



Volume 37, Issue 10

October 2015

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Be Happy Accept Myself Learn to Dance Find my Mother
Find Love Discover God Go to Paris Have a Family

Dear Friends,

While Lisa and I were enjoying our San Antonio, Texas vacation in July, we visited the River Walk area several times. After another glorious adventure on the River, we walked back to our parked car in order to return to Gerhard and Irma's home in Helotes. As we drove through the city streets, we came to the Houston Street Parking Garage at the corner of Houston and Navarro Streets. On that corner, I saw something that I had never seen before – the outside wall had a huge chalkboard on it with the following statement painted on it:

"Before I Die, I Want To..." There were numerous pieces of colored chalk provided for people to write a response to complete that statement. Since we were at a red light, I could quickly read some of the responses (printed above). I noted that not one person had written anything about money or possessions. Some learn that truth too late. On Labor Day, Lisa and I went to see the movie,

A Walk in the Woods, starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. The movie centers on a "bucket list" quest to walk the Appalachian Trail and it had some quite funny and profound moments and exchanges. While we both enjoyed the movie, I have to admit that it made me a little uncomfortable realizing that I'm getting within sniffing distance of that time in life to consider my own "bucket list." When it came to advice for making the journey, there were references to the right foods, equipment, maps, and strategies, but in the end the essential was all about relationships and rediscovering an old friendship. The point was not the Trail's destination – it was the journey – the time to reflect, renew, and remember what's really important in life. We may never walk the Appalachian Trail, but we are all on this journey called Life. We are all fellow travelers who choose to come here to this Respite Station to renew our spirits, reflect God's love, and remember what's really important in this crazy, demanding, and mixed up world. We need this companionship with one another as we travel. We all need help from time to time. We may not travel in the same manner, at the same speed, or with the same "equipment" but ultimately our destination is the same. Thank you for journeying with me. Thank you for helping our fellow "hikers." Thank you for knowing what's really important on the "Trail."



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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

Youth:
Sher Buller & Cindy Pierson

Custodian:
Deb Viola

Gift & Thrift Store:
Bob Gaither

Pastor Bill

ASSISTANT PASTOR



Our family just "lost" one of our dearest friends of more than 50 years whom we refer to as chosen family. He was an analyst professionally and at heart, and would not believe in anything unless it was proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Religiously, he was an agnostic. Spiritually, he was a loving, kind, gentle man who could not find himself to believe in God without absolute proof of the existence of God. "Seeing is believing." You and I have no problem in finding proof of a living God, and it always puzzled me as to why this man could not. Is there a heaven for those who do not believe in God?

In the Bible, remember how Thomas doubted that Christ had risen from the dead? Thomas was so skeptical that he had to see and touch the wounds of Christ before he was able to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then responded to Thomas: "Because you have seen Me, do you now believe? Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, and favored by God] are they who did not see [Me] and yet believed [in Me]." (John 20:29 Amplified Bible, 2015) Just as Christ did not deny Thomas the promise of eternal life, He will not deny entry into heaven to our beloved friend who practiced goodness and mercy throughout his life here on earth -- nor will He deny the same to others like him -- for when they see our Lord in all His heavenly glory, they will rejoice and say, "My Lord and My God!"

In Faith and Love, *Pastor Beverly*

COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: (9:45– 10:15 AM in Classroom #1) Please be prompt to allow ample time for class so Pastor Beverly can attend choir practice at 10:15. Fellowship goodies will still be available at 10:15 for children and youth to enjoy after Sunday School.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR: (Promptly at 10:30-10:40 AM Sundays in Classroom #1) We will be singing Bible Songs which tie in with our Sunday School lessons, and which may periodically be presented in church. Christmas Pageant music will also be learned at this time. Additional practices will be scheduled when necessary.



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 8/30/2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-August 2015</u>	<u>Jan.-August, 2015</u>
Income	\$ 108,616	\$ 108,040
Expenses	\$ 105,780	\$ 108,053
Other Income	\$ 264	\$ - 13
Net Income	\$ 3,100	

We are still in the black through August and hopefully we can maintain this through year end. Thanks to everyone for your support. Respectively submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer

SPECIAL REQUEST

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Is a fund set-up to confidentially help members in need. This separate account has aided a few members over the past few months and will continue to do so with your generosity. *Thank you, Pastor Bill*

OPERATIONS TEAM



Your Operations Team met on September 14th and the following is a summary of the topics discussed at the meeting.

Old Business

- Winsemius Bequest – Kitchen renovations have been completed. A plaque was presented at the Dedication on September 13th during the Combined Service. Bonnie Morisset is creating a framed sign, when completed Jim Eagan will hang it in the kitchen as well.
- Charlie Mix Building – Metal Post & Gutter Downspouts Repair – brown paint has been purchased.
- Update on Parking Lot Repair & Repaving – Will continue in the cooler weather.
- Car Stop Repairs – Three were replaced. Orange and white paint has been purchased and they will be painted by the youth of the church. Blue and red paint needs to be purchased for painting of names on some of the car stops.
- Sprinklers Repairs – They were replaced and repaired.
- AT&T Phone – iPhone 4S was purchased by Susie Greiff.
- Pastor Bathroom – All repairs were completed to the Pastor's bathroom. Thanks to Jim Eagan for the great job.
- Replacement of West Property Pine Tree – Tree was replaced to meet the city requirements. The tree is dying. Rich Thole will research a tree that does not require a lot of water.
- Clavinova Keyboard – All repairs have been completed.
- Wood Cross Painting – Thanks to Tracy Davis for painting the cross.

New Business

- Grief Group – Operations approved a request made by Patricia Armor to use our church, Jim Reed room, for Compassionate Friends-support group for those who have lost a child. They will meet on the first Monday of the month beginning November 2nd.
- Railing by Organ – Jim Eagan will prepare a quote for having a railing installed in the rear of the Chancel by the organ for safer access by the Praise Team and Choir.
- 2016 Slate of Officers Nomination – Rich Thole will research who is ending their term and who would be new candidates for the Operations Team.
- Fall Workday – Scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 9:00 AM.
- 2016 Budget – Susie Greiff will have a preliminary budget for next month's meeting.
- Youth Group – The creation of a Youth Center in the existing Nursery was approved. This will serve as a meeting place for our youth and they will convert and paint the room. There will still be a crib and whatever else is needed in the room if it needs to be used as a nursery during services.
- No Parking Signs – Cindy Pierson will provide quotes for having (4) Church Parking Only signs made.
- Pastor Bill's Sabbatical – Sher Buller will discuss details of his sabbatical with members of the Council.

Next Operations Meeting is October 12, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by *Cindy Pierson, Secretary of Operations Team*

MISSION NOTES



Thanks to your generosity, Pastor Bill presented a check in the amount of \$855 to Tina Howard, School Counselor at neighboring Spruce Creek Elementary which will provide students in need with the required sneakers for PE and other personal needs. We also delivered a large bag of socks, six bicycle helmets and three backpacks. Our next project to aid the school is our Thanksgiving Food Collection which Pastor Bill and Tina Howard are in the process of coordinating. Stay tuned for more details!

Also in November, we will again participate in the **CROP Walk, Sunday, November 8th**, by collecting 1 lb. jars of peanut butter and raising pledges. Walkers needed! See the Sanctuary bulletin board for more information.



Please keep in mind that we need to continue to collect items for the Palmetto House Christmas bags. Items we are in need of include: bath scrunchies (4 for \$1.00 at Dollar General) and small cosmetic bags. Donations may be placed in the box in the Sanctuary.

Thanks for your donations in the two Mission Boxes, we collected \$17.45 which benefits Sophie's Circle the local pet pantry. Also, remember the Pregnancy Crisis Center, Sock's Box, can tabs and eyeglasses. With your help, we continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

Jackie Gaither, Chair of Missions



NEIGHBORS IN NEED "UNEXPECTED PLACES": This special mission offering of the UCC supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States including the Council for American Indian Ministries. This offering will be received on **October 4th** which is also World Communion Sunday.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, October 4th is our next collection day and will again benefit Grace Episcopal Food Pantry. Over 29 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. 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).



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Thanks to all who have visited and patronized our store. To date, our sales exceed \$16,000, and we have donated seven bags of clothes to the homeless. We are in need of donations-especially board games, stuffed animals, and framed art. We also need volunteers and if you can help, please call me at 290-2726. If you haven't visited the store, make it a point to stop by, you'll be amazed! Your donations and support helps the church and the community. *Bob Gaither, Manager*

SPECIAL MISSIONARY UPDATE



We recently received an update from "The Hills in Ghana" where Val Hill's nephew and his family are serving as missionaries. In August, volunteers shared the Gospel with over 150 people and conducted an eye clinic and gave away over 100 pairs of glasses. Please keep the Hill Family in your prayers as they spread the Word of the Lord.

DEACONS CORNER



Here's a question for everyone – Does the church need to change to keep up with the needs of a changing people or do people need to stop changing and go back to the ways of a more traditional church? There are many opinions about this but one thing is for sure, the trend is for more and more people to not attend a church service. A recent study reveals startling results. 25 years ago 91% of the U.S. population called itself Christian. Today in 2015, the number has shrunk to 70%. 30% of the population is non-Christian but worse over 20% don't identify themselves with any religion at all. This is a very serious and damaging trend. We can see the effects of this in our society where families are losing their core and children are being raised without the spiritual education that will carry them through life's challenges. This lack of "core spiritual belief" is causing much devastating damage to society as a whole as we see crime, disrespect of others, lawsuits, and a general distrust of others lead to open conflict between neighbors, friends and relatives. The church as a whole is struggling to find its continued meaningful place by changing to what it believes is what the people want to see. But, what if this is the wrong thing for the church to do? What if the church's changing is really accelerating us as a people down the wrong road? What if we go back to a more traditional approach, where Jesus is speaking again and teaching us his simple lessons? What if we could drop all the layers of man-made tradition and the "let's try this next" approach for the one that allows Jesus to do the talking? Think about it? Are we here in this physical world to celebrate just our lives and getting through the day, week, month or year? Or, are we here to make the most of the talents that God gave to us and to celebrate the fact that Jesus has given us a path to make the most of our physical lives while giving us knowledge that we are going to be with him again when this life ends? The overall church is struggling as we can see by the Pope's recent visit to realign the Catholic Church. Our own church here in Port Orange is looking at ways we can stay relevant and grow. Yet, we are feeling the pull for change. But, is changing what we need? We are a very healthy church with great people and a meaningful place in our community. Do we need to do more of what we have been doing or do we need to make changes like we see other churches making? Are we here to celebrate the church as a body or are we here to celebrate the message Jesus left us? Do we go back to basics or do we make changes? Are we running away from the very thing we need to be doing? *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*

COMBINED SERVICE OF DEDICATION



On Sunday, September 13th in a Combined Service attended by FL Conference Minister Rev. John Vertigan, we dedicated our newly renovated kitchen. Thanks to a bequest from Lois Winsemius, the upgraded kitchen included the installation of a commercial gas stove, two fryers, and a commercial refrigerator and freezer. These new additions will help us better serve our congregation in fellowship and missions.

Rev. Vertigan was our special pulpit guest at the Combined Service and delivered a very powerful message entitled "Jesus in Your Eyes" based on the text of Mark. It was a great pleasure to have him join in worship and fellowship.



UPCOMING REMINDERS



Advent begins on **Sunday, November 29th**. Our theme this year is "A Season for Singing." Look for the full Advent Overview in the November Newsletter.

Our 2016 Stewardship Campaign "New Love, New Mercy" begins next month and continues through January 17th. We appreciate your faithful support and need to continue our common work and ministry. More information on the Campaign to follow in November's Newsletter.



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



Terrific Tuesdays

On Tuesday, September 22nd, our youth kicked-off our weekly Terrific Tuesday Program of the new school year. It was great to be back together and as you can see from the events listed below our youth are going to be very busy. Looks like great fun! Dinner is at **6:00 PM** (\$3.00 @ person) and please call the church office to make your reservation.



Saturday, October 3, 10:00 AM – Pet Blessing at Veterans Chapel

**Friday & Saturday, October 23 & 24 – Haunted House Project,
Silver Sands Bridle Club – Prepare the Tuesday before.**



**Sunday, November 8, 1:30 PM – 26TH Annual Halifax CROP WALK
Drive-In Church, 3140 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach**

**Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM – POMA Community Thanksgiving Service,
We Will Host the Service this Year.**



Sunday, December 20, 9:45 AM – Youth Christmas Program

Other Program Suggestions: Cookout and Singing by Bonfire



YOUTH NEWS



It is with great pleasure that we announce that Sher Buller and Cindy Pierson have agreed to take over leadership of our Youth Ministry Program. Pastor Bill will be assisting Sher in pursuing Licensure in Ministry in the UCC. Along with the list of activities our youth will be participating in, creation of a Youth Room is at the top of the agenda. We are confident both women will be a great asset to the program.

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC



Following the September 6th Combined Service, over 60 members joined together for our “End of the Summer” congregational picnic. Thanks to Jackie Gaither and Sue Turner for the delicious hamburgers and hot dogs that were cooked on the new stove. There was a great assortment of side dishes and desserts for all to enjoy. It was the perfect end to a great day of celebration.

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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

***Our next fellowship dinner is October 8th. It's a “Pot Luck”
Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.***



NEWS & NOTES



In honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th, Pastor Bill will host a Pet Blessing on **Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00 AM at Veterans Chapel**. Gather your cherished family pets and meet at the Chapel for a special blessing on God's special creatures.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Pastor Bill who was recently elected President of the Port Orange Ministerial Association which meets the third Wednesday of each month. He will also be officiating Vespers at Bishop Glen on **Thursday, October 15th at 6:00 PM** and will dine and visit with members that reside there. On **Tuesday, October 20th**, Pastor Bill will deliver the Invocation at the Port Orange City Meeting.



Saturday, October 24th, 9:00 AM. We need your help to weed, trim and tidy up the grounds. Sign-up sheet on Sanctuary bulletin board.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE FALL ASSEMBLY: Will take place on **Saturday, October 24th** at the First Congregational Church of Winter Park. Pastor Bill will be leading a workshop on **GREEN ADVOCACY and Water Scarcity** which will include youth. There will also be work events for youth and additional workshops all on the theme of taking better care of our planet and especially what we can do here in Florida.



Saturday, November 14th, Seminole State College-Sanford/Lake Mary Campus.

Kimberly and Tyler Dotson will be participating in this walk to help raise funds to support those who struggle with autism. Flyers are located in the rear of the Sanctuary or visit Kimberly's website <http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/centralflorida/teamtyler>.

SPECIAL NOTE: Beginning in November, **Compassionate Friends**—a support group for parents who have suffered the death of child—will meet here on the first Monday of each month. As Simon Stephens, their founder states: *"The Compassionate Friends is about transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope."* We are very happy to assist the organization in their mission.



Prayer & Study Group

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Pastor Bill and Kay Russell will be leading a Study and Prayer Group beginning in November on Tuesday evenings to think and pray about what and where God needs us to be in the future. The group will be utilizing a book called The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why by Phyllis Tickle. You can get a used copy of the book on Amazon or the local library. All are welcome. If interested, contact Pastor Bill.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jim & Louise Eagan who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Renewal of Vows Ceremony on the beach at Winter Haven Park on Wednesday, August 26th. Pastor Bill officiated the ceremony with family, friends and members of the congregation in attendance. It was a joyous occasion and we wish them many more years together!



For Colten and Delana Pack. Colten was busy over the summer completing Boy Scout Encampment earning five merit badges. He also appeared in the production of FAME and thanks everyone for their support. Delana enjoyed working on her Silver Award for Girl Scouts and she will be taking orders for Nuts and Candy between services to benefit the organization.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS*

Sara Bryan	10/1
Mona Chalker	
Tom Sumners	10/4
Cindi Harper	10/5
Levi Zinke	10/8
Ron Zinke	10/13
Roger Harper	10/17
Doreen Nicholls	10/18
Payton Bryan	10/19
Maurice Claunch	10/27
Leonard Lussier	10/28
Jackie Gaither	
Mary Ann Sumners	10/29
Aidan Bryan	10/30

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Bill & Leree Nicholls	10/11/1958
Tom & Judy Van Camp	10/27/1979
Todd & Alice Lynn Feldman	10/27/1985



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Clyde Bussard	Members of POUCC
Fred Campbell	Member of POUCC
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
Kimberly Comfort	Friend of Beverly Schafer
Richard Devins, Sr.	Friend of POUCC
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Juan Faria, Sr.	Friend of the Thompsons
Sharon Ferrelli	Friend of POUCC
Kaela Harvey	Friend of the Bullers
Phyllis Heath	Wife of Rev. Steven Heath
Pat Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Scott & Emily Hill	Family of Val Hill
Rev. Richard Hills	POMA Minister
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Jim McGuffie	Member of POUCC
Tyler Moreno	Grandson of Dee Dardeen
F/F of Nate Mudge	Friend of POUCC
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Sharon Ostrander	Friend of POUCC
Mark Pease	Friend of the Schafers
Tim Schafer	Members of POUCC
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC
Marty Thompson	Member of the Thompson Family
Jim Turner	Friend of POUCC
Diana Upcraft	Sister of Cindy Pierson
Arthur Van Nostrand	Member of POUCC
Alice Ward	Sister of Eva Brewster

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
Emily Bussard	Member of POUCC (Port Orange Rehab)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, First Responders & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims & Survivors of Chilean Earthquake & Floods
The victims of warfare and famine

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

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

POUCC October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	2	3 Pet Blessing 10:00 am
4 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	5 POMA 3:00 pm	6 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	7 POMA 4:00 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	8 POMA 3:45 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	9	10
11 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	12 POMA 3:00 pm Operations 6:30 pm	13 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	14 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	15 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	16	17
18 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	19 POMA 3:00 pm Council 7:00 pm	20 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	21 POMA 4:00 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	22 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	23 Haunted House Project 5:00-9:00 pm	24 Church Workday 9:00 am Haunted House Project 5:00-9:00 pm
25 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	26 POMA 3:00 pm	27 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	28 POMA 4:00 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	29 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	30	31  Happy Halloween

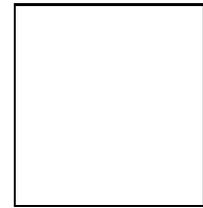
Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Saturday 9 am – Noon

Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am – 1 pm

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

**COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE:
OCTOBER – THRIFT STORE, NOVEMBER – FELLOWSHIP**

Port Orange
United Church of Christ
651 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL 32127



Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner
Assistant Pastor: Beverly Schafer
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Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Media Communications: Bob Brewster
Youth: Sher Buller & Cindy Pierson
Custodian: Deb Viola
Gift & Thrift Store: Bob Gaither

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 Noon
Saturday

Sunday Worship

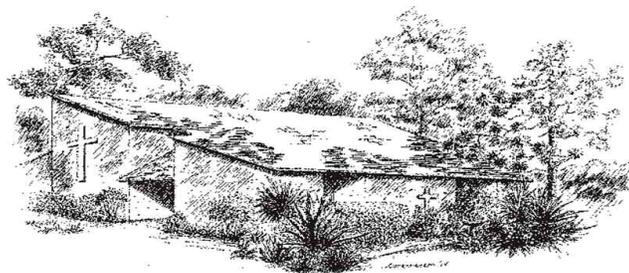
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesdays

6:00 PM



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