



Volume 36, Issue 7

July 2014

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
651 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL 32127
Office 386-788-0920
Fax 386-788-8255
Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net
Website: portorangeucc.org

SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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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



Dear Friends,

We have a serious problem – most people would not differ with that conclusion – they quibble about how bad it is, who is to blame, how to address it, and from where the money to resolve it will come. The problem is an increasingly polluted and threatening environment. As people of faith, we are called to care for all of God’s creation – that means at least two things. First, we are careful how we interact with and utilize these precious gifts and limited resources.

Second, when needs arise requiring attention we respond with compassion and wisdom to do what we can to restore and revitalize harmed creatures and ecosystems. Hopefully, in the final analysis, we learn from our mistakes and do not repeat them as well. I truly believe there is a serious problem under the rubric of “climate change.” I also believe that most people care about God’s world and all of God’s creatures. Perhaps the biggest challenge, therefore, we face is understanding what is happening and why it is happening. Knowledge is power and education is empowering. We will take a few weeks beginning this month to try to better understand some of the challenges facing the planet (this “island in space”) and ways we can make a difference. The five-week class will be approximately 40 minutes in length between services on Sunday mornings and begin around 9:55. The curriculum will be in the form of discussions and DVD and PowerPoint presentations utilized from the Environmental Justice Retreat I attended last March. Obviously, we will only begin to “scratch the surface” of some of the major challenges and topics – but it is a start to raising our consciousness and spreading knowledge. The goal is to use this class to begin to make a difference both in our church and in the community. The topics for five classes will be:

1. Environmentalism and Faith: A Values Arena
2. Gratitude for Water and Air
3. Humility in Response to Food and Populations
4. Responsibility and Energy Use
5. Justice and Vulnerable Communities

Let me quickly add that in no way am I (or should anyone) utilize this serious challenge as a way to induce guilt or seek to achieve any sort of political agenda or support any one political party. This crisis is way beyond petty politics or human agendas. Sadly, it has become politicized and in some ways has become a culture war. I hope you will join us for this time of sharing and caring.

Pastor Bill

ASSISTANT PASTOR



Most of us within our church family have active prayer lives. I love that we take the time within each service to lift our concerns to God aloud as well as silently. Have you considered praying the news? I know it sounds overwhelming and seemingly hopeless at times, but let me share something with you.

After reading the book PRAYING THE NEWS some months ago, it all made sense to me, so I started adding "current events" to my prayer life on a regular basis. I also decided to document answered prayers as they occurred, fully recognizing that I was not alone in lifting these prayers of major concern.

Remember the little girl whose parents had to fight to have their daughter receive a lung transplant from an adult donor? After a long battle over the decision to allow the transplant and a long period of recovery, we learned this week that she is well and thriving. This successful procedure now opens the door to LIFE for many children who, prior to this brave little girl and her persistent parents, will not have been able to receive adult lung transplants.

Remember the family from Germany whose children were being home-schooled and who were threatened with deportation back to Germany? Threat of deportation was finally lifted.

Justina Pelletier, the teen taken from her parents' care in Connecticut by DCS and a children's hospital in Massachusetts because "the powers that be" disagreed with the treatment her parents had chosen -- even though their daughter was showing improvement -- has finally been returned to her parents this week. Under the "approved" care, however, Justina's health declined drastically, so continued prayers for her full recovery after having been improperly treated for months are still needed.

What about the Christian mom in Sudan who was sentenced to be flogged and executed for not denouncing her Christian faith? Her life was spared long enough for her to give birth, and then she was given an additional two-year reprieve for the purpose of nursing her child. Just recently, we learned that she has been released from prison -- a major blessing -- but the situation is not yet fully resolved. Her husband is an American citizen, and we need to pray that he and his family will safely come to America ASAP!

This is just a sampling of how effective praying the news can be; and documenting God's answers is a wonderful way of eliminating that feeling of being overwhelmed and useless. With the Birthday of our Nation coming up, join me in prayers for America and all that ails Her. This great Nation needs our prayers more than ever. Pray diligently for what concerns you most about our future as Americans. God is listening, and He is just a whisper away. God Bless America!

Prayerfully, *Pastor Beverly*



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 5/31/2014

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>May, 2014</u>	<u>May, 2014</u>
Income (incl. interest inc.)	\$ 78,052	\$71,514
Expenses	<u>\$ 89,890</u>	<u>\$74,861</u>
	\$-11,838	\$-3,347
Transfer from CD	<u>\$ 14,800</u>	
(Benevolent Fund for New Roof)		
Net Income Actual	\$ 2,962	

Expenses were higher than anticipated due to the needed roof replacement. One of the Benevolent Fund CD's was cashed in and transferred to the Operating Fund to help cover it, which allowed us to end in the black. Hopefully, we can continue to remain in the black for the remainder of the year. Thank you for your generous support. As a reminder, please use the recycle box inside the business office for unused or unwanted bulletins as the profit from this project funds our youth. Respectfully, Susie Greiff, Treasurer

OPERATIONS TEAM



Our Operations Team has been busy addressing issues around the property and our facility. Listed below are the highlights of the June meeting:

1. We are in the process of obtaining an air conditioning unit for the Business Office. Bob Gaither is coordinating this project.
2. Veterans Chapel - A ceiling fan was installed on June 10th. The fire pit will be completed in the near future and research on cost for blinds continues.
3. We are researching prices for a new picnic table.
4. It was decided by executive decision to renew our maintenance agreement (\$1283) with Service 1st and it was forwarded to Council.
5. The Daytona Cubs outing (Saturday, July 19th) was discussed and Bob Gaither will collect ticket money on June 29th and July 6th.
6. PayPal link to the new website is still in the development process.

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2014 @ 6:30pm.

In Faith, Cindy Pierson, Operation Team Member

DEACONS CORNER



The Ministry of Deacons

Fellow POUCC Members and Friends,

I am struck by the diversity in backgrounds and experiences of our church family. When I say “church family”, I am including members and friends. We have a wide age diversity as well as a wide range of education, experiences and where we have lived. Every time we have an opportunity to converse with each other about something in our past, I am amazed at the things people have done in their lives. Any of you who have attended a Thursday Fellowship Dinner know that on occasion we share specific information about ourselves with the group. This could be where we were born or where we went to school. Sometimes it is a fun fact about ourselves that we think nobody else might know. Once in a while we write out on a piece of paper something that happened to us in our lives and put it in a basket. When we draw the paper out and read what it says, we must as a group try to guess who in the room had that experience. It is always fun to guess and it is even more fun to learn about each other. So many times a church congregation can be made up of people who are like "two ships passing in the night", where they do not know much about each other. In our two church services (8:45am & 10:45am), we have members and visitors who have not attended the other service. They see faces but do not know much about that person. I hope we take the time to learn more about each other. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you *don't know!* *Bob Brewster, Deacons Chairman*

THE DEACONS NEED YOUR HELP: We are in need of a congregation member to fill an opening on the Deacons' Team. Our Deacons serve as assistants to Pastor Bill in the planning and preparing, as well as the nature and content, of the worship services. This includes preparation and distribution of the sacraments, music, special events such as confirmation, ushering and care giving. Your service to this ministry of the Church is very rewarding. If interested, contact Bob Brewster or see Pastor Bill.



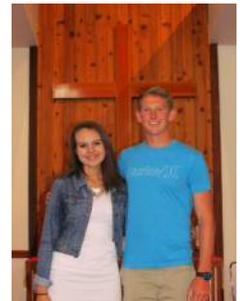
CONFIRMATION/RECOGNITION SUNDAY 2014



On Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, we confirmed six of our youth: *Payton Bryan, Aydan & Blake Buller, Travis & Tyler Dotson, and Van Thompson*. With the support of their families, mentors (which included *Lisa Wassner, Jim & Sue Turner, Kathy Cratin, Pastor Beverly and Tracy Davis*, and the entire congregation) we welcomed our new members with a special Combined Service. The service celebrated their year long journey which included classes, mission outreach and special projects to prepare them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. A special thanks to Pastor Bill and their mentors who have guided and supported the newly confirmed members throughout this process.

Our service also included recognition of our recent Mainland High School graduates, *Kaylei Wierzbicki and Levi Zinke*. Both Kaylei and Levi will be attending college in the Fall and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Congratulations to all our outstanding youth. We are so very proud of you all!



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



You never know, from day to day, what will be in the Thrift Shop, but below is a list of things you MIGHT find there or things you might like to donate:

A - Antiques, art, B - Baskets, blankets, books, C - Coffee pots, costumes, candles, D - DVDs, dolls, decorations, E - Earrings, egg plates, F - Frames, fry pans, G - Games, globes, gifts, H - Hats, hangers, I - Ice buckets, ink wells, J - Jewelry, jars, K - Kaleidoscopes, knick knacks, kites, L - Lamps, lace, ladders, M - Mixers, mugs, masks, N - Neckties, nutcrackers, O - Ottomans, ouija boards, organizers, P- Puzzles, punch bowls, purses, Q - Quilts, R- Radios, rakes, S - Small appliances, scarves, sheets, T- Tools, tote bags, toys, U- Umbrellas, ukuleles, utensils, V- Vases, valances, W- Watches, wastebaskets, wooden signs, X- Xylophone, excellent clothing!!!!, Y- Yarn, yo-yos, yard goods, Z - Zillions of great things!!!!

We need new donations all the time, so remember us as you are cleaning out a closet.

Thanks. *Molly Baskin, Monday Afternoon Volunteer*

SPECIAL THANKS



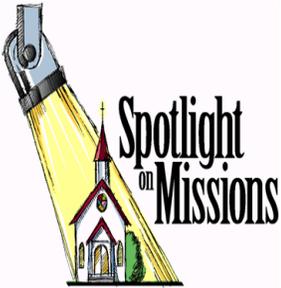
We thank all who have contributed to help Tyler obtain a service dog. Contributions to date total over \$400. Max, the first dog Tyler was given, was ill and not suitable so the search continues for a new dog. *The Dotson Family*

A very special thanks to *Jackie Clough, Cassie Higgins and Trey Thompson* for volunteering as Nursery Attendants in June. Little Remy Barrick loved their attention and TLC.



We received a note from Rachel Steiner, a Palmer College Graduate and friend of the Gaithers, thanking the congregation for our welcoming spirit and kindness. Rachel noted that “the members are some of the nicest people I’ve ever met.”

MISSION NOTES



Your Missions Team continues to go about our work of reaching out to those in need. Thank you for your generous support of the Strengthen the Church Offering (to date we have collected \$594), as well as the Pregnancy Crisis Center collection. We recently delivered a box of socks to Palm Terrace and our Mission Boxes, which benefit Sophie's Circle, continue to help God's special creatures. As you can see from the article below, July's Mission Project is the Military Collection and Food Collection, which this year will benefit the local "Homeless Veterans Project." In August, we switch our focus to the POMA School Initiative Program with a special "Sneakers for Students" Collection to benefit students at Spruce Creek Elementary. More information on this project to follow. Together we continue to change lives.

Joe Thompson, Member of the Missions Team



Thanks for your kind donations to the Pregnancy Crisis Center Collection. Through your generosity we provided the Center with an array of baby clothes, cereal & formula, four boxes of wipes & diapers and baby oil and lotion. We received a note of appreciation from the Center thanking us for our continued support.

ANNUAL MILITARY COLLECTION



They served our country Throughout the month of July we will be collecting items for care packages to benefit our "Homeless Veterans Project" right here in Volusia County. The following is a list of items for the care packages. Please be generous to our returning veterans who have fought to protect our freedom.

Toiletries: Baby Wipes (100 ct. or less) or Body Wash, Deodorant, Hand Sanitizer (small size), Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Chapstick, Shaving Cream, Disposable Razors, Q-tips, Band-aids, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Dental Floss, Mouthwash & Vitamins

Food/Snacks: Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Chewing Gum, Granola & Cereal Bars, Fruit Rolls, Cookies, Raisins, Dried Fruit, Fruit Cups, Applesauce, Nuts, Sunflower Seeds, Trail Mix, Granola, Tuna in Foil Pouches, Pringles, Pretzels, Hard Candy, Licorice (red or black)

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, July 6th is our next collection day and will benefit the local "Homeless Veterans Project." Over 28 bags of food were collected last month which benefitted the "Grace Episcopal Food Pantry."

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). There is a specific need for rice, tuna, pasta items and sauce, soups, canned meats and vegetables, breakfast cereal, condiments and peanut butter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

On **Sunday, June 8th**, following our 9:45 AM Combined Service we gathered for fellowship and fun. Wow, what a crowd! We had 88 members join in the festivities. The food was great and the entertainment was super thanks to Greg West, Pam Protko's son, whose impersonation of Jason Aldean was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Jackie Gaither and Sue Turner for coordinating the event and cooking all the burgers and hot dogs. It was a super way to top off our Pentecost/Confirmation/Graduate Recognition celebration!



SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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, July 10th.
It's Pot Luck.*

Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

July - Deacons, August - Teaching & September - Operations

LADIES LUNCHEON



Our Ladies Lunch Bunch will be taking the summer off and will resume meeting **September 18th**. For more information, contact Jeanette Campbell at 788-4959

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE



On **Sunday, June 22nd** the Ebbert Family hosted an Open House at Bishop Glen to celebrate June's life and Rev. Bill's birthday. It was a special day for family and friends as they shared memories of June as well as celebrated Rev. Bill's 88th birthday and what would have been the couple's 63rd wedding anniversary.

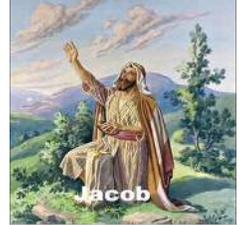


NEWS & NOTES



Saturday, July 19th, at 7:05 PM the Cubs vs. the Fort Myers Miracle with fireworks and it's Team Photo Giveaway/Autograph Night. Sign-up sheet is on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Tickets are \$4.50 and monies will be collected by Bob Gaither between services on **July 6th** or you may drop off your payment in the church office. Tickets will be available beginning **July 8th**.

PREVIEW OF SUMMER SCRIPTURE: Beginning **July 13th through August 17th** our scripture readings and Pastor Bill's sermons will focus on Jacob's life which is chronicled in the Book of Genesis. Topics covered include rivalry, betrayal, blessings, humility, and family interaction. Sounds like everyday life. Be sure not to miss a Sunday!



If you haven't yet had a chance to visit our new web site, please take the time to and I'm sure you'll be amazed. Thanks to Bob Brewster, we are able to reach more people and spread the exciting news of what's happening at POUCC. One of the newest additions is the PayPal feature which allows all contributions to be made confidentially online at no cost to you. More information will be forthcoming on this feature. *Check it out!*

PRAYER GARDEN BRICKS: We recently received a request for a memorial brick to be ordered. We would invite any other members of the congregation interested in ordering a brick to contact the church office. The cost is \$35.00 which includes a 4x8x2 1/4" brick, engraving and shipping. We need a minimum order of five bricks.



For Delana Pack on her recent graduation and receiving an award for Outstanding Musical Achievement, Special Recognition for Class Participation, Communication and Technology and for being on the Honor Roll all year. Delana also received the Principal's Award and Medal. And Colten has been busy acting at Universal as well as starring as Jim Hawkins in a recent production of "Treasure Island." *Way to go; we are so proud of you both!*



Congratulations to Payton Bryan who received three Varsity Letters in her freshman year, awesome grades as well and she's spending the summer as a camp counselor. *Amazing Payton!*

And for 19 years and counting, Ed Clowers and our own Port Orange Music Academy Concert and Jazz Bands were awarded top rating "Superior" at the annual competition in Orlando in June. The band held it's annual band camp here June 16th through the 26th and concluded camp with a great concert for all. *Congratulations to Ed and his band of musicians on another great year!*



We recently received word that Blanche Northcutt has had some health issues and is now recuperating in the Life Care Center of Ooltewah, 5911 Snow Hill Road, Ooltewah, TN, 37363. Her phone number is (423) 531-0600. I'm sure she would appreciate hearing from members of her church family.

Happy Birthday!



**JULY
BIRTHDAYS***

Tommy Buller	7/2
Teddy Yaeger	7/11
Dallas Davis	7/13
Arthur Van Nostrand	7/16
Michael Dotson	7/17
Bonnie Morisset	7/24
Helen Holmes	
Nicholas Yaeger	7/25
Leree Nicholls	7/26
Van Thompson	
Carol Rogers	7/27
Kimberly Dotson	7/28
Shawn Wheeler	7/30

**JULY
ANNIVERSARIES***

Billy & Peggy Wiggins	7/2/1977
Mo & Ingrid Claunch	7/5/1997
Don & Kay Schweitzer	7/7/2009
Reid & Mary Hughes	7/11/2009
Tom & Gail Besaw	7/18/1970
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	7/19/1958
Rev. Raymond & Cora Hargrove	7/20/2001



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Ted & Sue Batturs	Members of POUCC
Tim Blackburn	Brother-in-Law of the Deitchs
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Christopher	Friend of the Baskins
Heaton Cochran	Grandson of the Schweitzers
Diana Cole	Daughter of Dee Dardeen
Lucille Coulter	Member of POUCC
Dee Dardeen	Member of POUCC
Dallas Davis	Member of POUCC
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Amelia Dyer	Friend of Shelia & Bob Fisher
Louise Eagan	Member of POUCC
Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Joanne Flatt	Member of POUCC
Allan Henry	Father of Lisa Wassner
Scott & Emily Hill	Val Hill's Nephew and his wife who are both Missionaries
F/F of Marilyn Hooper	Mary McDonald Sister-in-Law
Joellen Hopkins	Member of POUCC
Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
Russ Karel	Member of POUCC
Jarvis Lynn	Friend of Sher Buller
Brian Manchester	Son of Sheila & Bob Fisher
Gayle Martin	Friend of Sue Batturs
Ruth Oberender	Val Hill's Mother
Shon Owczarak	Grandson of Mary Ann Stewart
Shelby Painter	Granddaughter of the Turners
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
Georgeanne Schore	Friend of the Greiffs
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
Patty Stoner	Daughter of Mary Ann Stewart
Doreen Villegas	Sister of a Friend of the Eagans
Walker Family	Family of Doreen Wheeler
Rose Williams	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
Blanche Northcutt	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in TN)

Special Needs

All of Our Military & Their Families

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

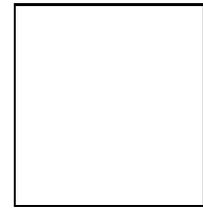
POUCC July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 CPT 6:30 pm	3 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	4  Office & Thrift Store Closed	5
6 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	7	8	9 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:30 pm	10 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	11	12 Dancing Angels 9:00 am
13 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am SLT 5:30 pm	14	15	16 CPT 6:30 pm	17 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	18	19 Dancing Angels 9:00 am Daytona Cubs Outing 7:05 pm
20 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am		22	23 CPT 6:30 pm	24 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	25	26 Dancing Angels 9:00 am
27 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am	28 Spiritual Life Team Meeting 2:00 pm	29	30 CPT 6:30 pm	31 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

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Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

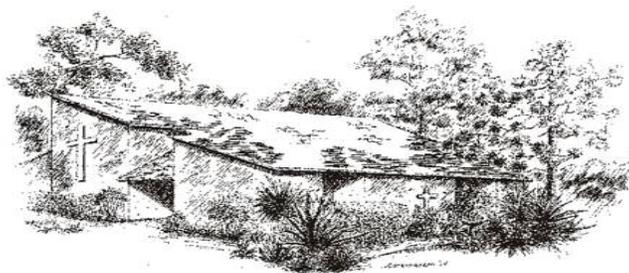
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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