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## SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

II Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,  
and I have remained faithful.**



Dear Friends,

A shocking and sad thing happened to a runner in a track meet recently – making him the object of scorn and humor. At the Pepsi Team Invitational track and field event in Eugene, Oregon, on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, the University of Oregon’s Tanguy Pepiot had a comfortable lead in the 3,000-meter steeplechase heading down the home stretch. Instead of finishing strong, however, Pepiot slowed up in the last 100 meters and prematurely started to celebrate – smiling and trying to pump up the crowd. Pepiot didn’t see the University of Washington’s Meron Simon gaining ground behind him. Simon took advantage of Pepiot’s overconfidence, passing him at the finish line to win the race by a mere tenth of a second. While we could sit back and point fingers, laugh, or shake our heads saying, “Well, he got what he deserved” – I think there are deeper lessons. First, how many of us have failed at something regardless of the reason? Second, can we all admit that we have gotten distracted from what we need to do or worse yet, quit before we had finished? Third, what standards do we hold others to? Do we hold the same rigid standards for our own “races” in life? My guess the answer to the last question is a resounding “YES!” We are usually harder on ourselves than we are on others – though we do not always want to be honest about that reality.

We are on a path in life in which there are countless others in front of, behind, and beside us. Our God does not care about how well we do in comparison to others. God wants us just to keep moving and expects us to use the gifts we have been blessed with for God’s glory not ours. We will do far worse than get distracted. We will stumble and fall along the way. The goal of discipleship is just to keep getting up. You have probably seen the bumper sticker or heard the pithy slogan, “Not Perfect...Just Forgiven.” While it is true, we dare not use the truism as an excuse for mediocrity. God deserves better and our world needs each and every one of us to strive to the best of our abilities. I prefer the following quote:

**“And now that you don’t have to be perfect, you can be good.”**

**—John Steinbeck, *East of Eden***

Keep moving...love yourself...we are a treasure in an earthen vessel...do all the good you can as long as you can. The only One watching that really matters is God. In God’s eyes we are already winners. Finish what God has called you to do to the best of your abilities. Keep the Faith!

Blessings and Thanks for All You Do,

*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



On March 11th when we first noticed Kitty -- one of our two beloved cats -- had been losing weight, we became concerned and took him to the vet who drew blood for labs to cover all areas of consideration for the weight loss which was obvious to the vet as well. My heart about stopped when she said she was able to feel a "mass" in Kitty's abdomen. "BUT," she continued, "he also has fleas!" That was another surprise because we hadn't noticed him scratching. "Take a look at his tummy where he's licked off most of his fur. We counted six fleas! You'll have to put both cats on medication because if one has fleas, so will the other." We left the vet's office extremely anxious about what the labs would reveal, and with flea medication in hand for both cats -- expensive stuff! Six fleas; that should be easy enough to get under control. WRONG! Here it is April 20th, and although I finally am no longer seeing those disgustingly nasty, blood-sucking buggers, I just noticed Kitty scratching; so I guess the battle continues. The good news is that the mass in Kitty's tummy was a very large fur ball which was preventing food to be properly digested; therefore, causing weight loss. That has now resolved, and he is gradually gaining back his weight.

Time, patience, persistence and prayer -- that's what it's taking to rid our home of fleas. Time, patience, persistence and prayer -- that's what it takes to rid our lives and the world of nasty, life-sucking [fill in the blank].

Faithfully, *Pastor Beverly*

## SUMMER COMBINED SERVICE SCHEDULE



### Summer Combined Services

Beginning this month and continuing throughout the summer, Communion Sundays, we will have a Combined Service beginning at 9:45 AM each month. The services will blend contemporary and traditional music as well as some special musical presentations and give all members the opportunity to worship together. We hope you will join us. The schedule for the Combined Services is as follows:

**May 24th, Pentecost Sunday (followed by picnic), June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd & September 6th.**

## DEACONS CORNER

Fellow POUCC Members and Friends,

It has been said by many, including our own Pastor Bill, that a church is not the building, the parking lot or even the property but the church is "the people." This past Easter Sunday on the beach we saw just "the people" and they came from everywhere. It was a glorious experience and that was our church in all its glory. The Deacons want to thank everyone who made this past Easter Service so special for everyone - the setup crews, the many volunteers who came forward to collect the offering and serve the communion; the Praise Team for its inspiring music; Pastor Bill for his message of renewal, Dr. Tom for his exceptional music abilities and the choir for its special music and the powerful presentation about the "Mercy Tree." We also want to thank Kathy Shaffner for her excellent work in arranging the sanctuary flowers. One day is all it takes. Often times it is very easy to forget that even though every day can be special with the right attitude about life, it is sometimes only one day that is more special than the rest that we remember most. Such is Easter Sunday. It is the message of being reborn, a message where we will be refreshed into eternal life that Easter brings to us every year. It is a message that will never grow old and for many just hearing it again on Easter Day, especially on the beach at sunrise, with the sea waves, refreshing breeze and streaming rays of sunlight coming through the clouds is all that they need to be refreshed in this life for the other 364 days. Wouldn't it be great.... if every day was Easter! *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*



FROM THE DEACONS

## OPERATIONS TEAM



Our Operations Team has been busy addressing issues around the property. Listed below are the highlights of the April Meeting:

### Old Business:

- Winsemius Bequest – The Team discussed the use of the funds. Susan Turner, daughter of Lois Winsemius, attended the meeting to present a proposal for use of the \$10,000 Bequest. It was presented to upgrade the kitchen with commercial appliances for more efficient and expanded purposes: a commercial gas stove with two full ovens (LP gas to be installed), a refrigerator and freezer with French doors, and two countertop deep fryers. Estimated costs would be \$9,976.00. The quote includes all commercial equipment and all permits. The Operations Team unanimously voted to proceed with the proposal and it was forwarded to Council for approval. A plaque dedicating the new kitchen appliances to the Winsemius family will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- Update on 2015 Stewardship Campaign – no additional pledges.
- Update on Parking Lot Repair & Repaving – Jim Eagan stated completion in about one more week.
- Website/PayPal – No new information at this time.
- Spring Workday Saturday, April 18, 2015 – Twenty-two members & friends participated. Grounds look great and many thanks to the anonymous donor who provided mulch.
- Power Washing the Exterior – Bids obtained, approved and job completed on April 27th.
- New Vacuum for Debbie, custodian – Motion was approved and vacuum has been purchased.
- Easter Service – It was well attended. \$3,300 was collected in offerings.

### New Business:

- Sprinkler Repairs – Sprinkler repairs are needed as well as to the gutter downspouts Charlie Mix Bldg. Sprinkler heads need either to be cleaned or replaced. A quote from Golf Course Solutions for these repairs was \$900. It was decided to leave and fix as needed by volunteers.
- Facility Use – Discussion on upcoming weddings – May 6th & 16th. The POMA request for usage of church property for summer band camp – June 8-11 and June 15-18, from 9 AM to 12 PM had been approved in the past by Operations.

### Other Business:

- Jim Eagan made a motion to have us research changing our thermostats within the building. The style he will be looking into is where you can control them from an outside source.

**Next Operations Meeting May 11th at 6:30 PM.**

*In Faith, Cindy Pierson, Operation Team Member*



### Financial Update – Operational Budget as 3/31/2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Mar. 2015</u>	<u>Mar. 2015</u>
Income	\$44,214	\$40,840
Expenses	<u>\$40,929</u>	<u>\$41,752</u>
Net	\$ 3,285	-\$ 912

*We have done well through March with better than expected income and slightly less in expenses to finish in the black once again. Thanks to everyone for your generous support. Respectfully submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer*

## MISSION NOTES



Mission projects continue as always. Our support of Dr. Deb Walter's mission project to aid children living in a Guatemalan garbage dump was very successful. As always, you have risen to task and we will be presenting Dr. Walters with a check for \$1,021. Contributions to her mission will be ongoing; checks are to be made out to POUCC.

We are still in need of more prayer shawls and afghans for the Boggy Creek Mission as well as slightly used men's neckties. Keep in mind that we need to begin to collect items for the Palmetto House Christmas bags (list on bulletin board & collection box in Sanctuary). Also, remember the Mission Boxes that benefit Sophie's Circle, Sock's Box, can tabs and eyeglasses. Your continued support of all our projects is appreciated.

*Jackie Gaither, Chair of the Missions Team*

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2015 CAMPAIGN:** This UCC Offering provides support to health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives around the world. Thanks to your generosity to date we have collected \$606.



**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING—INVEST IN THE VISION—May 24th:** Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the UCC. Through this offering, they become a reality. Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, Local Ministries, and the Stillspeaking Ministry. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still Speaking."



**PRAYERS & SQUARES MINISTRY:** Thanks to Carole Neiss, we have three beautiful prayer quilts available, one for a breast cancer patient, one for a child and one for anyone in general need of prayers. Please contact the Church Office.

## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **May 3rd is our next collection day and will benefit the Homeless Veterans Project.** Over 24 bags of food were collected last month for Grace Episcopal Food Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky 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).



## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Spring is here and if you're in the process of cleaning out your closets, cabinets and drawers remember we are always thankful for your clean, new or slightly used donations. By donating and shopping at the store, we continue to help others and the Church. Thrift Shop income for the month of March 2015 was \$1,153.50, as of Saturday, March 28. **Special Note: The Gift & Thrift Store will be closed Memorial Day, May 25th.** *Barb Pountain, Manager*

## TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



### Terrific Tuesdays

We kicked off April with our Spring Cookout and Bonfire at Veterans Chapel. More than 20 youth and adults enjoyed hot dogs, grilled by Chef Pastor Bill, and all the fixings thanks to Jackie Gaither. The bonfire was great and helped to keep the pesky “no see em” bugs at a minimum. A big thank you to Rev. Larry Deitch for his fourth Tuesday Serendipity Bible Studies which has been a great addition to our Tuesday gatherings. Rev. Larry led a special Bible Study on April 28th which included both our youth and their parents. **We'll wrap up our meetings for the school year on May 19th with another special Serendipity Game Night (games provided)**. Have a wonderful and safe summer and keep your eyes open for our start-up date in September!

## YOUTH NEWS



**CONGRATULATIONS:** To our Special Olympian Cyclists Tommy Buller & Tyler Dotson. Both Tommy and Tyler earned Blue Ribbons in their events in the Regional event which was recently held in Jacksonville. Great job boys and best of luck at the upcoming State Meet in Orlando!



Aydan Buller recently participated in a music competition and received all superior marks on his performance. And, Colten Pack received two awards in a recent Tae-Kwon-Do event. Way to go Boys!

## CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC



### Church Picnic

Please join us on Sunday, May 24th following the 9:45 AM Combined Pentecost Service at Veterans Chapel. What better way to celebrate the birthday of the Church and Memorial Day than to spend time with all the member of the congregation? This is sure to be a special event so mark your calendars. Sign-up sheet on the Sanctuary bulletin board. **Please note, the picnic will be our fellowship meal for the month of May.**

## LADIES LUNCHEON

Will meet this month on **Thursday, May 21st** 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 wish to thank all who sent prayers, cards, and caring thoughts on the passing of our beloved dog Nina. Also, your birthday wishes for Bill were greatly appreciated.  
*Pastor Bill & Lisa*

We recently received a thank you note from the Homeless Veterans Project. in which they state: “We couldn’t make it without your constant donations and support. ***We Salute You!***”  
*Lisa (aka) Sarge & the Vets*



## EASTER 2015



### What glorious celebrations to the risen Lord!

Nearly 1,000 people gathered to celebrate our 35th Annual Easter Sunrise Service on the beach. Although the wind was raging and clouds hung over the beach, as the Praise Team began to sing "Morning Has Broken," the sun rose marking the resurrection of our Lord.



Our Traditional Service was well attended. Our Sanctuary Choir provided beautiful hymns of celebration, especially the Hallelujah Chorus in praise of the Resurrection. Thanks to all who helped to make our Easter Services such moving celebrations. Our Music Ministry, and Deacons, set-up and tear-down team (*Tom, Besaw, Bob Brewster, Tom,*



*Aydan, Blake & Elijah Buller, Tracy Davis, Bob Gaither, Bill Greiff, Walt & Pete Gross, Bob Russell, Joe, Trey & Van Thompson and Rich Thole*), bulletins (*Ted & Sue Batturs, Gail Besaw, Cindy Deitch, Louise Eagan, Bob Gaither, Nancy Horn, Pat Kirkley, Peggy Wiggins and Sharon Williamson*), flower dedications and the entire congregation helped to celebrate our Risen Lord. As in other years, a special thanks to Lt. Max Binz of the Ponce Inlet Police Department for his officers' hard work and professionalism.

## SPRING WORK DAY



On Saturday, April 18th, 22 members and friends of the congregation weathered the hot temperatures to trim bushes and trees, clean gutters, weed and mulch the flower beds and Prayer Garden. A special thank you to *Tom Besaw, Ruth & Bob Brewster, The Buller Family, Tracy & Skylar Davis, Cindy Deitch, Jim Eagan, Bob Gaither, Bill Greiff, Chuck Henderson, Russ Karel,*



*Cindy Pierson, Blaine Randell, Bob Russell, Janna, Trey & Van Thompson and Pastor Bill.* Your time and hard work certainly made the grounds look beautiful.



# NEWS & Notes



On **Friday and Saturday, May 1st & 2nd**, Pastor Bill and Lisa will attend, as our delegates, the Spring Assembly of the Florida Conference UCC in Miami. Pastor Bill will present a resolution he co-wrote against fracking in Florida and also co-lead a workshop on Environmental Justice and Climate Change in the Christian Faith. Another highlight of the meeting will be the installation of our new Conference Minister, John Vertigan.

**WEB SITE UPDATE:** Thanks to Bob Brewster, you can now visit the web site and view the Chimes Choir presentation on Sunday, April 12th as well as the CPT and Choir. The web site is receiving 200-300 hits a day and the Paypal feature is in the works. Check it out!



**CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME:** To Susan Bussard who joined our congregation on Sunday, April 19th. Susan transferred her membership from the Corkran United Methodist Church in Temple Hills, MD. *Congratulations Susan, we're so glad you're here!*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Thanks to a generous bequest from Lois Winsemius, both the Operations Team and Council have unanimously approved a proposal to upgrade the kitchen equipment. This upgrade will include installation of a commercial gas stove, two fryers, a commercial refrigerator and freezer. Proposed completion of this project is **September 1st**. **Since the kitchen will be under construction throughout the summer months, we will not have Fellowship Dinners in June, July or August and will resume the monthly dinners on Thursday, September 10th.** We'll keep you posted on the progress. Thanks to Sue & Jim Turner and Lydia & Gerald Winsemius for their commitment to this project.



The Pack family would like to announce the wedding of Cindy Johndrow and Deborah Pack on **Wednesday, May 6th at 5:00 PM**. This will be an open ceremony at the church and all are welcome to attend. There will not be a reception following the ceremony.

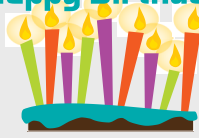
**SUNDAY, MAY 24TH IS PENTECOST—COME TO THE COMBINED SERVICE AT 9:45 AM AND REMEMBER TO WEAR RED!**



**WE WISH ALL THE MOMS OF THE CONGREGATION  
A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**



Happy Birthday!



**MAY BIRTHDAYS\***

Sonnie Zinke	5/5
Grace Kern	
Cindy Pierson	
Ted Yaeger, Sr.	5/6
Sue Batturs	5/7
Billy Wiggins	
June Ferreri	5/9
Cora Hargrove	5/13
Charla Manning	5/14
Beverly Woodacre	5/15
Pat Hilgenberg	5/17
Tom Buller	5/18
Dwight Sanborn	
Tim Holby	5/19
Peggy Wiggins	5/20
Ann Shaw	
Travis Dotson	5/22
Mary Ann Stewart	5/27
Richard Devins, Sr.	
Judy Van Camp	5/30
Martha Mason	
Ingrid Claunch	5/31

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES\***

Jackie & Bob Gaither	5/08/1982
Sher & Tom Buller	5/22/1993
Suzette & Keith Wheeler	5/24/1997
Liz & Dalen Mills	5/26/2001
Ann & John Shaw	5/27/1961



**PRAYER REQUESTS\***

Amelia Allen	Friend of Erika Henderson
Audrey Besaw	Mother of Tom Besaw
Denise Brewster	Family Member of The Brewsters
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Emily Bussard	Friend of POUCC
Ola Capman	Daughter of Joanne Flatt
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
Shirley Harper	Member of POUCC
Kaela Harvey	Friend of the Bullers
Phyllis Heath	Wife of Rev. Steven Heath
Pat Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Mike Hollifield	Friend of Tom Buller
Scott & Emily Hill	Family of Val Hill
Rev. Richard Hills	POMA Minister
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Phyllis Johnson & Family	Friends of the Bullers
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Luella Kransi	Mother of Harold Kransi
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
Mark Schrieber	Friend of Jack Barrick
John & Mary Ann Stewart	Members of POUCC
J. R. Thompson	Friend of Diane Kirlin

**In Care Facilities**

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
Rose Williams	Member of POUCC (Carlton Shores)

**Special Needs**

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

**Broader Concerns**

Community of Baltimore

Victims of the Earthquake in Nepal

First Responders Everywhere



Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

*\*Please contact the Church office (788-0920) with your prayer requests.*

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



# POUCC May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Special Olympics 1:00 PM
3 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	4 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	5 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	6 Johndrow/Pack Wedding 5:00 pm CPT 6:00 pm	7  National Day of Prayer Line Dancing 6:00 pm	8	9 Special Olympics 1:00 PM
10 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	11 Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	12 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	13 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	14 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	15 Marshall/ Adams Wedding Rehearsal 5:30 pm	16 Marshall / Adams Wedding 4:30 pm
17 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	18 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	19 Final Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm Game Night	20 CPT 6:00 pm	21 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	22	23
24 Combined Service 9:45 am Followed by Church Picnic	25 Office & Gift & Thrift Store Closed 	26	27 CPT 6:00 pm	28 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	29	30

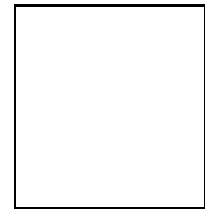
31 Contemporary  
8:45 am  
Sunday School  
9:45 am  
Traditional  
10:45 am

*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: MAY - FELLOWSHIP, JUNE - MISSIONS*

**Port Orange**  
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**Office Hours**

9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**Thrift Store Hours**

9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**Sunday Worship**

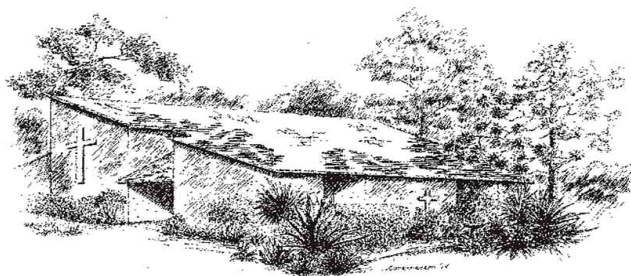
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

**Sunday School**

9:45 AM

**Terrific Tuesday**

6:00 PM



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