



Volume 37, Issue 7

July 2015

**Port Orange  
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## 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  
**Thrift Store:**  
Bob Gaither



Dear Friends,

If someone asked you to share your beliefs and in the course of the conversation you were asked, "Who is God?" what would you say? The word "God" is one of the most popular words in UrbanDictionary.com – an online "dictionary," to which people can add their own definitions. So, here are a few irreverent and uninformed definitions of God:

- *"The reason I passed math."*
- *"The main character in the fiction work 'The Bible.'"*
- *"An entity whose opinions on the consumption of pork has been a matter of hot debate amongst the world's religions."*
- *"A voice that talks to you from the announcement speaker. 'Cleanup in aisle 3!'"*
- *"Man's most deadly creation."*
- *"A widely-known imaginary friend."*
- *"The reason for anything currently unexplained or unknown."*

Some say God doesn't exist, others say God is indifferent. Still others say God is the picture of love and is all-powerful. Some claim to follow God but don't truly do it, some scoff at God's followers, and many people actually seem to follow God. That being said, who is God for you? The events in Charleston and the Emanuel AME Church killings weigh heavily on my heart and mind as I am sure they do on yours. We still have so far to go in terms of making a nation wherein justice and equality are a reality and hatred and division will be no more. There is a lot to be angry about and much to address. Of course, inevitably, the question arises, "Where was God when this evil happened?" After all, the victims were in church, right? God it seems to me is especially known and sensed not in the wonderful moments but in the heart-wrenching ones. I see God in the love that first invited and welcomed this troubled young man into their midst at Emanuel. I see God in the outpouring of love of hundreds who initially responded to help and pray and minister to the church family and community. I see God in the 10,000+ protestors who lined the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston the following Sunday night forming a "Bridge of Peace" and saying "no more" to violence or hatred. I see God in the millions of Christians who are now both challenging themselves in their own prejudices and committed to making a difference where they live and serve. As we celebrate our nation's birthday – our heritage and ideals – that is a good thing but we dare not, however, either confuse God and nation or quit pushing, praying, and working to make this nation a place where our ideals and principles are truly embraced and a reality for all people. May God be known and praised by us all!

*Pastor Bill*

## ASSISTANT PASTOR



I am writing this, our nation is still in shock over the horrific slaughter of innocents in Charleston -- so much so, that at this very last minute I am changing the focus of my July Newsletter article.

Like me, were you waiting for the other shoe to drop just as it did in Baltimore and Ferguson with the riots and accusations of racism perpetuated by "leaders" who relish in the limelight of the fire they are stoking? It has now been nearly two weeks since the mass murder of those nine prayerful and faithful men and women who welcomed a stranger into their midst with open hearts and minds only to lose their lives to this member of Satan's army. Yet, we are told that throughout this heinous crime, those who were about to be slain spoke words of comfort, consolation and hope to their assailant. Upon learning the fate of their loved ones, rather than lashing out in hate and anger, family members followed the example of those who perished by speaking words of forgiveness and with prayers of salvation for the person who took the lives of these precious souls. As difficult as it is, we, as a nation, need to pray right along with them if we truly want to win this battle with evil. Those who report the news need to emphasize the forgiveness and love so beautifully demonstrated in the ugliest of situations by those most admirable and brave individuals directly affected. Let's take their lead, America, for all things are possible through Christ! (1 Peter 4:12-19)

Faithfully,

*Pastor Beverly*



### Financial Update

Operational Budget as 5/31/2015

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
	<u>May, 2015</u>	<u>May, 2015</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 74,792	\$ 66,067
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 65,918	\$ 68,232
	\$ 8,874	\$ -165

*We are still in the black through May. If we can maintain this momentum through the summer months, we should be able to end the year in the black. Respectfully, Susie Greiff, Treasurer*

**Join us next Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM for our  
Combined Service of Patriotism to celebrate our Nation's Birthday!**



**Future Combined Services are August 2nd & September 6th.  
Congregational Picnic to follow the September 6th Service.**

## OPERATIONS TEAM



Even though the Operations Team will not meet formally again until September, projects around the church continue to move forward.

- Kitchen Upgrade - Renovations are to be completed by September 1st.
- Clavinova Repair - Operations has approved the repair and it was repaired on June 24th.
- Parking Lot Repair - The parking bumpers have been replaced and repaired and will be painted in the near future..
- Sprinkler System - Jim Eagan is in the process of reviewing and repairing the system.
- Document Storage - Church Officials and the office staff need to determine what needs to be stored and quantity of materials to be stored before we can move forward with this project.
- Painting of Cross on Front of Church & Traffic Control Signs - These project are still pending and will be addressed.

*Sher Buller, Chair of Operations*

## DEACONS CORNER

### The Heat of Summer....the Cold of Winter

Now that summer is in full swing and the temperatures appear to remain above 80° F all night, I personally long for the cool temperatures of winter. Yet, on those days in winter when the temperatures are cold, and when I must wear a jacket or sweater, I also long for the heat of summer. Why not just accept both and be happy with each at the time each is happening? Love the heat of summer and love the cold of winter! The same holds true for our spiritual “temperatures”. At times we love everyone and life is perfect...“*thank you God for giving me this great life!*” At other times we are feeling poorly and upset about life...“*why me God, what did I do to deserve such misery?*” Just like weather changes where we must adapt to whatever it brings, we too must accept spiritual changes that challenge our thinking for how to accept what is happening. Our physical life is meant to be this way. The weather is always changing yet we learn to adapt and to accept it. We adapt *individually*. Also significant is that we also do not blame weather changes as being personal...“*Oh why is this happening to me?*” I have yet to see it rain on only one person in a crowd and everyone else remains dry. Or to see one person suffering hot or cold in one spot while everyone around them remains comfortable. Weather affects everyone at one time and each person must adapt individually. It is the same with spiritual changes. Our spiritual life is meant to be this way. Spirituality changes can affect an entire church, a city or even a country at one time and like adapting to weather conditions where we must act individually, so too we must adapt to spiritual changes on an individual level. Like weather changes can cover a broad area of land, so too can spiritual changes have a broad effect on people. When confronting weather, if we have enough warning, we can act together to protect and prepare. So too, in times of intense spiritual challenges, as a people we are not alone. God has and is warning us as a people and as individuals to prepare. First, we must take care of our own selves and be sure our own well-being is right that our attitude, spiritual beliefs and thinking is correct. Second, by making sure we as individuals are spiritually strong we then have the strength to help others confront their challenges. That is why we come to church. We are all together in this one big journey called life and how we accept it individually will determine how happy or miserable we are when traveling through it. Attending church gives us a chance to reset our spiritual feelings, just like coming in from the cold or heat to be with others resets our physical feelings. We are not alone....the weather is great!....life is great!....God is with us! *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*



**FROM THE DEACONS**

## MISSION NOTES



Your Missions Team continues to go about our work of reaching out to those in need. The Strengthen the Church Offering was received on May 24<sup>th</sup> and to date we collected \$375. Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$555 in support of our June Special Mission Offering for the UCC International Disaster Relief Fund to aid victims worldwide.

Again this year, our August Mission Project will be “Sneakers & Socks” for Spruce Creek Elementary School. Envelopes will be provided and we’ll begin this collection the first Sunday in August.



Keep in mind that we need to begin to collect items for the Palmetto House Christmas bags (list is on bulletin board). Also, remember the Mission Boxes, Sock’s Box, can tabs and eyeglasses.

Together we continue to change lives. *Jackie Gaither, Chair of the Missions Team*

## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Along with our regular hours, (Mon-Fri. 9:00 AM-3:00 PM) The Gift & Thrift Store is now open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM-Noon. There are **SPECIALS** everyday, and don’t forget, we always welcome donations. Also, we are looking for more volunteers to fill in the gaps left by the “snowbirds” returning north. If you can help, please call me, 290-2726. As of May 15, the Thrift Shop has earned over \$10,000! Thanks to all for your support. *Bob Gaither, Manager*

## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **July 5th is our next collection day and will benefit the local “Grace Episcopal Food Pantry.”** Over 28 bags of food were collected last month which benefited the Pantry. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. Please make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## SPECIAL THANKS



We recently received a note from Rachel Katyl of “Safe Passage” thanking us for our donation of \$1,021 in support of Dr. Deb Walter’s Kayak Mission to raise funds for the children living in Guatemala City garbage dumps. The note is posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board.

Special thanks to Joan Brown for her donation of the new American Flag waving over Veterans Chapel and thanks to Jim & Sue Turner for making sure it was flying for Flag Day. We also thank Joe Thompson for replacing Joan’s flag mount at her home.



Thanks to Lisa Wassner who served as guest organist for three Sundays in June while Dr. Tom was on vacation. *Great Job Lisa!*

Our library has grown thanks to Erika Henderson’s donation of “Prayers for Johnathan” a book about her son.



Many thanks to all who continue to pray, call and send cards to John & I. Your concern is greatly appreciated and we feel your love and support. *John & Mary Ann Stewart*



# NEWS & Notes



**FLORIDA CONFERENCE DEMO DAY:** On Friday, June 5th, Pastor Bill along with Deb & Colten Pack and Jim Eagan traveled to Orlando to help with the work on a 45-year-old UCC facility to make way for the new Florida Conference Headquarters located at 9300 University Boulevard. The new home of the Florida



Conference will be an environmentally-friendly, sustainably-minded, LEED-certified building that conference staff hopes will become a place of inspiration and learning for other eco-conscious UCC groups and congregations. Our group volunteered for the hottest and most risky jobs (snakes and ants were involved) taking down a 12' x 20' steel shed and dismantling playground equipment.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** On Sunday, June 14th Pastor Bill, Rev. Raymond Hargrove and a number of area clergy participated in the Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Diane Langworthy as Senior Pastor of the New Smyrna Beach UCC. We welcome Rev. Langworthy and her family and wish her much success in her ministry.



**DAYTONA TORTUGAS OUTING: SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 7:05 PM,** Tortugas vs. the Fort Myers Miracle with fireworks. Sign-up sheet on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Tickets \$5.00 and monies will be collected between services on **Sunday, July 12th & 19th** or drop off your payment in the church office. Tickets will be available the week of **July 27th**. Join us for an evening of great baseball and lots of fun!

**2015 WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS CENTRAL FLORIDA: Saturday, November 14th, Seminole State College-Sanford/Lake Mary Campus.** Our own Kimberly and Tyler Dotson will be participating in this walk to help raise funds to support vital research and top-quality programs that are changing the future for those who struggle with autism. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards or you can visit Kimberly's website <http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/centralflorida/teamtyler>.



One of our members has a scooter available and would be willing to give it to someone in need. It is in good condition but does need a new battery. If interested, please contact the church office.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS



To Colten Pack who has been chosen to perform in the upcoming production of "Fame" at the Orbit Performing Arts Academy

And way to go Payton Bryan and the Port Orange All-Star Softball Team for placing second in the District which qualifies the team for the State Tournament.

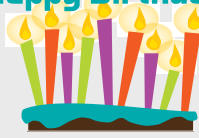


CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Joanne Flatt on the birth of her 20th great grandchild Harper Elizabeth Mauny who was born on May 25th.

Happy Birthday!



**JULY BIRTHDAYS\***

Tommy Buller	7/2
Kristin Marshall	7/7
Teddy Yaeger	7/11
Dallas Davis	7/13
Arthur Van Nostrand	7/16
Michael Dotson	7/17
Erika Henderson	7/22
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\***

Chuck Arredia	Son-in-Law of the Zinkes
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Fred Campbell	Member of POUCC
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Kimberly Comfort	Friend of Beverly Schafer
Richard Devins, Sr.	Friend of POUCC
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Sharon Ferrelli	Friend of POUCC
Cheryl Harper	Daughter of Joellen Hopkins
Kaela Harvey	Friend of the Bullers
Phyllis Heath	Wife of Rev. Steven Heath
Pat Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Mike & Tammy Hoffman	Family Members of the Wassners
Mike Hollifield	Friend of Tom Buller
Scott & Emily Hill	Family of Val Hill
Rev. Richard Hills	POMA Minister
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Luella Kransi	Mother of Harold Kransi
Robert Laird	Nephew of Joellen Hopkins
Rev. Jim Langdoc	Pastor at Holiday UCC
Rev. Shirley Martinson	Friend & Colleague of Pastor Bill
Tyler Moreno	Grandson of Dee Dardeen
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
Diana Upcraft	Sister of Cindy Pierson
Alice Ward	Sister of Eva Brewster
Beverly Woodacre	Member of POUCC
Trey Zinke	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 Charleston Shootings
- Those in Peril Due to Flooding in TX & OK
- Victims of the Earthquakes in Nepal
- First Responders Everywhere
- Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

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

# POUCC July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  CPT 6:00 pm	2  Line Dancing 6:00 pm	3	4   Thrift Store Closed
5  Combined Service Of Patriotism 9:45 am	6	7	8  Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm	9  Line Dancing 6:00 pm	10	11
12 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am	13	14	15  CPT 6:00 pm	17  Line Dancing 6:00 pm	18	20
21 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am	22	23	24  CPT 6:00 pm	25  Line Dancing 6:00 pm	26	27
28 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am	29	30	31  CPT 6:00 pm			

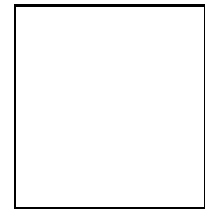
*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat, 9am – 12 pm*

*Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

***Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services***

***COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: JULY - DEACONS, AUGUST - TEACHING TEAM***

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**Thrift Store:** Bob Gaither

**Office Hours**

9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**Thrift Store Hours**

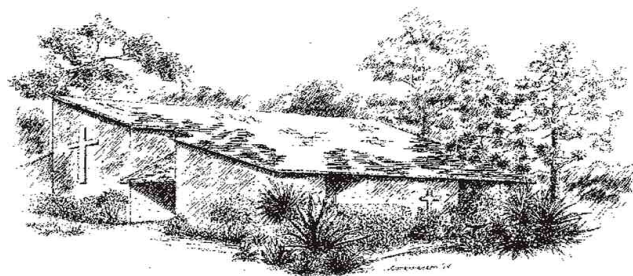
9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 AM—12:00 PM  
Saturday

**Sunday Worship**

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

**Sunday School**

9:45 AM



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