



Volume 36, Issue 1

January 2014

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

In this Issue:

Senior Pastor	1
Asst. Pastor & Financials	2
Operations, Deacons, The Gift & Thrift Store	3
Terrific Tuesday & Youth News	4
Missions	5
Stewardship Letter	6
Fellowship & Thanks	7
News & Notes	8
Christmas 2013	9
Birthday/Anniversaries & Prayer Concerns	10
Church Calendar	11

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



Dear Friends,

Wow! What a month December was! We had record attendances, more new members joined, and we celebrated the birth of Jesus in a wonderful way as a church family. Now as we enter a time for resolutions, some are encouraging emergency kits for an inevitable apocalyptic event coming soon. I don't know about that, but as we launch upon a New Year, I thought of some items for you to pack as a "coping kit" for 2014:

- 2 **A TOOTHPICK (or as I call it "southern floss")** to remind us to pick out the good in others, and our choices carefully!
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go: I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)
- 3 **A PIECE OF TAPE** to remember to stick with God!
Trust in the Lord with all your heart... In all your ways acknowledge God and He will direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- 4 **A PENCIL** to write out our blessings everyday!
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all of God's benefits. (Psalm 103:2)
- 5 **A BAND-AID** to remind us to seek healing and not hurt others!
Have mercy on me, O God according to your unfailing love... Create in me a clean heart O God. (Psalm 51:1)
- 6 **A RUBBER BAND** to remember to be flexible and for the days when we are stretched to the limits!
Do not be anxious about anything... the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)
- 7 **A PIECE OF STRING** for when we need to stay tied to God's Word!
Bind them upon your heart forever.... When you walk they will guide you: when you sleep they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. (Proverbs 6:20-23)
- 8 **A TEA BAG** to remember to relax everyday and also that sometimes the best in us comes out in "hot water"!
For God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in time of trouble. (Psalm 46:1-2)
- 9 **A CANDY KISS** to remind us that everyone needs a hug or kiss everyday to help them!
A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)
- 10 **AN ERASER** to remember everyone makes mistakes and that God can rub out all the mistakes of the day!
God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
- 11 You might want to post these important survival ingredients on your refrigerator or even gather them into a small sandwich bag to carry with you as a reminder. I do not know what 2014 will bring, but I do know that God will be there no matter what may come. May God be praised!

Pastor Bill

ASSISTANT PASTOR



December was filled with Christmas Pageant rehearsals which proved to be productive in presenting this year's Pageant, "Christmas with the Animals" as written by Pastor Bill. It showed from a different approach how the arrival of the Christ Child may have looked through the eyes of animals. Although it required quite a bit of memorizing -- particularly for Travis and Colten -- everyone did a fantastic job. And you may pat yourselves on the back for joining Lisa in singing the fun lyrics throughout the pageant. Judging by the laughter, I know y'all enjoyed the words Pastor Bill wrote to those familiar childhood melodies.

And now it is time to greet another baby. Although fictional, the New Year Baby comes as a reminder that the New Year brings an opportunity for new beginnings. It seems that we all make at least one New Year's Resolution, but most of us fall short on our wishes to improving ourselves and our lives. Consider changing those wishes triggered by the arrival of the New Year Baby to promises made to God through the Baby of Bethlehem, and you will find yourself attaining those goals much more easily by planting your focus on God rather than on wishful thinking. To borrow a familiar phrase: "Be the best you can be" so you can and will serve God fully to the best of your abilities and according to God's reason for your being.

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Joyfully,

Pastor Beverly

Financial Update

Operational Budget as of 11/2013



	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-Nov. 2013</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 2013</u>
Income	\$156,809	\$159,567
Expenses	<u>\$157,766</u>	<u>\$154,339</u>
Net	\$ -957	\$ 5,228

Our Operating Budget looks as if we will once again finish balanced or slightly in the black. We have ended the past few years in the black, and therefore, we are still in good shape as long as we continue to watch our expenses. Contributions to Veterans Chapel costs as well as all other special offerings are always welcome and greatly appreciated..

On another note, we have had several checks that were rejected by the bank because they were made out to Missions projects instead of POUCC. Please make all checks to POUCC and if it is for a specific Mission fund, show the fund in the memo section of the check. Respectfully submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer



For 2014 are in the Jim Reed Room

OPERATIONS TEAM

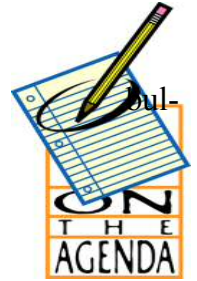


At the December Operations meeting the 2014 Budget was read, approved and passed on to the Council for their approval. The next Church Workday was scheduled for **Saturday, January 25th beginning at 9:00 AM**. The Operations Team is reviewing the Custodial Contract as well as a report was given on the replacement of the Yamaha Keyboard-which was under warranty.

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 13th at 6:00 PM**.
Rich Thole, Chair of Operations

ANNUAL MEETING

On **Sunday, January 26, 2014** we will have our Annual Meeting after a **Combined Service** beginning at **9:45 AM**. Topics to be presented are the 2014 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers for the year. A list of nominees are posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. A reception will follow the meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 10th**. Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office ASAP.



DEACONS CORNER



**The Ministry
of Deacons**

Happy New Year to All,

As we move into the new year I am pleased to announce that all current Deacons have agreed to serve through 2014. We shall meet regularly in 2014 and a new Chairperson will be elected in the near future. It has been my sincere pleasure to have served you over the past year. Thank you for your support, suggestions and cooperation as we move forward as a Congregation. God Bless.
Joe Thompson, Chair of Deacons

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Our year is complete. Total sales for the year = \$23,877.00. We experienced a very slow Summer as did many shops in the area. Competition has increased greatly as the number of Thrift shops in the area seems to grow yearly. The advantage is that we are also a quality Gift shop. Our prices are competitive, or even on the low side. We, as a congregation, need to get the word about POUCC Gift & Thrift Store to our work mates, neighbors and friends. We could offer to pick up quality items after a neighbors' garage sale or, at least, tell them about the store and ask that they take their usable leftovers to the store. 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*

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

As you can see from below our Youth Group has had a very busy December with their various Christmas projects and we are taking a break until *January 14th*.

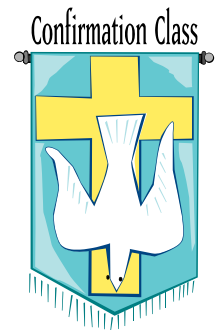


1. The groups artistic talent was evident as we packaged and mailed 75 beautiful holiday cards and well wishes to our wounded soldiers through the Red Cross. *Great job kids!*



2. On Sunday, December 15th, Aydan, Elijah & Tommy Buller, Skylar Davis and Selena Wheeler joined Beverly & Tim Schafer and Tom Buller in Caroling to our shut-ins. The group paid visits to the Stewarts, Rusty Ashley, the McGuffies and Thea Cloutier.

3. **Confirmation Class begins again on January 12th**—note the change due to **Walk on Water Retreat**. The six students will be making their Memory Verse Presentations to the congregation during Lent.



Walk on Water

4. Coming up *January 17th-19th* is the Walk on Water Youth Retreat at Union Congregational Church in West Palm Beach. Thanks to your generous support of the groups' Bake Sales we have raised \$231.30, combined with \$170.57 from Recycled Paper and \$103.25 from the Coke Machine for a grand total of \$515.12 which is enough to pay for 12 registrations of youth and chaperones (\$40 each). Thanks to all who helped to make this trip possible for our youth. Luggage drop off will be on **Thursday, January 16th at 6:00 PM** and the group will depart from the church on **Friday at 3:00 PM**. We can't wait to hear a full report upon your return!



MISSION NOTES



Our Angel Tree Project was a huge success! This year we partnered with both Spruce Creek and Palm Terrace Elementary Schools in support of children within our community. The tree was decorated with 95 angels listing the names, ages and sizes of the children. Our mission was to provide warm clothing for each child. Within a week, the angels disappeared and the wrapped gifts began to pile up under the tree. On December 16th and 17th, we delivered 95 beautifully wrapped gifts as well as an assortment of stuffed animals to the schools. A big thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause. Your labor of love put smiles on the faces of all the children.

Your generosity to the Mission Boxes has raised to date \$250 which benefits Sophie's Circle the local food pet pantry. Thanks for remembering all of God's creatures.

Lastly, thanks to all who have worked so hard this year keeping our afghan and prayer shawl shelves full. We will be delivering 23 of your beautiful creations to Boggy Creek where they will be greatly appreciated. Again thanks for your continued generosity to all of our Mission Projects.

Jackie Gaither, Chair of Missions

PALMETTO HOUSE CHRISTMAS BAGS: A big thank you to all who donated tooth brushes, toothpaste, cosmetic bags and calendars for the residents. The residents are so appreciative of the gifts and your gesture of kindness is one of the highlights of their year.

Pat Hilgenberg



2013 CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING "We Have Come to Bear the Light of Christ": Is a special mission offering of the UCC that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ. **We collected to date \$548!** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



We continue to collect food items to help the hungry. **Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday.** Over 28 bags of food were collected last month. January's collection will benefit our local VFW Post #3282 "Food for Homeless Veterans Project". Presently they are attempting to help 16 veterans living in transitional housing in the area. Many coming into the housing, have been homeless. They have no income when they first arrive; therefore, a food pantry is a basic necessity for them. There is a specific need for rice, tuna, pasta items and sauces, soups, canned chicken, rice, canned vegetables (especially corn & green beans) breakfast cereal, condiments and peanut butter or any other non-perishable item as well as resealable plastic storage bags. Please be generous to those who have served our country. Please make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates (clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers).

2014 STEWARSHIP CAMPAIGN



Taking Heart

“May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.”

(Second Thessalonians 2:16-17)

In our everyday speech we talk a lot about “heart”: “being heartened,” “heartfelt expressions,” having a “strong heart,” etc. It is precisely that broad and deep sense of “heart” that St. Paul, in this verse, is describing. That’s what God does: comforts us *and* challenges us with a “fresh heart.” God provides and even empowers us for rest and re-creation *and* challenges and empowers us for the living of these days. Our church has been an important part of your life. Your presence and participation is a witness to that reality. Together, we find community and courage to face life’s challenges together.

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 “*Taking Heart*.” The Operations Team has presented a balanced budget for 2014 to the Council, who has recommended it for your consideration and approval at our Annual Meeting on January 26th.

May God hearten us as we together, realize our mission and vision and put into word and deed *and* dollars and cents the goals and objectives of our mission and vision. By “*Taking Heart*,” we can have the comfort of knowing that together we are putting God’s vision to work as it becomes reality. May God bless you, your family, and our church family!

Joe Thompson, Chair of Deacons

" (Tear or Cut along Line) "

PORT ORANGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Taking Heart” PLEDGE CARD - 2014

Name (First) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Pledge Amount:

Yearly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Weekly \$ _____

Please place this card in the church offering on Sundays or mail to church on or before Sunday, January 19th.



Will take place on **January 19th** at both services at which time those wishing to turn in their pledges may do so. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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, January 9th.

It's a Pot Luck.

Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

January - Deacons

February - Teaching

March - Operations



LADIES LUNCHEON



Will resume meeting once a month on *Thursday, January 16th* 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



A big **THANK YOU** to Jack Barrick, Bob & Jackie Gaither, Ric & Barb Pountain and Sharon Williamson for the beautiful job they did decorating the Sanctuary and Jim Reed Room for the holidays. Their time and effort was greatly appreciated by all who attended our Worship Services.

Our continued thanks to Russ Karel for his continued work weeding, trimming and tidying the grounds. His weekly commitment is certainly visible to all. Also, thanks to Ric Pountain for trimming the trees in front of the church and cleaning up area beds and bushes. *Great job both of you!*



We recently received a thank you note from Pregnancy Crisis Center thanking us for our contribution of infant and children's clothing. The agency is so appreciative of your continued support.

NEWS & Notes



The 2014 Edition will be available in early January. If you have any address or contact changes, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible.

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



WEBSITE UPDATE: At the November Council Meeting, it was decided to update and improve our Website. That process is underway. If anyone is interested in sponsoring our site (cost is \$30 @ month), see Pastor Bill or Bob Brewster.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Helen and Arthur Van Nostrand on the birth of their first great grandchild. Aiden Wesley Van Nostrand arrived on December 20th. What a great Christmas gift. Our best to all!

Also, congratulations to Colten Pack who recently was cast as an extra in a Walt Disney movie. Colten appeared in two scenes. *Way to go Colten and keep us posted on the production! Stay tuned for further details.*



Jim McGuffie has notified us that he will be donating several quilts to be raffled off as a fund raiser for the Church. Tickets will go on sale at the Fellowship Dinner on **January 9th** and the raffle will take place at they Fellowship Dinner on **February 13th**.



The Staff: Pastor Bill, Pastor Beverly, Dr. Tom and Kathy wish to thank all for your kind Christmas gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS 2013

What a beautiful holiday season at POUCC! We began with the lighting of our first Advent Candle on December 1st and continued through Advent with extraordinary Worship Services that prepared us all for the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service to welcome the birth of our Savior. We concluded with a New Year's Liturgy-Welcoming Worship



Lessons & Carols

On December 15th our Choir led by Dr. Tom presented our annual "Lessons and Carols" Program which was so moving. The hymns and carols were beautifully performed by the Choir and thanks to Rev. Larry Deitch for serving as the reader. We are so blessed to have such a talented group and are so grateful to Dr. Tom for his leadership and continued commitment to enhancing our Worship Services.



Our youth's performance of "Christmas with the Animals", a play written by Pastor Bill, on December 22nd was super. Thanks to Pastor Beverly and the cast which included *Aydan, Blake, Elijah & Tommy Buller, Payton & Hunter Bryan, Dallas & Skylar Davis, Travis & Tyler Dotson, Jenna Geist, Madison Hobson,*



Delana & Colten Pack, Rowan Schafer-Ramoutar and Selena Wheeler for their fine performances. Special thanks to Lisa Wassner for serving as the Song Leader. All your hard work was evident and appreciated by all.



The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service was amazing. The Sanctuary was packed with close to 180 people. The music, message and spirit of everyone was a fitting celebration to mark the birth of Christ. Thanks to all who participated in making it a most memorable event.

We finished out the year on December 29th with our New Year's Liturgy and Welcoming Service. The liturgy focused on making resolutions and moving forward in 2014 and included the reception of seven new members into the Congregation. Congratulations to Tom & Gail Besaw, Jim & Louise Eagan, Bob & Kay Russell and Ruth Sheldon who were received into the Congregation by Reaffirmation of Faith. A reception followed the service. *Welcome to all we're happy to have you!*



Happy Birthday!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Margaret Procter	1/2
Blake Buller	
Aydan Buller	
Timothy Wierzbicki	1/3
Natalie Wheeler	
Richard Devins, Jr.	1/4
Don Schweitzer	1/7
Lucas Chusko	1/8
Shirley Harper	1/9
Jack Hilgenberg	1/10
Tyler Dotson	1/12
Erika Wheeler	1/13
Ruth Sheldon	1/14
Dee Dardeen	1/15
Garrett Zinke	1/18
Roman Wierzbicki	1/19
Mary McDonald	1/20
Kay Schweitzer	1/26
John Shaw	1/27
Luke Moss	
Bob Russell	1/28
Kaitlyn Wheeler	1/29
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hargrove	1/31
Reid Hughes	

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES*



Larry & Carol Strickland	1/1/1986
Harold & Sandy Kransi	1/1/1982
Fred & Jeanette Campbell	1/5/1951
Tracy & Milissa Davis	1/16/2000



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Beth & Chris Brown	Family Members of the Fishers
Cindy Berdeques	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Rebecca Blankenbeckley	Friend of Charla Manning
Dee Carroll	Mother of Sher Buller
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
Diana Cole	Daughter of Dee Dardeen
Bobby Dotson	Member of POUCC
Travis Dotson	Friend 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
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC
Logan Finney	Great-Granddaughter of Mary Daigneau
Sarah & Wes Fuchs	Family Members of the Fishers
Tyler Graf	Grandson of John & Anne Shaw
Allan Henry	Father of Lisa Wassner
Scott & Emily Hill	Val Hill's Nephew and his wife who are both Missionaries
F/F Jim Hopkins	Member of POUCC
Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
F/F of Cecilia Kearney	Friend of the Campbells
Killebrew Family	Terri Zinke's Sister's Family
Floyd Malcolm	Friend of Bob & Sheila Fisher
Brian Manchester	Son of Sheila & Bob Fisher
F/F Helen McGuffie	Member of POUCC
Mills Family	Family of Sonnie & Ron Zinke
Art McPhearson	Friend of the Gaither's
Jill Park	Friend of the Deitch's
Christine Scott	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Steve Sharp	Friend of the Greiff's
F/F of Rosemary Smith	Member of POUCC
John Stewart	Husband of Mary Ann Stewart
The Strickland Family	Members of POUCC
Nilene Tromley	Stepmother of Cassie & Sara
Walker Family	Sister of Doreen Wheeler
Bob Wood	Sher Buller's Mother's Boyfriend

In Care Facilities:

Mary Daigneau Member of POUCC (The Terraces)

Special Needs:

All of Our Military & Their Families

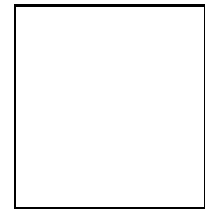
Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date or to add a Prayer Concern.

POUCC January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 Thrift Store Opens Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm	3 CPT 6:00 pm	4 Dancing Angels 9:00 am
5 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	6	7	8 Palmetto House 5:30 PM CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	9 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	10	11 Dancing Angels 9:00 am
12 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	13 Operations Meeting 6:00 pm	14 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	15 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	16 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm	17 Youth Departure to Walk on Water 3:00 PM	18 Dancing Angels 9:00 am
19 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	20 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	21 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	22 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	23 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 pm	24 Disaster Ministry Conference Workshop 9:00 am-2:00 pm	25 Dancing Angels 9:00 am
26 Combined Service 9:45 am Annual Meeting 11:00 am	27	28 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	29 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	30 Line Dancing 6:00 pm Chime Choir 6:30 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

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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

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

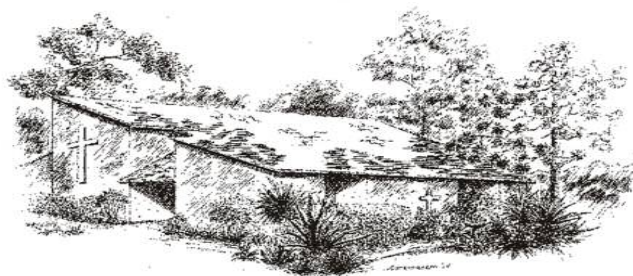
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:45 PM



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