



Volume 37, Issue 4

April 2015

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United Church of Christ**
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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Our Lenten journeys are nearing an end as we prepare to celebrate another glorious Easter! Our theme this Lent has been, “*Questions Christians Ask.*” We all have more questions than answers – it is the nature of life on our complex and challenging planet. Last month I attended our Conference Minister’s Retreat in Oviedo. Our primary workshop leader was

Dr. Martin Copenhaver, President of Andover Newton Theological Seminary (the nation’s oldest and our largest UCC seminary). He led us through a time of looking at the questions facing Jesus, facing the church, and facing pastors today. I found it invigorating and challenging to see anew the questions Jesus posed and to be honest with myself about the questions of which I still seek answers. Dr. Copenhaver has written a book entitled, *Jesus is the Question*, and details the 307 questions Jesus asked in the Gospels. It was fascinating as he shared the three questions most often repeated as Jesus addressed others:

What do you want me to do for you?
What/Whom are you looking for?
Do you love me?

I believe those three questions (in some form or another) are the same questions we are tasked to both address and answer today. As a matter of fact, I would posit the answers to those central questions provide us with a sense of mission and purpose to those who have and will continue to come to our doorsteps as a community of believers. Sometimes people are looking for a concrete and specific way to meet a need. Sometimes, they come not truly knowing what they want or need. For the most part, they come seeking to know if God (through us as the body of Christ) will love them. That my brothers and sisters, is the Easter message and hope. That even with pressing questions amidst many struggles and doubts - no matter what, whom, where, or how, they are loved.

Blessed Easter!

Pastor Bill

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Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner
Assistant Pastor:
Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster
Custodian:
Deb Viola

ASSISTANT PASTOR



We've had some serious fog these past few weeks, and at any time of day. I believe I've mentioned before that I really enjoy the fog. It adds an ethereal ambiance to the day, particularly while walking on the beach. Ship captains, however, would tell you otherwise; and I'm sure ship captains and crews throughout the years have been quite thankful to see Ponce de Leon Inlet's lighthouse beacon while maneuvering through local waters on foggy days. I wonder if there was a fog horn in earlier years? My husband has often commented on how cool it would be if we had a fog horn today. Hmmm. Being that we live quite close to the lighthouse, I'm not sure I would appreciate hearing that droning sound night and day for as many hours as we have experienced fog while living here for 27 years.

Fog: Ethereal yet dangerous. How about nourishing? Rose Williams, a POUCC member, is fond of orchids. One of her plants, however, was quite stubborn and not doing well indoors. As a matter of fact, it dwindled down to nothing but a twig. While Rose was in the hospital last month, her daughter moved the ailing orchid outside and hung it in a tree nearby. While Rose was still in the hospital, Linda was amazed to see that the orchid suddenly came to life and had produced spectacular blooms! When she shared the photo with me while visiting her Mom at the hospital, I could not help but think that this creation of God bloomed in all its glory thanks to the gentle misting received through the daily fog prevalent here for quite a while.

Gentle, ethereal and mysterious Spirit of God, nourish us through the Spirit of our Risen Lord so that we may reach our full potential and glorify you in all our God-given splendor in all that we do. May you be blessed with New Life Through Christ at Easter!

Joyfully,

Pastor Beverly

DEACONS CORNER

Sometimes we just need to be by ourselves. Right after my heart bypass surgery this past October, I made a decision to walk as much as possible while the weather was cold and dry. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed these early morning walks, often times starting in the dark with most walks lasting about two hours. My goal was simple. Walk 10,000 steps a day. Surprisingly, I exceeded this goal on most of my walks. Sometimes I exceeded it by another 4,000 or 5,000 steps. No headphones. No radio or satellite news. No music blaring in my ears.

Only the sounds of early morning and the occasional vehicle going by. I also carried a piece of paper and a pen for writing. I found that in the quiet of walking where my steps were almost automatic, I could think more clearly and this thinking resulted in ideas or things I needed to do. I learned to write these thoughts down quickly on paper, even if I had to scribble in a cryptic code to be deciphered later so as to not lose the thought. Amazingly, life's challenges can take on a different complexion when we allow ourselves the time and quiet to better focus on them. Many challenges can be turned into opportunities and converted from barriers to door openers. Just imagine what Jesus must have been facing as he started to realize what his life was going to be? His spending forty days and nights in the desert, alone with only his thoughts and his soul searching for answers to questions was the only thing he could do. What must it have been like for him? I can't imagine what he could have been feeling or the incredible internal struggle he was experiencing based on what he knew about life here on earth and the life to come afterward. Yet, he emerged from this ordeal stronger and totally committed to what was to come before him in his life. None of us will face the same struggle faced by Jesus but we can all take a lesson from what he did to find the answers. We can give ourselves some time and space to think. We can have faith that the correct answers are probably already there waiting for us to discover them. We just need to make time for them to come out. *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*



The Ministry
of Deacons

OPERATIONS TEAM



Our Operations Team has been busy addressing issues around the property and listed below are the highlights of the March Meeting:

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Winsemius Bequest: Information will be forthcoming.
- Stewardship Campaign: To date 40 have pledged totaling \$91,838.
- Update on our parking lot repairs and paving: Jim Eagan has begun the repairs.
- Repair/Replacement of Sprinkler Heads: Blaine Randall will prepare an estimate for the April meeting.
- Website/Pay Pal Update: Bob Brewster is working on getting up and running and will keep us posted.
- Church Repairs: The bench in front of Church has been repaired and painted and the doorbell outside the Jim Reed Room has been replaced.
- Cell Phone: The wireless portion of our account with AT&T has been canceled.
- Co-Chairmanship: Bill Greiff was nominated and voted as Co-Chair of the Operations Team.

NEW BUSINESS

- Easter Sunrise Service: Plans for set-up & tear-down were finalized and Bob Gaither has rented a truck for transport of equipment.
- April 18th Workday: Bags of mulch will be purchased and delivered.
- Sunrise Service Sound System: The purchase of an analog delay (\$50.00) and necessary cords from Nate Mudge was approved and have been ordered. Nate Mudge will be available to test the system on Wednesday, April 1st.
- Hearing Impaired Devices: It was decided due to cost and the fact that only two are being used regularly, not to proceed with purchase.
- Church Maintenance: Purchase of a new vacuum was approved. Debbie, our custodian, cleaned the carpet in the Jim Reed Room using her own machine and was reimbursed for supplies. Estimates will be obtained for stripping & waxing of the Sanctuary floor and power washing of the building.
- Water Use: Suggestions on how to lower our use of water with regard to the toilets was discussed and topic was tabled and will be addressed at the April meeting

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for **Monday April 13, 2015 @ 6:30pm.**

In Faith, *Sherian Buller, Chair of Operations*



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 2/28/2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Feb. 2015</u>	<u>Feb. 2015</u>
Income	\$27,992	\$27,227
Expenses	\$25,976	\$26,482
Net	\$ 2,016	\$ 745

Our income was slightly higher than anticipated and our expenses were less than expected so we finished February in the black. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

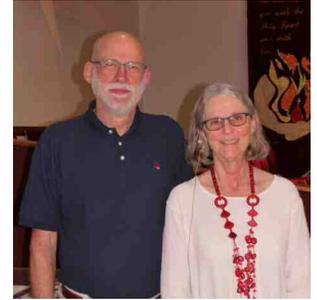
Respectfully submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer

MISSION NOTES



Missions Projects continue as always. Thanks to your generous donations to the "Socks' Box," Pastor Bill delivered 132 pairs of socks to Spruce Creek Elementary School on March 16th. The school has notified us that they have nominated us to receive Volusia County School's Partnership Award for our continued support of their students. Your generosity has made this possible and I thank you all.

On Sunday, March 15th, Dr. Deb Walters of **Safe Passage** (here with her husband Chris Percival) gave a moving presentation on her mission to raise awareness and funds for children living in a garbage dump in Guatemala City. Fifty-Four people (including several from the community at large) listened as Dr. Walters described the deplorable conditions these children face each day of their lives. She explained that the organization has realized 92% of their \$150,000 goal to build a school for these blessed and needy children. Although sidelined from kayaking due to a neck injury she is planning to resume the water journey in the Fall. In our mission to aid her, we have raised to date \$906. If you would like to make a donation to this worthwhile cause, envelopes are available on the table in the front of the Sanctuary.



Please make your check out to POUCC and note in the memo line "Safe Passage/Kayak Mission." Your generosity will help improve the lives of those in dire need of a better way of life. A special thank you to Charlie & Molly Baskin and Jim & Louise Eagan for their assistance and hospitality.

Jackie Gaither, Chair of Missions



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2015 CAMPAIGN: This offering reaches victims of disasters near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress around the world. Thanks to your generosity to date we have collected \$516.

PRAYER & SQUARES MINISTRY: Thanks to Marian Wolff and Carol Neiss, our quilters, and the congregation's prayers, on Sunday, March 22nd we presented John Stewart with a beautiful quilt that will surely comfort him.



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Sales at the Thrift Shop continue to follow last year's picture. This February's total sales were \$2,078.50, representing slightly over a 2% increase for the month compared to February 2014. For the year, we show a 1% increase in sales. Data for the past six months show sales are continuing to level off with only a slight decrease of \$38.50. We also had 32 different members of the congregation volunteer in the store. Your continued support is appreciated and helps us help others and the Church.

Barb Pountain, Manager of the Thrift Store

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **April 5th is our next collection day and will benefit the Epiphany Food Pantry.** Over 28 bags of food were collected last month which benefited VFW Post #3282 "Food for the Homeless Veterans' Project." Thanks to Leree and Bill Nichols for coordinating, loading and delivering the food. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month.



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



Terrific Tuesdays We continue to have a good turnout and great food thanks to Jackie Gaither for our Tuesday gatherings. Rev. Larry Deitch's Serendipity Bible Study on the fourth Tuesday of each month has been a great addition and a crowd pleaser. Plan to join us on **April 7th at 6:00 PM at Veterans Chapel for our Spring Cookout and Bonfire.** It will be great fun for all! Please remember to call the Church Office to make reservations and a \$2.00 donation is requested.

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed room. Join us for an evening of delicious food and great fun!



Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, April 9th. It's "Pot Luck" - Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

LADIES LUNCHEON



Will meet this month on **Thursday, April 16th** at Noon to share a bite and fellowship at the Olive Garden. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary or contact Jeanette Campbell (788-4959). All are welcome!

NOTES OF THANKS



To Mary Ann Stewart for her donation of a number of biographies and devotional books to the library in the Jim Reed Room. Check them out!



Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have new picnic tables for Veterans Chapel and the grounds outside the Jim Reed Room. In fact, the table in the chapel is advertised as the "Fellowship" table. They will be well used and are a great addition to the property!



Our grounds are looking great thanks to Russ Karel's hard work. Russ has been busy trimming and weeding the property. He also painted the bench in the front of the church. Russ, we certainly appreciate the time and effort you put into the care of the property.

We also want to thank Rick Pountain for completing some electrical repairs around the Church and placing the new bricks in the prayer garden. Great Job!



With the change in the weather, Jim Eagan was able to begin repairs to the parking lot. Thanks so much Jim!

And last but not least, a big THANK YOU to Deb Viola, our custodian, and the Buller Boys for the great job they did on cleaning the carpet in the Jim Reed Room. The boys tore down and reset the tables and chairs, which was a big help!





Lenten & Easter Schedule

As we look forward to Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of our Lord, we continue our Lenten Theme “The Question Christians Ask.” Listed below is the remaining Lenten and Easter schedule:

March 29th **Palm/Passion Sunday** **Questioning Faith**

Scripture John 11: 17-27

April 3rd **Good Friday** *“The Seven Last Words of Jesus”*

Community Service with Port Orange area churches at Grace Episcopal Church

Noon to 3:00 PM.

Pastor Bill will be preaching on the ”The First Word” at Noon

Note: Please bring a food item to the Service for Grace’s Pantry.

April 5th **Easter Sunday** **Questioning the Resurrection**

Scripture John 20: 1-18

7:00 AM Sunrise Beach Worship (Winter Haven Park)

10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship

NOTE: Both services will have communion



**Sunrise Service
Volunteers Needed**

To help set-up/tear-down for the Easter Sunrise Service. If you can help on **Saturday, April 4th beginning at Noon or Sunday, April 5th, 5:30 AM and after the Service**, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

EASTER FLOWERS: See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Please note if your flower donation is “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” Loved One(s), purchase the flower(s), put your name on the bottom and deliver your flower(s) to the Jim Reed Room no later than **Thursday, April 2nd** so that they may be arranged for the 10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service. Please sign-up by **Sunday, March 29th**.



NEWS & Notes

DISASTER RELIEF



SPECIAL PRESENTATION: At the March 18th meeting of the Volusia County COAD Meeting (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) Pastor Bill was the featured speaker presenting his “Six Step Planning Guide” for disaster management. Faith communities are often at the same time overlooked yet indispensable in times of communal need. The purpose of this Six Steps Planning Guide is to provide an easy-to-use manual to assist pastors, congregations, and the Christian community at-large to get prepared for disaster. Disaster planning must be a collaborative effort. In other words, your whole church community needs to be represented and involved in the planning effort. It is also a continuous process of assessment, evaluation, and preparation. To be effective, you must never consider the task finished. It should always be available for improvement and updating. It is in a real sense, then, a “living” document.

Help those in need

Disaster planning and preparation is very important for us in Florida. Hindsight tells us that proper planning would have been helpful. As is the case with preparation and response anywhere, The goals are to:

- (1) Reduce human suffering,
- (2) Adequately protect church property, and
- (3) Promote outreach efforts to assist our neighbors affected by disasters.

This guide has been developed to allow churches to more effectively meet the spiritual, emotional and human needs of the church community should disaster strike. Being prepared can greatly lessen the traumatic effects experienced both during and after a disaster. Most importantly, proper planning can save lives.

His presentation was very well received and he has forwarded copies to UCC Florida Conference as well as our National Offices in Cleveland. Pastor Bill we are not only very lucky to have you as our leader but we are very proud of you.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY: Saturday, April 18th beginning at 9:00 AM we need your help. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary.



The Pack family would like to announce the wedding of Cindy Johndrow and Deborah Pack on **Wednesday, May 6th at 5:00 PM.** This will be an open ceremony at the church and all are welcome to attend. There will not be a reception following the ceremony.



We are pleased to announce that Pastor Beverly’s Licensure as Assistant Pastor has been renewed for another year by the Committee on Church and Ministry.



OUR OLYMPIANS ARE GREAT: On Saturday, March 14th our own Tommy Buller and Tyler Dotson participated in the Special Olympics Cycling Events at Spruce Creek High School. Tommy earned 1st and 3rd place ribbons and Tyler took home two 1st place ribbons. Way to go boys and good luck in your next meet!



Happy Birthday!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

Shelia Fisher	4/1
Kay Russell	4/3
Alice Lynn Feldman	4/4
Saira Ramoutar	4/5
Diana Mulley	4/13
Margaret Yaeger	4/14
Louise Johnson	4/18
Paul Neiss	4/19

PRAYER REQUESTS*

J. J. Andrews	Family Member of The Wassners
Audrey Besaw	Mother of Tom Besaw
Denise Brewster	Family Member of The Brewsters
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Joan Brown	Member of POUCC
Emily Bussard	Friend of POUCC
Ola Capman	Daughter of Joanne Flatt
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
Kimberly Comfort	Friend of Beverly Schafer
Anthony Constanza	Student at Spruce Creek Elem.
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Suzanne Elmore	Mother of Kimberly Dotson
Sharon Ferrelli	Friend of POUCC
F/F of Rev. Albert Goddard	Area UCC Minister
Shirley Harper	Member of POUCC
Phyllis Heath	Wife of Rev. Steven Heath
Pat Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Scott & Emily Hill	Family of Val Hill
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Luella Kransi	Mother of Harold Kransi
Rev. Dr. Diane Langeworthy	In Loss of her Mother
Mary McDonald	Member of POUCC
Jim McGuffie	Member of POUCC
Dalen Mills	Member of POUCC
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
Mark Schrieber	Friend of Jack Barrick
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
J. R. Thompson	Friend of Diane Kirlin
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
Rose Williams	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
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Special Needs

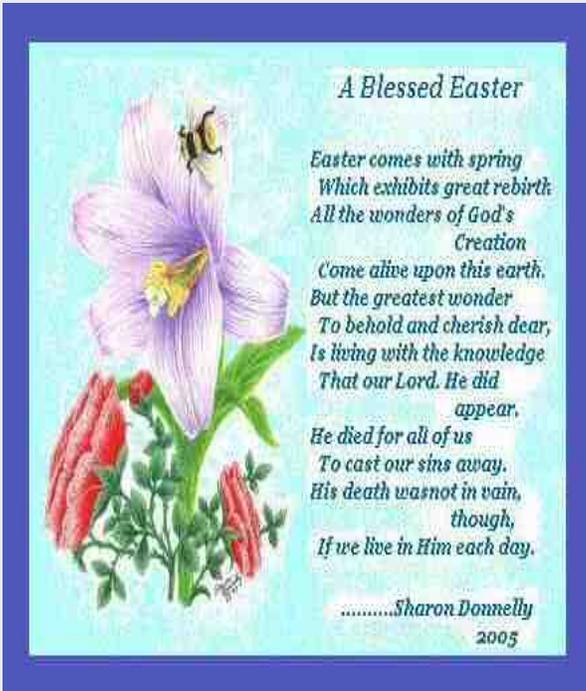
All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims of Mosque Bombing in Yemen
Victims of the German Airlines Plane Crash

First Responders Everywhere
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

**Please contact the Church office (788-0920) or
Jeanette Campbell (788-4959) with your prayer requests.*



Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date .

POUCC APRIL 2015

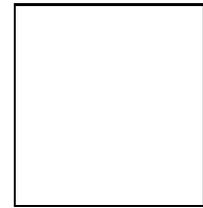
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	2 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	3 Good Friday Service Grace Episcopal Church Noon-3:00 pm Office Closed	4 Chimes Choir 10:00 am Special Olympics 1:00 PM
Easter Sunrise Service at Winter Haven Park 7:00 am Traditional 10:45 am	6	7  Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	8 Palmetto House 5:30 PM CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	9 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	10	11 Chimes Choir 10:00 am Special Olympics 1:00 PM
12 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	13 Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	15 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	16 Ladies Luncheon 12:00 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	17	18 Church Workday 9:00 am Special Olympics 1:00 PM
19 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	20 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	21 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	22 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	23 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	24	25 Special Olympics 1:00 PM
26 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	27	28 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	29 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	30 Line Dancing 6:00 pm		

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: APRIL—THRIFT STORE, MAY—FELLOWSHIP

Port Orange
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651 Taylor Road
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Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner
Assistant Pastor: Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Media Communications: Bob Brewster
Custodian: Deb Viola

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

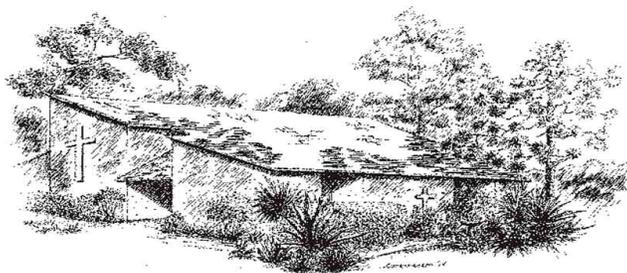
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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