

# NEWSupdate

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- WINTER REUNION
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- OPEN DOORS
- POOL UPDATE
- WITH GRATITUDE
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## Sing Songs of Joy

## FMC LEADERSHIP

**The new hymnals have arrived! Have fun exploring this wonderful tool for ministry in your congregations!**

### CCS 87

Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount—I'm fixed upon it—mount of thy redeeming love.

Words: Robert Robinson  
Music: John Wyeth

Dear Friends,

Please share the following information with your congregation.

At Saturday's Florida Mission Center conference (November 9th), members enthusiastically sustained Bob Watkins as President and Financial Officer of the mission center. We gave thanks to God that Bob's recovery has returned him to full-time ministry. We also expressed appreciation for Bob's willingness to bring leadership as a single-line administrator.

In support of Bob and the mission center, Debbie Bartlett will continue to provide excellent organizational and administrative skills as administrative assistant and bookkeeper for the Florida Mission Center and Deerhaven Campgrounds.

Jim Slauter has graciously agreed to continue to provide assistance as needed through December 31. The Florida Mission Center has been greatly blessed by Jim's leadership during Bob's recovery and transition to full-time leadership.

**From this point forward, please refer all communication, questions, etc. to Bob. He will work with Debbie and Jim to provide pastoral and leadership support to members and congregations.**

Your sister in Christ,  
Linda L. Booth, Apostle  
Southern USA Mission  
Field

*The Staff of the Florida Mission Center wishes you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving. As we enter the Advent Season, may you be surrounded by love and ever aware of God's presence and blessings in your life.*

*Bob, Jane, Debbie, and Jim*





# OPEN DOORS

BOB WATKINS

The knowledge that “God is good” should be of no surprise to most of us as we traverse our discipleship. I can testify to each of you that God gave me a wonderful gift this summer that most likely extended my life. The ministry of God seems to be abundant as I look back and think of how I was blessed to have found my cancer and again blessed as doors were opened that allowed me the experience of healing.

Last June while visiting my sister Kim, who was in her final battle with cancer and under hospice care, I found myself locked outside of her home with her in a weakened condition in a heap in her living room. What do I do with no key to get in and all other doors locked? Just as I was ready to put my shoulder to the front door I decided to try my keys. The first key I picked from my key chain I placed in the deadbolt lock; the key turned just as if it was cut for the door. I went in and got her back in a resting position. We had a wonderful visit that day. About a week later would be the last time I would see her alive.

Later that day I decided to try to find which key opened the door for me. I was completely mystified to find that no key would work in her locks at that time. The only way I could explain it was that the experience of opening the door was a “God thing” of mystical proportions, but a blessing which I attributed to God.

The next day Jane and I drove to Colorado to visit with our children and spend a few days. After arriving in Colorado I found myself in the Poudre Valley Hospital in Ft. Collins with a case of food poisoning. During some routine emergency room tests, the doctor found the cancer on my pancreas. This started me down a journey where doors were opened for me that allowed the right team of caregivers to ultimately provide me with a cancer-free diagnosis after surgery. I praise God for his mercy and intervention into my life. My tumor, a neuroendocrine tumor, only occurs about five percent of the time on the pancreas. My doctors informed me how fortunate I was to have found this because most of the time when they find this tumor it has spread. It seemed to me another door was opened.

The church assisted both Jane and me by freeing us up so I could have surgery and recovery time. Jim and Jan Slauter changed their entire schedules so Jim could step into my role. Jane was freed from work to take care of me. The mission center folks sent over 300 cards and notes of encouragement. One member sent me a book called *A Season of Comfort* with nature pictures and Psalms which I found extremely helpful in my meditation and efforts for comfort. I invite you to get your bible and read Psalm 103 and 112 and you will find that God’s love endures forever.

As disciples, I found that your love and compassion and healing prayers blessed me in my journey. Your prayers helped open doors that brought the healing touch of compassion and love to me. Thanks to each of you for holding me up in my times of doubt and in my times of hope. Words that I can say or write fall completely short of how I want to thank you. I believe you helped open doors which led to healing. Thanks to all of you who helped bring a season of comfort and healing to me.

Dear friends, ***you are the keys*** to doors of hope, healing, comfort, strength, laughter, and joy. You bless our lives!

## november

8-9 MissionFest  
9 FMC & Deerhaven  
Conferences  
16 Deerhaven Workday  
28 THANKSGIVING  
28-29 OFFICE CLOSED

## december

24-Jan 1 OFFICE CLOSED  
25 CHRISTMAS

## january

1 NEW YEAR'S  
25-31 Winter Reunion  
31-Feb 2 Youth Retreat

### Website Tip...

*Looking for an evangelist to talk with about a blessing? Needing some guest ministry while your regular speakers are traveling? From the home page of the mission center website, click Resources— Shared Ministry List for a list of names and numbers to contact for ministry. [For traveling ministry it is appropriate to offer a monetary gift to help cover gas and travel expenses.]*

# WORKDAY THANKS!

I would like to thank those who came out in support of Deerhaven Campground's Workday Nov. 16, 2013. What we lacked in numbers we made up for with great enthusiasm. The dedication and hard work of these fine folks in the preservation of Deerhaven was and is greatly appreciated. On behalf of Deerhaven Campgrounds and myself, thank you for your continued support.

**Attendees:**

*Adults:* Bill Wegner, Mike Barnett, Jerry and Linda Schearer; *Youth:* Johnathan Baird (JD), Chris and Kay-

la Rosario all of **Tavares**, Dave McGee of **Gainesville**, Larry Glaze of **Deerhaven**

Tasks included: Trail and road clearing, hedge trimming, trash removal, replaced back kitchen door, replaced window a/c in pantry, electric hook-up to gazebo one, pantry cleaning, window cleaning and labeling new hymnals.

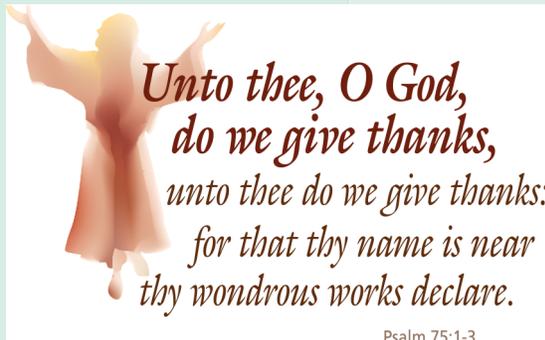
Again, Thank You,

Robert Tillis  
Manager/Caretaker  
Deerhaven Campgrounds



Thank You

*For your labor of love!*



## YOUTH RETREAT

January 31— February 2 at Deerhaven

All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to the annual Youth Retreat at Deerhaven this coming January 31 through February 2 at Deerhaven. Invite your friends and come and share in this fun snow-themed event! While snow may not be common in Florida, this Jan/Feb come experience snow ball fights, sled races and more. Campers will explore the theme "SNOW—Seeking New Opportunities to Witness" as they share in mixers, campfire, music, a talent show, crafts and more. Mark your calendar and invite your friends now.

**Director: Darlene Huntley, (407) 227-3231 or [butterflysoulfreedom@gmail.com](mailto:butterflysoulfreedom@gmail.com).**

**Tentative Schedule**

**Friday, Jan 31**

6:30-8:00 Registration  
8:00-8:30 Welcome  
8:30-9:00 Mixers  
9:00-10:00 Activity: TBA  
10:00-10:30 Cabin Devotions  
11:00 Lights out

**Saturday, February 1**

8:00-8:15 Worship  
8:15-9:00 Breakfast & Clean Up  
9:00-10:00 Session I: **Witnessing?**  
10:15-11:15 Crafts/Music Time  
11:15-12:00 Sports Time  
12:00-1:00 Lunch & Clean Up  
1:00-2:00 Shoes Off/ Cabin Time  
2:00-3:00 Session II: **Witnessing**  
3:00-4:00 Camp Hiking Adventure

4:00-5:00

Relay Races: Snowman building/Group Skiing/ Sled Races/Snowball Fun Dinner & Clean Up

5:00-6:00

Session III: **Witnessing**

6:00-7:00

Free Time

7:00-8:00

Talent Show

8:00-9:00

Campfire

9:00-10:00

Cabin Devotions

10:00-10:30

Lights out

11:00

**Sunday, February 2**

8:00-9:15

Breakfast & Clean Up

9:15-10:15

Pack & Clean up Camp

10:15-10:30

Camp Inspection

10:30-11:30

Closing Worship Service



# WINTER REUNION UPDATE

Hello and Greetings from your 2014 Winter Reunion Directors!

Winter Reunion is a little over two months away, and we are very excited about the experience we will have together. Our guest ministry is excited to be joining us, we have some new class opportunities in the afternoons, and will share in some unique times of worship together. It will be a great week.

We have some very important news to share with everyone in regards to the housing situation. For those of you who have not registered yet, we are sorry to inform you that pretty much all of the housing at Deerhaven is as full as we are able to accommodate. The residence halls are completely filled except for one bed for a single male who is willing to share a room with another single male. If you are a single male who is planning to attend, please contact us ASAP and get yourself registered if you want this last bed.

The cabins have been filled with four people to a room. Based on previous reunion evaluations, we have NOT separated couples, but have instead assigned two couples to each cabin (except for one cabin which will have four single women rooming together). We know that in an ideal world everyone could have their own private rooms, but unfortunately Deerhaven does not have enough rooms to accommodate private rooms for everyone. As was stated in the registration information, rooms were filled on a first-come first-served basis, with special allowances made for those who had physical needs which required them to be in the residence halls. Nolan and DeAnn have done a magnificent job filling these rooms while trying to

meet people's needs and personal preferences. Please know that doing housing assignments for Winter Reunion is the HARDEST job there is in regards to making this camp successful. It is a thankless job, and we are very grateful to have two very efficient people doing it for us this year.

If you have previously registered, you have a bed at this reunion. Housing confirmations and assignments will be sent out in the near future. If you have not yet registered, please know that there is still plenty of room for RVs, trailers, and tents. You can also register and be placed on a "waiting list" just in case someone else cancels and a room or bed opens up.

We sincerely apologize if you have not yet registered and are now unable to attend Winter Reunion. We wish there were 50 more rooms that we could fill, and would encourage all of you to generously donate to Deerhaven in order to perhaps build another residence hall in the future. It is an exciting thing to "fill" the camp and we know it will be a Spirit-filled and fun week, but we certainly wish we could do more to make room for everyone who wants to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mark or myself, either by email or by phone. Mark's cell # is 813-230-9366, and my cell # is 989-339-4665. Our email addresses are:

Mark Dixon:  
[mdixon1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mdixon1@tampabay.rr.com)  
Peter Smith:  
[tinman71@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tinman71@tampabay.rr.com)

Have a very blessed Thanksgiving, and we look forward to communicating with you in the near future!

Blessings to you,  
Peter and Mark

To check out a list of off-site housing near Deerhaven, visit <http://www.deerhaven.cc/nearby-accommodations.html>. Be sure to do your own checking on these properties. This is an informational list only and does not represent endorsement by Deerhaven Campground or the Florida Mission Center.

**A Place at the Table...**



**Guest Ministers:  
Evangelists Dick and  
Barbara Howard**

**Cost: \$140/person for week  
\$ 30/person per day**

**Make checks payable to:  
Florida Mission Center**

**Mail registration to:  
Nolan White  
7937 Princeton Manor Circle  
Lakeland, FL 33809**

**Or register and pay online:  
[www.cofchristfmc.org](http://www.cofchristfmc.org)**

# WITH GRATITUDE

JANE WATKINS

As a bishop and financial officer, it was my calling to encourage gratitude and generosity. Today I take the opportunity to thank you for your generosity, to the church, the people, and to me. Living in Florida has brought me to so many new friendships and opportunities. At this time of giving thanks, I can only say a humble thank you for so many things, but especially the opening of your homes and hearts to me. We often hear teachers and preachers speak of the “four types of love” that were so uniquely described in the Greek culture: *eros*, *storge*, *agape*, and *philia*. *Eros* and *storge* apply to families, with *eros* being the special love shared between partners and *storge* the close relationships between parents and children and between siblings. At times *storge* was also used to describe the strong love one has of country. *Philia* was the special bond of friendship where we feel so endeared to each other that we feel like brothers and sisters. *Agape* is that selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love

that Jesus modeled and to which we are called as Christians. The terms *storge* and *eros* are not mentioned in the Bible, but the call to *agape* and *philia* types of love are frequent. I am here today to say loud and clear that those two special types of love are in abundance in the Florida Mission Center. I know because I have been the recipient and have basked in your caring, concern, and love.

I am including a picture of me with Xianna at the South Miami Comunidad de Cristo. When her mother, Cathy Moorman, took the pictures, this one was number two of three shots. Cathy said, “Oh Jane! You closed your eyes.” She promptly retook the picture. However, when I looked at the pictures I felt that this one truly conveyed my emotions: savoring the joy of passing my love-light to Xianna. I’m thinking as I retire of all the opportunities I’ve had to stand in Xianna’s shoes and receive the love of so many of you. It is with bittersweet joy that I thank you and say a fond farewell.



Jane and Xianna at the Fishes and Loaves Pantry in South Miami

Jane Watkins was honored at the recent FMC Conference at Deerhaven on November 9th. Apostle Linda Booth thanked Jane for her many years of service and for the gifts she has shared throughout the church. On behalf of the mission center, a gift card to Crate and Barrel was presented to Jane so that she can pursue one of her loves and passions (cooking) in her retirement. Thank you, Jane, for blessing us with your giftedness!



## SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

Earlier, the old pool shell was completely removed. A new pool shell was poured with gunite on October 29 and 30 and there seemed to be no major issues. The foreman from the gunite company was there and very vigilant about the job. A trench around the new shell has been dug and the plumbing has been installed. Once the

new shell has been officially approved, the remainder of the pool work can be done. If pool efforts continue as scheduled, the pool should be completed in early 2014.

Dale Lick, Deerhaven Board Chair



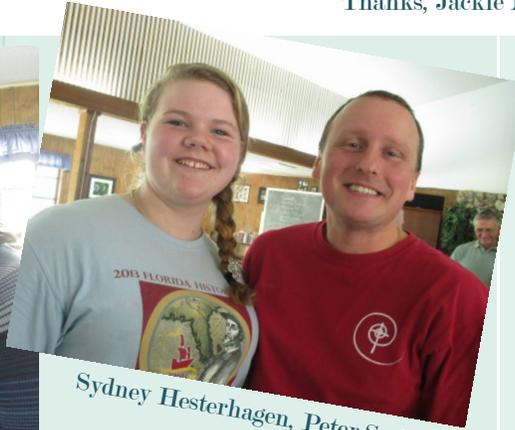
# EVENT PHOTOS

Thanks, Jackie Mueller, for all these great Facebook photos!

MISSIONFEST SMILES!



Linda Booth, Bob Watkins, Susan Blanchard



Sydney Hesterhagen, Peter Smith



Don Passeretti is set apart as a Counselor at the FMC Conference



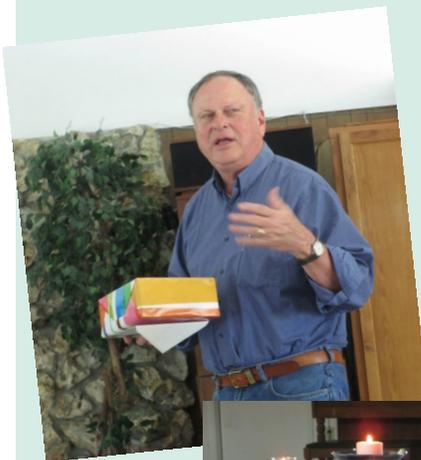
Mission Kids at MissionFest, under the leadership of Brenda Cummins



The youth have lunch with Apostle Linda Booth at MissionFest



Logan Sisley assists Tom Hentz during the FMC Conference



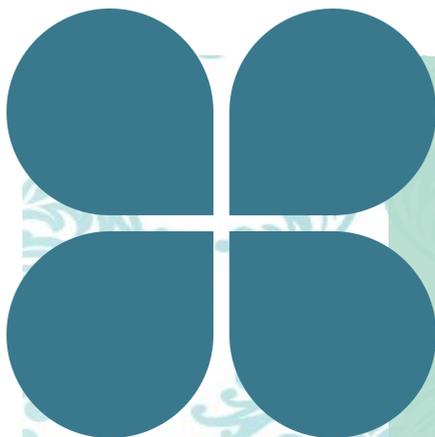
Marvin Rice and Karen Palko bring ministry at the Spiritual Growth Retreat in October



Women's Retreat ladies enjoyed gourmet cupcakes, French cuisine and plenty of chocolate at this year's tasty event!



L-Barbara Woolard Above— Ocala ladies



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Deerhaven Events

PRE-REGISTER AT [WWW.COFCHRISTFMC.ORG](http://WWW.COFCHRISTFMC.ORG)

- January 25-31—**Winter Reunion**, “Live Christ’s Peace—a Place at the Table,” Guest Ministers: Evangelists Dick and Barbara Howard
- January 31—February 2—**Youth Retreat**, “SNOW,” youth in 6th-12 grades are invited
- February 28—March 2—**Evangelist Retreat**, Guest Minister: Presiding Evangelist David Brock
- March 7-9—**Young Adult Retreat**, “Seize the Day,” Guest Minister: Seventy Karin Peter

REGISTERING EARLY AS WELL AS CANCELLING EARLY, IF NEEDED, HELPS US KEEP THE COST OF EVENTS DOWN AND HELPS DIRECTORS AND STAFF PREPARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

## Other FMC Events

- December 10 & 17—**Temple School**—PA140 Elders: *Servants of God’s People* will be taught December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 12:30pm at the Clearwater Community of Christ. Anyone who may be interested should contact Mark Dixon so course materials may be ordered by November 24<sup>th</sup>.

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We proclaim Jesus Christ  
and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace