

AT THE HEART OF THINGS

FEBRUARY 16, 2009

Lenten

Services and Events

Wednesday Lenten Lunch Series

Begins February 24 at Noon

Fairpoint Campus, Fairpoint

Spend your lunch break for the next several weeks, filling not only your stomach but your soul. Along with soup, salad or sandwiches this Wednesday Lenten Lunch Series will include a short Bible study led by Jim Bell. There is no charge and no reservations are required.

Journey to the Cross:

Walking the Footsteps of Jesus

Monday, March 29– Friday, April 2

Fairpoint Campus

The 14 Stations of the Cross represent the final hours before Jesus' death. You are invited to stop by any during the week and walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunrise Service TBA

Regular Worship Services at All Campuses

Ash Wednesday:

A Service of Repentance and Reflection

Wednesday, February 17

Fairpoint Campus, 5:30 pm

Soundside Campus, 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. On this day ashes are placed on the foreheads of Christians as a sign of repentance or the sorrow we feel for our sins, and a time of reflecting on our lives.

A Service of Healing and Restoration

Wednesday, March 31

Fairpoint Campus, 5:30 pm

Soundside Campus, 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday:

Holy Communion Service

Thursday, April 1

Fairpoint Campus, 5:30 pm

Soundside Campus, 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday, also known as "Holy Thursday" is the Thursday before Easter. It is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples.

Gulf Breeze
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Worship at the Water
Returns to Flounder's on
Sunday, March 7 at 9:00 am



Church Council Meeting
Monday, February 22, 5:30 pm
Sanctuary, Fairpoint Campus



Wednesday Night Supper
Wednesday, March 3, 5:00-6:00pm
Fairpoint Campus, Fellowship Hall

RUN FOR THE WORLD 20 YEARS AND RUNNING STRONG

Registration through **this Friday** will be \$17 and includes a newly designed T-shirt, pancake breakfast and a chance to win a weekend for two accommodations at the Hampton Inn in New Orleans among other door prizes.

Race Day Registration is \$25.

Free Child care is available by appointment for infants and preschool children from 7:30-9:30 am.

Race Awards include:

Overall male & female runner & walker
Masters male & female runner & walker (40+)
Grand Masters male & female runner & walker (50+)
Senior masters male & female runner & walker (60+)
Wheelchair (overall)

All proceeds from our sponsors and the race participants go to local, national and international missions.

Register [on-line](#) or pick up a registration form at either 75 Fairpoint Drive or 4115 Soundside Drive. For more information contact Biff at 934-1011 or runfortheworld@bellsouth.net.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR RACE SPONSORS:

Advanced Insulation
Aeromechanical
Billy Bob's Beach Barbecue
Coastal Door & Window
Fisher Brown Inc.
Fit For Women
Gulf Breeze Hospital/Andrews Institute
Get A Grip
Greenhut Construction
GB Fitness and Aerobics
Gulf Breeze Tire Center
Gulf Coast Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Highpoint Hotel Corporation
Hiles McLeod Insurance
Merrill Lynch
Pain Consultants of W. Fla.
Publix
Resort Realty
Running Wild
Sea Shell Collections
Select Physical Therapy
Sprague Construction
State Farm Insurance
The Villas at Gulf Breeze
Woodfin Cabassa
-Orthodontics
Your Next Job

Tapestry 2010 February 26- 27

First United Methodist Church of Pensacola
Plan to attend the third annual Tapestry event, a time of worship, learning and drawing closer together as women. This year we will learn to **weave the threads of Grace into our lives**. **Guest speaker: Rev. Connie Shelton**
For further info contact Sara at 934-0660.

Friday 4:00 -9:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am -3:00 pm
Friday Only \$20. Saturday Only \$30. Both Days : \$40
It is not necessary to attend both days as each session stands independently.

Children's Place Enrollment

Begins on March 1 at both
Fairpoint & Soundside Campus
Call 932-3594 for information or go to www.gbumc.org to print out an application.

upcoming events

— sing... sing a song —

Silvertones Choir

Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 pm

Fairpoint Campus

The Silvertones have a special invitation for you. Our senior adult choir will be performing with hundreds of other senior adult choir members on March 16th at First Baptist Church in Pensacola. We invite you to join this choir on Tuesday afternoons for rehearsals and to participate in this exciting event.



9:30 Service Praise Choir

Tuesdays, 6:00pm

Fairpoint Campus

The new 9:30 praise choir will be holding rehearsals on Tuesday evenings in the music suite. If you have a desire for singing praise and worship music, then this ministry is for YOU.



Adult Choirs and Handbell

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm

Fairpoint Campus

The combined adult choirs will be joined by the adult handbells for the 8:00 and 11:00 worship services on Easter Sunday, April 4. If you have had a desire to sing with the choirs and would like to join us, please come on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 7:15 in the music suite! Directed by Don Snowden. Adult handbells, directed by Danny Lyons, will be ringing in Sunday worship at the end of each month from now until May.



Kidz of Praise Children's Choirs

Fairpoint Campus

Handbells perform March 7, 11:00 am

K-2nd Grade Choir sings March 28, 9:30 am

Joyeux Choir, 3-5th Grade sings April 4, 11:00 am

Preschool Choir sings May 2, 9:30 am

Sing and Ring – not scheduled yet



The TABLE

Wednesday nights, 6:00 pm

Fairpoint Campus, Chapel

Get a mid-week boost with The Table, a new intimate family worship style setting with praise music and communion.

worship ministries

children

For information contact Jennifer Keenan at 932-3594 or jkeenan@gbumc.org

Children's Ministry Work-Day

Friday, February 19, 10:30 am-noon

Fairpoint Campus, Room 5

It's time to get ready for Journey to Jerusalem. Please come share some snacks and relaxing conversation as we assemble crafts for this year's event. Childcare is not provided.

Girls Rock! Beauty from the Inside

Sunday, March 7, 1:00-2:30 pm (Grades 2-4)

3:30-5:00 pm (Grades 5-7)

Fairpoint Campus, Children's Bldg.

All 2nd-7th grade girls and moms or mentors please join us for part 2 of our three-part series on why being yourself ROCKS! Jenny Kunz & Kris Pabian will lead the discussion as we learn about the roles mentors and friends play (good/bad) in our self-esteem and sticking to your beliefs while appreciating differences in others. It's not necessary to have attended part 1. \$10 per mom/mentor daughter team.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Vacation Bible School "High Seas Adventure"

July 12-16 Soundside Campus

July 26-30 Fairpoint Campus

We are starting to collect: colorful parachutes, brass bells, plastic snakes, dolphin pool floats, white material, soccer nets, ship steering wheels, anchors, rag mops, wooden buckets, sailor hats, round life preservers, trunks, burlap sacks, and old maps. AND WE'LL NEED 1000 toilet paper rolls and clear water bottles for crafts.

C3 Camp

June 14-18

What is C3? Winshape is camps connecting children in local communities with an awesome camp experience. This is a one-week day camp from 7:45am-5:00pm for students who have completed 1st-6th grade. C3 happens in communities nationwide and combines sports, arts, Bible study and worship for a truly unforgettable life-changing week. As one of 45 locations in the nation, Chick-fil-a is bringing its Winshape camp to our town. It will be possible for only 500 children to attend and registration has begun. Go to www.winshapecamps.org.



Jerusalem Marketplace Event for Families

Sunday, March 14, 3:30-5:30 pm

Fairpoint Campus

Visit this year's Jerusalem arts festival and discover what it was like to live in Jesus' time, with traditional treats, games and crafts. Admission is FREE.

Wedding at Cana

Sunday mornings are full of life at Fairpoint during this year's Lent. On February 28th we will reenact the wedding in Cana complete with wedding cake and turning water into wine, with the help of purple Kool-aid (donations accepted).

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3, 10-11:30am

Volunteers needed now to help plan our Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration in Swenson Park. Volunteers can also help hide and fill eggs.

Rice Bowl Collection

Sunday, February 28

Fairpoint & Soundside Campus

Please continue to encourage your child to help around the house to raise money to help hungry children around the world. We hope to raise \$200 or more by February 28th.

family ministries

men



**Looking for a little
Direction????**

**Look into one of these two
adventures for MEN.**

The Human Condition for MEN:

Begins Monday, February 15, 6:00-7:00pm
Soundside Campus

Pastor Scott's sermon series has focused on the human conditions of Blaming, Manipulation, White Lies, and Holding Grudges. Now you can participate in a study that will help you break free of these things blocking your relationship with God and with others. Greg Walker is offering to lead men through the 12 recovery steps that address these human conditions and more. Cost for the material is \$18.00. For pre-registration or more information, call Greg at 396-7538.

Band of Brothers Meeting

Thursday, February 18, Dinner 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:30 pm
Soundside Campus, Room 2201

A light dinner will be available for \$5.00 for those who would like to come early. Announcements will begin at 6:30 pm followed by our video program "Everything Is Spiritual," narrated by Rob Bell of "NOOMA" fame. If you are interested in dinner, please RSVP by e-mailing us at bandof-brothers@gbumc.org. Please come join us for a night of fellowship and a thought-provoking video.

youth

For information contact Clint Jernigan at 916-1660 or cjernigan@gbumc.org



Over 125 of our middle school and high school youth were part of this year's Meltdown in Panama City.

"The Link" GBHS Morning Devotional

Wednesday mornings at 7:30am
Fairpoint Campus, Youth Building

Come by for a morning devotional before school and a great way to start your day. Breakfast is served on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

Confirmation

Confirmation begins Wednesday, February 17
Optional snack from 5:00-5:30, Class begins at 5:30
Fairpoint Campus

Students will be confirmed on Sunday, May 23. We are so excited about this year's confirmation course which is open to any student grades 6-12.

family ministries

connect



"Fasting as a Tool for Spiritual Growth"

Sunday, February 21, 8:15 am

Fairpoint Campus, Room 8

Join the *Journey Through the Bible Class* for a deeper look at fasting. Our guest lecturer will be Dr. Pokey Stanford.

Great Dates

Friday, February 19, 6:00-9:00pm

Fairpoint Campus

We'll provide the childcare, you provide the date. At the beginning of the evening, we gather for 10 minutes for the "thought for the night" and each couple receives a hand-out to take with them on their date. The cost is \$10 per couple. Please make childcare reservations at 932-3594.

The Inheritance

Begins Wednesday, March 3,

Soundside Campus

This Beth Moore DVD series is a topical study of Inheritance throughout God's Word. **Key verse: Psalm 16:5-6** "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance." This 8-week series is for women and does not have homework. Workbooks are \$7 and childcare is available.

lend a hand

Can you smile?

If God is calling you to service and you aren't sure where you should plug in, you might consider being a part of the Hospitality Team. It's not too late to jump into service for 2010, so whether you like meeting and greeting people or helping out at the Welcome Stations – there's a place for you! To serve at the Fairpoint Campus or Worship at the Water, please call Terrye at 932-3594 or e-mail tkacs@gbumc.org. For serving at the Soundside Campus, call AnnMarie Jastrzab at 916-1660 or e-mail ajastrzab@gbumc.org. Your smiling face will make someone feel welcome so come on ...say cheeeese.



Connection....Hospitality Luncheon

for Greeters, Offering, Ushers, Welcome Table, and Kitchen Helpers

Sunday, February 28, 11:45 am

Soundside Campus, Room 2224

Can you take a picture?

If you like to take pictures and would consider lending your time and talents to GBUMC, we are looking for photographers on all campuses to help capture special moments for our church family. If you are interested in helping out at special events, mission sites, Easter Sunday or any other time, please contact Terrye Takacs at the Fairpoint Campus at 932-3594 or tkacs@gbumc.org or AnnMarie Jastrzab at the Soundside Campus at 916-1660 or ajastrzab@gbumc.org

connections ministries

senior ministries

For information contact Terrye at 932-3594 or ttakacs@gbumc.org.

Pensacola Civic Band Spring Jazz Concert

Tuesday, March 16 departs at 4:30 pm & returns 10:00 pm
Departs from the Chapel at Fairpoint Campus
Nationally recognized as the winner of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Silver Scroll Award, the Civic Band has been sponsored by Pensacola Junior College since 1971. Under the leadership of Don Snowden whose musical versatility has served the area well for many years (including the choirs at GBUMC), the Civic Band has grown in number and experience. We'll have dinner prior to the concert at Chili's and then off to enjoy the music. Concert \$5 with dinner on your own.

Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida *AND* the Holy Land Experience

April 27—30 \$50 deposit due on March 15.
You must call now to take advantage of this opportunity to travel by luxury motor coach to Orlando to experience the majesty and beauty of the International Flower and Garden Festival, then spend a day at the Holy Land Experience, shop at the Disney Marketplace, and enjoy some fabulous meals. The trip will not be complete without YOU! All tours, transportation, lodging and most meals included in the \$450 price per person double occupancy.



Historic St. Michael's Cemetery Tour

Thursday, March 18, Departs 10:00 am
Fairpoint Campus

St. Michael's Cemetery is an eight-acre green space in the heart of historic Pensacola. Probably in use during the late 18th century, the land was officially designated a cemetery by the King of Spain in 1807. Although assigned to the Catholics, people of all faiths have traditionally been buried here. Lunch after the tour will be at Tre Fratelli on your own. Donations to the SMC Foundation will be accepted.

united methodist women

Call to Prayer and Self Denial

"PROPERTY MAKES MISSIONS POSSIBLE"

February 18, 10:30 am

Fairpoint Campus, Lecture Hall

This year our program and offering will focus on the buildings which both house and support UMW world wide missions. Our speaker will be Judy Adams, Coordinator of Spiritual Growth. Please plan to attend this enriching event.

Lillie Parris Circle

Tuesday, February 16, 9:30 am

Fairpoint Campus, Room 8

Our program is going to be presented by Pastor Joe Mullin from the Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries. For more information call Gayle Monserrate at 916-9104.

Rachel-Mae Gilmore Circle

Thursday, March 11, 9:30 am

Fairpoint Campus, Room 8

New UMW Women's Circle

TODAY ...Tuesday, February 16, 6:00 pm

Soundside Campus

The purpose of the UMW is to know God, and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. **Does your life have this purpose?** Come help plan for a new Circle of United Methodist Women at the Community Life Center. All ages are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Judi Dickens 850 529-5645 or dickensjudi@yahoo.com.

Mary Miller Circle

Tuesday, March 8, 9:30 am

Fairpoint Campus, Room 7

Our program is going to be presented by Marsha Travis of Favor House.

congregational care

support ministries

For information contact Gail Eggimann at 932-3594 or geggimann@gbumc.org

Celebrate Recovery

Fridays, 7:00—9:30 pm
Soundside Campus

Beginning at 7:00 PM with large group, women's and men's small groups will follow and each evening will end with a short time of fellowship with coffee and dessert.

Thin Within - a grace based weight loss program
Monday & Thursday evenings, 5:45-7:00 pm
Fairpoint Campus Rm.13

If interested in a Morning Class at Soundside Campus contact Barbara Motherway (bmotherway@aol.com).

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one care giving ministry. God works through Stephen Ministers to plant a seed of hope and healing in a person who is experiencing stress, grief, or other difficulty.

If you need someone to listen, encourage and offer support for whatever it is that is going on in YOUR life, contact 932-3594 and ask for a Stephen Minister.

Alzheimer's Support Group for Caregivers

Meets Second Thursday of each month, 10:00 am
Fairpoint Campus, Room 7

A free support group for the loved ones of Alzheimer's patients. No reservations required. Please contact Courtney Cook at 478-7790 with questions.

Naomi's Table- A Support Group for Widows
Sunday, March 14, 5:00 pm

This is a place for hope, hospitality and healing. Be encouraged, supported and understood as we grow in God's love to become the person He created us to be!! Our next meeting will be an exciting adventure to the Holy Land.

Weekly Groups:

AA-(Alcoholics Anonymous)

Mon, Wed, Fri 5:30 pm
Soundside Campus

NA-(Narcotic Anonymous)

Fridays 8:00 pm
Fairpoint Campus

Al-anon-

Mondays 5:30 pm
Soundside Campus

Tuesdays 10:00 am
Fairpoint Campus Rm. 6

Brave Hearts Love from Home to our Military
Collecting and Assembling Goodies for
Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospitals

Sun. March 2—PACK UP BOXES

Fairpoint Campus, Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm

All volunteers (that means you!) are welcome to join in. We are hoping cards, letters, gifts and donations will greet the soldiers for Easter! If you are not able to be involved physically, but want to help, please write a note of encouragement. For more info contact Sandra Smith (ssmith@wpslawyers.com) or Gail Eggimann (geggimann@gbumc.org) 932-3594.

OUR SHIPPING COSTS ARE EXTREME SO PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO POSTAGE EXPENSES.

SHARE Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support

Meets Second Tuesday of each month 6:00-8:00 pm
Soundside Campus, Room 2206

This is a group for parents who have lost babies through miscarriage, still birth, ectopic pregnancies, genetic abnormality or newborn death. SHARE support groups have been touching lives...healing hearts... and giving hope since 1977. Today there are nearly 100 chapters and we pray that this chapter at GBUMC will offer hope to hurting parents. Contact Lori at lori.farmer@uncp.edu for more information.



Angels of the Son Emmaus/Chrysalis Community

March Potluck

Sunday, March 7, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Soundside Campus - Rooms 1116 A,B & C

congregational care

prayer ministries

Prayer Requests Call 916-1554 or enter your request on the web at www.gbumc.org.

Weekly Prayer Groups

Prayers for Support & Healing:
Sunday mornings, 10:40 am
Fairpoint Chapel

Communion is served.

Women's Weekly Prayer Group:
Monday mornings, 10:00 am
Fairpoint Campus-Book Place

Men's Weekly Prayer Group:
Tuesday mornings, 6:30 am
Gulf Breeze Hospital Cafeteria
Contact Ralph Gaither at 437-0966.

Women's Weekly Prayer Group:
Tuesday mornings, 6:30 am
Fairpoint Campus, Room 6
Contact Pat Potter at 932-2698.

Evening Prayer Group:
Tuesday evenings, 6:00 pm
Fairpoint Campus, Sanctuary
Contact Nancy Millay at 932-3752.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

First & Third Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm
Fairpoint Campus, Room 12

Monday Nights, 6:00-7:30 pm
Soundside Campus, Room 2206

ALL are welcome as we find new ways to blanket others in prayer. If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, or already know how, please come at any time. Contact Catherine at 384-4334 at Fairpoint, and Pamela at 939-8929 at Soundside.

The Women's Prayer and Praise Group

Fourth Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 am
Soundside Campus

The Women's Prayer and Praise Group begins a new meeting schedule effective Thursday, February 25, 2010. Please join us the 4th Thursday of each month during the school year from 9:30 – 11:30 am. No books are required. At this time we are unable to provide childcare. For more information please contact Beth at 934-2676

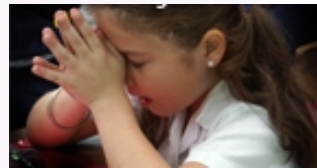
Prayer Beeper Ministry

Prayer Beeper for anyone in need of Prayer.

Are you or a loved one going through a crisis, medical treatments, feeling low and like there is little hope and just need to know someone cares?

Consider a prayer beeper. Your name (or you may remain anonymous) and prayer beeper number will be published in the bulletins and newsletters. Anyone led by God's Spirit to pray for you will call your beeper number....your beeper will vibrate letting you know someone has just prayed for you. Call Terrie Diamond at 932-3594 or stop by the church office to pick up your prayer beeper....You will be truly blessed!

Please pray for ..Betty Tritschler 484-0173
Peter Bello 484-0172



thank you

Thanks to our church family at Gulf Breeze Methodist for the lovely flowers, cards and your prayers. What a caring church!!

Darlene and Lee Seeley

Thank you to Herb and Gail for their kindness and comfort in the days after Mother's death. Also thank you to the members who prepared the delicious food for us.

Judith Causey and Family

Thanks to everyone for their prayers during my recent eye surgery. And praises to God, I am doing well.

Amy Stevenson

People Mother never even met
Raised prayers for God to let
A healing race thru her limbs
In search of pain only He could dim
Sharing love along the way
Easing life some everyday.

Granting miracles all around
Offering joys by leaps and bounds
Dearest friends all kneeled down.

Thank you one and all for everything you did to help Mother thru her ordeal. For the cards, flowers, calls and most of all your prayers.

Pamela and Edgar Adams for our mother Yvonne Frankland

congregational care

missions

For information about any of these missions contact Olga at 932-3594 or obatov@qbumc.org

Blood Drive

Sunday, February 28, 9 am - 1 pm
Soundside Campus

It is that time a gain to roll up your sleeves and give the gift of life. Each donor will receive a coupon for a free waffle along with a chance to enter in a drawing for a pair of diamond earrings.

Feeding the Homeless

at Loaves and Fishes

Fourth Sunday of every month, 4:00-8:00 pm

We are still in need of a group, family, or individual to sign up for **August, October or December** to prepare any food they would like for about 150 homeless. You can cook at home, in the kitchen of Loaves and Fishes or the church kitchen (with prior approval). To sign up or learn more contact Joy Schulz at 916-1050.

Relay for Life 2010 NEEDS YOU

April 23-24

One church, three campuses – ONE FIGHT FOR A CURE.

GBUMC has signed up for three teams, Fairpoint, Soundside and Worship at the Water. Please go to

www.Relayforlife.org/qbfl to join a team and participate in making a difference in the lives of so many. This is a time to celebrate the Survivors, a time to honor those lost and a time to come together in one community...one fight. Any questions? Please call Olga Batova at 932-3594, ext.125.

Russia Mission Trip

July 17– August 3

This trip will go to Satka, Russia with a sightseeing tour of Moscow. You can either work on the Russian Walks to Emmaus in a camp setting or stay in town and lead a Vacation Bible School. The cost is \$2999 including airfare, visa, tours and some meals.

Mission trip to Henderson:

October 16-23, Will Depart 6:00 am

Fairpoint Campus

If you think you would be interested in being a part of this mission that works on construction projects in Appalachia (Frakes, Kentucky) your deposit of \$150 will be due by June 15th. If you need contact Brian at skilane24@yahoo.com.

Construction Trip to Lima, Peru

July 17-23

Construction team will help build one house per day, along with working with the children and families. No special skills required, just a willing heart. Cost is approximately \$1400 & includes airfare, hotel, all meals and ground transportation (if you use Frequent Flier miles, ground package is \$650). \$100 deposit required to hold your spot. Contact Sparkie Folkers@ 932-0595 or sparkie@folkers.com for details.

Youth Mission Trips

Belize

July 26-August 3 High School

Honduras

June 28-July 6 High School & College

Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry

Interfaith Ministries food pantry is currently in need of: pancake mix and syrup; spaghetti sauce; tuna helper; hamburger helper; tuna; spam; toilet paper; bar soap; small bag sugar; dry milk.

Raw meats are also needed. Meat must be dropped off at the pantry during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

ZOE Ministry trip to Maua, Kenya

June 22 - July 3, 2010

The trip activities will include homebuilding for orphans, spending time with orphans who will be empowered through the shared ministry of GBUMC and ZOE Ministry and learning ZOE's unique Giving Hope Methodology so that you can effectively advocate for these orphans upon return. We will stay overnight in a game park with an afternoon and morning safari. The cost includes:

approximately \$1,800 for airfare; \$100/night in Kenya (includes lodging, food, water, and the game park unless the fees increase.) You will also need \$30 Visa fee, \$150 spending money, shots, passports, and anti-malaria meds. Please contact jkale@qbumc.org for further information.

compassion ministries

“love & laughter” for couples

In April GBUMC is hosting our first BIG marriage conference and I want to share with you just how importance this experience can be and a little about the speakers we chose, as well as the topic they are going to share.

Maybe it is just me being a counselor, but it seems that marriages and families these days are stressed more than ever. From personal experience, I know that financial uncertainty can do a number on individuals and marriages. Steve and I have had a hard couple of years focusing on a new financial reality. Fortunately, after years of counseling, marriage conferences, books, Hurricane Ivan, we have the tools to handle a crisis TOGETHER instead of letting it tear us apart.

I think couples need all of the help they can get – even the ones that are doing okay. Our relationships are fragile and can never be taken for granted. Daily we need to work at loving each other well. And if our relationships are thriving, then our families do better, we have energy to grow spiritually, we can serve others from a better place, and we stand out as examples of Jesus' love in action in our community.

Personally, I am also watching my adult children cope. My oldest daughter has been married seven years now and has a toddler. It is so true that parents have no “time outs.” I watch them struggling to find time as a couple and I remember those hard days of running until you drop and not having the skills to stay connected as a young couple. My heart hurts for stressed out young couples and I am thrilled to be able to provide something that will reach more than the one couple at a time I see in my office.

We chose to ask Gary Smalley and Ted Cunningham to come do the first of what we hope will be many marriage conferences. I was at a conference with Gary Smalley last September when he turned seventy. Many of you may already know of him. He truly is the father of **Christian** marriage counseling and enrichment. He has written over forty books and has been a leader in this field for

thirty-five years. He knows what he is talking about. Ted Cunningham is Gary's pastor and they have written two books together lately and are speaking together now. Ted has a heart for encouraging couples with Biblical teaching. The combination of Gary's age and expertise in marriage and Ted's youth and Biblical background should appeal to almost any couple of any age, from the youngest to the oldest couples. There will be something for everyone. For more information on Gary and Ted, please go online to the Smalley Relationship Center. There are all sorts of tools there that you can start using now.

The topic Gary and Ted are going to speak on is “Love and Laughter.” One of the keys to a successful marriage and family is having fun together on a regular, even daily basis. And this is something we seriously discount. How often do we talk about the importance of playing?! I have learned that one of the signs of the health of our marriage is the presence of humor. Red flags go up when one of us loses our sense of humor.

Don't worry, there will be lots of other information as well – more than anyone can take advantage of – but the theme will be a positive, uplifting theme. This conference is not only for marriages in trouble, but for all marriages that need a little more laughter these days. There is a difference between surviving and thriving. We want our marriages here at GBUMC to thrive. This will be a huge event at GBUMC and we do not want anyone to be left out of such a defining time. Come be a part of something everyone will be talking about for a long time.

After the conference, there are about six weeks until school is out. During those six weeks, we will be offering a range of small group studies on marriage. We hope that many of the couples who attend the conference will get plugged in to go deeper and to get to know other couples. Watch for information on the groups being offered.

Melody Fifer

Christian Counseling Center



congregational care

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February 7 2301
February 14 2043



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FAIRPOINT CAMPUS

75 Fairpoint Drive Gulf Breeze
932-3594

Sunday Services

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Sunday School & Worship Services

Join us in the Courtyard for
coffee and fellowship
following each service!

Wednesday Worship Service

"The Table"

6:00 pm

Chapel

Emerge Student Ministry

Sundays 9:30 am & 11:00 am

"Encounter" Sunday Nights

6:00-7:30 p.m.

SOUNDSIDE CAMPUS

4115 Soundside Drive
Gulf Breeze
916-1660

Sunday Services

8:00, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Sunday School &
Children's Worship

Emerge Student Ministry

9:00 -10:00 am

Sunday Nights 6:00-7:30 pm

WORSHIP AT THE WATER

Starts March 7

Flounder's on Pensacola Beach
Sunday Mornings, 9:00 am

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

916-1554 or www.gbumc.org

THE BOOK PLACE

Open Sunday Morning 9:00-Noon
Fairpoint Campus

"The Awkward Season: Prayers for Lent". This book by Pamela Hawkins is a new and exciting way to live the Lenten Season. Scripture, hymns, prayer and life events are woven together to provide a roadmap for your journey as you spend time with God.

"Seven Next Words: Finding Hope in the Resurrection Sayings" by Shane Stanford. This is a study of seven powerful encounters with Christ after the resurrection in which he surprised, consoled, rebuked, and inspired his followers.

"Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear. " This book by Max Lucado shows you how life can be lived with confidence and Joy. This inspiring and timely mes-

NEW BOOKS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN ARRIVING WEEKLY
Browsers Welcome