

# CROSSROADS

www.fcclw.org

February | March 2010

## DISCOVERING JESUS

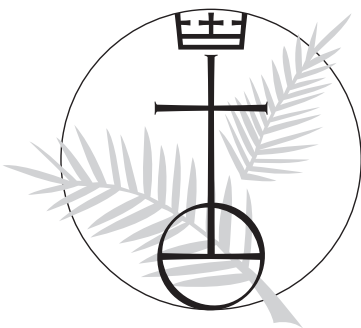
We claim his name, we learned about him in Sunday school, we listen to sermons about him, we call him our friend and say he lives in our heart. For some he is a great teacher, for others he is God, the second person of the trinity. He is considered by just about everyone to be a great teacher; to some he is much more, the atonement for the sins of humanity. To one he is a path, among many, to understanding the Divine; to another he is the only way to salvation. Few would dispute that he is one

of the greatest historical figures to have ever lived, and a few have been inspired by him to change the world.

Who is Jesus to you? It's a question only you can answer and, as a Christian, it very well may be one of the most important.

In the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity to explore together the meanings of Jesus Christ throughout history.

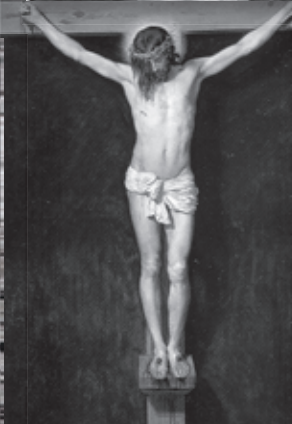
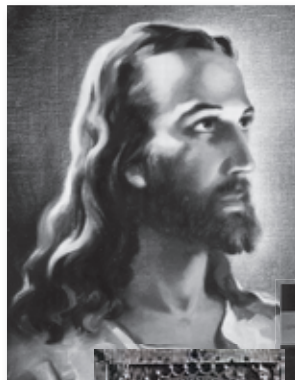
On Sunday mornings, beginning March 14th, we will discover "The Many Faces" (Continued on pg. 2)



*Loving God*

*Loving Others*

*Serving the World*



**2** Reading for Renewal Book Group, God Moments

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**8** Light in the Dark Film Series

## RENEWAL BOOK CLUB

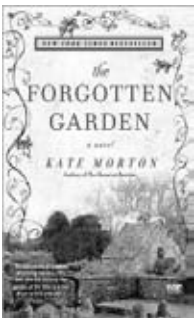
All the women of the church and friends are invited to participate in our monthly book group. The books are inspiring and entertaining, and our



meetings offer caring fellowship, lively discussion, and delicious calories!

Our next meeting will take place on **February 17th at 6:30 PM** we will meet in the **church parlor at 6:30 PM** to discuss the book, *Escape* by Carolyn Jessop

*And please mark your calendars for the following dates!*



**March 17th at 6:30 PM** we will meet in the **church parlor** at to discuss the book, *Escape* by Carolyn Jessop

For more information please contact Miriam McIlvaine at (561) 585-2758 or Sandy Burnham at (561) 540-8053.

*(Continued from pg. 1)*

of Jesus,” tracing how humanity has connected with Christ throughout the ages. And on **Wednesday evenings, beginning February 24th**, we will look at Jesus through the camera lens in the series **“Light in the Dark: Exploring Jesus Through Film.”** We will watch clips from classic and contemporary movies and discuss each film’s vision of Jesus and how it affirms, expands, or challenges our own view. See page 7 for more information and a listing of each week’s topic.

This is a great opportunity to be inspired and challenged as we seek to encounter Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to sharing it with you!

Peace,

Pastor Jason

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## GOD MOMENTS

If there was ever a question about the possibility of divine intervention, something happened to me today to convince me that it does exist. I have traveled to China twice for stem cell treatments and have had amazing results in my road to recovery. I receive email weekly from people all over the world who have read about my stem cell journey and are searching for the hope of a cure for various disabilities.

This morning, my nurse Sharon and I drove to Hollywood Florida to have my wheelchair serviced. After the appointment we were both starving and decided to go out for lunch. Sharon mentioned Chinese but I decided I wanted to go to The Cheesecake Factory in Boca Raton which I have only been to once in the last eight years. The restaurant has a few different levels and is fairly large.

Upon arriving, Sharon and I placed our order and were sipping our iced tea when, unexpectedly, a young woman approached us who had been sitting

just two tables away and leaned in to say “I’m sorry.....is your name David”? Initially I thought she was the waitress, and I was quite astonished and bewildered that she called me by name. Then she said that her name was Rachel and that she had written to me several months ago about her husband Gabe who has a spinal cord injury. He was injured fifteen years ago at the young age of eighteen. I immediately remembered their names and our correspondence about my stem cell treatment.

“I can’t believe you are here!” she said. We looked at each other with amazement and disbelief. Rachel told me that she lives in York, Pennsylvania and recently flew here to Florida to visit her friend Jessica who lives in Coral Springs which is about twenty miles south of where I live in Delray Beach. I did not know that she was coming to Florida nor have I had any communication with her for months. Rachel and Jessica had stopped at three other restaurants before deciding to eat

at the Cheesecake Factory. She told me that they were talking about contacting me the night before and Jessica suggested that maybe they should just wait for a sign to help guide them in making the decision if stem cells is the right path for Gabe. In fact they were just discussing my stem cells story at their table just prior to seeing me in the restaurant. If there were ever going to be a sign I don't know how much more you could ask for! Rachel pulled out her cell phone to call Gabe to tell him about our amazing encounter and Jessica came over from their table to join in on the excitement. After our meal, Rachel shared pictures of Gabe and their two children with Sharon and I, and we all took turns posing for pictures with each other. Rachel told me that she and Gabe are coming to

vacation in Florida in February and I can't wait to see them.

What are the odds that I would rendezvous with someone from York, PA who I barely corresponded with and out of thousands of restaurants end up at the Boca Cheesecake Factory at precisely the same time just two tables away. I ask you is this just a coincidence or something more? To me this is clearly divine intervention, God truly does work in mysterious ways.  
- David Aldrich

*Do you have a story about a time when you know God was working in a wonderful way in your life? If so, we would love to hear about it and it might be an inspiration to someone else. E-mail your story to [crossroads@lakeworthchurch.org](mailto:crossroads@lakeworthchurch.org)!*

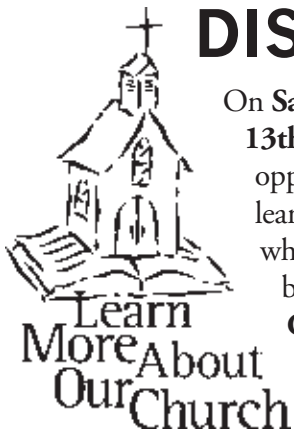


## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship raised \$2,000 for the church at their **annual Holiday Festival** held on November 14th! They wish to thank everyone for their help and support. They have also issued he challenge to other groups that have creative fundraising ideas to match their gift!

The Women's Fellowship will meet on **Thursday, March 4th at noon in Studebaker Hall**. Bring your lunch and the hostesses will provide dessert and beverage.

*Visit us at*  
**[www.fcclw.org](http://www.fcclw.org)**



## DISCOVERY ONE SEMINAR

On **Saturday, March 13th**, you have the opportunity to learn more about what it means to be a part of **First Congregational Church of Lake Worth**.

Whether you are a newcomer who wants to get more involved or a long-time member who wants something more out of your church experience, this is a great opportunity for you! The seminar is from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, with lunch provided.

The cost is **\$5.00**.

## UNWRAPPING OUR GIFTS

**From April 8 - May 27th**

Christmas is over! Most of us are more aware of our bills than our gifts. But it is time to begin thinking about our God-given talents and aptitudes so we can match them with the needs in our families, church, community, and world.

A new **8-week course** called **Unwrapping Our Gifts** is designed to activate the spiritual lives, gifts, and ministries of members in local churches. The leadership training for this course has already begun and the class will be offered on **Thursday evenings from April 8 through May 27** except for the first week in May when there will be a Saturday retreat instead of the Thursday evening class.

Mark your calendars now, because this is a class which can open your life to new growth and meaning. Stay tuned in for more details.

## PROJECT LINUS MISSION

The mission of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteers.

If you would like to join us but need instruction in knitting or crocheting, one of our members would love to teach you. Our next Project Linus group is **Sunday, February 29th after the worship service.** For additional information, call Betty Rigdon at 964-5926.



# Auction

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Some believe youth are the future of the church. We believe youth are the present! To that end, we have a series of activities for middle school and high school youth designed to help them experience God's love and make a difference in their world!

On the **first Sunday of the month, from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**, we hang out in the youth room to play games and talk back to Pastor Jason about the morning worship service.

On the **second Sunday of the month, from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**, youth have the opportunity to experience **DiscoveryOne** in an environment created just for them. They will learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and a part of the movement called First Congregational Church of Lake Worth. **After this four-session series, youth who have not yet been confirmed may choose to do so and become a part of the church.**

On the **fourth Sunday of each month, from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**, youth have the opportunity to participate in ministry teams, developing and practicing puppet skits or rehearsing worship music.

We would love to see you involved in any or all of these opportunities. For more information, contact Carol Lewis.

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### Peace River Canoe and Camping Trip

The Annual Peace River Canoe and Camping Trip is scheduled for **March 5 - 7 at the Peace River Campground in Arcadia, Florida.** This popular event gives our middle and senior high school students and their chaperones a chance to enjoy the beauty of nature while having fun with friends, old and new, from U.C.C. churches all over the state.

Contact Carol Lewis for registration forms and more information.



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## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP PENNY AUCTION

The **Third Annual Penny Auction**, sponsored by the Men's Fellowship will be **Sunday March 28th, 2010 11:30 - 1:30 PM.** If you have any new or like-new items to donate or if you or someone you know has a business that

can donate a product or service, contact Will James, Scott Button, or the church office. Then, plan to attend! The Penny Auction is great fun for the whole family with opportunities to bid on and win lots of great items.

# A MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Serving our community and the world



Previously, the Mission Committee reported on the fun had by all at the Miami Habitat for Humanity. Now we have scheduled our own event with the

**Palm Beach County Habitat for Humanity.** On **April 10th** in Jupiter we will have the opportunity to swing a hammer or brandish a brush shoulder-to-shoulder with prospective home owners, hopefully, enabling them to reach the goal of owning their own home. So, save the date, locate your "working clothes" and contact **Janet Lisle** to fill out the necessary paperwork.

In the **month of February** a collection for the **Christians Reaching Out to Society (C.R.O.S.) food pantry** will begin. We have accepted the challenge of gathering **100 bags of groceries.** Last year in February we exceeded that goal, in September we collected 76 bags. Let's go for the gold and exceed 100 bags again to help one of the many ministries performed by C.R.O.S.

The members of U.C.C. churches around the country have responded to the earthquake in Haiti with compassion and financial support. According to the U.C.C. web site, online giving for Haiti surpassed all previous records. In the first seven days \$250,603 was collected just through the web site. UCC funds are already flowing to mission partners in Haiti, including support for relief kits organized by Church World Service

Trinity UCC in Chicago received \$90,000 in special Haiti offerings taken at the congregation's three services on January 18. Peace Congregational UCC in Clemson, S.C., a small new church in the UCC's Southeast Conference, gave its entire \$700 weekend offering to support Haiti relief. Our church, the First Congregational Church of Lake Worth, collected \$450 in one Sunday.



The U.C.C. responds immediately at times of natural disasters, its commitment to recovery and rebuilding is long-term. "The UCC will be working in Haiti for many years to come, long after the media spotlight has turned elsewhere."



Join us for our weekly community dinner. It is a great time of food and fellowship and gives us a perfect opportunity to serve our community.

We serve delicious meals every Tuesday from 5:30 PM - 7 PM. All are welcome to the feast!

A generous member of our church has offered to match donations to the community dinner up to \$1000! So donate today and your money will double!

## CODEPENDENCY AND MORE

An 8-week educational support group will be offered through **Samaritan Counseling Center in the church parlor on Wednesdays from February 10 through March 31 at 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** The group will get information and share on various topics including boundaries, self-care, self-esteem, assertiveness, and affirmations. Patty Gates, a licensed mental health counselor, and Carol Lewis, a marriage and family therapist, will co-facilitate the group. The cost is \$10 per session. To register, contact Carol Lewis at 582-6691 or [clewismft@aol.com](mailto:clewismft@aol.com).



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/3 India O'Donnell, Will O'Donnell
- 2/8 Trish Fairbanks
- 2/12 Dorothy Zook
- 2/12 Anne Linman
- 2/13 Jacqueline Weber
- 2/17 Ruth Merchant
- 2/25 Lynda Kupferman
- 2/26 Jackie Lowe
- 2/26 Ruth Kenney
- 2/27 Dorothy McKnight

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Jean Wieman
- 3/1 Jimmy Limauro
- 3/7 Judy Perna
- 3/9 Jessica Jenkins
- 3/12 Luke Copeland
- 3/13 Helen Greene
- 3/14 Carolyn Ludwig
- 3/19 Anne Yokie
- 3/20 Jason Fairbanks
- 3/22 Ann Ott
- 3/25 Mary Alice Turner
- 3/29 Ginny Vaught
- 3/30 Grace Lipman
- 3/30 Belle Bailey

# CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Campbell's Labels for Education is a program that helps schools and church's obtain free educational merchandise in exchange for proofs of purchase collected from eligible Campbell brands. You can help by saving proofs of purchase labels to box in Studebaker Hall. We will redeem them for FREE merchandise such as a computer, audio/visual equipment or even a minivan!

### Why should I get involved with Labels for Education?

Labels for Education provides a way for the church to get additional educational resources that they may not be able to provide with our current budget.

**What products are eligible for redemption through Labels for Education?**

Products eligible for redemption through the Labels for Education program include Campbell's soups, Spaghetti Os pasta, Pepperidge Farm products including Goldfish crackers, Swanson broths, V-8 beverages and Prego pasta sauce.



## WE'VE GOT MAIL

To the Church Family,  
We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness at the time of Randy Saxe's lung surgery and hip surgery. We feel so thankful that all went well. May God bless all of you.

Sophie Brandt, mother  
Dr. Nancy Saxe, sister



Have you checked out our church web site lately? It is a great way to stay up-to-date on upcoming events, experience how we are being church in our community, and watch past sermons. It is also a great way to introduce others to First Congregational Church of Lake Worth!

*Visit us at [www.fcclw.org](http://www.fcclw.org) or [www.lakeworthchurch.org](http://www.lakeworthchurch.org).*

# NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL

On Sunday, February 28th from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM, we're throwing a party and inviting the whole neighborhood! We'll have hamburgers and hotdogs, a bounce house, games, and snow cones. There will be no charge. However, **we will be accepting donations for North Grade**

**Elementary School.** Last year, we raised over \$500 to buy uniforms for families who could not afford them. We are going to canvas the neighborhood with door hangers the week before. If you can help, please contact the office.



*“When it is a question of God’s almighty Spirit, never say, ‘I can’t.’”*

- Oswald Chambers

# CHRISTMAS PARTY FUN!



# LIGHT IN THE DARK

Exploring Jesus Through Film

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM • Dinner at 6:00 PM

## FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

### Jesus Goes to Hollywood: The Classics

*King of Kings, The Passion of St. Matthew, The Greatest Story Ever Told, Jesus of Nazareth*

## MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

### The Part of Jesus Will be Played By: Christ Figures in Film

*Shane, The Green Mile*

## MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

### Feminine Grace: Female Christ Figures in Film

*Babette's Feast, Whale Rider, Spitfire Grill, Chocolat*

## MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

### That's Not My Jesus: Controversial Portrayals

*Jesus Christ Superstar, The Life of Brian, The Last Temptation of Christ*

## MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>

### The Latest. The Greatest?

*Joshua, The Gospel of John, Passion of the Christ*



First Congregational Church of Lake Worth

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