

## FROM THE PASTOR.....

(I asked Pastor Drew to tell us about his life before coming to Hawthorne. When you have been as involved in God's work as Pastor Drew and Karen have, it takes several pages. We thank them so much for sharing their life '(pre-Hawthorne with us. God has indeed used them in many wonderful ways!)

.....from last month's newsletter...

The love of my life, Karen, and I met in North Carolina and have been traveling ever since.....

In addition to North Carolina, we have lived in West Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia and, of course, Florida! We spent most of that time doing something in the social service field (i.e. mentally and physically challenged, mentally ill, troubled youth, elderly, etc.)

We moved from West Virginia to Florida in 1992 and started as employees of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (FUMCH) in Enterprise, FL in October of that year. It was here that God reminded me through my Uncle-in-law, Cecil Radcliff, of the call I had received eleven years earlier! He was pastor of Bear Lake UMC, where Karen and I attended. I went through the Candidacy Process (where God changed my calling from foreign to home missions and from missionary to Pastor!) with Pastor Henry D. Cribb, Jr. of Apopka First UMC. I was recommended for pastoral ministry by Bear Lake and the Orlando District Board of Ordained Ministry. I took vacation in May of 1995 to attend the "School of Local Pastors" on Florida Southern College's campus in Lakeland.

In July, 1995, Karen and I resigned (reluctantly and sadly) from FUMCH so I could attend Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, KY, which is 20 miles south of Lexington. What a blessing! After my experience with SEBTS (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary), I didn't want to attend seminary. However, God put me at ease when I walked into my very first class in September, 1995, and Professor David Thompson (one of

seven collaborators on The New Living Translation Bible from Asbury Seminary) gave a five minute devotion and led us in prayer. Karen and I truly felt we were standing on Holy Ground the moment we stepped on campus!

I was privileged to serve as the student-local pastor of a two-point charge, Salvisa and Joseph's Chapel United Methodist Churches. However, this was my "John Wesley in Georgia" experience. If I had any delusions about pastoral ministry, this appointment cleared them all up! There were two factions fighting for control of the charge and I had to walk between them. However, by God's grace, I left on good terms with everyone in the charge and maintained my pastoral relationship with everyone!

I graduated from Asbury in May of 1999. I served as the Associate Pastor of St. Paul's UMC in Tallahassee. I had had no large church experience, so I asked to be placed in a large church (1,000 or more members) Jim McWhinnie, the Senior Pastor, and I worked well together. He was the creative genius and I was the people person! Karen and I stayed there two years.

I was next appointed as Senior Pastor of Carrabelle UMC in June, 2001. Karen and I enjoyed our five years there as the people were ready to minister with us. It was during this time we acquired Bella (our wonderfully loving cat who died of cancer in 2007). Arwen, our white Cornish Rex (Bella was a torty Cornish Rex) with ice blue eyes. (She was a kitten when we got her. Bella was a breeder cat), and Kira, who was blown on our front porch after Hurricane Dennis hit our area and devastated it!

We reluctantly left Carrabelle only because I was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006!

We were next appointed to the Wakulla UMC and stayed there for two years. It was during this time, we acquired Zoe, our black and white Boredor (Border Collie and Labrador Retriever mix). It was a beautiful sanctuary built by the members themselves!

They hope to build a Family Life Center in the near future. We love and miss them.

However, God moved us from Wakulla to the wonderful Hawthorne First UMC. All of you have been so gracious and welcoming. May God bless you all for the ways you have blessed Karen and me.

One last experience I need to share with you are my two trips to Cuba, one to Yaguaramas in October, 2000, and one to Horquita in September, 2002 (we flew to Cienfuegos Cuba, from Miami on September 11, 2002!) Words cannot describe how these two trips affected me! I had everything and they had so little, at least materially! However, they had The Holy Spirit moving among them. You've probably heard the saying, "I wanted to kiss the ground!" Cuba taught me it's truth. Yet, if God would allow it, I would move there forever! People worshiped God for hours! They sang and listened to sermons! The Spirit moved many and saved many! Even though they were financially poor, they had much more spiritual riches than I'd ever seen.

A despotic government and crushing poverty did not keep these Christians down! It was like living through "The Acts of the Apostles." There are so many stories I could share and I will as we minister together. Cuba was a life changing event for me. I challenge each of you to travel to a third world country. It will make you a little more grateful to God that you were born here, not there.

.....I forgot to mention that it was my mother's consistent witness that led me to accept Jesus as my Savior. Every night she would gather my sister, Joy, and I and would read a devotion with The Bible and then would read us a story poem, such as The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, Daniel Boone, or Evangeline. These were my bedtime stories growing up. I have the book she read them from in my office. The bindings are gone, but the pages are as new looking as when she read them to us.

Had it not been my Mom's witness, I would not be a Christian or a lover of poetry

today! The book is entitled "Favorite Poems Old and New." It brings back rich, warm memories of my Mom sharing her faith and love of poetry!

My Dad was a man who worked two jobs six days a week so we could have food, shelter and clothing. Because he had to work so much in my early years, it wasn't until I was in High School that we got to know each other well. However, he more than made up for any time lost and we have grown very close indeed. The best memories I have of my Dad are the times we went hunting together. When I was 16, Dad bought me a J.C. Penney 20 gauge pump shot gun. My favorite prey was quail because I don't have the patience to sit in a tree stand hoping a deer will walk by or on the edge of a field hoping a dove will fly over. I like to keep moving! My Dad taught me my love of nature and shared with me all the wisdom he had gained over the years while we walked through the woods on fall days!

Because of the investment of my Mom and Dad in my life, I am a better person!

My older sister, Joy (I am the oldest of three), was my childhood companion growing up. We climbed trees, pretended to be Zorro, talked, roamed the neighborhood, and just generally became best friends as well as brother and sister. Joy has gone on to become a school counselor with a Master's Degree in Counseling from Liberty University. However, her greatest achievement, I believe has been making sure her two daughters, Valerie and Victoria have grown up to be such wonderful human beings.

Joy and her husband, Wayne Mock, have been great parents. I only wish I lived closer to them so I could get to know my brother, Wayne. He's a great guy who restores cars and helps keep Atlanta going with the technical skill he learned at Georgia Tech.

I didn't have the privilege of watching my other sister, Gaye grow up because she was ten when I left for college. I know I wasn't the best brother I should have been to her, but in spite of it, she has overcome all obstacles and I am very proud of her. She

and her husband John Hayes have three great children, Jackson, Sydney, and Emma. The boy is the oldest, just as in my family. Gaye has also earned her Doctorate in College Administration and only has to complete her dissertation to complete her requirements. She did this while serving as the Dean of Students and Dean of Recruitment at Georgia Southwestern University (Gaye's and Joy's alma mater!) She also survived a flood in Americus and the deadly tornado which hit her town in March of 2007! I'm very proud of my two sisters!

Again, I wished I lived closer to get to know John better. However, we do share a love of history. He invited me to the Prisoner of War weekend at the Andersonville National Historic Site a few years back! I'm trying to return the favor by inviting him and the family to come to the Olustee event held every third weekend in February!

Words really fail me to describe how blessed I am to be married to the best wife a man could have. I met the beautiful, loving, talented, intelligent and caring Karen Radcliff on August 26, 1983 (This August 26<sup>th</sup> was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the day we met!) I have been such a blessed man to have such a lady to be my wedded wife! She truly completes me! This is how I know God created us each for the other because we are such a perfect fit! Karen is also a very creative person whose dramatic genius is unparalleled! I can honestly say that if I didn't have Karen in my life, I would not be half the man, pastor or success I am today! Because of Karen, I know what unconditional love is and she taught me grace! I know what John Newton meant when he wrote of his beloved Mary, "I deserved never to have had her, and every day I had her, I deserved to lose her." I thank Karen so much for choosing me when she deserved better, and for all the sacrifices she had made and continues to make so I can be your Pastor!

I invite you to come by my office sometime so you may see my chess set, my eagles and buffaloes, my collection of

historical books and magazines, my cola bottles, my pictures and plaques and my Enterprise NX-01 model from Star Trek: Enterprise. I pray someday I'll be able to hunt quail again and visit more of the historical parks and sites of our great nation. (I go for the history and Karen for the nature!)

I look forward to being here as long as God allows (which I pray is a long time, maybe even until Jesus comes back!) and ministering with all of you as we work together to bring the lost to Christ so they may be saved and help each other "go on to perfection" by praying the saying of John the Baptist: "He (Jesus) must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less" (John 3:30 from The New Living Translation, my favorite Bible!)

May the Lord bless you and protect you!

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace.

( Numbers 6:24, The New Living Translation)

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## **CHILDREN'S HOME**

Barbara Curtis reported that she and Dick carried the many, many items that were collected (through your generosity) for the students in the Children's Home to start back to school. They are very appreciative for all that the people in our church do for them.

This Sunday, August 31, is Children's Home Sunday, when you will again be given the opportunity to donate to this wonderful organization. We also appreciate the time and effort that Dick and Barbara give to the Children's Home!

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES

This month our church will be doing a new pictorial church directory. Ina Kay Morgan has graciously volunteered to “get it together”. However, we need the cooperation of all members of the church to be in the directory. If you have not already made an appointment, please call Ina Kay at 481-2244. The pictures will be made on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to keep your appointment, but if you are unable to come, you may submit a photograph that you already have and turn it into Ina Kay as soon as possible.

Some pages in the directory will feature church activities. We will need church groups; i.e. S.S. Classes, K-Groups, Circles, etc. to get pictures made and submit them for the directory.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Children’s Department started using a redesigned program from Cokesbury in September. It is similar to the one we were using and emphasizes lessons from the Bible and how these lessons can be applied today. We welcome Shirley Marrocco as teacher for the high school/college age class. Many thanks to Sharon Surrency who has taught this class for several years. Sharon will still continue to be a substitute teacher.

The next Education Committee meeting is Sunday, September 21, after the worship service. All people interested in the education program of the church are invited to attend.

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## PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain needs updating every now and then. Please contact Ina Kay Morgan if you would like to be called on the prayer chain or if you wish your name to be removed.

Please let Ina Kay know the times that are convenient for you to be called. Remember you must have the consent of the person before you request placement on the prayer chain.

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## NEWS BULLETIN

**Mark your calendar for  
October 18<sup>th</sup>  
For a “beautiful” and “fun”  
filled evening!  
The Thrift Shop  
And  
The United Methodist Women  
Will present a  
“Fashion Show”  
Watch for further details!**

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## FLOOD BUCKETS

The UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, La. is in need of “Flood Buckets” to send to disaster areas. “Flood Buckets” filled with cleaning supplies were sent to the recent Midwest flooded areas and depleted the supply.

The Depot can replace exact items at a cost of \$45 for each bucket. A donation can be made through the church for this urgent need.

**“A Tribute to Mrs. Spinks”**

Our church lost a dear friend and member on Sunday, August 10th, six days short of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mrs. Clara Spinks, otherwise known as “Ms Clara” went to live with her Heavenly Father. She was a dear lady who had been confined to her home for the last few years, but still very near and dear to all of us who have known her.

Clara was preceded in death by her husband, R.A. Spinks and is survived by their son, Zack, his wife, Laverne. She is also survived by her three grandchildren and one great grand child.

Some of us remember Ms Clara as a lady who loved to talk and who made the best “wedding” cookies. She had a beauty salon in her early years in Hawthorne, (some of us ladies owe a lot to her). Zack tells me that she had a rule that there would be no gossiping in her beauty salon.

We in the church remember Clara and Mr. Spinks singing duets on Sunday evenings. When we hear songs like “His Eye Is On the Sparrow” we get a little nostalgic thinking of them standing behind the pulpit singing to the glory of God.

We thank God that it was our privilege to have known this wonderful couple and believe they are again together still singing to “the glory of God!”

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We recently received a new address for the Scotts who have moved to Illinois. We do miss this young couple who contributed so much to the service of our church.

**Keith and Estee Scott**  
**712 Hawthorne Ln.**  
**Genoa, IL 60135**

**Ph: 352/327-2983**

**From Shirley Marrocco.....**

We are putting together a book of devotions written by our church members,

friends, and associates. Each one of us has had a special relationship with God. Please consider and pray about writing a devotion (it doesn't have to be long) similar in format to the Upper Room devotions.

If you need help putting your ideas together, some one can help you with it. Give them to Shirley Marrocco.

Please call Shirley @481-2864 if you'd like to know more about this. Many thanks!

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### **SOME REALLY HELPFUL HINTS VIA THE INTERNET**

**Expanding Frosting:** When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.

**Get rid of Ants:** Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it “home”, can't digest it, so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have to worry about pets or small children being harmed!

**Reopening envelope:** If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily.

**Flexible vacuum nozzle:** To get something out of a heat register or under the fridge, add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.