

JANUARY– IMPORTANT DATES

- 7th Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. (Annex)
- 8th 50th Anniversary Committee 7 p.m. (Annex)
- 13th Preschool Board 7:00 p.m. (Annex)
- 14th Staff-Parish Relations Committee 7 p.m.
- 20th ReFocus Makeup Session 12 Noon (F.C.)
- 28th Trustees 7:00 p.m. (Annex)

New Disciple Bible Study Starts at the Beginning: GENESIS

This ten week study takes us into the rich tapestry of Genesis exploring the interaction between God and very human people - pride, family relationships, conflict and journey all showcase the best known stories of Creation, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Rebekah and Joseph. Pastor Sam will lead two different groups through this study, who will meet on:

Tuesday evenings 7:00 PM (beginning January 22)

Wednesday mornings 9:30 AM (beginning January 23)

You can sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office (305-235-6651).

The cost of the participant's book is \$10.00 (free for those in need).

United Methodist Men—The next United Methodist Men’s Breakfast will be on January 6th at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Center. Both men and women are invited to attend the meal & program.

United Methodist Women— There will be an Executive Business Meeting on January 13th after worship in the Fellowship Center.

- Luncheon Fellowship: Tuesday, January 15th at 10:30 a.m.
- JOY Fellowship: Monday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m.

United Methodist YOUTH—All young people in grades 6-12 are invited to come out and enjoy fellowship, dinner, and special programs on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. in Room 201.

To learn more please contact Bridget Gaines at (305) 238-7358.

Come Worship With Us!

Sundays: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Nursery provided in Room 107 for children under age 3.

Wednesdays: Youth Group (middle & high school) 6:00 p.m.

We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated toys and clothing for the children staying at the South Dade/Homestead campus of Community Partnership for the Homeless. Through the joint effort of the preschool and church we were able to give a gift to each of the 127 children! Thank you so much for blessing these children by your generosity! Special thanks, also, to Adriana Pérez and Michelle Williams, two preschool mothers, for organizing this mission project.



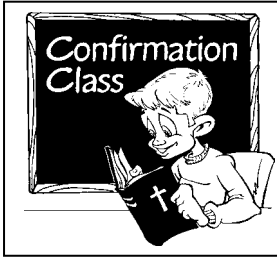
Thank you to Gerrie McClary, Merilou Bell, Julie Callaway, Jennifer Wood and all choir members for the beautiful Christmas Cantata on December 16th!

Thank you very much for the generous Christmas gift! I appreciate your kindness. Love, Pastor Sam

Thank you very much for the Christmas gift! I appreciate your expression of love. ♥ Rebekah Joy Verzi, Administrative Assistant

MAKE-UP FOR FOCUSED LIVING RETREAT

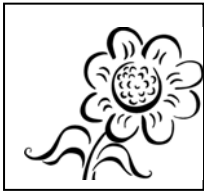
Because not everyone could come to our Focused Living Retreat on November 11th, we are having a "make-up" session on Sunday, January 20th after worship. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for all those who missed the first



retreat. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

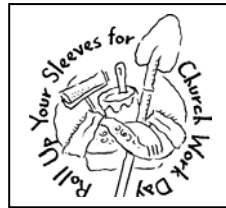
Confirmation Class to Begin—A new Confirmation Class will begin this month on Sunday, January 13th. The class will meet in Room 205, at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. Becky McLaren and Julie Callaway will lead the Sunday morning sessions. Pastor Sam will meet periodically with the confirmands to encourage their progress toward confirmation.

It's Talent Time! Our Annual Talent Show & Dessert Buffet will be on Saturday, February 9th at 7 p.m. Get your act together and let Marilyn Horne know what you will be performing! We need bakers, also. It takes a LOT of "talent" to put on a delicious dessert buffet—so sing, dance, or bake!!!



Please see the Flower Chart in the church lobby to sign up to donate **Altar Flowers** for 2008. The cost is \$20. Details are posted by the chart. Please write clearly. Thank you.

We will have a Church Work Day on Saturday, January 12th from 8 am to 12 Noon. Please come help take care of what God has given us.



Thanks to our Worship Assistants for December

- **Liturgists:** Sheila Martinez, Ernie Fike, and Dawnette Daley
- **Acolytes:** Dornicia Daley, Renee Allen, Sofia Sneathen, Nathan Sisk, and Brian Brodhead
- **Ushers:** Floyd Batey, Marilyn Horne, Cornelius Reagan, Michael Mills
- **Children's Church Teachers:** Veronica Nicoleau, Sandy Provost, Donna Tunks and Yvonne Wright
- **Advent Readers & Candle Lighters:** Renee Allen, Dornicia Daley, Dawn, Emily, Nathan & Jonathan Sisk, the Ekwere Family, Karen & Brian Brodhead

January Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 Stan Jones | 14 Leila Toledo |
| 9 Dornicia Daley | 18 Norma Irizarry |
| 10 Dot Bardsley | 18 Jessica Thompson |
| 10 Hiram Irizarry | 20 Annetta Schildbach |
| 12 Mary Brant | 24 Jessika Fraga |
| 13 Bryana Beckford | 25 Nina Hue |
| 13 Samantha Gwilliam | 28 Colby Cash |
| 13 Judy Shively | 31 Gerrie McClary |
| 14 Sue Atwood | |

Anniversaries

- 16 Don & Betty Hammell
- 20 Steve & Donna Tunks



*Please contact the church office if your name is missing from this list.



We offer our Condolences to:

- ~ Tony Ferrer whose father passed away recently.
- ~ Gerrie McClary whose mother passed away recently.
- ~ Dale Barrett whose father passed away recently.

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a

pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
Enough trials to keep us strong;
Enough hope to keep us lively;
Enough sorrows to keep us dependent on God;
Enough failure to keep us humble;
Enough success to keep us eager;
Enough friends to give us comfort;
Enough money to meet our needs;
Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
Enough faith to overcome despair;
Enough humor to lighten our burdens;
Enough determination to use every day and situation for good.



~via *Crossbeams* Hale (MI) First United Methodist Church

Cutler Ridge United Methodist Church
20740 Old Cutler Road
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HOLY POST

JANUARY 2008

CUTLER RIDGE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

20740 Old Cutler Road • Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Phone: (305) 235-6651 Fax: (305) 232-1208

Pastor: The Reverend Samuel L. Wright, Ph.D.

E-mail: samwright@minister.com or cruni@bellsouth.net

Website: www.CutlerRidgeUMC.org

Dear Friends,

This is a time of year when we celebrate the past and look toward new beginnings. That is especially appropriate for Cutler Ridge United Methodist Church. We are going to remember the past as we look toward celebrating 50 years of ministry in this community in September and October, 2008. We are planning ways to highlight why this church has been important in this community for half a century.

We are also looking forward as we continue the process of ReFocus—one of eight churches in the SE District to participate in this pilot group. We will build on the work we did with Natural Church Development to revitalize our mission in our community.

We have already been doing some new things. We have been involved in joint mission projects with our Preschool. Together we have touched the lives of many children and families. The Church and the Preschool have fed many families through our food pantry. We provided children, who would have had no Christmas presents, in this country and around the world with 42 shoeboxes filled with gifts. We also provided gifts for 127 children in the local homeless shelter (see inside).

In addition to new mission endeavors there will be new opportunities for Bible Study beginning in Genesis, of course (see inside).

I am excited about celebrating the good things God that God has accomplished among us. I am looking forward to the new ways God will lead our congregation as we reach out to our community.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sam