



# POUCC Impressions

Volume 38, Issue 9

September 2016

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



*"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both. And be one traveler, long I stood, And looked down one as far as I could, To where it bent in the undergrowth..."* First stanza of "The Road Not Taken", by Robert Frost.

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Lord! I first would like to express my excitement of having the privilege to be called as your interim pastor and the opportunity to become a part of this family of faith! Paul and I have been anticipating our arrival to Port Orange and have been warmly received. We arrived on Monday Aug 15<sup>th</sup> and are currently staying as guests of Molly and Charlie Baskin (thank you) until we are able to

move into our new residence near the church on Moonpenny Circle. As most of you may know, my start date will be Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

### In this Issue:

- Pastor's Message 1
- Assistant Pastor's Message & Combined Service 2
- Members Message 3
- Deacons Corner & Missions 4
- Fellowship, Operations, Thrift Store & Financials 5
- Youth News 6
- Sunday School & News & Notes 7
- Birthdays, Anniversaries & Prayer Requests 8
- Calendar 9

I am reminded at this time of transition the poem by Robert Frost, *The Road Not Taken* and how it is so poignantly speaks to where we are in the life of Port Orange UCC. It talks about being at two diverging paths, cross roads if you will. If you take the time to critically examine Frost's poem, you realize his pointing out that one path isn't any better than the other and in making the decision to take one over the other is done without knowing what we will encounter as we follow that chosen path. There is no way of knowing the ultimate outcome of the path chosen, let alone all the dangers, the fears, the opportunities, the joys encountered along the way.

This past May, I started on a journey from Seattle, WA to visit family and friends in Colorado and Kansas and then conclude my travels with a 5 week stay in Costa Rica, returning to Seattle by the third week in July. Little did I realize all of the challenges and opportunities I would encounter based on my original travel plans. Some of these events included attending two senior high graduations instead of one; while in Costa Rica I discovered my time frame allowed for the opportunity to have extensive dental work done at a fraction of the cost I would have paid in the States; while vacationing, I interviewed with POUCC's interim search committee via Skype; upon my return to the States, my sister had rescheduled her wedding date to allow me to officiate; while attending that event, my car blew a rod requiring major repairs and un-anticipated expense – but also forced me to slow down enough to attend the memorial of a beloved cousin who had passed away the day of my return from C.R., during that week, I received an invitation from POUCC's interim search committee to become your interim pastor. I flew home to Seattle and within 4 days, Paul and I were on the road traveling to Port Orange. Not knowing where we were going to land, we received a very gracious invitation from the Baskin's to stay until we found a more permanent residence. Upon our arrival, we found with the help of Diane Kirlin, a place to call home (of which we hope to be in soon.)

All of this is to say by example, that many positive and some not so positive experiences have taken place during my visit to Costa Rica. This is what we at POUCC will be encountering over the next number of months as we discuss and pray about how we envision the future ministry of POUCC. We know the outcome will be sharing God's inclusive love to those that we meet along the way. Our task at hand will be to look, examine, discuss (endless at times) and then choose the path that we think will be best for us. Through consensus, we will come up with a general path for the future, but what will make the journey worth the walking will be all of the experience that we will not be able to anticipate. Scary to be sure, but none of us can predict the futures outcome beyond our choice to serve God as best we can.

As one part of preparing ourselves in this time of cross roads discernment, I will be facilitating an adult study group on Terrific Tuesdays, based on the book "Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future", by C Andrew Doyle. This book can be purchased in paper back for as little as \$13.74 on Amazon or in Kindle form for \$9.99. I would like to invite and encourage as many of you as possible to read this book and join in on the discussions as a part of the larger church discussions that are planned over the next 6 months. Together and with the help of the Holy Spirit, I am confident that God will help us decide the best path for POUCC!

Peace,

*Pastor Steven*

- Staff**
- Interim Pastor:**  
Rev. Stephen Mitchell
- 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
- Thrift Store:**  
Bob Gaither
- Youth Leader:**  
Sher Buller

## ASSISTANT PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Last month, the news was filled with challenges and champions -- the Summer Olympics obviously filling that bill for those of us who continue to follow the "agonies of victory and defeat" experienced by athletes from around the world. Our Women's Gymnastics Team nearly swept Gold in all categories, and our hearts leapt with pride and joy for their truly amazing achievements, only to be followed by painful hearts and tears as our Men's Gymnastics Team failed to reach the same glory. What a time in their dedicated lives to the sport they so love to have "off" days! And this rang true for all athletes throughout the Olympics events who had trained for years of their lives for that Golden moment, only to lose by a fraction of time or point.

Then there were the UN-prepared citizens of Louisiana who fell victim to the surprisingly rapid rising waters which caught them off-guard in areas which had no history of flooding in prior years -- even during Hurricane Katrina. Yet within a few days and with the help of family, friends and neighbors, these homeowners who had lost all their belongings pulled themselves together and mustered up enough strength and energy after the flooding waters had subsided to strip their homes of everything but the outside structure in the hopes of rebuilding what they had lost.

Challenges and Champions in both the above, as well as here at POUCC as we meet the challenge of discerning and working towards a new goal of becoming the community of faith God wants for us through the guidance of our new interim minister, Pastor Steven Mitchell, whom God has led to us. May God help us to become Champions in that endeavor, beginning with A WARM WELCOME TO PASTOR STEVEN AND PAUL!

Faithfully,

*Pastor Beverly*

## COMBINED SERVICE OF COMMUNITON & WELCOME



**On Sunday, September 4th beginning at 9:45 AM we will have a Combined Service to welcome Rev. Steven Mitchell as our new Interim Minister. Although Pastor Steven has been in Port Orange since mid-August, his first official day with us is September 1st. We are happy to have him aboard and urge all members and friends to join in this special worship service on Sunday. A meet and greet reception will immediately follow the service in the Jim Reed Room.**

## CROSSROADS — A MEMBER'S MESSAGE

Since elementary school, September has been a time of new beginnings. New class, new teachers, new clothes, new books, all signaled beginnings. This September we at POUCC are embarking on a new beginning, Crossroads. Okay, so there are no new clothes involved, but certainly new ideas, new ways of looking at things, and new fun ways of sharing.

Asked what she would like to say about the upcoming Crossroads venture, Deacon Sandy Kransi pointed out that the timing is “absolutely perfect, coming between grief at the loss of Pastor Bill and excitement to welcome a new pastor.” She says we need “a season of introspection. It’s important to figure out who we are and who we want to be, including identifying directions we do **not** want to go.”

Our Leadership Team has been doing their groundwork, reviewing information which provides an illustration of where we are, so we have a factual baseline from which to work. This foundation is to provide the basis for thinking with intention about who we are (the base will demonstrate the facts, not ideals) and who we want to become. The Team will also remind us, as frequently as necessary, that this process is **not** about trying to bump up numbers of either people or dollars, but trying to find God’s will for us in this place at this time. The question will be asked continually: Are we serving God and our community, or ourselves?

Snowbird Sandy reports that she “hates missing all the activity; I always do miss all of it – the people, the service, the music -- all are a big part of my life.” This raises a problem the Leadership Team works with every year, including the snowbirds in the communication stream. To keep them apprised and engaged, we prevail upon those who are on hand year-round to share with their absent friends, via the social media or letters or phones, the questions raised in the bulletins they don’t get to see or the issues raised in conversations during fellowship times.

Citing the wisdom we know resides in our congregation, Sandy notes that the Crossroads process “will take all our combined wisdom, together. God wants us **all** to put our oars in the water.”

**Our first of four monthly gathering will take place after a Combined Service beginning at 9:45 AM on October 2nd with a fellowship luncheon to follow.**

Blessings,

*Kay Russell*



## DEACONS CORNER



What an exciting time for our church! At a time when everything appears to be in great turmoil nationally & globally, we here at POUCC find ourselves in the orderly transition of seeking a new permanent called pastor. This tested process has been successfully accomplished thousands of times by UCC churches over the decades and it can be a period of great introspection as well as positive growth for our church. Helping us with this exciting task is Interim Pastor Steven Mitchell who in the coming year will be assisting us with his unique experiences and insightful perspective on things we can do.

Our goal should be to assure that we not only remain a viable church in this process but also that when the pastoral search is completed, we will be a growing church that is thriving on this experience especially for what we can accomplish and do as a church family. The Deacons want all of you to know that we are here for you in this spiritual journey. God Bless Us All!

*Respectfully submitted, Bob Brewster, Chair of the Deacons*

## MISSION NOTES

Thanks to your generosity, to date we have collected \$555 for our “Sneakers” Project. Your contributions will provide neighboring Spruce Creek Elementary children in need with the necessary shoes to participate in the Gym Class. Note **September 4th** is the last day to contribute.



A big **THANK YOU** to all who contributed baked goods, their time, and monetary donations for the Election Day Bake Sale on August 30th. We had a wide variety of goodies available and sales were great totaling \$428.45.

Upcoming Mission projects include the Neighbors in Need Collection that will take place on **Sunday, October 2nd which is World Communion Sunday**. More information on this special collection will be forthcoming.



Keep in mind that we need to begin to collect items for the Palmetto House Christmas bags. Items we are in need of include: travel size bottles of shampoo & conditioner, lotion & bath gel, small bars of soap and plastic soap dishes and small cosmetic bags. Donations may be dropped off in the church office. Also, remember the two Mission Boxes which benefit Sophie’s Circle, the Pregnancy Crisis Center, Sock’s Box, can tabs, and eyeglasses.

Your continued support of all our Mission Projects allows us to continue to help those in need within our community and worldwide. *Jackie Gaither, Chair of the Missions Team*

## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **September 4th is our next collection day and will again benefit Grace Episcopal Food Pantry**. Over 20 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. 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). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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 8th. It's a "Pot Luck." Sign-up Sheet on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.***

## OPERATIONS TEAM

Maintenance and repairs have continued over the summer months. The air conditioner was replaced and monies are being collected to offset the costs. So far \$3,840 has been raised toward the \$5,230 expense. Thank you for your continued support.

On-going projects include: parking lot repairs, striping, car stop staff names being added, painting of the exterior doors, and continued general maintenance and repairs as needed.



**Operations Team will resume their monthly meetings Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in Classroom #2.**

*Tom Buller, Chair of Operations*

## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Special thanks to all who donated to our School Uniform collection throughout August. Through your generosity, we were able to help area children prepare to return to school. Thanks to you the members and our many regular patrons, sales for August hit over \$14,000. Donations are always welcome. We are especially in need of jewelry. Your patronage is greatly appreciated and continues to help the church and the community. *Bob Gaither, Manager*



### Financial Update

#### Operational Budget as 7/31/2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-July 2016</u>	<u>Jan.-July, 2016</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 104,372	\$ 97,917
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ <u>112,214</u>	\$ <u>96,737</u>
<b>Net Income Actual</b>	\$ -7,842	\$ 1,180

*We are still in the red through July, but we have made some progress since last month mainly due to the generosity of our members in donating to the Air Conditioning Fund. I believe we need to watch our expenses through the end of the year, but I'm still hopeful that we can make progress in the right direction. Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Respectfully, Susie Greiff, Treasurer*

## YOUTH NEWS



**National Youth Event:** A **HUGE Thank You** to the entire congregation for their support of our youth in attending the National Youth Event in July. Special Thanks to Bob and Eva Brewster who helped transport us to and from the event and to Levi Zinke for helping out as a chaperone. We hope you enjoyed our video presentation of the event. If you missed seeing the presentation it will soon be available on our website.



### **Youth Group Pool Party & Bar-B-Q**

The youth group celebrated the end of summer/ beginning of school year with a pool party and bar-b-q at Chuck and Erika Henderson's home on August 20<sup>th</sup>. We all had a great time, swimming, playing volleyball, and of course eating. There was also a surprise guest that showed up to join in



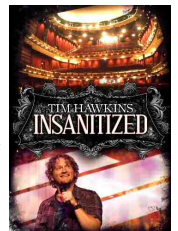
the fun, our new Interim Pastor Steven Mitchell. It was great for the youth to have some special time with Pastor Steven. Pictures of the event are posted on Facebook and will soon be on our website.

NOTE: Erika Henderson has started a POUCC Facebook page. (See article on Page 7)

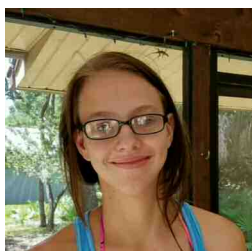


After taking a few weeks off, our group will begin meeting on **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> with Supper at 6:00 PM (\$3.00 @ person-RSVP to Sher Buller, (846-1239).** All middle and high school age youth are welcome.

Please join the Youth Group for an “**Afternoon of Laughter**” on **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM in the Sanctuary.** We will be showing **Tim Hawkins’ “Insanitized.”** Tim is a Christian comedian and song writer bringing joy, laughter and faith together in his own unique style. There is nothing better for the soul than laughter. We hope to see you for this Family Friendly, All Ages, FREE event.



**PRAYERS FOR SKYLAR (W) SHAW:** Skylar has headed off to basic training to begin her career with the US Army as an Operating Room Specialist. Please hold Skylar in prayer as she begins this new adventure in her life. Once she gets settled we will be sending her cards, letters, and care packages. Stay tuned for more details.



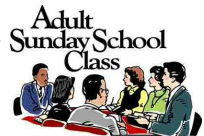
## SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** For middle school and high school students will begin on **September 11<sup>th</sup> between services** and will be led by Pastor Beverly and Sher Buller.



We are looking to form a team to develop a program for children of any age (up until middle school age) to attend a combined class **during the 8:45 AM Service**. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Linda Rodgers, 788-6017.

Please remember that our Adult Class meets every **Sunday at 9:45 AM in Classroom #2** (when we don't have a Combined Service). Come and join us!



## NEWS & NOTES



The Sanctuary Choir practices every **Wednesday at 7:30 PM** and will begin singing at our 10:45 AM worship service in September. All are welcome.

**NEW CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE:** Thanks to Erika Henderson we have a new Facebook page and you can join by using this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/323476381332020/> and go to where it says add members, put your name in or email address to be added.



**ANNUAL PET BLESSING:** Mark your calendars and gather up your cherished family pets (big and small) and attend the Combined Service and Blessing on **Sunday, October 16th, beginning at 9:45 AM.**

### COME 'CONNECT' WITH US AT THE 2016 FALL GATHERING:

"Connections" is the theme, and Connecticut Conference Associate Conference Minister for Leadership and Vitality Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister will be the keynote speaker at the Florida Conference 2016 Fall Gathering in Sarasota **October 21-22**. "How do we work for the 'Common Good' in a world that is increasingly centered on individual accomplishments and personal satisfaction? What role does the Church play in drawing our attention outward and upward to engage the community and honor the earth? Who has the gifts to lead in turning toward one another and resisting the temptation to turn against each other? Who can gather the church?" The annual meeting keynote will engage all of these questions and provide an opportunity for you to ask a few questions of your own. Come let us worship and reason together. For more information, visit the Conference webpage [www.UCCfla.org](http://www.UCCfla.org) or see Pastor Steven.



Reminder to all that area schools are in session. Please watch for children, school buses and obey the traffic laws so that we may all be safe. And to all the students, have a great year!

Happy Birthday!



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS\*

Eloise Wottke	9/2
Pamela Schafer	9/9
Bill Wheeler, Jr.	9/17
Colten Pack	9/21
Ernie Fodor	9/22
Sandy Kransi	9/23
Remy Barrick	9/24
Cassie Higgins	9/26
Marjory Monat	9/30

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES\*

Ernie & Peggy Fodor	9/20/1980
Ted & Sue Batturs	9/23/1961
Billy & Erika Wheeler	9/29/2002



## PRAYER REQUESTS\*

Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Russ Grose	Friend of Schafer-Ramoutar Family
Jack Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
F/F of Russ Karel	Member of POUCC
Drew Knock	Member of POUCC
Liz Mills	Member of POUCC
Sharon Milukas	Friend of POUCC
Debra Pack	Friend of POUCC
Susan Patterson	Sister-in-Law of Kathy Cratin
Elyse Phillips	Friend of the Thompson Family
Rosemary Sansevero	Sister of Tom Buller
Juan Saria, Sr.	Friend of the Thompson Family
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
F/F of Art Van Nostrand	Member of POUCC

### In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
Bob Fisher	Member of POUCC (Gold Choice in Ormond Beach)

### Special Needs

All of Our Military & Their Families

### Broader Concerns


- Victims of Flooding & Wildfires Across the Nation
- Victims of the Earthquake in Italy
- First Responders Everywhere
- Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

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

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



# POUCC September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	2	3
4 Combined Service of Welcome 9:45 am Reception to Follow Service	5  Office & Thrift Store Closed	6 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	7 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	8 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	9 POMA Parents' Meeting 6:30 pm	10
11 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	12 POMA 3:45 pm Operations Meeting 6:30 pm Comp. Friends 7:00 pm	13 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	14 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	15 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	16	17
18 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	19 POMA 3:45 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	21 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	22 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	23	24 Afternoon of Laughs 4:00 pm
25 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	26 POMA 3:45 pm	27 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	28 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	29 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	30	

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – noon*

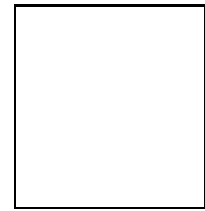
*Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

*Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services*

**COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE:**

**SEPTEMBER – OPERATIONS, OCTOBER – THRIFT STORE**

**Port Orange**  
**United Church of Christ**  
651 Taylor Road  
Port Orange, FL 32127



**Church Staff**

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Steven Mitchell  
**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  
**Thrift Store:** Bob Gaither  
**Youth Leader:** Sher Buller

**Office Hours**

9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**Thrift Store Hours**

9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 AM—Noon  
Saturday

**Sunday Worship**

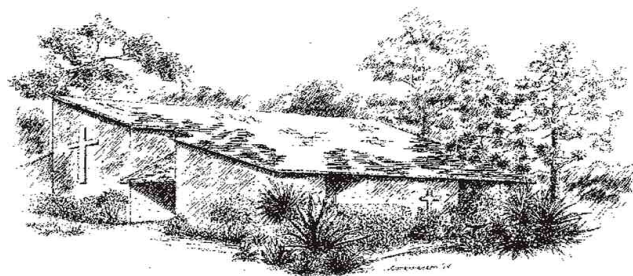
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

**Sunday School**

9:45 AM

**Terrific Tuesday**

6:00 PM



*Phone (386) 788-0920*  
*Email: [uccpo@bellsouth.net](mailto:uccpo@bellsouth.net) Website: [portorangeucc.org](http://portorangeucc.org)*