

THE OPEN DOOR

A Publication of
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
“Our mission is to delight God”



Never put a period
 where God has
 placed a comma.

**NOVEMBER
 2011**

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**This month's Open Door
 is kindly sponsored by
 Mollie Bucy
 In honor of
 Theron Bucy**



Our doors are
 open to all
 regardless of
 race, creed,
 gender identity,
 sexual orientation,
 cultural back-
 ground or
 socio-economic
 status.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW—THE TRUE JOY IN LIFE

This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

Never put a period where God has placed a comma!



Pastors Jottings November 2011

Dear Congregation,

You have been a blessing to Carol and me. Seventeen months ago we were strangers and you welcomed us. We were not the former pastoral team who had loved you and challenged you and moved you with prophetic insight and with service to Wimauma, RCS, Sea Us Grow and FAST—missions you embraced passionately.

Faith faced deep challenges: move on not just emotionally and spiritually--a task all churches in transition face when a pastor departs—but also physically; and stay together in this fluid, transient world of ours. As I see it Moderator Mollie Bucy and Treasurer Howard Reed crunched the numbers and led the charge into a new future most didn't much want but all couldn't avoid. A year ago in November we still gathered for worship at Drew Street in Clearwater but the pressure was on to move.

And we did. For about six and a half months we sojourned with the Union Street United Methodist Church, who graciously welcomed us in our hour of need. There we hosted the ordination to Christian Ministry of one of our own members, Michelle Torigian, now pastor of a church in Ohio! There we focused our mission on Sea Us Grow as it seeks to thrive in a new location. There we turned out in the largest numbers since joining FAST in 2005 for the Nehemiah Action in April. There we summoned the pluck and verve to take another leap of faith and move to Dunedin! Together!

And here we are, beginning our third month along a busy road opposite a large school. Not only are we still together, better able to hear and see the service of worship (thanks to the generosity of individual donors), but visitors are inquiring about what membership here means! December 11th we plan to receive into membership those who choose to join at this time!

And we're still in transition, though steadily nearing a call to a new settled pastor, thanks to a hard-working search committee in cooperation with Rev. Dr. Jean Simpson, Regional Conference Minister for the Florida Conference of the UCC. We are in the process of examining a set of bylaws for a new day in ministry. We are not a finished product but a work in progress.

As we keep body and soul together through the grace of God and the responsible stewardship of the ministry of this church, we continue to support Sea Us Grow, RCS and FAST. We are seeking ways to respond to the needs of this community where we are now. We aren't flush with money, but the spirit of the Still Speaking God inspires us and gives us hope and energy to face the future that approaches us.

Let there be no artificial division between church and mission. Our faith works. We are not a cozy club but a patch of produce to feed a starving world for truth, beauty, justice and love. Thank you for welcoming Carol and me and shining the Light of the World in the place where we must now be. This is a season of Thanksgiving for Faith United Church of Christ. God blesses you. You pass it on.
Thankfully, Pastor Robert

Never put a period where God has placed a comma!





ATTENTION EVERYONE!!!!

F.E.A.S.T.
(FRIENDS EATING & SOCIALIZING TOGETHER)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2011

6:30 p.m.
Community Room

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Join us as we gather together to share good food
fun and fellowship with others.

You are asked to bring a covered dish such as
a meat, vegetable, casserole, salad or dessert.

For those planning to attend, please **SIGN UP** on
the sheet provided on the lobby table on Sunday
morning in order that we know how many places to set.

Questions can be directed to
Carol Kriebel



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Theron Bucy	2nd
Martha Edwards	4th
Audrey Neal	9th
Donna Ketteringham	14th



ANNIVERSARIES

Lois & Ed Cottrell	13th
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HOLIDAY SUGGESTION

We know it's still only Fall, but soon we'll be thinking about our Christmas lists and those relatives or friends for whom no gift ever seems exactly right or appropriate.

How about a *donation* in their name(s) to our wonderful pre-school, "*Sea Us Grow*". With a full roster of kids and an endless list of needs, your gift(s) would be put to immediate use, and the only thanks you'll ever need will be the grateful hug you'll receive from Dawn, their director.

Please give this your prayerful consideration as the holidays roll around.



Thank you so much,
Barb Campbell

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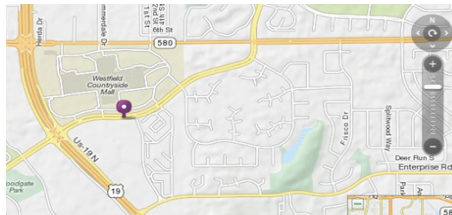
WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

	NOV 6	NOV 13	NOV 20	NOV 27	
WORSHIP READER	Will Lowes	Ginni Pressgrove	Priscilla Morrison	Sandy Edwards	
HOSPITALITY	All Faith Church members provide Hors d'oeuvres (See Page 5)	Trevesta Edwards	Carol Palin	The Campbells	
USHERS	Helen Tulenko Bob Tulenko Ginni Pressgrove	Kathy Glenn Frank Glenn Ray Duplease	Jaci Salisbury Don Salisbury Marie Grein	Mollie Bucy Theron Bucy Bev Greaf	
GREETERS	Dan McKnight	Dan McKnight	Dan McKnight	Dan McKnight	

FAITH FRIENDS ACTIVITIES—OPEN TO ALL

■ Sun October 30,2011 Payment of \$30 must be made in order to pick up your tickets for Cirque de Symphonie FL Orchestra

■ Wed Nov 2,2011 9:30 AM Breakfast at First Watch Countryside Centre on Village Drive off Enterprise Road E. (See map)



■ Sun Nov 6,2011 Dinner at Grillsmith Countryside Centre near TJMaxx 5:00 PM, followed by the FL Orchestra at 7:30 PM at Ruth Eckerd Hall

■ Wed Nov 16,2011 9:30 Breakfast at First Watch

■ Wed Dec 1,2011 9:30 Breakfast at First Watch

■ Sun Dec.4,2011 2:00 Matinee for Annie at the Wilson Playhouse Cost \$25, followed by dinner at Alfano's

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Peace with Justice

Fourteen members of Faith UCC met at the FAST Assembly Oct 17, the beginning of this year's work of doing justice in Pinellas County. Jobs, Education, and Drugs and Crime will be addressed. These issues were voted upon from the 527 Network Members present at the Assembly. Other issues considered were Foreclosures, Healthcare, Homelessness and Transportation. To do justice requires people so at the Nehemiah we have a goal of 3500 participants gathered with our elected officials. The goal of Faith UCC is to have 75 people attend. Plan to do justice one night of the year and attend the Nehemiah Action Mar 19, 2012.

Here are the important dates to put in your calendar,



FAST Rally Feb 27, 2012

Nehemiah Action Mar 19, 2012

Justice Ministry Celebration May 7, 2012

ALL AT 7 PM.

CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH'S DEDICATION

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2011

To Celebrate our Church's dedication on Sunday November 6 we are asking members/friends to provide the smorgasbord of appetizers (hors d'oeuvres) for our hospitality time following worship. Bring your food when you come that morning.

Suggested foods are: tea sandwiches, veggies, fruit salad, chips & dip, cheese, cracker, pretzels, nuts, snack mix, tacos/dip, shrimp, meatballs and deviled eggs.

Cookies, brownies, beverages & paper products will be provided.

Coming Soon: 3 part Bible introduction, led by Pastor Robert

Wednesdays Nov. 16, Nov. 23, and Nov. 30, from 10:30-Noon in the meeting room at church.

Session 1: Introduction to Bible Basics: How do we read and understand scripture.

Session 2: Some basic passages of Scriptures approached in 3 ways: Opening up texts.

Session 3: Making Friends of Enemies--examples of teachings of Jesus (Book is by Jim Forest, Making Friends of Enemies: Reflections on the Teachings of Jesus Crossroad Books1988)

Format: short presentation of material, group participation, conversation about implications for our lives, our church, our community.

If interested I would continue during Advent: Dec. 7 and 14.

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Faith Church Responds to UCC Appeal for Mission1



“Is this not the fast I choose, to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke... Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor in your house?” Isaiah 58: 6-7



“Holy One protect them in your name, those that you have given me, so that that may all be one, as we are one.” John 17:11b

Mission 1 is a shared mission of the United Church of Christ to address the issues of hunger and food-related injustice by our entire denomination.

For the first 11 days of November (11.1.11 – 11.11.11) United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, and health and human service agencies, will join together in a collective mission campaign to collect more than 1 million food items for local food banks, raise \$111,111 in donations for Neighbors in Need, and write 11,111 letters to Congress asking that U.S. foreign assistance be reformed to more effectively serve the world’s poorest people.

Our goal at Faith UCC for every member and friend of our congregation is to contribute 11 non-perishable food items that will be donated to RCS Food Bank when Mission 1 ends on 11.11.11, and for each person affiliated with Faith Church to donate at least \$11 to Neighbors in Need through our church by 11.11.11, and finally for each member and friend to sign 1 letter to the congressperson representing the voting district in Florida where they reside, and 1 letter to each of the two senators representing Florida.

So far the response from our congregation has been remarkable. The red wagon in the narthex of Faith Church set aside for food bank donations is overflowing with non-perishable food items for RCS Food Bank and donations are now also piled up all around the red wagon, and the Mission 1 campaign does not officially begin until 11.1.11. We have already exceeded \$500 in donations to Neighbors in Need, and with everyone’s participation we may reach or at least come close to the goal we have set ourselves at Faith Church of \$1111. This may seem like a stretch for a small church like ours, but wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could dedicate that much to NIN when UCC Regional Conference Minister Dr. Jean Simpson comes to preach and dedicate our new church building and our Mission 1 offering on November 6th? To reach such a goal would really witness to Faith UCC’s passion for missions and social justice.

As we approach the holiday season, RCS Food Bank is even more desperately in need of food donations for the hungry and needy of Pinellas county, and what a great way to express our thankfulness to God for guiding us on our journey from Drew Street to Union Street, and finally to our very own church building here on Pinehurst Road. Our arrival in Dunedin is truly something to be thankful for, because we all know that just one year ago it seemed impossible that we would ever be able to own our own church building again, and although it has only been a short time since we arrived in Dunedin, our new church already feels like home. Our response to Mission 1 is one way we can demonstrate to our new neighbors in Dunedin the commitment we at Faith Church have to the local community and to missions of compassion and social justice.

Thank you for doing your part to make Mission 1 a huge success for our denomination and for our church.

Dan McKnight, Mission 1 Coordinator for Faith UCC

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IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY-----!

Most of us have heard that worn out expression, “It’s not about the money, *it’s the money!* Well, here at Faith, **it’s not about the missions, *it’s the missions!*** Throughout the years, we can take a great deal of pride in the fact that we are pro-active in the community. All of us have been asked at one time or another to explain what it was that attracted you to Faith Church. Countless have said that it was our missions! Often when I am out and about and the subject of my affiliation comes up, inquirers have noted that they are familiar with the good work we do. It’s who we are!

Having said that, my goal here is to talk about our missions if only to familiarize everyone with what our focus is now. Currently, we have three deserving causes: Sea Us Grow Preschool; FAST, and Mission:1.

Sea Us Grow is really “family.” Were it not for our move and sale of the Drew Street property, they would still be on Drew and operating to capacity. Since the move to Highland Avenue, the preschool has been operating “in the red” due in most part to the debts they incurred with the relocation and a predictable drop in enrollment. Faith has loaned the preschool \$7,000 which must be repaid in \$1000 increments beginning in January. Our mission here involves contributions to the “reimbursement fund.” Our hope? That we can relieve Sea Us Grow of the \$1000 payments beginning next January. This would go a long way toward putting them on a stronger financial footing for next year. **Consider this our “family” mission!**

On to FAST! I know Ellery has written an article in this publication about FAST, so I need not elaborate here. FAST is working hard to improve housing in Pinellas County; it is addressing the thorny issue of drugs and crime; and working hard to improve reading skills in our schools. Since Ellery has written about this already, I will only add that all of us must support these targeted points for the betterment of our community. Even though it seems far into the future, please plan on being at the Nehemiah Action gathering on March 19, 2012. We need to show up in large numbers to make our voices heard! **Consider this our “community” mission!**

The Mission:1 drive is spearheaded by our own Dan McKnight and is a program under the auspices of the UCC. It runs for 11-days from November 1 to November 11. All of us are asked to bring in 11 non-perishable food items and make a monetary contribution of \$11.00 per person. The food items will be donated to RCS, and the \$11.00 per person donation will be sent to the Florida Conference to be disseminated to the nation’s hungry and to fight food-related injustice. **Consider this our “UCC” mission!**

So! It looks like a three-pronged balanced approach to me! Family, community, and UCC! And we should all be on board! This is what Faith UCC is all about, and I, for one, am so proud to be an activist in all three areas! I hope you are too!

Peace and love to all,

Mollie

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REMINDER

DAYLIGHT

SAVING

TIME ENDS

AT 2 a.m..

ON SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

DON'T FORGET TO
SET YOUR CLOCK
BACK 1 HOUR.

THE OPEN DOOR

*We are an open and affirming - peace with
justice people who believe that
God is Still Speaking*

NOVEMBER 2011

Minister	Pastor Robert Palin
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Church Fax	(727) 791-1975
Church e-mail	faithclear@tampabay.rr.com
Office Manager	Debbie Atchia
Moderator	Mollie Bucy
Moderator's home phone	(727) 446-1384
Music Director	Ginger Hayes
Vice Moderator	Noleen Naude
Treasurer	Howard Reed
Financial Secretary	Helen Tulenko
Clerk	Donna Lund
Photographer	Will Kriebel
Church Website	www.faithucc.org
The Open Door email	rath2637@tampabay.rr.com
Deadline for December Open Door	November 22, 2011

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