

The Belltower

First United Methodist Church of Brandon

February 2010

"Making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ"

Mission & Ministry Fair, January 31

After each service in the Boys & Girls Club. Hospitality will be located in the B&G that morning, too. There's something new to discover every time we hold this event!

Night of Praise & Worship, January 31

Read all about it on page four inside...

Leadership Training, February 13

Starting in February we'll begin a bi-monthly leadership training opportunity open to anyone in our local church. Our goal is to: 1) Help strengthen and grow existing church leaders; 2) Identify and develop potential leaders for the future; and 3) Have open forum discussions about specific issues related to our life together as the Body of Christ. If you are identified as a leader at FUMC by a position you hold, want to pursue being a leader here, or are just interested in learning and being in the conversation about our future at FUMC Brandon, you are invited to be a part of these times.

Why are we doing this? Individual churches must constantly change, innovate, and improve or they decline and die. We will choose to thrive, since diving is unacceptable and merely surviving is not good enough. We'll kick this off on February 13th from 10:30am-12:30pm in the Chapel and our special guest will be Rev. David McEntire, the Senior Pastor at FUMC Lakeland.

Ash Wednesday Service, February 17

6:15pm in the Sanctuary. Special guest! See Pastor Jamie's comments about it at right...

The Great Marriage Experience, Feb. 19-20

This is a local Friday night and Saturday event. There's a concert, dessert table and comedy with Dennis Swanberg on Friday. Praise & worship and lots of encouragement and spiritual guidance for couples on Saturday. There's even free babysitting available if you sign up by February 5th! Read all about it on page seven inside...

Walks to Emmaus in March

The Men's Walk begins the evening of the 4th (Thursday) and concludes the evening of the 7th (Sunday). The Women's Walk is the following weekend (11th-14th). More than 300 people from our church have already attended! Visit the Emmaus table in the Social Hall on Sunday morning for more information or visit www.tampabayemmaus.org

From the Desk of Pastor Jamie...

The 40 days (minus Sundays which are always celebrations of the resurrection) leading up to Easter is known in the Christian year as "Lent," which is a period of time intended to help us prepare ourselves to celebrate the promises of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a discipline of Spirit with the intention of connecting us more deeply with God, we may choose to let go of something for these 40 days. This tradition is designed to help us know the fullness of our dependence upon God. Lent, however, is not merely about giving up something like chocolate, meat, or alcohol. Our natural default position is to be selfish, but Lent invites us to learn the art of loving God and loving others more completely.

Obviously, this is not a journey that can be exhausted in a 40 day period, for there is always more for us to learn. Lent is about changing course, moving in a new direction as we repent and go in a new direction with God. In giving something up, I am reminded of my hunger for God. By joyfully committing myself to a new discipline, I am choosing Jesus Christ as the priority in my life.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, will feature a very special time of worship on February 17 at 6:15 PM join us in the Sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday Worship opportunity. We'll have special guest preacher, Dr. Tom Farmer, who is the recently retired Sr. Pastor of the St. Paul UMC in Largo, FL. I served with him there as his associate pastor (where I met Denise!) 12 years ago and I assure you that you will not want to miss this time together! We will conclude with the imposition of ashes. If you can't get here from work on time, please don't let that stop you from coming!

Pastor Jamie



Spotlight on Mission

Society of St. Andrew, Florida
P.O. Box 536842
Orlando, FL 32853-6842
800-806-0756
sosaf1@endhunger.org

The Society of St. Andrew is a grassroots, faith-based, hunger relief nonprofit working with all denominations to bridge the hunger gap between 96 billion pounds of food wasted every year in this country and the nearly 40 million Americans who live in poverty. We rely on support from donors, volunteers and farmers as we glean nutritious excess produce from farmers' fields and orchards after harvest and deliver it to people in need across the United States.

We take our name from the biblical disciple Andrew who was always introducing others to our Lord. Most notably, Andrew played a crucial role in the feeding of the 5,000 when he brought the boy with five barley loaves and two small fish to Jesus, which he multiplied to feed the crowd.

The Society of St. Andrew operates a statewide Gleaning Network in Florida that coordinates with local farmers, volunteers, and area food banks. Since 1995, more than 20 million pounds of fresh produce have been gleaned in Florida, resulting in over 60 million servings of food being delivered to our neighbors in need.

Volunteers enter fields and groves after farmers have finished harvesting and simply pick up the tons of good produce left behind. One to two million pounds of Florida produce are gleaned each year, including citrus, potatoes, strawberries, cabbage, cucumbers, squash, onions and corn.

You're invited to join us in this exciting hands-on ministry. Gleaning "outings" are planned throughout the coming year.

Church Liaison: Vicki Harrison 689-4161 or membership@fumcbrandon.org

Save Paper and Postage...

We can save up to \$4,000 a year by distributing our regular newsletter electronically. That money can then be used for other ministries! To be removed from our printed newsletter mailing list and to start receiving it electronically (and several days sooner!), send an email to: info@fumcbrandon.org

NOTE: No action required if you prefer to continue receiving a printed newsletter by mail; we will keep you on the mailing list unless you tell us otherwise.

From the Desk of Pastor Matt...

As I write this, the devastation is just beginning to be revealed following the tragic earthquake in Haiti. I know that you all will want to help. Our first response in helping will always be through UMCOR-United Methodist Committee On Relief. They are the relief arm of our church and are always one of the very first on the scene when disaster strikes. You can donate to them by giving an extra-mile gift through FUMC Brandon and designating it as Haiti, or you can go directly to their website and donate: new.gbgbm-umc.org/umcor or by going to www.umcor.org and it will redirect you to their site. As other opportunities become available for us to help, we will let you know. This looks to be a longterm issue that will require many years of rebuilding. Please keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.

For those who may be wondering, we have heard from our missionary partner, Connie DiLeo in the Dominican Republic and things are fine there. She said that they had some shaking, but no damage. They are getting some of the wounded from Haiti in the hospital in Bombita for treatment and are seeing what they can do to help as they are very close to the border with Haiti.

During his "State of the Church" message, Pastor Jamie mentioned that we are beginning an exciting new mission partnership with Compassion International in Ethiopia. We were selected to participate in the Church to Church Partnership Pilot Program. We have now been paired with a church in Ethiopia and are excited to tell you a little about them. More will be coming in the months ahead as we discover what our partnership will become.

Our partner church is the Holeta Mulu Wongel Church in Holeta, Ethiopia. Their pastor is Tilahun Buli. They are a part of the Full Gospel Believers Church denomination and are 450 in size. Their community is very poor and most live in houses that are constructed of dirt floors, mud walls and corrugated tin roofs. The main language is Amharic and most earn the equivalent of \$20 a month working as day laborers. The town is located 28 kilometers west of the capital city of Addis Ababa. The church has been a Compassion International project site since 1994. The population of the city is just over 57,000. The church was planted in 1987 and has four full-time ministers, "and two guards." I'm not sure what that means, but I will find out when we visit.

Mike Bass, Stuart Mackey and I will be traveling to Ethiopia from February 16-23, 2010. While there we will learn about how Compassion International operates in Ethiopia and spend a weekend with our partner church. Stuart is going along as a videographer, courtesy of Compassion International. This is an exciting new partnership! I will give you an update as soon as possible. In the meantime, please keep this mission, our trip and our sister church and pastor in your prayers as we discover what God has in store for us through this new relationship.

Peace, Joy & Love,
Pastor Matt

Donate to UMCOR for Haitian Relief...

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is hard at work in Haiti following the recent earthquake and accompanying devastation. If you'd like to make an online contribution above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, visit our church website homepage and follow the link provided toward the bottom of the page. As an alternative, you can write a check to FUMC Brandon and mark "UMCOR" in the memo line. Either way, 100% of your donation will be used in emergency relief and rebuilding efforts.

New Mission Study Offered...

A mission study entitled "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan" will be offered Saturdays at St. Andrew's on February 6 and March 6 from 9:00-11:30am in room 309 of the Family Life Center. This study is being offered by The United Methodist Women of St. Andrew's in conjunction with the UMW of Brandon First United Methodist Church. Both women and men in all our cluster churches are invited. The goal of this mission study is to invite you to appreciate the complexity of the tapestry of Sudan and to be in solidarity with all the people of Sudan as you befriend the United Methodist churches there, and celebrate their courage. And it is a call to pray for the realization of a nation's dream of peace.

A study book, "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan" by Linda Beher, is required for each participant. The cost is \$10.00. Please order by December 21 so you have time to read it before the first class meeting. For more information, or to order, contact Sandy Pullinger at 684-5479 or skprdp2@verizon.net

Please join us as we study this ancient country struggling for a future in a 21st century world.

Are You a United Way Contributor?

If you are currently making contributions to the United Way through payroll deductions with your employer, did you know you can direct that your contribution be designated to First United Methodist Church of Brandon? It can!

Learn All About Our Mission Partners...

We encourage everyone in the church to be involved in at least one mission - caring for those outside the four walls of our church. The Mission & Ministry Fair on January 31st is the perfect opportunity to learn more about all the various ways you can be the hands and feet of Christ in the world with others from our church family. The Fair will be in the Boys & Girls Club from 8:45am-12:30pm. *See you there!*

What Are Your Spiritual Gifts?

Discover how God has gifted you for service. Take the quick and informative assessment on our website under the RESOURCES tab. The 80-question multiple choice test only takes about 15 minutes and results are emailed to you immediately. You may be surprised at what you learn about yourself!

Women...

UMW District Officer Training - January 30th.

UMW Executive Meeting - February 9th at 9:00am in NH115.

UMW General Meeting - February 9th at 10:00am in the Social Hall, hosted by the Friendship Circle. Friendship will also present the program. A love offering will be taken to support the THORN ministries homeless feeding project.

Special Pin Nominations are due to your Circle Leader or Katherine Cosmas by February 19th.

Vote on Special Pin Nominees - immediately following the 11:00am service on January 21st in Room S-3. Each Circle send two voting members.

Spring Bunco - Watch for News!

Spring Luncheon - March 27th at 11:30am.

Men...

Gather for study and fellowship at various days and times during the week. We meet on campus, in guys' homes, and at restaurants around town.

- Groups are meeting on Monday and Tuesday evenings, plus every morning during the week except Thursday and Sunday currently.
- Visit the "Adult Ministries" page on our website for a complete listing.

Senior Adults...

Seniors Out To Eat the 4th Sunday of each month. Our next outing will be at Cody's on SR 60 February 28th following the 11:00am service. See Jeane Foglesong for more information.

Cruise Alert - Linda Groh and John & Barbara Vogel, will be on the 11-day Scandinavia & Russia Discovery cruise on Holland America Cruise Line on August 7, 2010 and would love for you to join them! You'll visit Amsterdam Netherlands, Stockholm Sweden, Tallin Estonia, St. Petersburg Russia, Helsinki Finland, and Copenhagen Denmark. Outside staterooms start at \$1949.00 plus airfare and veranda staterooms are 2494.00 plus airfare. Call Linda for more information at 741-2829.

Wednesday Night Bible Study...

We're beginning a new study on Wednesday January 27th at 6:00pm in the Social Hall, "Great Truths of the Bible" by Dr. Alan Stringfellow. If you'd like to join us, please call Linda Groh at 741-2829 so that she can order a book for you (cost is \$17.75). Okay to join us even if you miss the first class!

30+ Single Adults' Small Group...

Now meeting Sunday mornings at 11:00am in the Boys & Girls Club. For more information, contact Dennis Hall, Larry Underwood, Donna Nunley, or the GroupLife team by calling the church office or grouplife@fumcbrandon.org

God, Family & U Worship, January 29

Starts at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Creative and energetic worship experience designed with children in mind but fun for the entire family!

Night of Praise & Worship, January 31

Our once-a-quarter opportunity to come together on a Sunday evening for an hour of uplifting praise and worship. Starts at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

UMM Pancake Breakfast, February 21

Hotcakes, sausage, juice and coffee sure taste good on a Sunday morning. Especially when prepared by someone else! From 7:30 - 11:00am in the Social Hall. Proceeds support United Methodist Men's various mission projects.

New Member Orientation, February 21

The new member orientation is held the third Sunday each month, at 4:00pm in rooms S1&2 of the Sanctuary building. To learn more, or to sign up, contact Vicki Harrison at 689-4161 or membership@fumcbrandon.org

God, Family & U Worship, February 26

Starts at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Creative and energetic worship experience designed with children in mind but fun for the entire family!

Seniors On the Town, February 27

We will attend The Scarlet Pimpernel at Florida College in Temple Terrace. It's a 1:15pm matinee; the cost \$13.50 per person (lunch is not included). Transportation is "on your own". Anyone needing a ride or having extra room in their car, call Jan Giunta, 661-8282. Carpooling will be arranged if possible. *Reservation deadline February 7th; money due by February 14th.*

Annual Father Daughter Dance, March 6

It's a Saturday evening event, from 6:00-9:00pm at St. Andrews UMC on the corner of Bloomingdale Avenue & Bryan Road. More than 100 fathers & their daughters traditionally attend. The cost is only \$15 per girl or \$25 for two or more from the same household. Price includes a deejay, refreshments, photo and flower for each girl. Dad's are free! You can purchase tickets on Sunday mornings beginning February 7th from Children's Ministry. For more information, contact Dave Shapiro at 741-9448 or hdeas@earthlink.net

Music Ministry...

Thank you...

- to all who attended the Ivan Parker concert and supported his ministry through the Love Offering (more than 400 people came out, with many, many visitors)! It was a great evening and Ivan enjoyed being here with us. He asked if he could come back next year. I immediately said, "sure!" and will let you know the date.
- to all who made the District Training Event here on January 16th a success. Your efforts are appreciated!
- to the Newsome High School Choir, and Director Jeff Bogue, for a wonderful evening with the Madrigal Dinner! Fantastic job, and I hope you'll choose to do it here at FUMCB again next year!

Look what's coming up...

- Our January Worship Night will be very uplifting; be sure and invite your friends and neighbors. We'll have another night of worship in May.
- Plan on attending our Ash Wednesday Service on February 17th, from 6:15-7:15pm in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be available.
- Great worship and spirit-filled advice & encouragement are promised at the Great Marriage Experience, February 19th and 20th at Bell Shoals. Tickets are still available from our church office. The comedy of Dennis Swanburg, alone, helps make this a must-see for me!
- Anyone interested in helping make the ministry area in which they're involved even more effective should consider the Real Ideas Conference at Van Dyke UMC, February 26th & 27th. See Dan Palmer for more information or visit www.vandyke.org/real-ideas-conference
- Special Lenten Music all during March and an Easter worship set are sure to be inspirational to everyone. Feel comfortable in inviting friends and neighbors, knowing they will hear great messages of hope and encouragement, supported by good music.
- We'll host Maundy Thursday for the cluster this year and St. Andrews will hold a Good Friday service. Put them on your calendar (April 1st & 2nd).
- And Finally.....OUR ANNUAL MUSIC MINISTRY GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER is April 17th at Bloomingdale Golf Course. Lunch and registration begin at 11:00am with a Shotgun start at 1:00pm. Even if you don't play golf yourself, consider sponsoring someone who does! It's always a great day of fun and fellowship - and provides needed extra funds to help our Music Ministry continue to be all that it can be.

Well, it's a busy year already! We pray that God will continue guiding our efforts in Music Ministry, that He may be honored, glorified and praised to the best of our abilities. We are so thankful and grateful for all His many blessings!

In His Service,

Jeff Brant & the entire Music Ministry Team

Send information for our weekly bulletins or monthly newsletters to info@fumcbrandon.org

Deadlines are each Wednesday at noon for bulletin; 10th of preceding month for newsletter

New Financial Peace University Classes Begin in February...

In our study on Stewardship, we find that we are merely minding the store for all the things that God has entrusted to us. Ultimately, He also wants us to be made over in His image. Learning God's principles for handling money is a great place to start that makeover.

Now is the time to take charge of your financial life, with Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. For members of the First United Methodist Church of Brandon it is going to be easier and more economical than ever.

First of all, we are working a cooperative effort with other local churches to offer the course on various nights of the week to help you find a class that best fits your schedule.

We have learned from the three years of holding the class that 'life happens' in the form of school concerts, sports, and work issues so having synchronized classes allows you a convenient way to make up classes when 'life' gets in the way.

Here's the best part for FUMC Brandon members. The first 15 families to sign up for this semester will receive a rebate voucher for \$50 off the already discounted church price of \$99.50. Yes, you read that right. That's a 50% discount beyond the lowest membership price available. After successful completion of the course that voucher can be redeemed for the rebate.

Don't miss this golden opportunity to take the class that millions of other Americans have used to successfully turn their financial life around.

Class start dates and locations:

- Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7:00pm, The Crossing Church on Causeway Blvd,
- Monday, February 15th, at 7:00pm, Grace Community United Methodist in FishHawk,
- Wednesday, February 17th, at 7:00pm, Bay Life Church on North Kingsway Avenue,
- Thursday, February 18th, at 7:00pm, First Methodist Brandon (in rooms S1/S2),
- Sunday, February 21st, at 5:00pm, St. Andrews UMC on Bloomingdale Ave.

This may be the most important \$100 you spend this year. (If you hurry it's only \$50 as there are still a few of those deals left). Contact Dave Schapiro, Class Coordinator, 741-9448 or go to www.daveramsey.com for more information about Financial Peace University.

Capital Campaign Update...

To date: \$1,489,529.11 total pledges received.
\$ 497,532.00 actual money received.



By paying for our Sanctuary, we'll be better able to use our regular tithes and offerings to accomplish more mission & ministry. Money now being spent on interest can be better used to make needed repairs to our aging facilities. And, as we are able to build up a reserve fund, our church will be in a better position to handle unexpected emergencies. All important steps that help glorify God and His church.

Thanks to all who are helping us pay for our Sanctuary and save for future needs. Keep up the good work!

Something to think about...

We may hesitate to give generously to God because we worry about having enough money left over to meet our own needs. Paul assured the Corinthians that God was able to meet their needs when he said, "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need." (2 Cor. 9:7-8) Don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving cheerfully and generously to your church. Think about creating a family legacy with a contribution to the Endowment Fund. Remember everything we have is a trust from God! For more information contact Planned Giving Coordinator, Rev. Clint Logan 813.571.1505

Thank you so very much...

MANY THANKS! and GREAT APPRECIATION is expressed to the many people who contributed food, money, clothes, shoes, toys, etc., to the Faith Community United Methodist Haitian Mission in east Tampa during the Thanksgiving/Christmas Season. They greatly appreciate the assistance and support that our Church gives to them. THANK YOU!

Clint Logan, Pastor Emeritus

Preschool Ministry... 3, 4 & 5-yr-olds

This month we are teaching our preschoolers that "With God, all things are possible." Love God with all your heart," (Matthew 19:26). Through the stories of Jesus doing miraculous things like walking on water, calming the storm, feeding 5000, and catching fish, we hope to show preschoolers that Jesus can do anything. Jesus is God's son, and He has the power of God behind Him. When Jesus is our friend, we have an amazing friend who can do anything.

Basic Truth: Jesus Wants to be My Friend Forever

Question: Is anything too hard for Jesus?

Bottom Line: Jesus can do anything.

Sunday mornings, at 9:30am, we start off with music and a large group Bible lesson with Vicki Ewing, then break out into smaller groups for our weekly object lesson and a game or craft to help the children retain what they've learned.

At 10:30, Miss Joy leads the children in singing.

At 11:00am, Julie Lewis helps us make joyful noise with our Kitchen Band on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and we participate in a craft or work on a mission project the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Our memory verse for February is: "With God, all things are possible." Matthew 19:26, NIV

Three Basic Truths every child should embrace according to what Jesus modeled in Luke 2:52...

➔ **I need to make the wise choice.**

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,

➔ **I can trust God no matter what.**

"... and in favor with God

➔ **I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

"... and man."

Preschool Scrip Program...

The SCRIP Program is our ongoing fundraiser to help meet some of our weekday preschool & kindergarten expenses. When you purchase scrip, you're purchasing prepaid cards that are used just like cash at more than a hundred popular stores, restaurants and gas stations in the area, including:

Payless Shoes, Dillard's, Kohl's, Sears, Applebee's, California Pizza Kitchen, Chili's, Cracker Barrel, Outback, Red Lobster, Arby's, Wendy's, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, AMC Theaters, Bed Bath & Beyond, Home Depot, Lowe's, iTunes, Family Christian, Jo Ann Fabrics, and many many more!

Contact Susan Pardue in the Church Office for a complete listing. Orders are placed every Friday.

Children's Ministry... Elementary Age God, Family & U - our Multi-Generational Services!

Our next two GFU Services will be held Friday, January 29th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary and again on Friday, February 26th. This service is designed with young children in mind, but it's creativity and message will be well-received by folks of all ages!

iPraise Kids Meet Wednesdays 6:00-7:00pm

Children in 1st grade and up are invited to join us for iPraise! A multi-age opportunity to lead worship. We sing, dance and lead worship for our monthly GFU service and elementary-aged children lead worship each Sunday at 9:30am in the Kid Church Tree House service.

Many opportunities exist for each of us to use the gifts we have... come use all of your mind, body and soul to worship our God and show others how much fun it can be! Contact Shelly Wilson at 689-4161 or children@fumcbrandon.org

Sunday Mornings

During the month of February in all our Elementary-age Sunday programming, we will explore the virtue of HONOR Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

Sundays at 9:30am for 1st through 5th grades: Kid's Church Tree House

During our weekly Children's Worship Service, held in the Gym, we use music and drama creatively to help children learn to love worship while they grow closer to God using age-appropriate messages for greater comprehension and retention.

We will explore the virtue of HONOR in the books of 1st Samuel & 2nd Samuel – learning that we need to honor those who are overlooked, honor others more than yourself, honor those who are over you, and to honor God out LOUD!

Sundays at 11:00am for 1st through 5th grades: Flicks of Faith

So much that is in the world calls out for - and successfully captures - our children's attention. The good news is that we can use one of the very things that captures their attention to teach them the most important lessons and to help children grow in their faith. Instead of competing with Hollywood, we are going to use it as a tool to advance the kingdom of God with children's movies. Each month's "flick" is G or PG-rated with the Biblical truth based on our monthly virtue. In February, we will explore the virtue of HONOR in "Mulan" – *Staying true to yourself will bring honor*, and "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" – *Treat everyone with respect*.

Student Ministries...

Upcoming Events!

2010 Super Bowl Bash!

February 7th we'll once again gather at the Boys & Girls Club for a giant-screen football blast! Serving hamburgers, buffalo wings and more. Bring your lawn chair, a couple two-liter sodas and tailgating snacks to share - don't forget to bring a few friends with you!

Senior High Prom Night in the Chapel Ballroom

February 21st, 5:00-8:00pm. Attire is any outfit you can put together for \$10. The night will be filled with music, laughter, friends and a discussion of the impact of our faith on dating and romance. You don't want to miss this special event for high school students.

Whipped Cream Night in the B&G

March 7th, 5:00-7:00pm. Messy, sticky, funny, slippery, creamy, yummy competitions, sports, skits and snacks! This is a night not to miss. One can of whipped cream gets you in the door!

Are you connected to a small group, yet?

"What's a small group?" Well, think of it as a group of friends who get together to laugh, talk and pray (etc) each week to support each other in growing and discovering their faith. *"Do I have to be a Super Christian to be in one?"* Nope... as a matter of fact, if you can leap tall buildings in a single bound you probably don't think you need anyone else's help anyway. (U might also be fooling yourself)

"When do they meet?" All over Brandon at different places and different times. *"What do they really do?"* My group plays a lot of baseball and tells stories. A middle school girls group is planning their weddings together. Others hang out and talk geek stuff. Some play basketball. One even catered the \$10 Prom night as a gift to the High School students. (Thanks girls!)

"How do I get connected?" Drop an email to office@mistudentministry.com with SMALL GROUP in the header and we will help you find a group that you can connect with or help start a brand new group with others like you who need a place where everybody knows your name.

All Hiz,
Michael J. McCrystal, Director of Student Ministries

The Great Marriage Experience...

An entertaining weekend to support, encourage and celebrate 'couple-ness' takes place February 19th and 20th at Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon.

The weekend kicks off with a date night on Friday, from 7:15 - 9:00pm. We'll begin with sweet desserts and then enjoy a concert featuring comedian Dennis Swanberg and Christian singer Charles Billingsley.

Saturday's program runs from 8:15am - 5:00pm. There'll be plenty of time for worship and laughter, and practical information on how to make and keep your relationship strong from award-winning authors and nationally-syndicated radio hosts, Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg.

Conference topics will include:

- Six Secrets to Lasting Love
- Celebrating Love Emotionally
- Celebrating Love Spiritually
- Celebrating Love Physically

Don't let childcare concerns keep you away! We're offering free childcare both days (for children up to 5th grade) if you sign up by February 5th.

The weekend is normally priced at \$155.00 but by special arrangement all couples from our church get a discounted price of \$124.00.

Purchase your tickets from the Church Office during the week or see Dan Palmer on Sunday mornings. Questions? Email info@fumcbrandon.org

Can't Make it to a Weekly Worship Service?

You can join us "live" from any computer with a high speed internet connection, or you may access previous worship services in their entirety 24 hours a day. Have friends or family out of town? In another country? They can tune in, too!

At www.fumcbrandon.org click on the "Worship with Us Online" button. If we're live, you'll see a video window.

If you want to watch a previous service, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Contemporary" for the 9:30 service, or "Traditional" for the 11:00 service. Weekly services are available within 48 hours of their live broadcast. You must have the latest version of Adobe Flash installed, see the website for details and a free link.

Email stuartmackey@fumcbrandon.org or call the Church Office with questions.

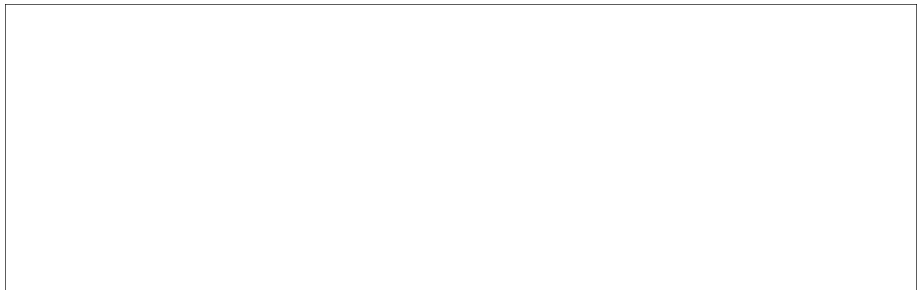
(Technical Note: Performance of the webcast is based on a number of factors, including computer video card, speed and RAM, connection speed, and other open programs on your

Send information for our weekly bulletins or monthly newsletters to info@fumcbrandon.org
Deadlines are Wednesday at noon for the bulletin; 10th of preceding month for the newsletter.

The February Belltower
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View our *Activities Calendar* on the Web
 Anytime! at www.fumcbrandon.org

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Submissions for Bulletins and Newsletters

To help us serve you better - please send ALL your information for the bulletin, bulletin inserts and monthly newsletters to the following email address: info@fumcbrandon.org The bulletin deadline is every Wednesday noon, and the 10th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

Find a Place Where You Can Use Your Time and Talents, and... Get in the Game!



At First Methodist Brandon, we want to encourage everyone to be regularly involved in at least one ministry (serving others in the church) and at least one mission (serving others outside our four walls).

2010 Mission & Ministry Fair
January 31 at the B&G

Here's your chance to explore all the mission & ministry options for service available through our church, in one convenient location. Our 2010 Mission & Ministry Fair will be held January 31st at the Boys & Girls Club following each worship service. Hospitality will be located there that morning, too!