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March 2015

Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends

... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ROMANS 6:4

A story is told about a new graduate from the seminary who went out to his first congregation, an old country church. As he was conducting his first worship service, he noticed right away that everyone sat on one side of the church. That seemed odd. When it came time to sing the sermon hymn, the new pastor was amazed to see the entire congregation stand up, walk over to the other side of the church and sit down to sing. Weird! No one explained it to him. The same thing happened week after week. Finally the pastor pieced it together: Many years earlier, the church was heated by a woodstove over on one side of the building. The building was cold during the winter. When people first got to church, everyone sat on one side, close to the woodstove. As the service would go on, the woodstove would get very warm, too warm for comfort, and so the congregation developed the practice of moving over to the other side of the church before the sermon hymn. Even though the church building had been remodeled several times and the woodstove had long since been replaced, the congregation still kept its practice of changing sides during the services. Most of the members didn't even know why; it was just something they did every Sunday. As we are making our way to Easter Sunday, it is appropriate and necessary that we question who we are, why we do what we do, and be willing to challenge old assumptions and ways of being the church. Otherwise, we deny the power and the purpose of the resurrection – namely to bring new Life to that which is no longer useful, needed, and perhaps even be dead! Some churches simply go through the motions or do what they've always done, some have long since "gone to seed." Thank you for your faith. Thank you for your love. Thank you for your courage. Thank you for witnessing and spreading Life in and through this church, community, and world!

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



Now that I'm settled with my morning cup of Jet Fuel coffee -- no lie, that's really the brand name! -- I'm quite comfortable and ready to write this month's article.

During this record-breaking cold snap, some of you may have found it difficult to unwrap yourselves from your cozy comforters to get out of bed this morning. Me? I sure could use some comforting relief from the crick in my upper back that's nagging me after having not so comfortable a night's sleep. Of course, my chiropractor does

not have office hours on Saturday, so I'll just have to wait until Monday to get some easing of that annoying twinge!

On a more serious note, this upcoming month for me is presenting some serious health challenges for loved ones. As you are aware, my husband, Tim, has had a rough time since before the holidays and is likely facing a second open-heart surgery -- the first having been in November of 2012 at Shands. That problematic mitral valve has raised its ugly head again, but it will be replaced this time at The Mayo Clinic instead of being repaired like last time. Your prayers, cards, hugs and words of concern have been a major comfort to us as always, for which we are forever grateful. Be it known that acknowledging the need for comfort from others and accepting their kindness is an extremely important part of coping.

A dear friend for more than 50 years whom we have always loved as chosen family is facing even a more serious health situation -- that of an extremely aggressive cancer possibly giving him a life expectancy of 3-6 months. Too many of you have experienced this heartache as well, so you know how helpless and feeble one feels when trying to offer consoling and soothing words. I pray for miracles, asking only through the Grace of God; and by accepting God's will in all things, I find enormous comfort because I know it is in God's hands and in God's plan.

Come, Holy Comforter, come to all those in need of relief, aid and easing of pain; to all those in need of your soothing assurance and consolation. Come, Holy Comforter, come.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Bannay



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 1/31/2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan. 2015</u>	<u>Jan. 2015</u>
Income	\$13,057	\$13,614
Expenses	<u>\$13,265</u>	<u>\$13,242</u>
Net	-\$ 208	\$ 372

Our income was a little less than budgeted even though our expenses were pretty close to the budgeted amount. Our expenses would have been less but we had the \$400 tree removal. Our insurance reimbursement came in December but the removal didn't take place until January. I think we are doing pretty well so far and I have faith that we will be in the black very soon.

Respectfully submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer

*I Am
Blessed...
To Be A
Blessing*

If you have not returned your 2015 Pledge Form (additional copies are on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary), please fill it out and place it in the collection plate or mail it to the Church Office. To date, we have received 40 pledges totaling \$91,838. Many thanks for your past, present and future support.

OPERATIONS TEAM



Your Operations Team met on February 9th and the following topics were discussed:

- Winsemius Bequest – Sue Turner is obtaining quotes for new kitchen equipment.
- Repairs and maintenance around the church and grounds: Dalen Mills has labeled the Sanctuary dimmers and switches; is looking into repairing the bench in the front of the church; replacing the bell outside of the Jim Reed room; determined repair of the roof is a non-issue. Jim Eagan will be addressing parking lot crack repairs once the weather warms up and will also address the concrete abutments that need repair (Pastor's and one by the Nursery). Prayer Garden bricks have been installed.
- Purchases approved: Florescent light supply; locked filing cabinet for the Finance Office.
- It was decided that more research on the AT&T account and the cell phone was required.
- Spring Workday has been scheduled for **April 18th**.
- Easter Sunrise Service — Permit has been received.
- Special Olympics cycling team is practicing Saturdays 1-3 PM in the parking lot.
- Functions recently hosted were well attended and received: Spiritual Life January 24th and the New Beginnings Conference on January 30th & 31st.
- Chairperson — I requested that Bill Greiff assist me as Co-Chair as a non-voting member and the Council has approved my request.

The next Operations Team Meeting is on Monday, March 9th at 6:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted by: *Sher Buller, Co-Chair of Operations*

DEACONS CORNER

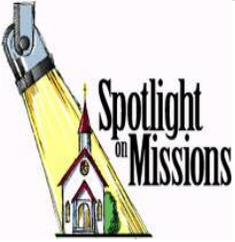
For years I have thought about the events of my very early youth and especially when I attended Sunday school. More specifically I have thought about Mrs. Bach - one of my Sunday school teachers. I wish I could remember her first name but even without that I do remember her soothing and calm manner when discussing what the Bible's teachings could mean in our daily lives. I wish I could remember a specific lesson or even a specific "gold nugget" that she planted in my mind that would forever be treasured. But, I don't remember those either. However, I do remember how impressed I was with Mrs. Bach and how I had at that time in my life respected her age (perhaps 70's) and her wisdom. She had a way of imparting her wisdom to us that was more feelings than it was facts. At the time, I might have been in my early teens, that period of time in life where nothing makes sense and where everything can be a crisis. Yet, Mrs. Bach seemed to understand. She taught us that life was to be exciting, treasured and not wasted. I have thought about her over the years, so why am I writing about her now? Why am I telling all of you about a Sunday school teacher who I only saw perhaps 3-4 times a few months one year of my life over 50 years ago? Why share her with all of you? Because a few days ago, I was flipping through an old photo album and there she was. There was Mrs. Bach dressed in her best dress, wearing a round hat with a big flower on it. The kind of hat you would see in the 1930's or 1940's. There she was in a picture proudly standing beside me at my college graduation with a big smile of accomplishment on her face. After all these years, her picture rekindled the thoughts of what she had been sharing with me and others so long ago. Jesus wants us to live life to the fullest. Be everything we can be. Use all our talents. That is why we are here. God wants us to live life not just occupy life. Think about who has influenced you. Perhaps, you also have an old Sunday school teacher named Mrs. Bach or someone else like her in your life.

Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons



The Ministry
of Deacons

MISSION NOTES



Mission projects continue as always. Your donations of socks have been offered to Tina Howard at Spruce Creek Elementary. First Sunday food donations are great and we continue to donate to both HUM and the Homeless Veterans organizations. In light of our recent chilly weather, donations to both of these missions is greatly appreciated and welcomed.

On **Sunday, March 15th at 10:00 AM** Dr. Deb Walters, who has been on a kayak trip down to Florida raising awareness and funds, will be present for a special program. Safe Passage is a mission to impact the dire need of children living in a garbage dump in Guatemala City. For more information, you can visit the web site at: <http://www.safepassage.org/Kayak>



We are waiting for more information on how we can best assist Val Hill's nephew's family's needs. We will keep you posted and please remember our Mission Boxes that benefit Sophie's Circle. Your generosity to all our projects is greatly appreciated.

Jackie Gaither, Chair of the Missions Team

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2015 CAMPAIGN, MARCH 15TH—

This offering reaches victims of disasters near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress, in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet. God provides the resources so that we can give back. Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance. Please be generous to this worthy mission.



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



The Thrift Shop continues to play a significant role into the Church's outreach into our community through the items we donate to individuals in need, specific outreach through other charities and most important, our interaction with customers. We serve our Church and community in many ways. January's total income was \$1,926. Thanks to all who donate and shop in our store.

Barb Pountain

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **March 1st is our next collection day.** Over 30 bags of food were collected last month - which benefited Grace Episcopal Food Bank. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky for loading and delivering the food. This month's collection will benefit our local VFW Post #3282 “Food for the Homeless Veterans’ Project.” If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. 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.



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



Terrific Tuesdays

February was a great month for our Terrific Tuesday gatherings. As always, we began each week's get together with a great dinner, thanks to Jackie Gaither. On February 3rd and 17th, we had "Game Nights" which were so fun. February 10th's theme was "Dinner and a Show" which featured the always funny Looney Tunes. And, we rounded out February with Rev. Larry Deitch leading a "*Serendipity*" Youth Bible Study which was interesting, thought provoking and enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Rev. Deitch who will be leading the Bible Studies on the fourth Tuesday of the month. **Please note, we will not meet on Tuesday, March 3rd.** We'll keep you posted in the bulletin on each week's activities and if you're planning to attend dinner beginning at 6:00 PM, please remember to call the Church Office and make your reservation.

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, March 12th.
It's a "Pot Luck"!
Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.*



LADIES LUNCHEON



Will meet this month on **Thursday, March 19th** 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



We recently received a note from Rev. Raymond Hargrove thanking us for the use of our facilities for the Conference's New Beginnings Program on January 30th & 31st. Many thanks to Jackie Gaither, Kathy Cratin and especially Sue Turner for serving as "Hostess with the Mostess" for the event.

A big THANKS goes out to Ric Pountain for trimming the trees outside the Sanctuary. Ric also placed the new personalized bricks in the Prayer Garden. Great Job Ric!



Our handyman projects around the Church have taken care of by Dalen Mills. Thanks so much Dalen for replacing light bulbs, labeling the Sanctuary light panel, replacing faucet and other odd jobs. We sure appreciate all your hard work Dalen.

LENT & EASTER 2015



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 1st Scripture	Second Sunday in Lent Matthew 4: 1-11	Questioning Authority
March 8th Scripture	Third Sunday in Lent John 4: 5-42	Questioning Forgiveness
March 15th Scripture	Fourth Sunday in Lent John 3: 1-17	Questioning Baptism
March 22nd Scripture	Fifth Sunday in Lent John 9: 1-9	Questioning Suffering
March 29th Scripture	Palm/Passion Sunday John 11: 1-45	Questioning Faith

April 3rd **Good Friday**

Community Service with Port Orange area churches at Grace Episcopal Church from Noon to 3:00 PM.

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

Scripture

John 20: 1-18

7:00 AM Sunrise Beach Worship

10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship

NOTE: Both services will have communion

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**.




Sunrise Service
Volunteers Needed

Easter is just around the corner and we will need help to setup for the Sunrise Service at Winter Haven Park. If you can help on **Saturday and/or Sunday, April 4th & 5th Time (TBA)**, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the rear of the Sanctuary.

PRAYER SUPPORT MINISTRY



Thanks to Carole Neiss who made and donated four quilts-one of which is being given to John Stewart. In addition, a prayer shawl was recently given to Phyllis Heath, wife of Rev. Steve Heath of Holly Hill UCC, who is undergoing chemotherapy. Prayer shawls were given to our own Drew Knock and Jewel Carter, daughter of Helen Holmes. Thanks to all our knitters for their beautiful shawls. If you know of anyone that is need of our prayers and comfort from either a quilt or shawl, please contact the Church Office.

NEWS & Notes



Sunday, March 1st at 9:45 AM we will have a Combined Service with Installation of Church Officers and Servants followed by a Workshop to review with the lay leaders such things as responsibilities and goals, communications, security, finances and reimbursement process. Individual Teams will meet to choose Chairs and Nominating Representatives. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Combined
Service

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.



Pastor Bill will be attending the Authorized Ministers' Retreat at the Canterbury Retreat & Conference Center in Oviedo, **March 3rd-5th**. Conference Leaders will be Rev. Martin Copenhaver, renowned author and President of Andover Theological Seminary and Rev. Kathryn Mclean, BCC, spiritual director/advanced labyrinth facilitator. Ministers will meet and work with new Conference Minister, John Vertigan, to plan for the future. We wish Pastor Bill safe travels and to enjoy the retreat.

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 is simply reimbursing the Church for that mandatory fee.**



To Colten Pack who recently earned his Red Belt in Karate. *Way to go Colten, we're very proud of you!*



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON MARCH 8TH



Happy Birthday!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS*

Sharon Williamson	3/4
Ruth Gilbert	3/5
Faith Coppolo	3/6
Gail Besaw	3/12
Jim Eagan	3/15
Bill Wheeler, Sr.	3/16
Tom Van Camp	3/22
Molly Baskin	3/24
Jim Kirtley	3/25
Lauren Tromley	
Pastor Bill	3/27
Marian Wolff	3/28



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	3/03/1962
Richard & Vivien Devins	3/24/1984
Chuck & Erika Henderson	3/25/1972

PRAYER REQUESTS*

Brian Benton	Friend of the Mondoux Family
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Ola Capman	Daughter of Joanne Flatt
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
F/F of Gloria Clark	Former Member of POUCC
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
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
Sharon Ferrelli	Friend of POUCC
Warren Feilbach	Member of POUCC
Bob Gaither	Member of POUCC
Phyllis Heath	Wife of Rev. Steven Heath
Judith Higgins	Member of POUCC
Pat Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Scott & Emily Hill	Family of Val Hill
Joellen Hopkins	Member of POUCC
F/F of Tom Hopkins	Family of Joellen Hopkins
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Luella Kransi	Mother of Harold Kransi
Douglas Mann	Family Member of Pastor Bill
Mary McDonald	Member of POUCC
Corinne Mondoux	Daughter of Marjory Monat
Stanley Nillson	Friend of POUCC
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Jim Olson	Nephew of the Zinkes
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
Strickland Family	Friends of POUCC
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
Doreen Wheeler	Member of POUCC
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 Winter Storms
- 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 MARCH 2015

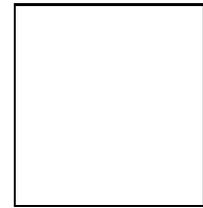
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Combined Service 9:45 am Workshop 11:00 am	2 Church Council Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	5 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	6	7 Special Olympics 1:00 pm
8 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	9 Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	11 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	12 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	13	14 Special Olympics 1:00 pm
15 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	23 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	17  Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	18 Palmetto House 5:30 PM CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	19 Ladies Luncheon 12:00 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	20	21 Special Olympics 1:00 pm
22 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	23	24 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	25 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	26 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	27	28 Special Olympics 1:00 pm
29 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	30	31 Terrific Tuesday 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: MARCH—OPERATIONS, APRIL—THRIFT STORE

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Church Staff

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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

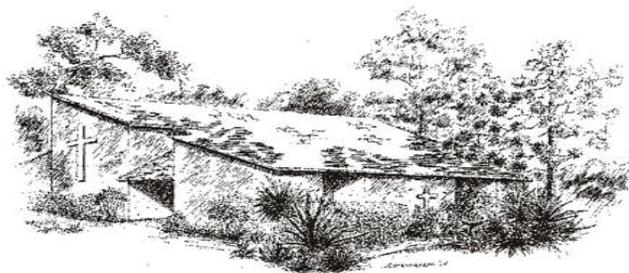
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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