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February 2014

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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

A friend of mine posted recently on Facebook, "I'd gladly trade Valentine's Day for a second Halloween." Obviously Valentine's Day and the sentiments expressed by Hallmark

and the idealists and marketers of our world have not won him over. Anybody that knows me knows I love Halloween but what is it about love that is so painful? What is love anyway? We throw the word around casually and with all sorts of references on many different levels. Last week when we were driving through Bushnell on the way back from the service for Helen McGuffie at Florida National Cemetery, I saw a billboard that read, "James Barbeque: You'll Love It...And You Don't Need Teeth To Eat It!" Okay, I love Barbeque as well. Still, as people of God and disciples of Jesus, what is real love? Why is it so difficult to find it? I think in part, we struggle to find and express love because we get in the way of ourselves. We are a self-centered creature – much of that is natural and necessary for survival and achievements. I find myself struggling at times because my frame of reference needs to start with others more frequently. As a pastor and leader, I have discovered the need to make room for other people, their agendas, and needs. True, I must (as we all do) need to maintain appropriate boundaries and standards. Sadly, there are those who take advantage of others and abuse the goodness of others. There always have been those who understand love as subservience to their wants and demands. Think of how people tried to twist Jesus into what they wanted or what they wanted him to be. These next few weeks we will be looking closely at Jesus' life, ministry and death as our Lenten season begins to cast a shadow upon us. Love is never easy. We have all been wounded by it and wounded others through it. As a result, we can become cynical and untrusting of others. We can judge others to keep them at a distance and "stay safe." Mother Teresa once said some good things for us to remember this month:

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

"I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"

Here's to the ideal and practice of real love. We will never be truly good at it or experience/express it consistently in this life but we can try. After all, we have been claimed by an immeasurable love and are challenged to go and do likewise. That's why we need a holiday (or holy day) to remember.

Still Have My Teeth and Love Barbeque!

Pastor Bill

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Staff

Senior Pastor:
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Assistant Pastor:
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Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster

ASSISTANT PASTOR



BRRRR, it's cold outside! Well, at least for true Floridians born here, or totally acclimated "transplants." Some of us transplanted northerners, however, tend to enjoy this "winter" weather every now and again so we can recollect favorite warm -- no pun intended -- memories of snow. Before long, however, thoughts of shoveling snow, slipping on ice and slopping in slush interrupt our more pleasant memories and bring us back to reality. Aw, winter in Florida -- just long enough to remind us from whence we cometh!

Whence -- "from what origin or source." Hold onto that thought.

Fellow "transplants," remember what it was like when you first came here, perhaps just on vacation? How many of you were guilty of slowly cruising down the road taking in the sights, totally ignoring the line of anxious, sometimes angry drivers accumulating behind you and who were just on the cusp of Road Rage? And now, "we ARE one!" Yep, guilty -- as I'm afraid impatience while driving out of Ponce Inlet through long stretches of no-passing zones is my Achilles' Heel. Lord, help me! I learned to drive in my home town of Pittsburgh, PA, and finally settled here from the Washington, DC area, so impatience behind the wheel is inbred because that's from whence I cometh. Or is it?

We are all children of God, created by God in the image of God, who is the origin and source from whence we cometh. Whatever bad habits or traits with which we manage to encumber ourselves along life's path are through our own choosing, including impatient behind-the-wheel attitude. With the help of God, we can shed these seemingly automatic poor reactions in our everyday lives in order to share the warmth of God's love through Jesus Christ. What are we waiting for? The Big Freeze?

Warmly,

Pastor Beverly



Financial Update

Operational Budget as of End of 2013

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
	<u>Jan.-Dec. 2013</u>	<u>Jan.-Dec. 2013</u>
Income	\$175,231	\$173,800
Expenses	<u>\$173,155</u>	<u>\$167,356</u>
Net	\$ 2,076	\$ 6,444
Interest	<u>87</u>	
Net	\$ 2,163	

Thanks to five Sundays and the Christmas Eve Service, we were able to finish the year in the black on the Operating Budget. We still have a deficit on our "other" in and out accounts but all in all it was a good year. Thanks to everyone for your support and I have faith that 2014 will be a great year. Respectfully submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer



For 2013 are available in the Jim Reed Room.
Also available are 2014 Envelopes.

OPERATIONS TEAM



At the January Operations meeting the 2014 Budget with the addition of the 2013 figures was reviewed and forwarded to the Council for their review and approval before being presented at the Annual Meeting. Bob Gaither will contact the roofer with regard to leaks in the kitchen, hallway and Jim Reed Room. Further discussion on other repairs needed on the Charlie Mix Building was scheduled for February's meeting. Pastor Bill reported that our Corporate Entity Report was filed with the State of Florida and that the UCC Yearbook information has been compiled and will be sent to the Conference. The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 10th at 6:00 PM.** *Rich Thole, Chair of Operations*

A BIG THANKS to the 18 who came on **Saturday, January 25th** for a Work Day! It was a little damp and cool but hedges were trimmed and cleaned out, gutters cleaned, stumps dug out, beds and Prayer Garden weeded, kitchen scrubbed, etc. which left a pile for the City to pick up! Special thanks to the 4 Creekside Middle School students who came as well! *Job well done!*



DEACONS CORNER



The Ministry
of Deacons

Hello from the Deacons,
This Sunday, **February 2nd**, we will be electing a new Chairperson to head the Deacons and chart the path of our diaconate for the next year. We look forward to serving you and your spirituality in our church and in your life in the coming year. As always, should you have any concerns over worship service or any part of the experience of your spirituality in this church please don't hesitate to contact any Deacon. Thank you so much. *Joe Thompson, Chair of Deacons*

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES



If you have not returned your 2014 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 44 pledges totaling \$87,920. Many thanks for your past, present and future support.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS & YOUTH NEWS



Terrific Tuesdays

Our Terrific Tuesday Group began meeting for the new year on **January 14th** and has already been busy. We are implementing a new format beginning **February 4th** focusing on our Youth Group under the leadership of Lauren Scalf.



1. **Confirmation Class continues on February 2nd & 16th.** Students and Mentors are to attend the **February 2nd** meeting which will focus on the Bible and the students' Memory Verse Presentations in Lent.



2. **Youth Fundraiser:** Our youth will be sponsoring a **"Movie Night"** on **Friday, February 21st** to raise money for upcoming events. Feature Film will be **Dolphin Tale** and tickets are \$3.00 @ person or \$5.00 @ couple and are available between services. Snacks will be available!

3. Ten of our youth (Payton Bryan, Aydan, Blake, Elijah & Tommy Buller, Dallas Davis, Travis Dotson, Trey & Van Thompson and Selena Wheeler) along with three chaperones (Sher Buller, Lauren Scalf & Tracy Davis) traveled to the **"Walk on Water"** Retreat in Vero Beach **January 17-19th**. It was exciting as well as an educational weekend for all. Congratulations to Dallas Davis who won the talent competition and was one of the featured musicians at the Closing Worship Service. On **Sunday, January 26th** the group celebrated their trip with a power point presentation which was enjoyed by the congregation.

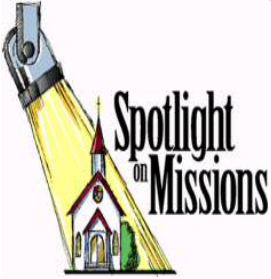


DISASTER MINISTRY



Members of the Florida Conference Disaster Ministry Team met here on **Friday, January 24th**. Michael Fratti, Regional Program Manager for Mid-Florida Region of the Red Cross gave a very informative presentation on the "Ready Rating" Program which is a free, web-based program designed to help homeowners, businesses, organizations and schools become better prepared for emergencies. For more information you may visit the website: readyrating.org.

MISSION NOTES



We began 2014 by delivering 26 beautiful and blessed afghans to Boggy Creek and received a thank you note from Cindy Handley, Program Office Manager at Boggy Creek expressing their sincere appreciation. In her note she stated that the campers are going to enjoy cuddling up in the afghans and that our donation helps make their job much easier and continues their mission. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Knit Wits that continue to supply us with beautiful and useful afghans.



We receive many requests for help and we try to select the needs that impact our local area. We look forward to another year to meet the needs of others. They will know we are Christians by our LOVE!

Jackie Gaither, Chair of Missions

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Total donations for 2013 = \$23,877.00. We have a very loyal group of customers. We need to increase the size of that group. Thanks to each of you who have donated and shopped at our store. Very special thanks to all of the volunteers for their tireless work and time. As I often say...one or two of us could not accomplish this alone but together we do great things. Total income since opening in 1999 is \$380,543.00. Thanks you for your attention and donations. *Barb Pountain*

PORT ORANGE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Helping Children in Need



As part of the POMA Initiative Program for School Partnership between churches and schools we are pursuing a partnership with Spruce Creek Elementary School our neighbor across the street. The program is designed to aid students and families in need. More information on this important program to follow.

Also, thanks to all who contributed to the Community Thanksgiving Offering which totaled \$744.10 and was given to Jamie Majors, Social Services School Representative.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, February 2nd is our next collection day. Over 31 bags of food were collected last month which benefited our local VFW Post #3282 "Food for Homeless Veterans Project." We recently received a thank you note from the group expressing their sincere thanks for our generous contributions (on bulletin board).

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, breakfast cereal, pasta items and sauce and peanut butter. PLEASE donate ONLY 1 pound bags of rice and 1 pound jars of peanut butter so they can be given to individual families.

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, February 13th.

It's Italian Night.

Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

February - Teaching

March - Operations

April - Thrift Store



LADIES LUNCHEON



Will meet this month on **Thursday, February 20th** 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



The students and administration of both Spruce Creek & Palm Terrace Elementary Schools expressed their sincere thanks for our generous response to the Angel Tree Project of 95 wrapped gifts. Due to your caring, the students received beautiful, warm clothing on Christmas Morning.

We recently received a thank you note from Pregnancy Crisis Center thanking us for our contribution of two Pac-n-Plays. The agency is so appreciative of your continued support.



“What an incredibly wonderful surprise!” was the reaction from Sophie’s Circle (the local pet food pantry) for our generous donation of \$250 to God’s special creatures. Thanks to all who contributed to our Mission Boxes in 2013 to make this possible!

NEWS & Notes



WE WILL MISS YOU! We bid a fond farewell to June Ferreri (Junebug) who recently relocated to Pennsylvania to be closer to her family. June will be greatly missed and we thank her for her years of service as Chair of the Fellowship Team. June's new address is: June Ferreri, c/o Atria Woodbridge Place, 1191 Rapps Dam Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460 (she will retain her cell phone number). I'm sure she would love to hear from all her friends at POUCC.



We are also sorry to say goodbye to two members who have had a major impact in our Music Ministries for many years. Carol Strickland, a member of our CPT, made the tough decision to attend church with her family much closer to her home. Please lift them in your prayers during this difficult time of need. Tim Holby, a member of our Sanctuary Choir, is also retiring from EVAC and relocating to North Carolina. Please be in prayer for him in this time of transition and change. His new address is in the 2014 Phone Directory.



Jim McGuffie has donated several quilts to be raffled off as a fund raiser for the Church. Tickets are on sale between services each Sunday (five tickets for a \$1.00 or 20 tickets for \$5.00). The drawing will take place at the Fellowship Dinner on **February 13th**.

ANNUAL MEETING: On **Sunday, January 26th**, 48 members of the Congregation attended the meeting and provided a quorum. Reviewed and approved were the 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes, the 2013 Annual Report, 2014 Slate of Officers and Budget. In the near future, the members will meet to elect the Chairs of each team. Copies of the 2013 Annual Report as well as the 2014 Phone Directory are available from the church office (one per household).



This past November, Delana Pack earned The Girl Scout Bronze Award-the highest award a Girl Scout Junior can earn. Delana and her troop made a butterfly garden honoring all those that serve the community. Their efforts received a great compliment from the Florida Native Plant Society for their use and choices of native Florida plants. *Great job Delana!*

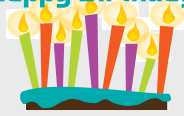


CONGRATULATIONS to our own Dr. Tom Naus as he was voted "Rockstar Teacher of the Month" at Ocoee High School. *Way to go Dr. Tom!*

LOOKING AHEAD: Just a reminder, **Ash Wednesday is March 5th**, and **Easter is April 20th**. This year's theme will be "*Giving Up For Lent.*" A full overview of Lent will appear in the March Newsletter.



Happy Birthday!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Helen Fisher	2/1
Thea Cloutier	2/5
Tessie Sanfratello	
Russ Karel	2/7
Kathryn Manning	2/10
Sierra Zinke	
Trey Zinke	
Valerie Hill	2/12
Fred Campbell	2/27



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES*

Bob & Ruth Brewster	2/14/1971
Jack & Harriet Rogers	2/20/2005
Jim & Sharon Williamson	2/24/1967

PRAYER REQUESTS*

Beth & Chris Brown	Family Members of the Fishers
Cindy Berdeques	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Rebecca Blankenbeckley	Friend of Charla Manning
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Dee Carroll	Mother of Sher Buller
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
Diana Cole	Daughter of Dee Dardeen
Bobby Dotson	Member of POUCC
John DuBrule	Son of Linda DuBrule
Karen Donahue	Sister of Harold Kransi
Amelia Dyer	Friend of Shelia & Bob Fisher
Bill & June Ebbert	Members of POUCC
Louise Eagan	Member of POUCC
Logan Finney	Great-Granddaughter of Mary Daigneau
Sarah & Wes Fuchs	Family Members of the Fishers
Tyler Graf	Grandson of John & Ann Shaw
Allan Henry	Father of Lisa Wassner
Scott & Emily Hill	Val Hill's Nephew and his wife who are both Missionaries
JoEllen Hopkins	Members of POUCC
Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
Gene Johnston	Brother of Drew Knock
Harold Kransi	Member of POUCC
Killebrew Family	Terri Zinke's Sister's Family
Floyd Malcolm	Friend of Bob & Sheila Fisher
Brian Manchester	Son of Sheila & Bob Fisher
Gayle Martin	Friend of Sue Batturs
Jim McGuffie	Member of POUCC
Mills Family	Family of Sonnie & Ron Zinke
Art McPhearson	Friend of the Gaither's
Rev. Jack Reilly & Family	In Loss of his wife Patricia
Jack Rogers	Member of POUCC
F/F of Jeanne Roth	Conference Administrative Asst.
Georgeanne Schore	Friend of the Greiff's
Christine Scott	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Steve Sharp	Friend of the Greiff's
John Stewart	Husband of Mary Ann Stewart
Walker Family	Sister of Doreen Wheeler
Dan & Dean Warmcastle	Friends of the Batturs
Bob Wood	Sher Buller's Mother's Boyfriend

In Care Facilities:

Mary Daigneau	Member of POUCC (The Terraces)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (PA)

Special Needs:

All of Our Military & Their Families

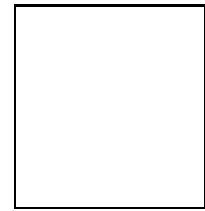
Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date or to add a Prayer Concern.

POUCC February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Dancing Angels 9:00 am Special Olympics 3:00 PM
2 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	3	4 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	5 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	6 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm	7	8 Dancing Angels 9:00 am Special Olympics 3:00 PM
9 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	10 Operations Meeting 6:00 pm	11 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	12 Palmetto House 5:30 PM CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	13 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	14 	15 Dancing Angels 9:00 am Special Olympics 3:00 PM
16 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	17 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	19 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	20 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm	21 	22 Dancing Angels 9:00 am Special Olympics 3:00 PM
23 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	24	25 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	26 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	27 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm	28	

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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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

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

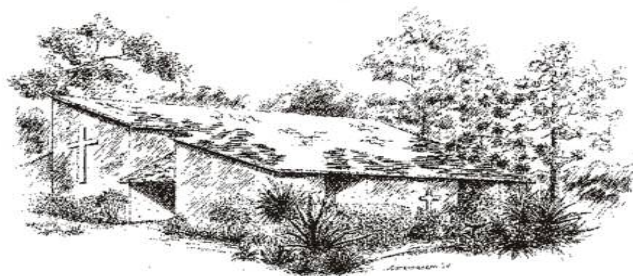
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:45 PM



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