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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



“Behold, I am doing a new thing.” *Isaiah 43:19*

Dear Friends,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it is naturally a time to pause, reflect, look backward, and forward as well. What will our lives be in 2015? What changes will come – will they be welcome or unwelcome? For our church, what changes will come? Where will God be leading us? This is an exciting time to be in the church – and a challenging one. Many churches are undergoing a huge change in the relationship between themselves and our culture. The mainline church as we have known it is dying. That is not a bad thing but a promising reformation. These cycles happen roughly about every 500 years according to sociologist Phyllis Tickle - who wrote the book *The Great Emergence* in 2008 – when the Church goes through an upheaval or great shift (what Anglican Bishop Mark Dyer calls a “rummage sale”). Basically new forms of life and witness are born. Historically, these shifts happened in the explosion of monasticism under Pope Gregory the Great in the 5th century, the Great Schism of the church into Eastern and Western branches in the 11th century, the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, and now the Postmodern era in the 21st century have all been points of reference for these changes. What is giving way right now is mainline Protestantism, in the form that we have known it, and what is emerging is a new form of Christianity - what she calls “The Emergent Church.” According to her, “people are looking for a new and different encounter with God. The strength of Protestantism was its rationalism—it took religion to the head. But today people want religion that also touches their hearts. It’s not anti-intellectual; mind and reason are still very important. But people want more than just an intellectual challenge. They want something that moves them emotionally, as well. It is bringing the heart and the head together.” (Interview in *Vancouver Sun*, December 2010). For her, this means (among other things) that the church will change, adapt, and move forward by reaching back into the rich history, tradition, and worship life of the very early church. We need to ponder and consider her words carefully as we move forward as a congregation into 2015. No doubt, we will need to make changes in our life and mission in the years to come. God is doing a new thing in our midst. Are we a part of it? Are we helping people find Christ? Do our ministries and missions help reach people’s hearts? I thank you for your commitment to continue to struggle with and strive for these goals as we venture into this New Year. May God bless us all!

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



Much like the widow in scripture who gave all that she had, only two coins, last month a homeless man in London with the equivalent of a total of only \$4.60 in change in his pocket gave a university student all his money to help her pay for a taxi in her time of need. Overwhelmed by this kind act of generosity, the student has since raised almost \$50,000 for the Good Samaritan and for other homeless individuals in her community.

Also last month, police officers somewhere in Michigan, after pulling over drivers for minor traffic violations, would engage the driver in conversation which led to questions zeroing in on what the driver wanted for Christmas but simply could not afford. Through pre-arranged logistics, a team of fellow officers who were "staked out" in a large wholesale store would bolt through the aisles, find the item desired and hurriedly wrap it on their way to their companion officer and the individual who was pulled over. The officer in charge would then retrieve the gift from his buddies who had pulled up behind him, and presented it to the unsuspecting driver. We're not talking low-dollar items, either. Usually it was a gift for their children like a bicycle, or one the entire family would enjoy such as a TV. Tears of joy was the norm! BTW, their traffic violation penalty was written off as well.

Combine these stories with numerous others, such as an anonymous individual paying off all the layaway gifts in a Wal-Mart store in New Jersey, or our very own Thrift Store giving items free of charge to families in dire need, as well as our Angel Tree and several additional ministries throughout the year, and you realize there just may be hope for the human race after all! In this time of horrific news throughout the world and within our own country, let us all endeavor to change God's tears of sorrow into tears of joy as we begin a new chapter of life in this new year as his beloved children here on earth. Multiplying God's love by paying it forward in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a beautiful example of how we can achieve this -- not only for the obvious act of love and generosity, but also because it's contagious! Now, that makes ME smile, too!

In HOPE, PEACE, LOVE and JOY for a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Beverly

Financial Update



Operational Budget as of 11/2014

	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>Jan.-Nov. 2014</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>Jan.-Nov. 2014</u>
Income	\$164,546	\$156,462
Expenses	<u>\$179,334</u>	<u>\$150,492</u>
Net	\$ -14,788	\$ 5,970
Transferred for Roof Repair	<u>\$ 14,800</u>	
	\$ 12	

We spent \$14,788 more than we took in for the year. This was mostly due to unexpected expenses for the roof repair and air conditioner replacements. We were fortunate to be able to cash in a CD to assist with the expense. If we take the CD into account, it leaves us \$12 in the black. Thanks to everyone for your continued support and a very Merry Christmas to all. I would also like to welcome Janna Thompson as our Assistant Treasurer. Thanks Janna for joining our team. *Respectively Submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer*



For 2015 are in the Jim Reed Room

OPERATIONS TEAM



The Operations Team met on December 8th and the following topics were discussed.

Old Business

- An order for 11 bricks for the Prayer Garden has been placed.
- The 2015 Budget was discussed and no new updates have been made pending the next Council Meeting.
- The Winsemius property is under contract with settlement scheduled for 1/05/15.
- The Spiritual Life Retreat is scheduled to take place on 1/24/15.
- The parking lot repair is on hold due to weather but the materials are in.
- We received payment from the insurance company for removal of the tree on the West Property that was damaged by a lightning strike.

New Business

- The Committee discussed possible new members for nomination to Operations to replace those whose term ends this year.

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 12th at 6:30 PM.**
Sher Buller, Chair of Operations

DEACONS CORNER

CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SERVE AS A CHURCH

DEACON - Here at POUCC, our Deacons fill an important role between the Pastor and the church family, which includes all our members and friends. In this role Deacons are the liaison for the conduct of worship services and are available to anyone who may want to know more about our church or who want to communicate a need or desire to someone regarding POUCC. Deacons also assist with communion worship services and act as servers with the pastors. Deacons help change the display of church sanctuary colors for the different spiritual seasons. Another key function of the Deacons is to review the pastor's performance each year and communicate any needs of the pastor to the church council. In between, Deacons jump in here and there as needed. It is both fun and rewarding.



I am letting you know more about the Deacons because we are in need of 4-6 more people who would like to serve on the Deacon Team. We meet on an irregular basis or when we see each other in church and use emails to communicate the majority of the time. Being a Deacon is very rewarding both spiritually and in knowing you are helping our church family. If you would like to serve on the Deacon Team, please contact Bob Brewster at 386-341-0423 or speak to Kathy in the church office. New Deacon Terms of service begin with the Church Annual Meeting in January. No prior Deacon service is necessary.

In faith, *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



December was a great month in the history of the Store. On Monday, December 1st, the total deposits for the life of the Gift & Thrift Store surpassed the \$400,000 mark. Thanks to all who support the Store with donations, shopping, referrals and time!

Barb Pountain

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



Our group has been celebrating the Christmas Holiday and will begin our regular meetings on **Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 PM with a Cookout and Bonfire at Veterans Chapel**. Hotdogs, chips and fixings will be provided; you bring a dessert and skewers for S'mores. Dinner will be \$2.00 @ person. Mark your calendars and join in the fun!

CHRISTMAS 2014

What a beautiful holiday season at POUCC! We began with the lighting of our first Advent Candle on December 1st and continued through Advent with extraordinary Worship Services that prepared us all for the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service to welcome the birth of our Savior.



On December 14th our Choir led by Dr. Tom presented our annual "*Lessons and Carols*" Program which was so moving. The hymns and carols were beautifully performed by the Choir and the Chimes Choir and thanks to Rev. Larry Deitch for serving as the Liturgist. We are so blessed to have such a talented group and are so grateful to Dr. Tom for his leadership and continued commitment to enhancing our Worship Services.

Our youth's performance of "*How the First Day at a New School Became Christmas*", a play written by Pastor Beverly, on December 21st was super. Thanks to Pastor Beverly and the cast which included:

Sophia Bogdan, Aydan, Blake & Elijah Buller, Skylar Davis, Travis & Tyler Dotson, Jenna Geist, Madison Hobson, Delana & Colten Pack, Rowan Schafer-Ramoutar and Selena Wheeler for their fine performances.

Special thanks to Sher Buller and Bob Brewster's A/V assistance and Ed Clowers, of Port Orange Music Academy, for donating his time in teaching our Youth how to play the recorder and for his accompaniment. All your hard work was evident and appreciated by all.



The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service was amazing. The Sanctuary was packed with close to 140 people. The music, message and spirit of everyone was a fitting celebration to mark the birth of Christ. Thanks to all who participated in making it a most memorable event.

We finished out the year on December 28th with our "*ABC's of Christmas*" Service written by Pastor Bill. The liturgy focused on remembering what the reason for this season really means. Thanks to Bob Brewster for filling in for Pastor Bill so that he and Lisa could enjoy a weekend away.



2014 CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING: Is a special mission offering of the UCC that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ. **We collected \$517!** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MISSION NOTES



Our Angel Tree Project was a huge success! This year we partnered with Spruce Creek Elementary School in support of children within our community. The tree was decorated with 65 angels listing the gender, ages and sizes of the children. Within a week, the angels disappeared and the wrapped gifts of warm clothing began to pile up under the tree. On December 15th, we delivered the beautifully wrapped gifts to the school. We recently received a thank you note from the school (posted on the bulletin board) which reads as follows:

“The partnership you have made with our students and school has been amazing. We would not have made it through the holidays without your support and assistance. From the food for the Thanksgiving baskets, to the beautifully wrapped gifts of clothing; our students are continually blessed by your congregation.” Love, The Bobcats at Spruce Creek Elementary

Your generosity to the Mission Boxes has raised to date **\$417.66** which benefits Sophie’s Circle the local food pet pantry. Thanks for remembering all of God’s creatures.



On Tuesday, December 16th, Jackie Gaither, Kathy Cratin, Jim & Louise Eagan and Kathryn Manning delivered the bears and afghans that were blessed by Pastor Bill on December 14th to Boggy Creek. Special thanks to Louise Eagan and all who donated their time and talent to this labor of love.

We begin 2015 with a new mission which is supporting Dr. Deb Walters a member of Safe Passage Kids — who is kayaking from Maine to Guatemala to raise funds and tell the story of children living in the Guatemala City garbage dump. She began her trip in July and plans to be in Daytona Beach **Friday, February 27th**. More information on this worthwhile cause will be coming. She will speak here at a fundraising dinner. To follow Deb’s journey go to safepassage.org/kayak.



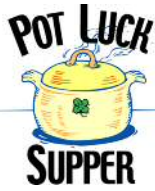
PALMETTO HOUSE CHRISTMAS BAGS: Thank you for the donations for the Christmas bags for Palmetto House. A total of 84 bags were delivered this year, an all time high. Each bag contained toothpaste & brush, covered soap dish & soap, a mesh clothes hanger, small bottles of shampoo, conditioner & lotions, a toilet bag, calendar and Debbie’s Christmas cake & candies which is greatly appreciated by the residents. Due to increase numbers, all rooms are double occupancy now and most don’t have bathrooms so its down the hall to the shower. Because of my limited mobility, this is my last year with this project which I’ve been doing since 1997. It has brought me much joy & satisfaction. Thanks again everyone. *Pat Hilgenberg*

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

We continue to collect food items to help the hungry. **Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. Our next collection will take place on January 4th.** Over 25 bags of food were collected last month for HUM. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky for delivering the food. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers.



SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed room.

*Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, January 8th.
It's a Pot Luck.
Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

January - Deacons
February - Teaching
March - Operations



LADIES LUNCHEON



Our Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet **Thursday, January 15th at Noon at Olive Garden.** Sign-up sheet is on the Sanctuary bulletin board. For more information, contact Jeanette Campbell at 788-4959.

NOTES OF THANKS



A big **THANK YOU** to Jack Barrick, Bob, Ruth & Eva Brewster, Jim Eagan, Ernie & Peggy Fodor, Bob & Jackie Gaither, Joe, Janna, Trey & Van Thompson, Pastor Bill & Lisa and Sharon Williamson for the beautiful job they did decorating the Sanctuary and Jim Reed Room for the holidays. Their time and effort was greatly appreciated by all who attended our Worship Services. Just a reminder, we need volunteers this **Sunday, January 4th** after the second service to take down the decorations.

My personal thanks to Louise Eagan for the beautiful holiday stole she made for me. Louise, you are so talented and I appreciate your kindness. *Pastor Bill*



Lisa and I would like to thank everyone for all your Christmas cards and well wishes throughout the holiday season. We are blessed! *Pastor Bill and Lisa*

We recently received a thank you note from Pregnancy Crisis Center thanking us for our contribution of infant and children's clothing, baby food, a stroller and infant carrier. The agency is so appreciative of your continued support.



The Epiphany Food Pantry sent us a note of thanks for our generous donations. As they stated, *"Because of you, we were able to provide our clients with food that they need so badly."*

Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW District 19 for their donations of an American Flag and a POW Flag for Veterans Chapel.



ANNUAL MEETING



On **Sunday, January 25, 2015** we will have our Annual Meeting after a **Combined Service** beginning at **9:45 AM**. Topics to be presented are the 2015 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers for the year. A list of nominees are posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 9th and will be available on Sunday, January 18th for your review**. Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office ASAP.

NEWS & Notes



Stewardship Sunday

We appreciate your faithful support and need to continue our common work and ministry. We are asking you to renew or increase your support as a part of *"Blessed to be a Blessing."* Pledge cards are available on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary and we ask that you return them either by mail or in the Sunday Offering on or before **January 18th**. May God continue to bless you, your family, and our church family!

The 2015 Edition will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you have any address or contact changes, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible.



Remember Your Dues

CONFERENCE DUES: Just a reminder, yearly dues are \$14.50 per participating member and the check should be made out to POUCC with Conference Dues in the memo line. **The total amount due is paid to the Conference up front each year by the Congregation and your contribution towards this are simply reimbursing the Church for that mandatory fee.**



Spiritual Life Workshop

On **Saturday, January 24th from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM**, we will host a workshop featuring guest speaker and founder of the Spiritual Life Program, Dr. Bobbie McKay. The Spiritual Life Team program is a powerful lay opportunity that will enlarge the spiritual face of the church and enable people to become comfortable using spiritual language, talking about God and carrying that message to the congregation and community. Cost is \$10.00 per person and will include light snacks and lunch. For more information or to register call the Church Office.

WEBSITE UPDATE: Thanks to Bob Brewster who is fine tuning the PayPal feature of the website. If you haven't yet had a chance to log on and take a look, you really should. It's Great!



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Val Hill whose nephew and his wife who are missionaries welcomed baby boy Amos. Also, Joanne Flatt welcomed a new great-grandson Caleb Aaron Crawford. Our best to all!

The Staff: Pastor Bill, Pastor Beverly, Dr. Tom, Kathy & Debbie wish to thank all for your kind Christmas gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Happy Birthday!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Margaret Procter	1/2
Blake Buller	
Aydan Buller	
Timothy Wierzbicki	1/3
Natalie Wheeler	
Richard Devins, Jr.	1/4
Don Schweitzer	1/7
Lucas Chusko	1/8
Shirley Harper	1/9
Jack Hilgenberg	1/10
Tyler Dotson	1/12
Erika Wheeler	1/13
Ruth Sheldon	1/14
Dee Dardeen	1/15
Garrett Zinke	1/18
Roman Wierzbicki	1/19
Mary McDonald	1/20
Kay Schweitzer	1/26
John Shaw	1/27
Luke Moss	
Bob Russell	1/28
Kaitlyn Wheeler	1/29
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hargrove	1/31
Reid Hughes	

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES*

Larry & Carol Strickland	1/1/1986
Harold & Sandy Kransi	1/1/1982
Fred & Jeanette Campbell	1/5/1951
Tracy & Milissa Davis	1/16/2000



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Marilyn Chutjian	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kimberly Comfort	Friend of Beverly Schafer
Nancy Conger	Extended Family of Sandy Kransi
Anthony Constanza	Student at Spruce Creek Elem.
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Suzanne Elmore	Mother of Kimberly Dotson
Kaela Harvey & Family	Friends of Sher Buller
Joellen Hopkins	Member of POUCC
F/F of Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Rev. Dick Manny	Friend of the Zinkes
Mary McDonald	Member of POUCC
F/F of Dwight Norian	Member of POUCC
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Jim Olson	Nephew of the Zinkes
Jim Severin & Family	Friends of Sher Buller
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
Alissa & Greg Schwipps	Extended Family of Sandy Kransi
F/F of Bob Springer	Val Hill's Brother-in-Law
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
F/F of Nileen Tromley	Family Member of the Bryan & Higgins Families
Alfred & Sara Wassner	Pastor Bill's Parents
F/F of Rev. Roy Weed	Area UCC Minister
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 the Asia Air Crash
 Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
 First Responders Everywhere

Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date or to add a Prayer Concern.

POUCC January 2015

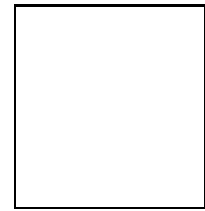
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3 Norian Memorial Service 2:00 pm
4 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	5	6	7 Palmetto House 5:30 PM CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	8 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	9	10
11 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	12 Operations Meeting 6:00 pm	13 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm 	14 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	15 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	16	17 7
18 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	19 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	21 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	22 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	23	24 Spiritual Life Retreat 9:00 am
25 Combined Service 9:45 am Annual Meeting 11:00 am	26	27 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	28 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	29 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	30 Hosting New Beginnings Workshop 6:00 pm	31 Hosting New Beginnings Workshop 8:30 am- 3:00 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

Fellowship for January: The Deacons Team

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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

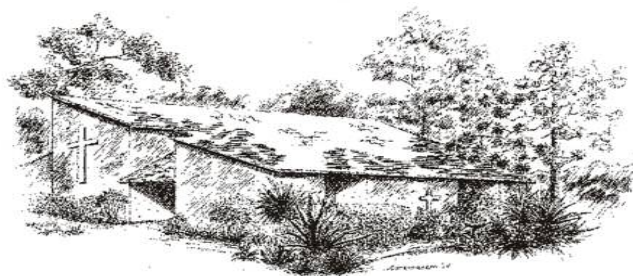
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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