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Christ United Methodist Church  
1430 Homestead Road North  
Lehigh Acres, Florida 33936-4829

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*Our Mission is to  
Invite all people to follow Jesus Christ,  
Build them up into his body and image,  
And send them out to serve others.*

**GOOD NEWS EXPRESS**  
Is published monthly by  
**CHRIST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Lehigh Acres, FL

Managing Editor  
Anna Hughes

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER  
TUESDAY  
JANUARY 17**

**ALL ARTICLES ARE  
SUBJECT TO EDITING!**

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**Alterra Sterling House:** Evelyn Foss,  
Kathryn Englemann, Don Welch

**Barkley Place:** Wes & Betty Andersen

**Fountain Crest:** Mary Kindred, Nelly Kuiper,  
Herman Liddle, Bob Lepien, Charley Matheny

**Homebound:** Joyce Allen, Marjorie Nelson,  
Beverly Williams

**Hope Hospice:** Myrtle Kerico

**Circle of Care:** Mary Armstrong, Bob Brown, John Cox, Ella Dameron,  
Marion Danhof, DeHaas Family, Dephne Forrester, Henry Garner, Vena Jones,  
Anita Lee, Mercena Mattis, John Meledy, Ruth Moses, Peggy Rodriguez,  
Edie Rogers, Barbara Rose, Helen Schneider, Arlene Schultz, Peggy Spaulding,  
Sylvia Tross, Norma Viera, Evet White

*(We are updating our CIRCLE OF CARE records. If you wish your name to remain on this page, please notify the church office.)  
(It would be much appreciated if you (or a member of your family) would please notify the office when you enter or leave a care facility— hospital, rehab, nursing home, etc.)*



**Home to the Father's House:**

**Rebecca DARCY, November 13, 2011.** There were no funeral arrangements here in Lehigh Acres.

**Carolyn HEPLER, November 22, 2011.** Remember her husband, **Keith**, daughter, **Sherri HAMLIN** and granddaughter, **Katie HAMLIN** in your prayers and messages of sympathy. Cards may be sent to: 418 Broadway Ave., Lehigh Acres, FL 33972-4127.

**Ann NETTER, November 24, 2011.** Remember her husband, **Herb**, and their family in your greetings of love and sympathy. Cards may be sent to: 125 Sebring Circle, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-5329.

**Elizabeth MARTON, November 30, 2011.** There were no funeral arrangements in Lehigh Acres. You may send cards to: 605 Fox Knoll Dr., Waterford, WI 53185-5022



# GOOD NEWS



Volume 4  
Issue 1  
DECEMBER 2011/  
JANUARY 2012



## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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### STAFF

**SENIOR PASTOR**  
*Pastor Carlos Otero*

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
*Charlene Golden*

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH,  
CHILDREN & FAMILY  
MINISTRIES**  
*Mike Edwards*

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
*Keith Hepler*

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
*Mary Porter*

**ORGANIST**  
*Donald Rock, Jr.*

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**  
*Gina Rost*

**PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**  
*April Erickson*  
*Colleen Jablonski*  
*Gina Rost*  
*Sabrina Saulmer*  
*Stacie Thompson*  
*Angie Trublood*

**CUSTODIAN**  
*Mel Sanborn*

Get ready  
To  
**CELEBRATE**  
all  
year  
long!

Our church  
has been  
serving  
the Lord  
for  
50 Years!

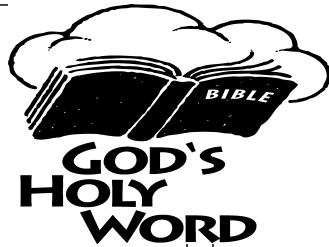


To begin our celebration  
On Sunday afternoon, January 15  
at 3:00pm, in the Chapel  
everyone is invited to  
**AN OLD-FASHIONED HYMN SING!**  
Bring friends to add to the joy.

On Sunday, January 29  
everyone is invited to come to  
**A FESTIVE COVERED DISH LUNCHEON**  
In Fellowship Hall  
following the 10:30am Worship Service  
Please bring a Festive Covered Dish.

There will be more surprises for all!

Watch the Sunday Bulletins  
for further announcements.



**DECEMBER  
SCRIPTURES**

- 1 John 1:14-18
- 2 Matthew 5:13-16
- 3 1 Timothy 2: 1-6
- 4 Luke 10:38-42
- 5 Psalm 4
- 6 Philippians 4:4-7
- 7 Luke 13:10-17
- 8 Matthew 1:18-25
- 9 Ephesians 3:1-6
- 10 Luke 10:25-37
- 11 Psalm 92:1-4
- 12 John 1:1-5
- 13 Psalm 23
- 14 Luke 1:46-55
- 15 Psalm 133
- 16 John 4:7-24
- 17 Luke 2:1-5
- 18 Galatians 4:1-7
- 19 Luke 2:5-7
- 20 Exodus 20:8-11
- 21 Luke 12:54-56
- 22 John 1:6-13
- 23 Deuteronomy  
28:1-14
- 24 1 John 1:5-10
- 25 Luke 2:8-20
- 26 Ephesians 5:3-20
- 27 Matthew 6:25-34
- 28 2 Corinthians  
4:16-5:5
- 29 Psalm 17
- 30 Ephesians 2:1-10
- 31 James 5:13-16

**JANUARY  
SCRIPTURES**

- 1 Romans 8:14-17
- 2 Psalm 56:1-4,  
9-13
- 3 John 3:1-17
- 4 Galatians 5:22-26
- 5 Numbers 11:1-6
- 6 Philippians 4:4-7
- 7 Matthew 5:14-16
- 8 2 Chronicles  
30:18-27
- 9 Ecclesiastes 3:1-7
- 10 Job 23:8-12
- 11 1 Kings 3:5-12
- 12 Deuteronomy  
15:1-11
- 13 Psalm 5:1-3
- 14 Isaiah 43:1-7
- 15 Psalm 23:1-6
- 16 Matthew 10:38-48
- 17 James 1:12-18
- 18 1 Corinthians  
13:1-13
- 19 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
- 20 Habakkuk 3:17-19
- 21 Luke 17:7-10
- 22 Matthew 6:25-34
- 23 James 1:18-25
- 24 Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- 25 Jeremiah 29:10-14
- 26 2 Corinthians  
4:8-14
- 27 Lamentations  
3:21-26
- 28 Hebrews 11:8-16
- 29 Ephesians 4:25-32
- 30 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- 31 Psalm 1:1-6

May whatever we do each day  
bring honor to our family name:  
**CHRISTIAN.**  
*Love one another.*

**DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



**DECEMBER**

- 3 Sara ETTER
- Linda ROGERS
- 4 Marjorie BLACK
- Earl HART
- 7 Henry GARNER
- 8 Barbara ROSE
- 9 Paul ALLEN
- 14 Holly ROGERS
- 15 Patty LONG
- 19 James MARSH
- 20 Margarita WOLFSON
- 21 Gladys KLOTZ
- Vera ROLLING
- Leroy STEWART
- 23 Deanna BLAUER
- Lucille Grueninger
- 24 Kathy LAKE
- 27 John CHIVIGES
- 29 Ruth MOSES
- 30 Daisy ARTHURS
- John HUGHES
- Joshua KENDALL

**JANUARY**

- 1 Chuck DITTMAR
- Joyce PARKES
- 6 Myrtle KERICO
- Dominic LEOTTI
- 7 Elaine BUTLER
- 10 Norman CHANT
- Kenneth WHITE
- 12 Valerie GRANT
- William ROLLING
- 18 John CARATACHEA
- 19 Charles APPLER
- 20 Darin MARSH
- 22 Sally DAVIS
- 23 Carl MOORE
- 24 Charleen OLIFF
- 28 Jean BEALE

**DECEMBER & JANUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- Michael & Laraine Pohle-BRISTOL  
December 15
- Bruce & Barbara HYMAN  
December 19, 1987
- Owen & Joyce PARKES  
December 19
- Carlos & Esther OTERO  
December 27, 1980
- Siggi & JoAnn Landes-ROSS  
January 12, 2002



**POT POURRI POT POURRI POT POURRI POT POURRI POT POURRI**

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To **Shirley McCall**, our new Coordinator for the Immokalee Soup Kitchen ministry. Our members and friends have volunteered for many years to help serve lunch to the hungry. A group goes every **THIRD THURSDAY**. Volunteers are always welcome. There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or give Shirley a call at 368-3644 for further information.

Many, many thanks to **Donnie Rock** for the beautiful new Advent paraments which add a lovely touch of color to the sanctuary. The paraments reverse to an appropriate white and gold which we will be using for Easter. Blessings and appreciate to you, Donnie, for your thoughtful gift!

Thanks to the many volunteers for your help in decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. Please come again on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to take down the decorations and pack them away for another season.

**JoAnn Landes-Ross**, Worship Chairperson

*Thank You to :*

*Donna Boyd, Evelyn Piper, Ruth Ulrich and Rene Murphy for taking a trip down memory lane to name the people in the Choir picture that was in the previous month's newsletters. It was a great help.*

*More thanks to Donna and Rene for going through every envelope of pictures to write down as many names as they could.*

*Next, we need someone to correlate the pictures to be put into power-point format for all to view on the big screen at some of our year-long get-togethers. Can you help?*

*There's more!! We need a few people to put all the pictures into photo albums in chronological order. Can you help with that?*

*Please call the church office, 369-1433.*

Crossroads Preschool is pleased to have a new family joining our school. JENNIFER and her children— son, KORBIN and daughter, VIOLET moved to Lehigh in 2011 from California. Jennifer's husband was in the Marine Corps and lost his life in January of 2011. I would appreciate your help in showing our gratitude for his brave efforts by sending his family a

*"Thank you for serving our country"* card. Let her know she is not alone.



**Jennifer Amores & family**

**421 Prospect Ave.**

**Lehigh Acres, FL 33972-7842**

THANK Y-O-U! from the bottom of my heart.

Miss Gina, Preschool Director

**!!!SPONSORS NEEDED!!!**

Our Daily Bread Community Pantry has 2 teams that will be walking on **Saturday, January 21, 2012** at Miromar Outlets for the **HARRY CHAPIN HUNGER WALK**. Money they raise goes into their account with the Harry Chapin Food Bank. They need lots of people to **SPONSOR** them. Brochures are in the Narthex with information on how to donate to the **WALK**.



During the month of  
have several inspira-

December we were blessed to  
tional musical programs.

Donnie Rock, Jr. played our Allen Organ with all the stops out! He can make the floor vibrate. He can make that organ “sing”. Truly he can, as he knows all the secret sounds within the organ and how to make them sound their best. It was a toe-tapping, rocking and keeping time to the beat afternoon. He played some lovely Traditional melodies as well as European melodies. The spellbound audience even had the opportunity to sing-along. Everyone had smiles on their faces. Thank you, Donnie!!

The Children and Youth presented Christmas Traditions and Carols from ***AROUND THE WORLD***. The Youth narrated the traditions of various countries and what the ornaments mean. The Children placed the ornaments on the tree. (They made the ornaments as part of their preparation for the program.) The congregation had the opportunity to sing -along with some of the carols. Another smiley day! Thanks go to the talented teachers and directors for the many hours they gave to help the Youth and Children give such a wonderful presentation.

The Chancel Choir’s fabulous presentation of “***OH, HOLY NIGHT***” was a beautiful, inspirational message of the miracle of the Christ Child. Under the direction of Mary Porter every choir member gave their best. The soloists and the reader gave an outstanding performance. It was a morning of praising the Lord!

***THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE OF THE PERFORMERS!***

Mark your calendars now for **SATURDAY, JANUARY 21** at 1:00pm to come to the Fellowship Hall to learn all about ***HOPE HOSPICE*** programs.

Hope Hospice is not just for End-Of-Life Care that comforts and supports patients and their families.

Did you know they offer many more services?

***Hope Healing Hearts*** - Counseling and support for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

***Hope PACE***—Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly—A Medicare/ Medicaid or private pay program enabling ages 55 and older to maintain independent living.

***Hope Connections***—Home-based independent living alternatives for ages 60 and older.

***Hope Choices***—A long-term, at-home care provided by Medicaid and The Department of Elder Affairs for ages 65 and older, whose goal is to remain in their own home.

***Hope Kids Care***—Help for children coping with grief or a serious illness—their own or a loved one’s.

***Hope Comfort Care***—Symptom management and counseling for people of all ages with a serious illness.

***Hope Parkinson Program***—Services and activities for people living with Parkinson Disease and their caregivers, to help experience a fullness of life.

**COME! SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**



## **Wesley's Rules for Methodists, Part III**

*In this third and final part of our look at John Wesley's General Rules for Methodist Societies, we will consider the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rule. In the last two editions of the Good News Express we saw that the primary goal of each rule was spiritual – not harming others (or self) spiritually, and doing all to promote the spiritual well being of others. This fits with Wesley's general instruction to his preachers, that they "have nothing to do but to save souls." The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Rule, "Attend upon all the ordinances of God," hones in on the imperative of tending to the well-being of our spiritual lives and cultivating our relationship with God. I remind you that for early Methodists the keeping of these rules was the minimum requirement for remaining a member in good standing, unlike today, when it seems the only requirement is to be a warm body!*

**It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation...**

**Thirdly: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are:**

The "ordinances of God" refer to the means of grace and the spiritual disciplines, practices that help us to grow to become mature Christians and to remain spiritually healthy and fruitful for God.

**The public worship of God.** Worship is a means of grace. As Christians regularly gather in worship we experience the special presence of God. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I also." The Holy Spirit uniquely works through worship to renew our minds and shape our hearts and lives into the image of Christ.

**The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.** The reading and hearing of God's Word has always been central to Methodists. Wesley held a high view of the inspiration of the Bible, believing it to be God's inerrant and infallible revelation to mankind, showing us the way of salvation. The reading and exposition of the Bible was viewed as essential to right worship and to growth in holiness and in love for God and others.

**The Supper of the Lord.** As one of the primary means of grace, Wesley recommended that Christians participate in the Lord's Supper as often as it is available, daily if possible. The monthly communion in many UM churches today comes from the time of the circuit riding preachers of the American frontier, who would make the rounds once a month to officiate at communion.

**Family and private prayer.** Prayer was not to be confined to church services or prayer meetings, but was to be a daily part of family and personal life.

**Searching the Scriptures.** Early Methodists were expected to be "self-feeders," not spoon-fed. They were not merely to read the Bible devotionally but study it, on their own and in small groups, to discover God's truth for themselves.

**Fasting or abstinence.** Wesley recognized the value of these ancient spiritual disciplines help us to focus our minds on prayer and on seeking God. Depriving our bodies of food or pleasure for a time enables us to be more alert to our spiritual needs and to have a greater awareness of God and his will for our lives.

**These are the General Rules of our societies; all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written Word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know his Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season. But then, if he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.**

A major emphasis of the early Methodists was the idea of "watching over one another in love." We are our brother's (and sister's) keepers. Methodism was largely about caring for one another and holding one another accountable in our daily walk with Christ and our service to others.

**In His Service,     Pastor Carlos**



## **A word from Mr. Mike:**

I have been astounded at the generosity and spirit of giving from the members of our congregation! The outpouring of love for the children at the FLUMC Children's Home is simply amazing. I hear over and over of how much FUN people have had shopping for the gifts. God really does bless the cheerful giver. Please remember to pray for the recipient of your gift, now and into the New Year.

In His love, Mike Edwards,  
Director of Youth, Children, and Family Ministries.

## **Recent Events:**

\*The Youth Mystery Trip on Veteran's Day was an unusual experience. The youth were not told where we were going and what we were doing. Initially, we were to attend a Veteran's Salute but it was cancelled at the last minute. We went to a Chinese Buffet with instructions to try at least one thing you have never had before. The results were mixed, some liked their choice and some didn't but at least they tried something new. After lunch, we went bowling, (Ester Otero is the reigning Bowling Champion!) We returned to the Youth Room for games and fellowship.

\*\*The youth and children have begun a Fund Raiser sale. We are offering Christmas ornaments and lapel pins. The cost is just \$5.00 for the ornaments and \$3.00 for the pins. These make great tree ornaments, decorations, and stocking stuffers. The proceeds will go toward paying for our youth and children's participation in upcoming special events such as concerts, summer camps, mission trips, etc. The children and youth will ***not*** be allowed to "hawk their wares" inside the Sanctuary.

\*\*\*On Black Friday, November 25, the youth and children hosted a Craft Fair in the fellowship hall. This was a fund raiser to help us replace some old broken media equipment, sports gear, games, etc. During the Fair, the youth and children offered to wrap Christmas gifts for donations, the missions committee offered sausage sandwiches for lunch, and the UM Women had a bake sale.

\*\*On Sunday 12/11, during regular church service at 10:30 the children presented the musical "Christmas Around The World." They did a wonderful presentation which was very much enjoyed by the congregation.

In the afternoon they joined with many other members and friends to go Caroling to our shut-ins.

\*\*\*On Wednesday, 12/21 at 6:30, the Youth hosted a free viewing of "The Nativity Story" movie. This movie showed all attending the REAL "reason for the season." Christmas goodies were shared

***NOTICE: There will not be any Youth Program meeting on Christmas or New Year's Day and no Bible Study on Wednesday 12/28/2011.***

NOTE: We **must** have **two** screened adults along for all off church site events. At present, we only have a couple of volunteers. If you would be willing to act as a chaperone for upcoming children's or youth events, please see Mike Edwards or call the church office.



**From the Editor**

Just want to let y'all know the reason for the delay you've experienced in receiving this newsletter.

It is because of ***A-G-E!*** . . . the *AGE* of the computer tower in the publications office. About 3 weeks ago, just as I was getting ready to do the newsletter, it QUIT! We're still trying to coax it back to life. In the meantime I have to use the receptionist computer, starting from scratch and re-formatting everything. We'd certainly appreciate a new computer tower, but it's not in the budget. (The monitor is fine)

H—E—L—P!!!

*Anna*

## MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

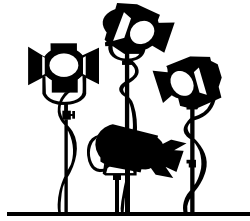
- Sale of \$sausage\$ sandwiches at the November “Black Friday” *CRAFT FAIR* was successful in two ways:  
 Raised about \$50 for the Youth  
 Gave patrons of the Our Daily Bread Community Pantry 45 *free* sandwiches.

- Please keep bringing in your new and gently used *BLANKETS, HOODED SWEAT SHIRTS, CLOTHING*, etc., anything that will help the homeless stay warm in the chill of winter. Also *any toiletries* you’ve picked up in your travels are much appreciated as the folks that the Immokalee Friendship House serves usually have none of these things. Your generosity in the last month attests to the love our church shows to “the least of them.” Esther and Stan Wilson make a weekly trip to Immokalee to help ensure the staff/volunteers at the Friendship House have items to distribute.



- January’s focus will be our yearly support of E.C.H.O. Watch the Sunday Bulletins and special announcements for the date of a trip you can participate in to find out just what happens at the farm, how and why. A very worthwhile way to spend a few hours.

### COMING UP! “GOD’S PEOPLE GOT TALENT!”



We’ve already begun plans for Part “*DEU*” (2)!! We need *volunteers* —both for the meal preparation/serving and for the talent part of this yearly endeavor. The purpose is to raise \$3,000 to be used for a special Mission Project. Last year it was for a home in Haiti for the “Love a Child” program. The family that received that home were most appreciative.

There was some very good talent last year that we hope will be shared again this year. If you were unable to participate then, please let us hear from you very soon. We want to “*W-O-W*” the audience again this year. Gotta leave ‘em laughin’!!

Contact Tom or Laurel Foyt to place your name on the list for this year’s show!

Tom 810-2332 Laurel 222-9791  
 OR see them in Church on any Sunday to sign up.  
 Watch the Sunday Bulletins and next month’s newsletter for further exciting announcements!!!  
 Date is *SATURDAY, MARCH 24, beginning 6pm.*

## LOCAL OUT-REACH



### “A Heart to Serve”

For 2012 this new committee has taken on coordinating all the celebrations of our church for 50 years of serving the Lord.

To begin, in conjunction with the Small Home Study Groups, we will host a

### Hymn Sing!



Everyone is invited to come to the Chapel on **SUNDAY** afternoon January 15 at 3:00pm.  
**BRING A FRIEND**

Chairperson Daphne FORRESTER will be glad to take your suggestions by January 8 for what you’d like to sing and hear. Call her at 303-0669 or email her at [aldeelor@aol.com](mailto:aldeelor@aol.com)

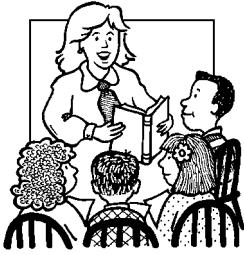
Then we’ll enjoy the first of 5 covered dish luncheons on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29** following the 10:30am Worship Service. This theme will be “*FESTIVE*”, so get out your recipe books and bring your most “*FESTIVE*” dish to share.

On **FEBRUARY 18** there’ll be a church-wide **VALENTINE LUNCHEON**. No decision has been made as yet as to whether it’ll be a covered dish or a catered luncheon. What’s your choice?? Guest Speaker will be Barbara Yauger that was such a hit at the September UMW Unit Meeting. She’ll have a brand new repertoire to share her faith and fun as she continues to serve the Lord. Keep watching the Sunday Bulletins and next month’s Good News.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Charlene Golden



The children learned a lot about Extravagant Generosity along with the adults. It was a challenge to explain tithe, generosity and mite (not the bug) in today's terms. They spent a lot of time looking up Bible verses on how God provides for us and how we return his generosity. We will see how they do with their pledges of giving money from their allowances and chores, reading their Bible and praying regularly, attending church and education regularly, and living a Christian life. We will tie these into their weekly lessons.

Our presentation of "Christmas Around the World" will be over by the time you read this. We had a fun time learning the songs and practicing. Thank you to the adults who agreed to participate by being in our manger scene. We will spend the rest of December watching VeggieTales Christmas videos and discussing the Christmas season. The birthday party for Jesus on December 25<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School will include ice cream and cupcakes.

**THANK YOU!** to *Carly Leotti, Esther Otero and Terry Panega* who take turns leading the lessons on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings. Thank you to the parents and guardians who entrust their children to us each week. Praise God for the wonderful children we have attending each week. We use a one room school house approach since we have less than ten children 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It warms our hearts to see the older children take the initiative to help the younger ones find the Bible verses, work on memorizing the scripture verses and being team players during games. It is exciting when a kindergartener exclaims that a word in the Bible verse is one of their spelling or reading words. We enjoy watching the children mature from scribbling on their pictures to taking their time because they plan to give the picture to someone special. We all have fun playing games, watching and singing along with our favorite vegetables as we learn Bible stories. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to each and every family. Enjoy as many of the Christmas activities as you can for these are the things your children will remember for years to come not what toys were under the tree.



Larry Gutridge, our Crime Prevention Specialist from the Lee County Sheriff's Office of Bravo District, (right here in Lehigh) shares some important information with us.

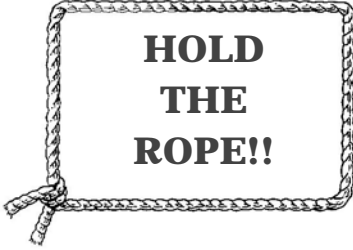
**?? WHAT KIND OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE IN MY COMMUNITY ??**

If you have ever wondered about that the Sheriff has given us a powerful tool to find out on his web site that is accessible to all.

Go to <http://www.sheriffleefl.org> There is an area outlined in yellow. Click on it, then hold the left button down on your mouse and you can drag the map to any part of Lee Count that you wish. The "+" and "-" on the scale at the left will allow you to blow up or reduce the designated area. At the top is a "period (days)" where you can choose a number to go back 3, 7, 14, or 30 days, or open up the calendar and choose your own particular period of time. Move the cursor over an icon and "click". The icon will expand and reveal the exact date, time, location and event that took place. By checking the appropriate box you can also locate the sex offenders in an area as well as see their pictures. Try it! And pass this on.

## UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS

**HOLD  
THE  
ROPE!!**



Calling all men to **HOLD THE ROPE!** Come! Participate in a new fellowship gathering of United Methodist Men on **Sunday night, January 8** at **7:00pm** in the **Fellowship Hall**. This date and time was selected by a group of men to be the best for the majority.

We will be gathering on a regular basis. Us men need to be united in making disciples for Jesus, and improve his church for others to share. I believe all men should step-up so our voices and actions are heard. . .heard in the declining moral attitude in our country, media and local community. Our strength will be the words of our Lord. Our actions will be what he deems good and right. Our group fellowship will strengthen our church. We must begin now so we can move forward into the future.

Showing we are a united group can make our collective thoughts a powerful force for Christ, grow our community and country in a Christian way, be examples as Christians to other men, demonstrate good group actions for Christ's message and take a stand.

The story goes that there was once a man who fell into a pit. He called and called for help. Finally, another good man came and lowered a rope to pull him out. The intention was good, but the strength was not enough. The helper went to find 3 more. Together, they held the rope and achieved success by acting together in a common cause. The man who was saved thanked and rewarded the four. They became friends and learned that kindness is 4 times stronger the more you get to  
**"HOLD THE ROPE!!"**



If you would like to become a united front for Jesus, have fun and help each other in praise and needs, join me on **Sunday evening, January 8 at 7:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall to **"HOLD THE ROPE."**

*Tom* 810-2332 tforyt@hotmail.com

All men are also invited to the **"RAP n ROLL"** group that meets at **8:00am** on the **first and third THURSDAY** in Conference Room 2. They have coffee n rolls, a devotional and discussion time. On the **second THURSDAY** they "go out" for breakfast. Give Charlie Jones a call, (369-7521) to learn more, or just come at the time and day noted above.

Another opportunity for men begins on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5th** at **7:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. **R.E.A.L MEN MINISTRY** is an inter-denominational men's ministry designed to be a relevant force in today's world to bridge the gap and disconnect between men. At RMM we challenge and encourage men to become men of integrity, men of faith and to become the strong leaders that God has called them to be through connection to Christ and to other men. R.E.A.L. MEN know that through Christ, they have what it takes to positively impact their families and the world around them! R.E.A.L. MEN Ministry empowers, trains, teaches, and challenges men to live out their Christian faith. At local RMM chapters there are frequent fellowship activities where men can connect as well as opportunities for men to serve in various community outreach efforts helping those in need.

**RUSS FRANKLIN** is the coordinator for the local R.E.A.L. Men Ministry.

All men are invited to attend.





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Our wishes are that you will have a good year and receive the peace and salvation that has been bestowed upon us by the birth of the Baby Jesus. He is our Prince of Peace and we must adore him and sing his praises.

We begin the New Year with high hopes for better attendance at our Unit Meetings and Circles. At the November Unit meeting our Coordinator, Donna Boyd had prepared a wonderful program and two very special ladies: Marie Lennox, Vice President of the Florida Conference and Joan Bowlsby, Treasurer of the South West District presented a very informative and inspiring program. However the attendance was very poor. We especially missed you! If each member would invite one new person to come along with them they would be most welcome. If each member would give the Executive Board suggestions about how to increase attendance that would be most welcome.

Congratulations to Ruth Circle for sponsoring the eighth child in the "Food For the Hungry" program and for all the other outreach programs they are involved in.

The January Executive Board Meeting will be on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 3:00pm in CR 2.

All circles will meet on Tuesday, January 10:

Rebekah – 9:30am – Chapel

Ruth – 9:30am at the home of JoAnn Landes-Ross

Priscilla – 7:00pm at a home to be announced.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 28 when the South West District will hold its Leadership Officer's Training event at the Sebring, FL First UMC. Luncheon and the event cost is \$8.00. All women are invited to attend. If you are not an officer now you may be interested in becoming one in the future. The fellowship is always good as it provides the opportunity to become acquainted with other United Methodist Women in our district to share ideas and experiences. Try to attend.

Please keep our Vice President, Ruth Moses, and all our sick and shut-ins in your prayers.

May God bless each of you.

Eddie Rogers, Unit President



Change  
Address

Please make these changes in your address book:

**RENE MURPHY**  
10516 Newbury Ct.  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7241

**Remember: to call Rene you must first call the FLORIDA RELAY NUMBER:**

**1-877-243-2823**

Then give them Rene's number, including the area code: 239-369-3646. The Relay operator will take your speaking message and transfer it to Rene on a special typewriter. Please be patient while Rene reads your message and types her reply. Then the Relay operator will relay Rene's message to you.

**EARLA MILLER**  
30349 Eagle Lane  
Big Pine Key, FL 33043-5112  
(same phone) 239-368-3492  
(you may not have to dial the 239?)  
(same e-mail) short\_stack\_ej@yahoo.com

**EARLA wishes to thank everyone for all their help, assistance, support and prayers when she cared for her husband, L.O., and her parents, EARL & DEMA GUMP. She also extends an invitation to all to come and visit her in the beautiful Florida Keys.**

**Please call ahead to arrange a date.**

**SIGN UP FOR**



**2012**

**ALTAR FLOWERS IN NARTHEX**

The flower calendar is hanging by the name tag board. This is a lovely way to commemorate a special event or someone special in your life. You can sign up for one or two vases. If you would like two vases, make sure to fill in the information under each vase. This cost is \$17.50 per vase, payable in advance of the date the flowers will be on the altar. Be sure to mark your check and/or envelope that the money is for *Altar Flowers*.

We are always in need of Flower Deliverers. We rotate the schedule. You can bring a little sunshine and friendship into a shut-ins life, or someone recuperating from surgery when you visit them. It's an easy "job." After the service if the person placing the flowers on the altar wishes to donate them to be taken to shut-ins, etc. we break down the large bouquets into smaller ones in the flower room (in the back hall of the sanctuary). A list of names and addresses is available and you simply check off who you are taking them to. You can deliver them Sunday afternoon or Monday, whichever suits your schedule. Please call John & Anna Hughes, 369-9306, or see them in church to volunteer for this Out-Reach Ministry. In addition to the blessings you extend, you will be blessed more than you can imagine.

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> 9:15a SUNDAY SCHOOL, All Ages 10:30a WORSHIP</p> <p>Followed by FELLOWSHIP TIME</p> <p>Narthex</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>SCHOOLS OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p>7:00p Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Handbells BR</p> <p>7:00p Small Group</p> <p>Whaley's</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>ARE</b></p> <p>10:00a Staff Mtg CR2</p> <p>1:30p Exercise FH</p> <p>7:00p Trustees CH</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>CLOSED</b></p> <p>10:00a <b>UN-HANG THE GREENS</b></p> <p>1:30p Small Group</p> <p>Hughes</p> <p>6:30p Youth/Children</p> <p>7:00p Adult Bible</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:00a RapNRoll</p> <p>Men's Group CR2</p> <p>11:00a Acupuncture for Our Daily Bread P</p> <p>7:00p Choir C</p> <p>7:00p Staff Parish CH</p> <p>7:00p REAL Men Minis</p>		
<p><b>8</b> 9:15a SUNDAY SCHOOL, All Ages 10:30a WORSHIP</p> <p>Followed by FELLOWSHIP TIME</p> <p>4:00p YOUTH GRP YR</p> <p>7:00p HOLD THE ROPE</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:30a Art Class CR2</p> <p>10:00a Prayer Grp P</p> <p>3:00p UMW Board CR2</p> <p>7:00p Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Handbells BR</p> <p>7:00p Small Grp Whaley</p> <p>7:00p Spiritual Growth</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:30a Ruth Circle P</p> <p>9:30a Rebekah Cir CH</p> <p>10:00a Staff Mtg CR2</p> <p>1:30p Exercise FH</p> <p>7:00p Cub Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Priscilla Circle</p> <p>Home TBA</p>	<p><b>11</b> 1:30p Small Group</p> <p>Hughes</p> <p>6:30p Youth/Children</p> <p>7:00p Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:00p Finance FH</p> <p>7:00p Choir</p> <p>7:00p REAL Men</p> <p>Ministries FH</p>		<p><b>14</b> 8:00a ODB</p> <p>Open Air Market</p>
<p><b>15</b> 9:15a SUNDAY SCHOOL, All Ages 10:30a WORSHIP</p> <p>Followed by FELLOWSHIP TIME</p> <p>3:00p HYMN SINGCH</p> <p>4:00p YOUTH GRP YR</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p>7:00p Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Handbells BR</p> <p>7:00p Small Group</p> <p>Whaley's</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWS</b></p> <p>10:00a Staff Mtg CR2</p> <p>1:30p Exercise FH</p> <p>7:00p Cub Scouts</p> <p>7:00p <b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b> CH</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1:30p Small Group</p> <p>Hughes</p> <p>6:30p Youth/Children</p> <p>7:00p Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:00p RapNRoll</p> <p>9:45a Immokalee</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>11:00a Acupuncture P</p> <p>7:00p Preschool BdCH C</p> <p>7:00p Choir</p> <p>7:00p REAL Men Minis</p>		<p><b>21</b></p> <p>AM—ODB WALK for Harry Chapin Fd Bnk</p> <p>1:00p HOPE HOSPICE program</p>
<p><b>22</b> <b>FOOD PANTRY Items</b></p> <p>9:15a SUN. SCHOOL</p> <p>10:30a WORSHIP</p> <p>11:30a FELLOWSHIP</p> <p>12:30p OUTREACH COMMITTEE CH</p> <p>4:00p YOUTH GRP YR</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:30a Art Class CR2</p> <p>10:00a Prayer Group P</p> <p>7:00p Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Handbells BR</p> <p>7:00p Small Grp Whaley</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>10:00a Staff Mtg CR2</p> <p>1:30p Exercise FH</p> <p>7:00p Cub Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Staff Parish</p> <p>Relations Comm. CH</p>	<p><b>25</b> 1:30p Small Group</p> <p>Hughes</p> <p>6:30p Youth/Children</p> <p>7:00p Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7:00p Choir C</p> <p>7:00p REAL MEN</p> <p>Ministries FH</p>		<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00a SW District</p> <p>Leadership Training</p>
<p><b>29</b> 9:15a SUNDAY SCHOOL, All Ages 10:30a WORSHIP</p> <p>11:30a POTLUCK</p> <p>LUNCHEON FH</p> <p>4:00p YOUTH GRP YR</p>	<p><b>30</b> 9:30a Art Class CR2</p> <p>10:00a Prayer Group P</p> <p>7:00p Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p Handbells BR</p> <p>7:00p Worship CommCH</p> <p>7:00p Small Group</p> <p>Whaley's</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>VOTE!!</b></p> <p>10:00a Staff Mtg CR2</p> <p>7:00p Cub Scouts</p>				

