your check.

Name

Number attending conference

Address

Zip code

Email address

Phone number

Financial Report

January- November 2007

LOPC Ministries Fund

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$442,436	\$399,506	\$402,104
Disbursements	\$466,004	\$457,944	\$442,272

Improvements and Emergency Fund

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$50,814	\$23,013	\$24,464
Disbursements	\$63,350	\$62,309	\$111,910

Mission Fund

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$87,611	\$92,549	\$87,575
Disbursements	\$93,148	\$83,599	\$97,702

Year to Date Receipts and Disbursements

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$580,861	\$515,067	\$514,143
Disbursements	\$622,503	\$603,852	\$651,885

YOUTH PLUGGED IN



Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you. By the time you read this we will have entered into a new year. A year that will doubtlessly be full of challenges. Some of these

challenges we are aware of and anticipating,.... while others may take us by surprise. What they have in common is that each challenge will present an opportunity for us to grow closer to Christ, both as individuals and corporately.

This past year, our youth group has faced many challenges. Some were anticipated, some took us by surprise. Through it all, we have grown together,... and all of us have learned. These challenges have compelled us to increase our focus on discipleship and mentoring. One area we are focusing on is inductive study. It is important in the discipleship and mentoring process that we understand that the study of God's Word is more than an academic exercise. It is easy to pick up a passage, and pick out the facts, but if we stop there it is merely an academic exercise. Thus we are encouraging our kids to pray before they read. To pray that God will give them understanding of who He is and what he requires of us. We are doing inductive studies on

Wednesday nights that have already proven to be beneficial, as our kids are getting involved and prayerfully excited to see that our great and mighty sovereign Father is able to control and direct world events, while at the same time challenge and work in the lives of individuals. Please pray as we encourage them and teach them to study God's Word on their own. This is a very exciting time!

Lastly, I wish each of you could have seen the faces of the kids at Westgate. The kids helped us set up a tree you provided through your giving in their fellowship hall, Tiffany delivered a Christmas message, we served eggnog, chocolate milk, and cookies to the kids and their families....and then we opened up the gifts. They were very excited as we were. The provision God made through you all was abundant and we were able to provide aptly for each child, with a few gifts left over that they will be able to put under the tree and open Christmas morning. Praise God for you all!

Love in Christ, John, Tiffany, and Hannah Matthew 5:16

ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIORS!! NEED MORE INCOME OR CASH? REVERSE MORTGAGES MAY BE THE ANSWER.

We have found many seniors needing extra income or cash who have a significant equity in their home.

The appeal of this type of mortgage is many fold. Here are some of the benefits:

- This is an FHA program and is insured by FHA
- No qualifying required for income, employment, or credit
- No payments required as long as you live in your home
- Receive income you cannot outlive.

Call John Morris at 433-1228 for information

PERK UP YOUR PARTY OR ADD EXCITEMENT TO YOUR EVENT

with face or glitter tattoos! Full face or cheek art face painting to match your theme, using only professional, child safe face paints. NO acrylics.

Glitter tattoos are waterproof and last 3-5 days. Great for Florida weather! See www.hennybulten.com for examples.

Call for information at 561-422-6161

MONICA'S GIFT BASKETS

Monica Bailes Phone: 561-827-8859 Fax: 561-798-1622

monicagiftbaskets@yahoo.com

Because a gift without a basket is just a gift

HOUSE FOR SALE

3 BR 2BH house located in the "Tradition" community in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Drastically reduced!! Call Charlotte McKee at 582-5441 for more information.