

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is upon us with its warmth and beauty once again and my thoughts take me back to about a year ago when Bible class resumed after a short brake. We were fortunate to partake in a Bible study based on a DVD entitled “Explore the Wonders of Creation, Conscience, and the Glory of God.” That approximate eight week study focused on the beauty of nature and the true awesomeness of our God. The DVD examined various parts of our created world such as our sun and the stars, understanding sea life, birds and flowers, the beauty of sunsets and snow crystals and a myriad of other things in nature. The classes were brought even more into focus for me when my wife and I took a brief trip to the Keys with a group of friends and spent some amazing time at the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory. We walked through a tropical paradise of flowering plants and colorful birds and witnessed hundreds of the most beautiful winged creatures in nature – butterflies. We learned of the lifecycle and migration habits of these magnificent creations of our God.

All in all, both of these events brought me closer to an understanding of the true power of our creator, God. Words like incredible, incomprehensible, and remarkable just don’t seem to completely express the wonders we were and are fortunate to behold.

Yet many people in our world today have been convinced by their fellow man that some natural chain of events brought this all about. Every effect – like the universe – has to have a natural cause that preceded it. This is the basic presupposition of scientific study. We, however, need look no farther than the very first sentence of the most read book in all of history that our Lord and Savior inspired and wrote to find the true answer.” In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”. The eternal God for whose existence there are no causes, created time, the universe, and the space that contain it. All of this he did with his word. And we know this because the only being who was present at the moment, our creator, has told us. God created all

this beauty out of an incomprehensible love for the human race. Our all-wise, all-knowing God did this for us and reigns in realms beyond our comprehension. And what should our response be? We need to stand in humble awe before him and marvel at his creation. When you see the beauty around you, let it remind you to lift your head in praise. Express your appreciation for God’s creation and realize that God is omnipotent. There isn’t anything he can’t do.

If ever you get a chance to visit the Keys, be sure to include a stop at the Conservatory in your itinerary. You will find it truly worthwhile and you will leave feeling a step closer to the God who loves you far beyond your wildest dreams.

God’s blessings to all,

Greg Wendorf

FROM THE PASTOR

What Can I Say?

This will be the last Newsletter article I write as pastor of Open Bible. What is there to say?

One word keeps coming to mind. **THANKS!**

The thought of thanking individuals crossed my mind, but there is too much risk of omitting too many. So thank you to everyone for your kindness and generosity toward Connie and me. Our lives have been blessed and enriched by knowing you and working with you.

Thank you also for your willing service to the Lord in the ministry at Open Bible. Thank for your prayers for me and for the work of the Lord.

There is one we can and must single out to thank. That is God himself. He has blessed Open Bible in so many ways. Compare to other new startup congregations and how much they struggle. Don’t ever forget to thank God for all the blessings he has dispatched to Open Bible.

Now God has blessed you with a new pastor arriving within one month. Pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing on his ministry.

Signing off—with a Big THANK YOU!

Pastor Dale

WHO'S WHO

By Leslie Nelson



It is time to get to know Stephen Milo a little better. He has lived in Naples and most recently in Orlando, but is originally from Massachusetts. Born in Everett, Steve attended high school in Lynnfield (Class of 1970), and Berkley School of Music in Boston where he studied music theory and piano.

He was raised as a Christian in a Catholic home. About 2 years ago, while living in Orlando, he became a confirmed Lutheran and joined Risen Savior Church.

In 1974 he moved to Naples. While performing at the Royal Poinciana Country Club, he met the lady who became his wife, Susan, and her mother, Marian, who was president of the ladies' golf club.

In 2000 Stephen fell off a roof, and in 2010 Susan was killed in a hit and run.

Then a "friend" swindled him out of a large amount of his savings. His nickname could be "Job," since he has suffered many troubles, but still has a strong faith.

Stephen's career has fulfilled his dream to be a performing artist, as he has been a professional piano player for his entire adult life. He spent many years in Cape Cod where he played opening acts for Ray Charles. He remembers playing "Fly Me to the Moon" for George and Barbara Bush while they danced.

He enjoys all types of food and restaurants. He likes reading the Bible most, and his favorite TV programs are the Little House and Waltons series.

Now widowed, he is a sensitive and caring man who loves performing dual pianos. He plays big band, rock and roll, pretty much everything, and we can see him

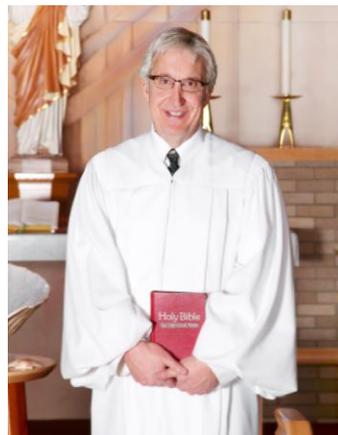
perform every 2nd Wednesday at the Saddlebrook Recreation Center.

Steve really wants to stay in The Villages. He is renting now, but that lease will be up on 12/31/2012. He is hoping to find someone with a spare bedroom and private bath which he could rent from Jan. to Apr. 2013, by which time he hopes to find his own place.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Two very special events at Open Bible will be happening very soon in the month of August.

- 1) Pastor Dale's retirement social and informal pot luck dinner will be held on Saturday, August 11th beginning at 4:00p.m. Please check at the pass through window in the kitchen to sign up to bring an item for the pot luck.
- 2) Pastor Dale will also conduct his final service with us on Sunday, August 12th. We will have a guest preacher for the Aug. 19th and 26th services.
- 3) The installation of Pastor Mark Schulz, as the



Pastor Mark Schulz

third Pastor in the history of Open Bible, will take place on Sunday August 26th also beginning at 4:00p.m. The installation will be followed by a catered dinner in our fellowship hall.

If you have not taken the opportunity to reply with your intent to attend either and/or both of these special occasions it is not too late to do so. We very much need to have an exact count of how many will be in attendance at Pastor Schulz's dinner as well as an accurate count for Pastor Dale's dinner so that we can adequately prepare food and beverage.

PLEASE REPLY BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 5TH IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO BY NOW. Please RSVP to me either by placing a note in my church mailbox, phoning me at (352-751-4620), or by emailing me at (glcaw@embarqmail.com).

Thank you. GREG WENDORF

CONGRATULATIONS



Adrianna Rachel Clark and Shane Wells These were united in marriage at Open Bible on Saturday, July 21. May God bless them with unity and ever-deepening love and respect for each other as the years go by.

GOSPEL

GOSPEL is an important word in the NT, especially for the Lord Jesus and St. Paul. It first appears from the mouth of our Lord himself: “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the **gospel** will save it.” (Mark 8:35) Each of the seven times it appears in what we call the four Gospels, it is from the mouth of Jesus.

It appears three times in the letters of Peter, once in Revelation, and six times on Acts. **However it is St. Paul who loves this word. He uses it 75 times.** He began some of his letters identifying himself as: “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the **gospel** of God—” (Rom. 1:1)

- To Titus he wrote that he was in chains because of the gospel.
- In his letter to the Galatians—vigorously condemned the idea that there could be another Gospel.
- He wrote to the Ephesians that the Gospel unites all people as one: “This mystery is that through the **gospel** the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 3:6)

But Paul’s signature statement about the Gospel is in Romans 1: *For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the **gospel** the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”* (16-17)

What exactly is the Gospel?

Paul often said it was the “Gospel of Christ” or the Gospel that saves. It is the message about Christ and the salvation he has earned for sinners. First it was the good news about the kingdom of God established by the Messiah King. After the death of Christ it became the preaching that Jesus Christ suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation, his resurrection from the dead, his ascension to the right hand of God and his Second Coming in majesty as the consummation of the kingdom.

The Gospel goes back to the Garden of Eden at the dawn of history. In our time it would seem to be a message with no relevance. Yet it is still absolutely essential to every last person on earth.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Tom & Sandy Pawlowski - 2
Bill & June Murray - 3
Roger & Marilyn Acklam - 15
Bill & Sharon Sigurdson - 17
Keith & Renda Mackey—21
Earl & Doris Schlicht - 25
Jack & Sharon Affeldt - 31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Roger Acklam - 3
Jim Musiel - 5
Bill Murray - 8
Carol Yahn - 9
Doreen Schaefer - 10
Gail Rathgeber - 11
Phil Herring - 19
Ron Dahm - 21
Esther Hartwig - 21
Russ Follett - 25
Pat Knack—25
Sandy Pawlowski - 25
Linda Draeger - 26

Beginning in September Sandy Hahm will be the Newsletter editor. srhahm@gmail.com