

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 43 - ISSUE 9

September 2012

Sunday Worship: 8:00am - 11:00am - 6:00pm www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

“WHY GOD – Sounds Like a Really Good Question”

Why God is a valuable question for the people of the church to answer because it is a question that the world is asking. The non-churchgoing population in the United States and Europe is steadily increasing. The number of Americans answering “no religious preference” to poll questions continues to grow by double in the last decade. Often now, those with traditional religious beliefs seem to have little influence in any of the traditional institutions of cultural power.

But in spite of what I just shared there are also certain churches with supposedly obsolete beliefs of a Bible that is the absolute Word of God and daily miracles are growing in the United States and exploding in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Even in places in Europe, there is some growth in church attendance.

The truth is, the world is moving to the margins over religion. It is getting both more religious and less religious at the same time. The recognition of this reality makes it imperative for believers to be able to answer well the question – WHY GOD?

If you were to ask a member of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, “Why do you believe in God?” you would probably get many different kinds of responses.

Some would give you personal testimony, of how God had made an impact on their lives and the lives of those they loved. They might tell you about times of personal struggle when God strengthened them through His Word, through prayer, or the love of fellow believers. They might share a personal story of a quiet moment, when they heard God whisper their name and they knew the reality of a love like no other.

Others might give you a recitation of the church’s many Salty Service ministries and programs that they see making a difference in the lives of people. They might tell you about making sandwiches so they could know that Charlotte County children are fed during the summer. They might tell you about the funds they see offered to help people who have hit a rough patch with gas for their car, or utilities in their home. They could talk about partnering with other churches to build houses for deserving families through Habitat for Humanity, or hot meals on Friday with a sister United Methodist Church. They could point to places around the world, like Zambia, the Dominican Republic, or Israel, where missionaries we have partnered with continue to share the gospel.

They might tell you about witnessing a Sunday School Class or an entire choir going to a hospice facility to share or sing with a brother or sister there. The story they tell might be one of bringing their children to Vacation Bible School and winding up accepting Christ themselves because of the ministry happening there. They might tell you about feeling a part of a church for the first time in a long time because one of the Lay Speakers in the church came to the nursing facility where they are living and led a worship service for them. Their answer could well be that they felt God’s love through the ministry of the church when they lost a spouse or another loved one and loving servants hosted a time of fellowship after the service.

Our experiences and our sharing can make it seem like an easy question to answer, but the world is still asking. I thank God I am part of a church with so many wonderful answers!

Over the next several Sundays in worship, we are going to seek to answer some of the questions that we often hear the world asking.

NEW SERIES: “WHY GOD?”

Sept. 9th – “Is the Bible True?” Sept. 16th – “Who Says There’s One Way to God?”

Sept. 23rd – “You’re Not My Boss!” Sept. 30th – “Why Does God Allow Suffering?”

Oct. 7th – “Why Are We So Small and Our Problems So Big?”

Oct. 14th – “Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Suffering?”

Oct. 21st – “Would God Really Send Good People to Hell?”

Keep going and never quit!
Grace, Pastor Brian

Loving Memory

Linda Wyld 8/20/12
Eddie Edwards 8/22/12
Anna Croft 8/25/12

Letters

Dear Friends,

Can you believe it has been 28 years already? For 28 years, you have been an integral part of the ECHO Effect all around the world through your generous donations. Your support, and that of so many others have been used through the years to further ECHO's work around the world. We are making a great impact, but the work is not over.

As we look back at the historic growth and forward to the future, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for being so pivotal to the development of this organization. You truly are a sustaining force behind ECHO.

Sincerely,

Jeff Reach
Director of Development
ECHO



17391 Durrance Road
N. Fort Myers, FL 33917
www.echonet.org

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D Income as of 7/31/12—\$500,507.76
Y-T-D Expenses as of 7/31/12—\$513,982.75

Assistance July: 4 - Utilities 6 - Rent 2 - Other
Gas Vouchers: 41

Update on Air Conditioning

Some of you may be wondering about the status of the air conditioning project. The fund drive is now over and work is underway. The contract covers the replacement of the AC systems that service Fellowship Hall and the children's wing as well as a revision of the duct system in the children's area.

The work in the children's area has now been completed. The replacement of this system was critical since the old unit would no longer maintain the set temperature. With the installation of the new system, we are happy to report that the Port has gone from hot to COOL! The new system is so efficient that we have significantly increased the programmed temperature setting so as not to be too cold. The duct system revision has also resulted in greater efficiency and cleaner air for our children. The remainder of the project, replacing the Fellowship Hall systems, will be done over the next few months.

Thank you again for your support of this project.

The Board of Trustees

WE MADE THE GOAL!!!

Shoes by the numbers:

4362 - pairs of new shoes which have been donated to one of the sites or purchased through donation monies (including a few extra in assorted sizes)

32,305 - pairs of new shoes in 8 years which have been given to students in the Charlotte County Public School System

419,965 - money raised from this project in 8 years (using an average of \$13.00 per pair)

145 - minimal number of volunteers who work on this project per year

75 -percent of shoes are given to the elementary aged children

18 -percent of shoes are given to the middle schools

7 -percent of shoes are given to the high schools/ Academy

Thank you for giving so unselfishly to help others who will never know your name, but indeed know your kind actions. Together we have accomplished a phenomenal feat (no pun intended); we have met and even surpassed this year's goal.

Bless you,
Christy and Sunrise Kiwanis



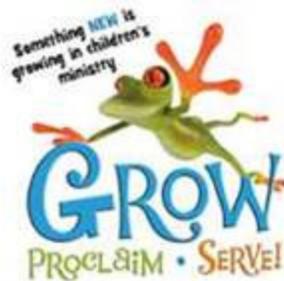
Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

In September, Children's Ministry will start practicing for our Christmas program. As of now, it does not have a name, but we giving our children an opportunity to use their talents in a program for Jesus' Birthday.

Dinner and a Movie will be on Friday the 21st featuring "The Lorax," a fun family movie for all to enjoy!

Sunday School will be starting a new curriculum called **GROW - Proclaim - Serve!** Children of age 3 through 5th grade, join us and grow your faith by leaps and bounds! First through third grades will have a new teacher. Everyone welcome Ms. Avis Hastings aboard as she leads our children.



September 30th is G.E.M.S. Sunday.

Clap, Tap and Jingle has started again and all newborns through 4-year-olds are welcome. Mondays will be a Mom and Tots time, so please join us at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall.

Please keep our Children's Ministry and their families in your prayers.

All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace. ~ Isaiah 54:13

In His Love, Barbara

Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

Well, it's Back to School time again! We are so excited about our new students and all the fun things we have planned. We hope that you were able to come take a look down the children's hallway. Many surfaces have been painted and it's all fresh and clean! If you haven't taken the time to tour, please do. I just know you will love what you see!

As we begin our new school year, you will see lots of familiar faces. We have two teachers that you didn't get to meet last year. So, here is a little bit about them...



Ms. Michele

This is Ms. Michele's 1st year at PCUMC. She has 3 boys: Chase (11), Logan (9) & Shane (7). She enjoys spending time with family, going to the beach and spending time with Nate (her boyfriend of 3 years). She loves chocolate!

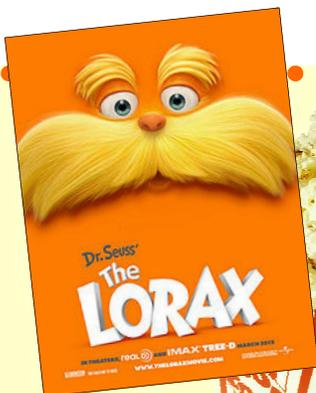


Ms. Jennifer

This is Ms. Jennifer's 4th year at PCUMC. She and her husband, Daniel have 5 children: Chad (17), Buddy (16), Savannah (14), Jude (13) & Brandon (11). She enjoys musicals, Coke Zero and Strawberry Cheesecake.



We are thrilled to have Ms. Jennifer back!!!!



Family Dinner and a Movie

Friday, September 21st 6 – 8pm

Featuring: "The Lorax"

Come and enjoy a night out of the kitchen and fellowship with old and new friends!

Greetings from Connie

May/June 2012

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic



Culto de Jubilo

In May we held a service of celebration that started at 8:00 PM and finished at 12:00 AM. Everyone was so excited to think we were going to continue so late in the evening. The church was full. As always we have many more non-Christians than Christians which always amazes us, but we realize they come for the music and dramas, but that is Ok with us as they receive a strong Christian message through all these. They stayed to the very end. The youth of the church had prepared many dramas and other presentations and Fermin was his usual amazing self as he led the service for four hours. We continue to till and prepare the soil in order to plant the seeds of faith and trust God for the growth.

Molly Nason



Molly Nason is a third year seminary student from Boston University. She had contacted me earlier in the year and asked if I would be able to use her for a month as she needed to do ministry in a different context. Of course I said, "Yes!" She arrived on the 25th of June and we began planning our first ever Youth Week.

We took the first week to work with and train our church youth leaders to prepare them to be the youth counselors during youth week. We had two spiritual retreats and one day of service. During this



day we took packages that the youth had prepared filled with diapers and new born baby clothes to the hospital and visited the women's ward where the new mothers were located. After that we visited the children's wing and gave stuffed animals to all the patients. In each room we prayed for the patients and their families and spoke of

God's love for them and that he had a plan and purpose for each one. It was wonderful to see the youth being such great evangelists!

Youth Week

There are no words that can express what an amazing week we had with the youth. We had to cut off registration at 53 as we just don't have the space to work with more than that! Of these, only about 15 were Christians! This was definitely a week of evangelism! We met each day from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The days consisted of games, interactive dynamics, drama and dance practices, a Christian movie, workshops on such topics as sexually transmitted diseases, adolescent pregnancy, abortion, dating, post modernism culture, overcoming adversities, family relationships, and the most important, the plan of salvation.

We had services Tuesday and Thursday with each of the four groups presenting a drama of a story from



the Bible that they had selected. On Wednesday we held a service in a nearby Haitian community to help motivate the church there. On Thursday morning

we went to the same church and painted it inside and out in 1 ½ hours. I think the hardest part was keeping the children entertained and not underfoot! Around 40 of the youth were in attendance at both these events.



Friday was the crown jewel day. After Rosalba presented the plan of salvation, she offered a chance for any to come forward and give their lives to the Lord. We were ecstatic when five of the youth came forward!

That evening we held our closing service with our musicians from Bombita. Again the church was full to the brim. I was a bit concerned as it was quite raucous, more so than usual, and I thought no one will come forward after all that confusion and disorder. However, it was the plan of our adversary to disrupt the service, but our God is greater than all those who try to interfere with His Holy Spirit. When Fermin began to preach, our youth leaders circled around the church and began to pray. The noise stopped. The disrupters left and the Holy Spirit began to move. When Fermin called anyone forward who wanted to commit their lives to Christ, none came forward but we knew the Spirit was moving as we could see many people moved to tears. So Fermin invited any who wanted prayer to come forward. Soon, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people had come forward. Our leaders made a circle on the altar platform and he asked any who wanted to accept Christ to come to us. We were soon praying with six new believers!

Youth Sunday

Our youth Sunday was a special day as we had two American teams in attendance. One team from Georgia had worked to construct the church and the other is the team from Brandon, Florida, that had held our youth camp for us two times. It was exciting for them to see the fruit of their labors. The youth presented their dances, dramas and other presentations. During the sermon time, I invited a number of youth to come forth and speak about what the week had meant to them. They said the week was

marvelous, but the best part was when they accepted Christ!

We have now begun to work with the new Christians because the pressure on them is tremendous. Already some people are making fun of them saying terrible things about them and our church. This is the work of the adversary and we have to help strengthen these new believers so they can withstand the attack that is now coming against them! Please pray for these 11 new believers!

As I sat in my house Sunday evening with a group of our new believers, I just marveled at their stories. One, a sixteen year old boy, shared how he prayed that God would give him a sign and he received a sharp pain in his chest. He didn't come forward Friday morning, but that evening, he again asked for a sign. The same pain attacked his chest. He asked yet again for a strong confirmation and he said the pain was so intense that he knew he must come forward!

Our work will continue not only with these new believers, but we will continue to work with the other youth that were in attendance as well as other youth that could not come due to our limited spaces. God will continue to bless our work and we will continue to be criticized for it. But I consider it a compliment as Christ was criticized for working with non-Christians as well!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for God's work here in the Dominican Republic. I couldn't be here if it weren't for your amazing support!

Prayer Requests:

For the youth leaders of our church

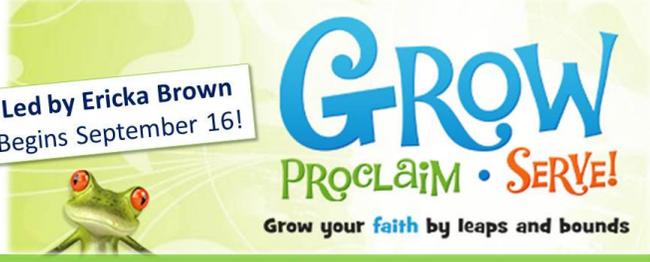
For the new believers that accepted Christ during Youth Week

For Molly as her father passed away and she had to return immediately to the U.S.

For continued good health and energy to work with the youth!

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana (IED)
Rev. Connie Di Leo, Advance Special # 014169
connie_copa@yahoo.com 1-809-399-3096

Youth Ministry
-New Sunday Morning Teen Study-
 9:30-10:30am Youth Room 6th -12th Graders



Led by Ericka Brown
 Begins September 16!

GROW
 PROCLAIM • SERVE!
 Grow your faith by leaps and bounds

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

Upcoming Events

September 5: Youth Game Night
 “Minute to win it” games and more!
 6:00 – 8:15 pm in the Youth Room
 Cost: Free

September 8-9: Rock the Universe & Wet 'n Wild
 Cost: \$90 per youth
 See Paul for more info

New Wednesday Night Series:



“Questions about God”

September 12:

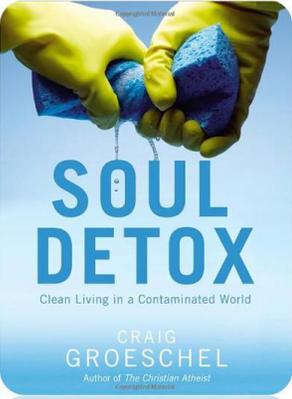
What is so special about the Bible?

September 19: Is Faith Dangerous?

September 26: How can I hear from God?

In “Soul Detox,” pastor and best selling author Craig Groeschel sheds light on relationships, thoughts, and behaviors that quietly compromise our well-being.

This 5-week series features video clips and group discussion. Facilitated by Paul Kisner.



**Young Adults
 & Family Ministry**
-New Study-
“SOUL DETOX”
 Clean Living in a Contaminated World
SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:30-10:30am
 Conference Room
 Begins September 16!



G.E.M.S,
 Thursdays at the Port
 6:00 – 7:30pm
 Club Coordinator: Lisa Friend 627-6995

G.E.M.S. stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. Our club year runs from February thru October. Our girls’ ages range from 5 to 14. It has been another exciting year including biblical life lessons, badge ceremonies, scripture, a birthday celebration, devotions, an awesome lock-in, prayer, fellowship and lots of fun. I can hardly believe that we are nearing the end of our fifth year as a club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting this ministry. It has truly been a blessing to both the girls and the counselors that participate in this club. I also want to give a special thank you to Ms. Patty Royer and Ms. Marie Bailey for their continued commitment to this ministry; without their effort and enthusiasm our club would not be what it has become. Our first year ended with 11 members and this year our membership has grown to 28! I am saddened to announce that this will be Ms. Patty’s last year as a counselor; we wish her all the best and we will miss her greatly. September 30th is G.E.M.S. Sunday and we are once again looking forward to being a part of the worship services and seeing all of you.

Our Club Aim – Micah 6:8 “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.”

Our Mission – To help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

“Do all the good that you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Does The United Methodist Church have a Web site?

Answer: We have dozens, if not hundreds. Most conferences, districts, agencies, and many local churches maintain Web sites. The most important one for us (besides www.pcumc.info) is the General Commission on Communications' www.umc.org. It provides news, information, links to other sites, and a "Find A Church" button if you're looking for a particular church or a place to worship when traveling. Florida Conference information can be found at www.flumc2.org.

Question: What do United Methodists believe?

Answer: Years ago, the Sunday School booklet *Adult Bible Studies*, quoted an unnamed church member saying, "I'm glad I'm a United Methodist. That means I don't have to believe anything." But it's not true. Every Sunday, we and millions of other UMs declare, "I believe ...," and recite the parts of the Apostles Creed. If one of our people advocates or distributes "doctrines [teachings] contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church," that person can face a church trial and even expulsion. The Book of Discipline calls the act a chargeable offense. What are these established standards? The Book of Discipline identifies them with five documents. We find three of them in The Book of Discipline: (1) The Articles of Religion, John Wesley's adaption of the Church of England's Thirty-nine Articles; (2) The Confession of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren Church; and (3) the Methodist General Rules, another gift from Wesley. Besides these three documents, two book-length works are included: (4) Wesley's *Standard Sermons*, a selected group of his sermons, numbering 43, 44, 52, or 53, depending on who's counting (most authorities say 44); and (5) Wesley's *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, his verse-by-verse New Testament commentary. The Sermons and Notes became "established standards" because Wesley published them for his preachers with the warning: "Preach nothing contrary to these." You can read all five documents on-line: Go to www.umc.org, and click on OUR FAITH, and then on Beliefs. Near the bottom of the page, you'll find the heading, Foundational Documents. Click on More ►, and follow the instructions from there.

Question: When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John away from their fishing in Luke 5:11, it says they "left everything and followed him" (Luke 5:11 NRSV and NIV). What happened to the fish?

Answer: Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20 relate the same event giving details not found in Luke. James and John's father, Zebedee, and the hired men (Mark 1:20) probably kept them.

Do you have a question about the Bible or United Methodist belief, organization, or practice? E-mail them to me at theexhorter_fl@yahoo.com or leave them with Katherine Warden at the church office and I'll try to answer as many as I can. — JAC

“Feed the Children” Update

We started out with a small goal and prayed that we could make a difference by making bag lunches to help feed the homeless children of Charlotte County. Now as the summer is over and our children’s laughter reigns in the halls of their schools, we want to say “thank you” to all who have participated and donated to the Naomi’s Circle 2012 Feed the Children Summer Program.

From the 31st of May through the 9th of August, we all came together every Thursday afternoon in our fellowship hall. We had men, women and children from the following churches and synagogue assist in making the lunches and donations:

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Saint Maximillian Kolbe Catholic Church, Freedom Bible Church, First Baptist Church, New Day Christian Church, Temple Shalom

We also want to say “thank you” to the following organizations for the assistance they provided:

Nestle Water
 Franz Ross Park YMCA
 Harry Chapin Food Bank
 Publix Supermarkets
 PCUMC GEMS
 Clemons Fruit/Vegetable Market
 Charlotte County Homeless Coalition (distribution site)
 Trinity United Methodist Church (distribution site)

Finally, I would like to give you a small breakdown of what we used:

90 lbs. of apple sauce
 295 lbs. of cheese
 525 packages of fruit chews
 600 lbs. of lunch meat
 625 lbs. of fruit
 2359 lunch bags
 2359 bottles of water
 2359 bags of chips
 4718 slices of bread
 7077 packs of condiments
 (mustard, mayo, ketchup)
 14,154 cookies (average 6 per bag)



Using all of the above, we made and issued 2359 bag lunches to the children of Charlotte County who were truly in need.

The Lord has made all of this possible by giving us the tools and the people we needed to accomplish our goal and we are so truly grateful.

Naomi did not care what tribe you came from.
 She accepted all, and she wanted to share God’s love with everyone she came in contact with.
 This summer, with God’s help, we too made the journey.

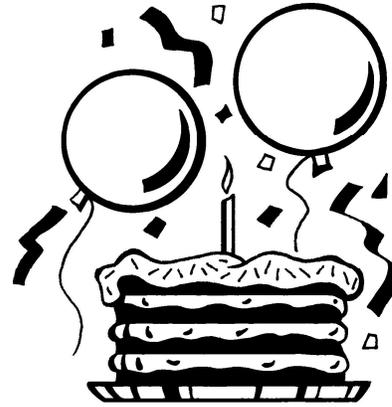
Love and Blessings,

Leslie
Naomi Circle Leader

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 01 J. C. Spann | 15 Donna Schipp |
| 01 Shirley George | 16 Myra King |
| 01 Wanda Roberts | 16 John Kelly |
| 01 Sophia Bailey | 17 Jill Mandrick |
| 02 Steve Cox | 19 Marjorie Fuller |
| 02 Jessica Mathias | 19 Carol Lee |
| 03 Hazel Guyler | 20 Joanie Marshall |
| 03 Marcie Marshall | 21 Arthur Rochester |
| 03 Marie Bailey | 21 Lloyd Brown |
| 04 John Seyfried | 21 Eugene Edgington |
| 05 Hugh Brotherton | 21 Judy Ammon |
| 06 Betty Ruth Mason | 21 Nina Schwartz |
| 06 Jeff West | 21 Tyler Dampier |
| 06 Kaysen Williams | 23 Art DeSilva |
| 07 Loretta Graney | 23 Barbara McManamy |
| 07 William West | 24 Carmen Stephenson |
| 08 Alice Heidenis | 24 Bettylou Miller |
| 08 Mary Moulin | 25 Dorothy Snethkamp |
| 09 Elodie Vosburgh | 25 Pat Boyd |
| 10 Calvin Tschetter | 25 Marjorie Clark |
| 12 Billie Deaton | 25 Leonard Alsene |
| 12 Marlene Marecek | 28 John Bittner |
| 13 George Mann | 28 John Connell |
| 13 Les Reiselt | 29 Vega Boyer |
| 13 Leslie Griner | 29 Bruce Foster |
| 14 Burke Robinette | 30 Whitney Gates |
| 14 David Cox Sr. | |



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

Anniversaries

- 03 Don and Pat Butler
- 04 Robert and Christine Burr
- 04 Arthur and Mildred Rochester
- 06 Gary and Cynthia Friend
- 07 William and Penny Bryan
- 07 Guy and Annette Emerich
- 11 Rick and Carol McCullough
- 12 Elbert and Sharon Chinn
- 17 Paul and Odie Coker
- 17 John and Evelyn Robertson



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 E-mail: info@pcumc.info
 Website: www.pcumc.info

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Health Ministry Update *Jane Trammell*

A few reminders: We still monitor **blood pressures** on the first Sunday of every month, at various other events, or at any time that we are present. Bring your own **blood pressure** apparatus and we will check it for accuracy.

Educational opportunities are available, including:

- ◆ Brochures in the office that promote resources in the community
- ◆ Programs in cooperation with All-Pro Health
- ◆ Literature that is placed in the library each month
- ◆ Bulletin board next to the New Room

We are looking forward to having another flu shot clinic in October.

The blood mobile will be back in November.

All-Pro Health will be having a support group for caregivers on the last Friday of every month, from 1-3PM in the New Room.

Anyone that is passionate about health and wholeness is invited to join this committee. Talk to me any time.

God Bless, Jane Trammell

Beth Moore

“Here and Now, Then and There”

A study on the book of Revelation



- BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11 -

9:30am (childcare available)

1pm and 7pm

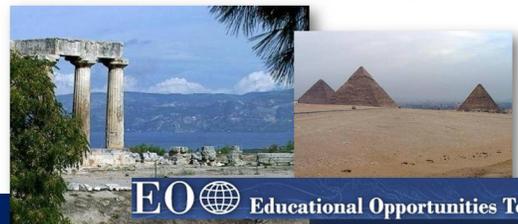
Cost: \$15

Register by contacting “D” Fletcher by phone 623-0642 or email djfns@comcast.net by August 24

LANDS OF THE BIBLE CRUISE

January 11-23, 2013

Brochures are on our information board in the lobby, or see our website for more details.



EO Educational Opportunities Tours