



Volume 36, Issue 12

December 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



Blue
Christmas

Dear Friends,

We'll be "blue" this Advent and Christmas season in a couple of very real ways. First, you'll notice our new Advent paraments and banners in the sanctuary. They were

Senior Pastor's Message	1
Asst. Pastor & Financials	2
Operations & Deacons	3
Missions & Food Basket Sunday	4
Terrific Tuesday & Youth	5
Gift & Thrift Store,	6
Spiritual Life & Fellowship	
News & Notes & Thanks	7
Birthdays, Anniversaries & Prayer Concerns	8
Calendar	9

made possible by our Election Day Bake Sale and Memorials for Patty Stoner and are a beautiful deep blue. Why the change? In the late 20th century, some churches began to use blue for Advent, while retaining purple for Lent. Why? The color blue offers us a different view and meaning to Advent. The color purple beautifully symbolizes the penitential and repentant nature of the Lenten season. As we reflect on the sin of the world that nailed our Lord to the cross, we also confess our own sin and seek to live more faithful lives. But Advent involves more than penitence and the newer use of deep blue is intended to help us mark Advent as a distinct season. Blue highlights the expectant nature of the season, and of our faith. Blue is the color of expectation and hope. Blue is also the color of the early dawn skies and associated most with Mary, the mother of Jesus. The deep blue of Advent is meant to inspire us and to encourage us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, changing night into day, darkness into light, and filling our lives and our world with a holy and righteous splendor. Thus we use deep blue for Advent to shade the season with a hint of expectation and anticipation of the dawn of Christ. Second, this time of year will also be a tough time for all of us – some more than others. The holiday "blues" are very real and depression hits its annual peak. We will be confronted and miss Christmases past, loved ones who are no longer with us, the realities of our economic and world situation in the drive for consumerism amidst so much need and violence, etc. I will miss my loved ones – most especially my grandfather who loved Christmas so much. Many churches now hold Blue Christmas services to honor and respect the reality of deep pain in this season of joy. So, please may we be sensitive to one another - our hurts and sore spots. One area where at least I will not be blue is in regards to blue lights – I am not a fan – especially when they are behind me while driving! And, just for the record – in spite of my nickname many have given me of "Mario" – I have not received a speeding ticket in nearly 40 years! With regards to decorations, however, if you choose to use blue lights on or in your home, please do so sparingly. Spare me and your neighbors – just kidding! Seriously speaking, this will be a "blue" season in many ways for all of us. May you find and experience the Gifts of Love and Light in the midst of the struggles and stresses.

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

Pastor Bill

ASSISTANT PASTOR



"Over the meadows and through the woods, to Grandmother's house we go." Yes, many a Thanksgiving throughout the 40's and into the early 50's my family packed our bags and traveled from Pittsburgh, PA, to Mt. Union to spend the holiday with Grandma and Grandad, along with aunts and uncles and cousins on my Mother's side. On Thanksgiving Day 1957, one of my brothers and fiancé exchanged wedding vows in our modest living room, beginning the new tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving at my parents' house. After Daddy passed and when Mother turned 70, we would gather at the same time every five years on Thanksgiving to celebrate Mother's December 4th birthday as well.

Although the above-mentioned Thanksgivings and years of additional holidays created a wealth of beautiful memories, I have to admit that, just like everyone else, I have my share of unpleasant holiday-reunion memories as well. Too often holiday reunions can ignite regretful interactions turning into memories which we tend to painfully relive and regurgitate over and over again. But guess what? Unpleasant memories fade as they are healed in time and through the Grace of God, allowing the warm, fuzzy memories to prevail. But why wait? Beginning this year, treat yourself and allow the holidays -- particularly Christmas, whether including a family reunion or not -- to become a time of refreshing your memory primarily of beautiful times and relationships; and, in so doing, renew and rejoice in the love of family. When unpleasant memories try to creep in, open and share the gift of God's infinite love given through the Holy One whose humble birth we celebrate this month -- the gift of forgiveness.

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and may you be blessed with a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS filled with beautiful memories you will cherish forever!

Joyfully, *Pastor Beverly*



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 10/31/14

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
	<u>Jan.-October 2014</u>	<u>Jan.-October 2014</u>
Income	\$ 147,770	\$ 142,204
Expenses	\$ 161,580	\$ 138,071
Net Income Actual	\$ -13,810	\$ 4,133
Transferred From CD for Roof Repair	\$ 14,800	
	\$ 990	

We are slightly in the black through October and, barring any unexpected expenses, we should be able to continue this trend through the end of the year. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Respectfully submitted by: Susie Greiff, Treasurer



OPERATIONS TEAM

The Operations Team met on November 10th and the following topics were discussed.

Old Business:

- We have 8 orders for the Personalized Bricks for the Prayer Garden.
- Winsemius Bequest/Home Sale - The home has not sold. There has been some interest and offers, but so far nothing acceptable.
- Spiritual Retreat – 1/24/2015. Accommodations have been made for the speaker. The airfare has been taken care of through an anonymous donor redeeming flyer miles. An additional \$517 has been raised through the Craft Sale and donations for food costs and a rental car.
- 2015 Church Budget – Susie Greiff made changes that were discussed at October’s meeting. Deacons have not made a recommendation to us in regards to salary increases. This needs to be done in order for Operations to finalize the Budget.
- 2015 Stewardship Campaign – Pledge Letter was put in the November newsletter. There is a form that needs to be filled out and returned to the office. Copies are available in the back of the sanctuary. Fourteen Pledges have been returned so far.
- Parking Lot Repair & Repaving – Jim Eagan researched ways in which to make repairs for the immediate future. Approved purchases were made. In addition, Jim will also provide an estimate for covering of the wells.



New Business:

- Removal of Dead Tree next to Veterans Chapel – Sher Buller and Rich Thole will contact tree removal services they know to provide us with quote to have tree removed.
- A/C in Sanctuary – A/C went out and was not repairable. (Unit was very old) Bob Gaither received a quote from Service 1st for a new unit at \$7,450.88 with a 1 year warranty. They also can provide a refurbished compressor at \$5,115.42 and can purchase a 2 year warranty for an extra \$365.00. Installation was completed on 11/14.

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for December 8th @ 6:30pm.

In Faith, Cindy Pierson, Operations Team Member

DEACONS CORNER



Hello from the Deacons! With the new year fast approaching, our 2015 Stewardship Campaign is in full swing. 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.*” We are blessed as we together continue our mission and put into word and deed *and* dollars and cents the goals and objectives of our congregation. By recognizing that we are “*Blessed to be a Blessing,*” we can have the encouragement in knowing that together we are making a difference both locally and globally. 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! Best wishes for a Merry Christmas from the Deacons. *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*

MISSION NOTES



Wow, was November a very busy month for your Missions Team! Thanks to the donations of 17 bakers and four workers, we netted \$528.50 on the Election Day Bake Sale. Proceeds were used to purchase new Christmas decorations for the Sanctuary.

Thanks to our CROP walkers, Kathy Cratin and Cindy Deitch, and all the contributions. We raised \$200 to help end hunger. In addition, we donated 120 jars of peanut butter to this worthwhile cause.



Thanksgiving
Food Drive



Our Thanksgiving Food Collection took place on Sunday, November 23rd and we collected 40 bags of food and \$372 in gift cards for families of students at Spruce Creek Elementary.

Again this year, we are partnering with Spruce Creek Elementary School in support of children within our community. The tree decorated with angels listing the sizes and ages of the children will be in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, November 30th**. We are asking that you purchase a piece of warm clothing (sweater, hooded sweatshirt or jacket) for each child. The wrapped gifts, with the name tag attached outside, should be placed under the tree by **Sunday, December 14th** so that they can be delivered prior to their Christmas break. Your labor of love at the holiday season is greatly appreciated and puts big smiles on the faces of those in need.



Donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, cosmetic bags (new or gently used) holding a soap case & bar of soap, and a bath sponge for Palmetto House Christmas Bags will be accepted through **December 21st**. Look for the decorated box in the Sanctuary beginning **November 30th**. Your kindness is one of the highlights of the year for the residents.

Joe Thompson, Member of the Missions Team

THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING: The theme for the 2014 offering is **A Light Is Drawing Near**. This offering for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way in which we, as members of the UCC and its predecessor denominations, reflect the light of Jesus Christ in the lives of the many women and men who faithfully served and now find themselves facing unforeseen financial crisis. The offering will be received on **December 21st**. Look for the red envelope in the bulletins and on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary.



YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **December 7th is our next collection date**. Over 25 bags of food were collected last month for our Veterans Project. Thanks to Bill & Lere Nicholls and Sharon Williamson 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.



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



On Veterans Day, 34 members gathered at Veterans Chapel for a cookout and bonfire. There was great food provided by Jackie Gaither and grilled by Chef Pastor Bill. We had a great fire to make s'mores thanks to Jack Barrick who donated slate and built the fire pit and Joe Thompson who supplied the wood and we finished the night singing, accompanied by Dallas Davis, and enjoying the beautiful Fall evening. *It was super fun!*



The group will meet **December 2nd, 9th, and 16th** – then we will take a rest given the Christmas Break - we will start meeting again on Tuesday, January 13th.

Again this year, we will have a **Field Trip to “Walk through Bethlehem” on Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m.** We can meet at the church to carpool.



Sunday, December 21, 9:45 AM – Children’s Christmas Presentation including play and music. Practices are on Sunday mornings.

YOUTH NEWS



MEET YOUR HEROES: During the months of October and November, Veterans from our congregation met with our Youth sharing their stories of military service. Thanks to Deb Pack, Chuck Konopsky, Harold Kransi and Jim McGuffie for their service and commitment to our youth.



On Saturday, November 22nd, 35 members joined us for Movie Night. The film “Heaven is For Real” was great, the snacks were delicious and a great time was had by all.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hunter Bryan as she was named Atlantic High School’s Offensive Volleyball Player of the Year. *Way to go Hunter!*



In Scouting News, Colten Pack was elected again this year to be a Patrol Leader. *Great Job Colten!*

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE

We had many new visitors to our shop on Election Day. In fact, 299 shoppers stopped by and were amazed at the variety of merchandise and the great prices. Sales on Election Day totaled \$355 which is super. Our store has now turned into Christmas Central. We have saved Christmas items donated through the year and they are all beautifully displayed in the store at very reasonable prices. Help us help others by donating your unwanted collectibles, antiques, new or slightly used items. Thrift Store hours are M-F, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and we will be open Black Friday. Check us out! *Barb Pountain*



SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT



We are pleased to announce that due to sales from the Craft Fair and individual donations (which totaled \$517), plus a generous offer to cover plane fare for Bobbie McKay and her husband, all expenses should be covered for the Retreat to be held here on January 24th.

Based on powerful research in the UCC and the interfaith world on the nature of spiritual life in mainstream religious congregations, the Spiritual Life Team program, designed and directed by Dr. Bobbie McKay, a UCC Pastor and licensed psychologist, has enabled people to see God and "Spirit" as a part of their everyday lives. The Spiritual Life Team program is a powerful lay opportunity that will enlarge the spiritual face of any church. This program will enable people to become comfortable using spiritual language, talking about God and carrying that message to the congregation and the community.

We look forward to hosting this retreat and invite you to consider participating. More information will be published in upcoming bulletins.

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Christmas Dinner

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

Our next fellowship dinner is December 11th. It's a "Christmas Feast" -- Ham Provided, You Bring the Sides. Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

December - Missions, January - Deacons, February - Teaching



LADIES LUNCHEON



Lunch Bunch

Our Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet **Thursday, December 18th at Noon at Olive Garden.** Sign-up sheet is on the Sanctuary bulletin board. For more information, contact Jeanette Campbell at 788-4959.



NEWS & NOTES



Advent is upon us and listed below is a schedule of December's Services. Please plan to join us as we await and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

November 30th - HOPE (Two Services 8:45 & 10:45 AM)

December 8th - PEACE (Two Services 8:45 & 10:45 AM)

December 14th - JOY - "Lessons and Carols" (Sanctuary Choir) (Combined Service 9:45 AM)

December 21st - LOVE - Children's Presentation (Combined Service 9:45 AM)

"How the First Day at a New School Became Christmas"

December 24th - LIGHT (7:00 PM Candlelight Worship with Choir & Praise Team)

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 will be posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 9th**. Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office ASAP.



Poinsettias

The Christmas Season has arrived and as is our tradition, we will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to bring in a poinsettia with your name on them by **Monday, December 22nd** (place in Jim Reed Room). Poinsettias may be taken home or donated after the Christmas Eve Service. If interested, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in rear of the Sanctuary.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER: On Sunday, November 23rd, John Stewart, husband of Mary Ann Stewart, was received in the congregation by Reaffirmation of the Faith. Congratulations and welcome John!



SPECIAL THANKS



A big THANK YOU to all who sent prayers, cards, food & donations to our Church and Hospice during our daughters illness and passing. There are just too many to thank personally, but you know who you are. To the girls in the kitchen, a big KUDOS for a job well done. Pastor Bill, Dr. Tom, Pastor Beverly and Kathy, you are included in our thanks. Sincerely, *Mary Ann Stewart & Family*

Thanks to all who helped to decorate the Sanctuary and Jim Reed Room for the holiday season. You did a great job which will certainly be enjoyed by all.



We recently received a letter from the Volusia County Schools recognizing and thanking the congregation for our generous contribution of \$600 to provide sneakers for the Needy Students Fund at Spruce Creek Elementary School.

Pregnancy Crisis Center extends a big thank you for our recent donations of infant and children's clothes and baby food which we recently delivered. As always your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Happy Birthday!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Dalen Mills	12/4
Ted Batturs	
Kaylei Wierzbicki	12/5
Payton Schmidt	
Chuck Henderson	
Beverly Schafer	12/7
John MacNeil	
Helen Van Nostrand	12/8
Chuck Knopsky	12/10
Drew Knock	
Joshua Wheeler	
Selena Wheeler	12/13
Tracy Davis	
Susie Greiff	12/16
Erika Hobson	12/17
Joe Thompson	12/19
Shawna Clough	12/22
Terri Zinke	12/24
Suzette Wheeler	
Milissa Davis	12/25
Rose Williams	12/28

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Bill & Susie Greiff	12/12/1970
Ron & Sonnie Zinke	12/23/1958
Ric & Barb Pountain	12/24/1977
Bob & Louise Johnson	12/26/1955
Ted & Margaret Yaeger	12/29/2002



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

PRAYER REQUESTS*

Ted & Sue Batturs	Members of POUCC
Barbara Bourland	Friend of the Greiffs
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Marilyn Chutjian	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Heaton Cochran	Grandson of the Schweitzers
Kimberly Comfort	Friend of Beverly Schafer
Anthony Constanza	Student at Spruce Creek Elem.
James Crawford	Grandson of Joanne Flatt
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Amelia Dyer	Friend of Shelia & Bob Fisher
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Dwight Flatt	Son of Joanne Flatt
Kaela Harvey & Family	Friends of Sher Buller
Scott & Emily Hill	Val Hill's Nephew and his Wife
Joellen Hopkins	Member of POUCC
Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Rev. Dick Manny	Friend of the Zinke's
Mary McDonald	Member of POUCC
F/F of Dwight Norian	Member of POUCC
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Jim Severin & Family	Friends of Sher Buller
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
Bob Springer	Val Hill's Brother-in-Law
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
Alfred & Sara Wassner	Pastor Bill's Parents
John & Barbara Wilkie	Friends of the Thompsons
Rose Williams	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
--------------	--

Special Needs




All of Our Military & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Those Affected by Snow & Flooding in New York State
The Ferguson, MO Community
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide



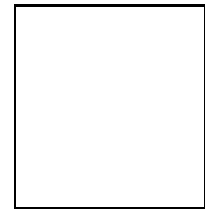
POUCC December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 POMA Parents Meeting 6:30 PM	2 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	3 CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	4 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	5	6
7 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am Choir Practice-Noon	8 Operations 6:30 pm	9 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	10 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	11 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	12	13 Choir 9:00 am
14 Combined Service Lessons & Carols 9:45 AM SLT #1 5:30 pm	15 Spiritual Life Team #2 Meeting 2:00 pm Council 7:00 pm	16 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	17 CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	18 Ladies Luncheon 12:00 pm	19	20
'21 Combined Service Children's Christmas Play 9:45 am	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm 	25  Merry Christmas	26 Office Closed	27
28 Combined Service The ABC's of Christmas 9:45 am	29 CPT 6:00 pm		31			

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 December: The Missions Team



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
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

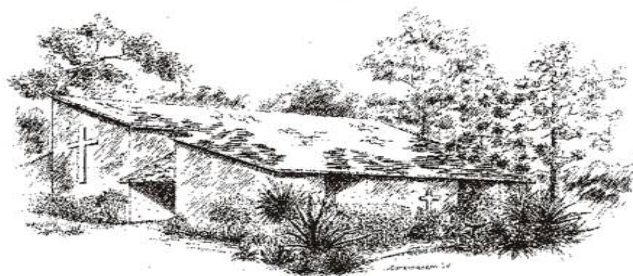
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



Phone (386) 788-0920
Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net Website: portorangeucc.org