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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



Matthew 13: 45-46 (NLT)

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!”

Dear Friends,

Pearls are on my mind a lot these days – no not because I’m getting them as a gift for Lisa – she frankly doesn’t like them much. On September 1st, I achieved the 30th Anniversary of my full-time ministry with congregations. The suggested gift for a 30th Wedding Anniversary is pearls – and ministry is very much a “marriage” between pastor and congregation and an intimate relationship between a pastor and God – hence the reason why pearls are on my mind. As I reflect back, I find it beautiful to think about pearls and remember how they are created. Some believed pearls to be the tears of the gods. Others thought them dewdrops filled with moonlight that fell into the ocean and were swallowed by oysters. A pearl is a natural gem created by a living organism. When a foreign object is introduced into a mussel or oyster it coats the irritant with a substance called nacre, the same material with which it builds its shell. Layers of nacre build up upon one another to make a pearl. Honestly, there are many parallels between the production of a pearl and ministry. Yes, I have been involved in (and the recipient of) countless irritating situations and people. To be fair, I’m quite sure I have been an irritant on many occasions as well. Still, over the years with hundreds of weddings, funerals, and no doubt nearly two thousand sermons, I find myself reflecting on the sacred privilege I have had to be a part of people’s lives – sharing their very best and worst moments with them as a shepherd – births and baptisms as well as divorces and deaths. I have wept in celebration and grief alike. I have been a part of both building sanctuaries and more importantly, building disciples. There is little doubt that the substance that has covered a multitude of my successes and failures is love. Yes, there have been many costs to serve in the ministry – some unfortunately borne by my family and the sacrifices they had to make. But in the process of stumbling, stammering, and struggling in an impossible job description along with feet of clay I have come to see a glimpse of the Kingdom of God – the greatest pearl of all. Thank you for being a part of my journey and allowing me the privilege of serving you.

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



It's September. School is back in session. Summer has come to an end, and it's any one's guess as to whether or not we've peaked temperature-wise this year. Sure wish there were some mountains around here to escape to when even the beach doesn't give relief from the heat. That was always a treat for us during our years in New Mexico and Utah.

Escape to the Mountaintop -- what a Biblical thought, where wondrous things happen. But in our frail world, those Mountaintops can be upended, oh, so quickly and unpredictably, as seemed to be the case in last month's death-by-suicide of the world's funniest man, Robin Williams, whom we assumed had everything to live for.

Whether our personal world is frail due to internal or external causes, how do we prevent our mountaintop achievements or escapes from upending? Through faith in God? Who's to say Robin Williams wasn't a man of faith? What about modern-day Christians who are forced to find refuge from persecution and even slaughter due to their unwavering faith? What about the Yazidis in Northern Iraq who escaped to a barren mountaintop, fleeing for their lives because they would not renounce their faith, yet many of whom perished on that mountaintop from lack of food and water? Are all these mountaintop experiences for naught and upended into oblivion, or will they stand firm as a message to those of us left behind that we must faithfully and compassionately, through pursuit of justice and understanding, honor those who have desperately struggled and those who continue to do so? For Christians, the latter is our calling. Yes, faith in God moves mountains -- it moves mountains to grow in grandeur!

Faithfully,

Pastor Beverly



Youth Sunday School will begin on **Sunday, September 7th, at 9:45 AM** in **Classroom #1** with Pastor Beverly.

Adult Sunday School will meet in **Classroom #2** beginning on **September 7th at 9:45 AM.**

SPIRITUAL LIFE MESSAGE

Listen to your life. Listen to what happens to you because it is through what happens to you that God speaks...It's in the language that's not always easy to decipher, but it's there powerfully, memorably, unforgettably.— Frederick Buechner (from an interview in *The Christian Century*)



Financial Update



Operational Budget as 6/30/2014

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-July 2014</u>	<u>Jan.-July, 2014</u>
Income (incl. \$14,800 CD transfer for roof)	\$ 119,597	\$100,030
Expenses	<u>\$ 120,122</u>	<u>\$101,450</u>
Net Income Actual	\$ -525	\$ -1,420

We have made some progress, even though we are still slightly in the red. I believe we are on the right track and will end the year in the black. Thanks everyone for your support.

Respectfully, Susie Greiff, Treasurer

OPERATIONS TEAM



We are pleased to announce that the AC unit in the Finance Office is repaired and working wonderfully. A big thank you (especially from the Monday Morning Finance Team) to Ted & Sue Batturs, Tom & Gail Besaw, Bill & Susie Greiff, Jack & Pat Hilgenberg, Val Hill & Cindy Pierson, Russ Karel, Patricia Kirtley, and Jim McGuffie for their generous contributions which made this possible. We also replaced the telephone system in the offices and they are working well.

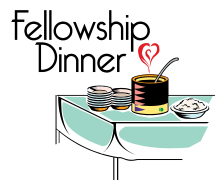
The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2014 @ 6:30pm.

In Faith, Cindy Pierson, Operations Team Member

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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

***Our next fellowship dinner is September 11th. "It's a Picnic"
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs will be available.
Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.***



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE



Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

September - Operations, October - Thrift Store, November - Fellowship

Our Coffee Fellowship is a welcomed ministry for all to enjoy each Sunday morning. Please consider making a donation as you grab your coffee and snack.

LADIES LUNCHEON

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



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



HAVE YOU VISITED OUR GIFT & THRIFT SHOP RECENTLY?

Well if not, you're missing out on some fantastic buys. Our shop has something for everyone. Unique gifts, clothes, shoes, jewelry, kitchen items, books, puzzles and much more. Our great staff, made up of fellow congregation members, is always happy to assist you. We are also in need of your donations as well as plastic and paper bags. So if you're doing some housecleaning, remember us!

Our year to date sales through July are \$12,106.50, which are a bit less than last year, so please check us out so that we can continue to help the church and others. You'll be surprised at the treasures you'll find.
Barb Pountain

MISSION NOTES



Thanks to your generosity, our “Going Back to School Mission” Projects were a huge success! We presented a check to Spruce Creek Elementary School in the amount of \$600 for the “Sneakers” Program. Your contributions will provide children in need with the necessary shoes to participate in the Gym Class. Pastor Bill and Joe Thompson recently met with new principal and assistant principal of SCES in order to formalize our partnership agreement with the school.



School Kits for international distribution through CWS Offices in Maryland were shipped this past week and a separate check to cover shipping and handling of the kits was sent to CWS in Elkhart, IN. A big thank you to Louise Eagan for making the adorable bags to hold the school supplies.



Upcoming Mission projects include the Neighbors in Need Collection that will take place on **Sunday, October 5th**. More information on this special collection will be forthcoming.



Calling all bakers for our Election Day Bake Sale which will take place on **Tuesday, November 4th**. We need cookies, cakes, pies and any other pastry creations you wish to donate. And we will conclude November with our annual participation in the **CROP Walk, Sunday, November 9th**, and peanut butter collection.

Your continued support of all our Mission Projects allows us to continue to help those in need within our community and internationally.

Joe Thompson, Member of the Missions Team

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **September 7th**, our next collection day will again benefit “Grace Episcopal Food Pantry.” Over 29 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry.



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



Will begin on **September 23rd**. **Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM**. This year Ed Clowers of POMA has agreed to help with the formation of a youth worship band that would practice on Tuesday nights. Sounds like fun! So mark your calendars and plan to attend. Remember supper is \$2.00 @ person.

YOUTH NEWS

Calling all Parents and Youth: There will be a meeting for parents and youth of the congregation following our first **Terrific Tuesday Dinner on September 23rd** to discuss the calendar of events for the upcoming year. Make it a point to attend.



NEWS & NOTES



During the months of September through November, we shall look each Sunday at gospel texts from the book of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew is generally believed to have been composed between 70 and 110 AD. The anonymous author (the superscription "according to Matthew" was added some time in the second century) was probably a highly educated Jew, intimately familiar with the technical aspects of Jewish law, and the disciple Matthew was probably honored within his circle. The majority view of modern scholars is that Mark was the first gospel to be composed and that Matthew (who includes some 600 of Mark's 661 verses). The Christian community to which Matthew belonged was like many 1st century Christians – they were still part of the larger Jewish community. The author of Matthew wrote for a community of Greek-speaking Jewish Christians located probably in Syria (Antioch, the largest city in Roman Syria and the third-largest in the empire, is often mentioned). Unlike Mark, he never bothers to explain Jewish customs; unlike Luke, who traces Jesus' ancestry back to Adam, father of the human race, he traces it only to Abraham, father of the Jews. For the author, Jesus is presented as the perfect rabbi and the one who will cleanse Judaism of its corruption and idolatry.

Our Choir has begun practicing and first Anthem will be sung on **Sunday, September 7th.** If you would like to join us, practices are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. All are welcome.



Thank you to all who attended our five-week class on “Climate Change and Faith.” The next step is for those interested in pursuing what things our congregation can do to be more responsible in operation and witness to sign up to be a part of our new Green Team. That Team will look at our church – its everyday life and witness – and make suggestions to our leadership for ways for us to pursue being a greener (more environmentally conscious and friendly) congregation. Several have already volunteered. If interested, let me know ASAP. *Thanks, Pastor Bill*

SPECIAL THANKS

On the first Monday of August, Chuck Konopsky, Sharon Williamson, Bill and I delivered all the bags of snacks and toiletries that you donated for the 16 veterans who reside at the VA transitional house at Haven Recovery. You would have thought it was Christmas! The veterans were so anxious to see what we had brought them and so thankful for your generosity. Lisa Manning, who is in charge of Haven House, thanked us for all that our congregation has done to aid these deserving veterans. Thank you for your continued support. The note we received from the veterans is posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. *Leree Nicholls*

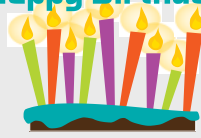


We recently received a note from the Pregnancy Crisis Center thanking us for our recent donation of car seats. Our continued support of their mission is greatly appreciated.



To Rev. Larry Deitch for filling in for me on August 31st so that Lisa and I could enjoy a visit from our family. *Pastor Bill*

Happy Birthday!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Harriet Rogers	9/2
Eloise Wottke	
Barb Pountain	9/3
Pamela Schafer	9/9
Kay Taylor	9/12
Helen Hedges	9/13
Ric Pountain	9/14
Bill Wheeler, Jr.	9/17
Dwight Norian	9/18
Colten Pack	9/21
Sandy Kransi	9/23
Cassie Higgins	9/26
Mary Hughes	9/28
Marjory Monat	9/30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Arthur & Helen Van Nostrand	9/15/1951
Ted & Sue Batturs	9/23/1961
Billy & Erika Wheeler	9/29/2002



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Ted & Sue Batturs	Members of POUCC
Delynn Brooks	Niece of Drew Knock
Nicholas Burnhart	Friend of Joanne Flatt
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
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
John Coppolo	Husband of Faith Coppolo
Bobby Crosby	Uncle of Pastor Bill
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Amelia Dyer	Friend of Shelia & Bob Fisher
Louise Eagan	Member of POUCC
Rev. Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Rev. Jack Fielding	Pastor, Orange City UCC
Dwight Flatt	Son of Joanne Flatt
Susan Gustamachio	Friend of the Campbells
Mary Hendricks	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Allan Henry	Father of Lisa Wassner
Scott & Emily Hill	Val Hill's Nephew and his Wife
F/F of Richard Hobson	Son of Erika Hobson
Joellen Hopkins	Member of POUCC
Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
Steven Horsey	Doreen Wheeler's Brother
Elizabeth Jackson	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Russ Karel	Member of POUCC
F/F of Mac McDonald	Member of POUCC
Tim Schafer	Member of POUCC
Robert Ross	Son-in-Law of Marian Wolff
Duane Smith	Friend of Diane Kirlin
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC
Patty Stoner	Daughter of Mary Ann Stewart
F/F of Wallace Wheeler	Brother of Bill Wheeler
Robert Woodman	Son of Marian Wolff
Rose Williams	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
John Stewart	Member of POUCC (Indigo Manor)

Special Needs

All of Our Military & Their Families

Broader Concerns

- Victims of the earthquake in Napa Valley in California
- Residents of Ferguson, MO
- Persecuted Christians in Iraq & Syria
- Victims of the Israeli & Hamas War

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

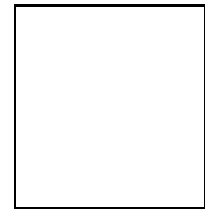
POUCC September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 Office & Thrift Store Closed	2	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 SLT #1 5:30 pm	8 Spiritual Life Team #2 Meeting 2:00 pm Operations 6:30 pm	9 POMA Parents Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	11 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	12	13 McDonald Memorial Service 11:00 am
14 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am	15 Council 7:00 pm	16	17 CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	18 Ladies Luncheon 12:00 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	19	20
21 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am SLT #1 5:30 pm	22 Spiritual Life Team #2 Meeting 2:00 pm	23 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM Youth Meeting Following Dinner	24 CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	25 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	26	27
28 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	29	30 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

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Church Staff

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
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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

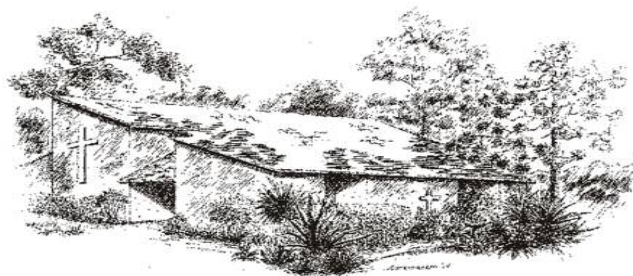
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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