

THE OPEN DOOR

A Publication of
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Our mission is to delight God”



Let us Commune together

Our doors are open to all regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation or cultural background.



Never put a period where God has placed a comma.

**July/August
2011**

1650 Pinehurst Rd.
Dunedin, FL 34698

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Robert Palin

Office Administrator
Debbie Atchia

Editors
Bob & Helen Tulenko

SPONSORS
July
Marie Grein

August
Carol & Will Kriebel
50th Wedding Anniversary



OUR NEW HOME

1650 Pinehurst Road
Dunedin, FL 34698



Pastors Jottings for Summer 2011

“We are people on a journey...” So begins a hymn we sing for Holy Communion [New Century Hymnal #340]. “Christ is ever present with us to unite us all in love. All who truly thirst for justice seek their liberation here,” it continues. Another begins, “My faith, it is an oaken staff, the traveler’s well-loved aid” and continues “I’ll travel on and still be stirred by silent thought or social word; By all my perils undeterred, a pilgrim unafraid” (# 418, NCH).

Such a journey we have traveled together since June 2010, though it was prepared years in advance! Our church’s leaders—especially Mollie Bucy, Moderator, but so many others, too--have pushed, prodded and persuaded us to keep moving. With a dedicated Pastoral Search Committee hard at work with the help of the Rev. Dr. Jean Simpson, Regional Conference Minister, we get closer to presenting Faith UCC to the eyes of prospective pastors. They have as much right to see us as we are as we do to see them suitably. A bylaws team is also hard at work exploring a new way to see ourselves working together.

Meanwhile, we prepare a new phase in our transition: ministry at 1650 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin, 34698. Repeatedly I’ve heard that we need to grow. Let’s look at that: we’re about 100 people committed to ministry of Faith UCC. We’re not looking to become a big church: been there, done that, at least Drew Street seemed like that to me. We’re not trying to become one with Methodists or Presbyterians or others, really: tried that too, seems to me.

- I see Faith UCC growing in depth of purpose by
- illustrating powerful and compelling worship;
 - seeking new ways to respond to congregational and community needs;
 - welcoming all who come, especially strangers;
 - dealing effectively with differences and having a healthy view of conflict;
 - having an on-going focus on the joy of giving, stewarding our lives;
 - having a significant identity in the larger community*.

Here’s what we are doing now: supporting Sea Us Grow Preschool and also RCS in its multi-faceted services to the community; active engagement in FAST social justice ministry; siding with UCC churches that, like us, are Open and Affirming of all people; preparing a house of worship that suits our size, our needs, our realities, with the potential for physical growth as well.

Our summer Sundays begin with Prof. Eugene Templeton speaking on July 3rd, with other speakers possible during July and August. For the first time Faith is sponsoring one of our faithful to attend the DART training week in July for better understanding of how FAST works and how congregations participate in promoting community justice.

All this is happening because you are responding to the Spirit calling us into a new day in ministry. Have a blessed summer supported by your faith, your stewardship and your fearlessness!

Pastor Robert

*From “What Makes Churches Grow?” by John Janka, consultant to churches that want to grow.

1650 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin, FL 34698



THANK YOU TO OUR 2010-2011 VOLUNTEERS

Cliff Albrecht-Subia	Doris Edwards	Jenn Larson	Charlie Russell
Ellery Albrecht-Subia	George Edwards	Joan Lesage	Don Salisbury
Debbie Atchia	Martha Edwards	Ivan Liss	Jaci Salisbury
Julian Atchia	Sandy Edwards	Donna Lund	Donna Selzer
Isabelle Atchia	Tim Flight	Dan McKnight	Ardis Shields
Alison Atchia	Renee Fuhrer	Andi Miller	Liz Simmons
Gina Atchia	Frank Glenn	Jason Miller	Hortensia Simmons
Don Baumgartner	Kathy Glenn	Fran Mitchell	Stacey Simmons
Judy Baumgartner	Arthur Goetze	Priscilla Morrison	Shira Simmons
Mark Bell	Gretchen Goetze	Bud Moyer	Tatiana Simmons
Sanet Blignaut	Beverly Greaf	Ruth Moyer	Garth Smith
Mollie Bucy	Marie Grein	Jack Murrie	Janet Smith
Theron Bucy	Anne Griswold	Marlene Murrie	Christine Smith
Lynn Budach	Mike Hageman	Noleen Naude	Christine Snook
Des Buzzell	Sarah Hageman	Philip Naude	Fred Snook
Barbara Campbell	Molly Hancock	Albo Palazini	Sara Snook
George Campbell	Dennis Harris	Jan Palazini	Janice Spicer
Dominic Colotta	Gary Hart	Carol Patin	John Spicer
Sandi Colotta	Doris Hasty	Robert Palin	Chuck Stiers
Ed Cottrell	Ginger Hayes	Bea Powell	Pam Stiers
Lois Cottrell	Bill Holnick	Ginni Pressgrove	Helen Tulenko
Arazella Danner	Ben Infuso	Philip Pressgrove	Bob Tulenko
Becky DeLay	Veronica Jose	Joanne Reed	Elinor VanDyke
Anne Denys	Debbi Kaleskas	Howard Reed	John VanDyke
Cindy Donald	Karen Kelly	MaryLou Reeves	Anushka Van Huyssteen
Lew Donald	Donna Ketteringham	Stan Reeves	Shaun Van Huyssteen
Herb Donald	George Ketteringham	Tony Rodriguez	Ginny Van Scoyoc
Roland Doucette	Carol Krieble	Sheri Rodriguez	Kim Waldren
Sue Doucette	Willard Krieble	Jordan Rodriguez	
Ray Duplease	Gil Lane	Alexa Rodriguez	
Beverly Eaton	Gwen Lane	Garrett Rodriguez	





RECOGNITION OF OUR 2010-2011 VOLUNTEERS

by Carol Kriebel



On May 8, we gave recognition to our Faith Church Volunteers by listing 121 names in the church bulletin. May of those names are non- members of Faith Church. We are reprinting that list for those of you who were not in church that Sunday.

I would like to add a tribute to those persons with this poem that spell out the word V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R-S: "Valuable is the work you do, Outstanding in how you always come through. Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer, Untiring in your efforts throughout the year. Notable are the contributions you make, Trustworthy in every project you take. Eager to reach your every goal, Effective in the way you fulfill your role. Ready with a smile like a shining star, Special and wonderful- --that's what you are H!"

You are the people who make this church the wonderful place we all know it to be. Without each of you, the church would only be a building, but we all know a church is a community of people who do God's work. On behalf of the church council, it is with deep appreciation and gratefulness that we honor you.

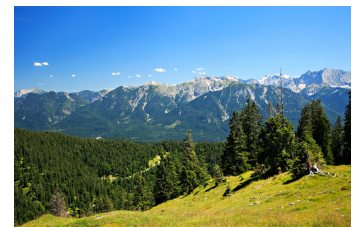
I have come up with a list of **28** different categories in which these volunteers have answered the call. They are; Call Ministry (telephone callers); Care Ministry (visit shut in/homebound) ; Choir members/soloists ; Christmas party for Sea Us Grow; Communion preparations & servers ; Crop walk sponsors and participants; Decorate sanctuary at Advent; Drivers to Wimauma; F.A.S.T team leaders/participants; F.E.A.S.T planners/leaders; Greeters/Ushers; Hospitality Hosts: Knitters of prayer shawls; Liturgists-readers for worship; Moving Team— relocating to Union Street; Nursery attendant; Office help-mailings/fold bulletins; Pancake breakfast; Parking cars-spring training; Pre-School assistants; Publicity—photos/posters; RCS-food pantry, Grace House, Haven House; Sound System, video operation; Sunday School leader—children's minute; Thrift store— all aspects; Winter Friends planned events; Yard sales—team & helpers; Yard work-church property. Have I missed any????

God Bless you for showing your love for God in such a practical way so we can all benefit from it.

"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE!!"

WORDS WORTH KEEPING IN MIND AS YOU GO ON VACATION!

What is a vacation? A vacation is a succession of 2's. It consists of 2 weeks, which may be 2 short. Afterward, your are 2 tired 2 return 2 work, but 2 broke 2 not 2. Therefore, be sure 2 bring or mail 2 the church office your 2 weeks' offering before you leave. If not, FAITH CHURCH will be 2 far behind 2 do all the things that GOD wants us 2 do!!!!



USHERS & GREETERS				
JULY 3	JULY 10	JULY 17	JULY 24	JULY 31
Ginny Van Scoyoc	Don Salisbury	Jan Spicer	Jan Spicer	Martha Edwards
Jim Neal	Gary Hart	John Spicer	John Spicer	Tim Flight
Donna Lund	Sarah Hagemann	Becky DeLay	Becky DeLay	Dennis Harris
AUGUST 7	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 21	AUGUST 28	
Mollie Bucy	Elizabeth Simmons	Hortensia Simmons	Barbara Campbell	
Theron Bucy	Shira Simmons	Tatiana Simmons	George Campbell	
Bev Greaf	Cindy Donald	Stacey Simmons	Cindy Donald	
READERS				
JULY 3	JULY 10	JULY 17	JULY 24	JULY 31
Marie Grein	Carol Kriebel	Sarah Hageman	Helen Tulenko	Kathy Glenn
AUGUST 7	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 21	AUGUST 28	
Frank Glenn	Shira Simmons	Bob Tulenko	Christine Snook	

JULY BIRTHDAYS

George Campbell 2nd
 Noleen Naude 2nd
 Anushka Van Huyssteen 3rd
 Don Reisdorf 5th
 Marie Grein 12th
 Gil Lane 12th
 Bill Holnick 15th
 Tatiana Simmons 24th
 Gwen Lane 25th
 Ellery Albrecht-Subia 27th
 Joanne Reed 29th

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Roger & Dorothy Truemner 5th
 Gil & Gwen Lane 11th
 Herb & Martha Donald 21st
 Fran Mitchell & Ivan Liss 29th

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Arazella Danner 1st
 Helen Tulenko 1st
 Andy Sandstrom 5th
 Bev Eaton 15th

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Will & Carol Kriebel 12th-50 yrs
 Bud & Ruth Moyer 25th
 Frank & Kathy Glenn 27th-50 yrs
 John & Janice Spicer 29th



Inspirations

A focus for Christianity in the 21st Century

A great 20th century pastor and teacher, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote inspiringly: “Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, and with its plea for the weak. Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should take a stronger stand in favor of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong (Sermon on II Cor. 12:9). “There is no way to peace along the way to safety. For peace must be dared. It is the great venture.” (Address at Fano) “The followers of Christ have been called to peace....And they must not only have peace but also make it. And to that end they renounce all violence and tumult. In the cause of Christ nothing is to be gained by such methods....His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering themselves rather than inflict it on others. They maintain fellowship where others would break it off. They renounce hatred and wrong. In so doing they overcome evil with good, and establish the peace of God in the midst of a world of war and hate” (Cost of Discipleship).

THIS IS MY CHURCH

It is composed of people just like me.
 It will be friendly if I am.
 It will do a great work if I work.
 It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous.
 It will bring others into fellowship if I bring them.
 Its seats will be filled if I fill them.
 It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service
 If I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.
 Therefore, with God’s help,
 I dedicate myself to the task of being
 All these things I want my church to be. [Anonymous]

OUR NEW OPEN DOOR INSPIRATION



Hi Debbie,

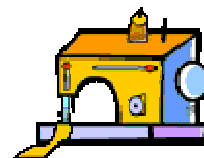
I received an email from Griet le Roux. She asked me to communicate her thanks to everybody for the donation we wired electronically and for our continued interest in the project.

Her husband Braam le Roux unfortunately became very sick. He has been diagnosed with Miliary Tuberculosis. Due to his illness she won't be traveling to Zambia in August as planned. Her daughter, who lives in Canada, however will along with a friend take the stuff Shaun took with him to South Africa to the orphans in August. She wanted us to know how much they appreciate it, and mentioned that hopefully we can arrange another outreach to the school in Zambia some day.

If you can please pass it on to the congregation.

Thank you!

Rene



**HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JULY AND AUGUST
PLEASE SEE CAROL KRIEBLE**

JULY MISSION OFFERING - THANKSGIVING IN JULY FOR RCS

On Sunday July 17, 2011 we will have our special mission offering for RCS (Religious Community Services). RCS is funded by over 80 area congregations (our church is one of them), local and state governments and private donors. RCS staff and volunteers served more than 80,000 people last year. Which is 50,000 more people than the year before.

For the past several years, Faith has been sponsoring the Thanksgiving in July offering for RCS. Thanksgiving in July is a way to assist RCS though the typically slow giving that occurs in the summer. This year is especially needed because of the downturn of the economy.

Our church supports RCS throughout the year by collecting: food monthly, collecting items for homeless families (Grace House, and items for Haven House and the Haven Transitional Living Programs.

AUGUST MISSION OFFERING - GRACE HOUSE FOR RCS

On August 21, 2011 we will have the special mission offering for Grace House which is also part of RCS. They provide temporary housing for homeless families for at least two months and or until they are better able to be on their own. In addition to housing they provide life skill classes and help residents attain permanent housing, employment and child care.

In the past our church has also provided volunteers to help with remodeling apartments for Grace House. We joined others in cleaning, remodeling, providing furniture, appliances, housewares, linens for the rental units.

Thank you for your past generosity to these organizations.

Timothy Flight - Missions Chair

MISSION PROJECTS

We may be small in number but we are MIGHTY indeed? So far this year, in addition to the \$440.00 we sent to South Africa, Faith Church has supported the following missions that are close to us as follows:



Sea Us Grow	\$1,629.00
Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC)	\$200.00
One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)	\$473.00
PACE	\$430.00
Peace with Justice	\$510.00
Wimauma	\$906.00
F.A.S.T.	\$1,405.00

We should all be very proud! Give yourselves a collective pat on the back!





June 9, 2011

Faith United Church of Christ
2401 Drew St
Clearwater, FL 33765-2816

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift to the United Church of Christ Spring Storms USA Appeal Relief fund. We recorded your gift of \$630.00 on 5/27/2011.

To date, six states have been severely impacted by flooding, with more states likely to reach emergency status due to rain fall and already high lake, river, and creek levels. In addition to floods, more than 150 tornadoes have swept across the mid-section and southeast United States, in what authorities describe as the worst-single stretch of tornadoes in more than four decades.

Among the states hit hardest by these devastating weather conditions are Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina, and North Dakota. More than 200 deaths have been reported.

The United Church of Christ's immediate response in working with local partners includes providing safety equipment (Tyvek® suits, respirators, goggles, and gloves) to homeowners and volunteers cleaning up damaged homes.

The UCC's long-range response will include assisting communities to repair and rebuild safe and affordable homes.

The United Church of Christ is committed to walking alongside our brothers and sisters during this disaster and stands firm in its commitment to move communities toward recovery.

You may follow the ongoing response at: www.ucc.org/disaster/from-texas-to-minnesota.htm/

Thank you so much for your support of United States relief efforts.

Peace,

Susan M. Sanders
One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator
216-736-3210
sanderss@ucc.org

No goods or services were given in exchange for this charitable contribution.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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216.736.3215 or toll free 866.822.8229 Ext. 3213
fax: 216.736.2294 • www.ucc.org/oghs

YOUR COUNCIL REPORT

Even though we are in the middle of “dog days” here, Council has been as busy as ever! As you can imagine, planning for the new church has been both exciting and time-consuming. Council spent a good deal of time going over pricing and prioritizing projects at our June meeting. Here’s a run-down of what’s been done and what’s in the works:

The old podium has been removed; a step created there and the rough edges repaired and painted.

A wall between two reading rooms behind the chancel has been taken down to create a pastor’s office. The door to the second room has been covered with sheet rock and plaster.

The old stained rug in the Fellowship Hall has been pulled up. We have now received bids from the following: sound system companies; security system; front door monitoring system; carpeting people; plumbers for the kitchenette install; and signage companies.

Tony Rodriguez has taken responsibility for our outdoor area. He and Gary Hart will landscape together.

Hopefully, we will be able to move in before the end of summer!

You are probably wondering about when we can expect the remainder of our funds to be released. I spoke this week to the gentleman whose company performed the testing. We passed with flying colors! We should have all our money by the end of this month.

Two essential committees are hard at work: Bylaws and the Search Committee. Both have onerous tasks as one can imagine! The Bylaws committee will submit its first draft to council for their input and editing. Once Council is satisfied, the entire work will go to the congregation for discussion/editing/ etc. before a final vote to adopt. The entire process will take quite a bit of time because we want everyone to feel comfortable with the Bylaws. Remember! A good set of Bylaws is key to attracting a new settled pastor! The Search Committee chaired by Ellery Albrecht-Subia is hard at work preparing our profile for submission to the UCC in Ohio.

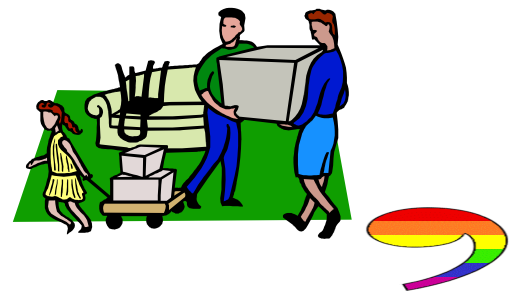
Because Sea Us Grow is experiencing cash flow problems during the summer when no VPK monies are coming in, council approved a loan of \$7000 to the pre-school. Repayment will begin on January 1, 2012, and continue at the rate of \$1000 per month until the debt is satisfied.

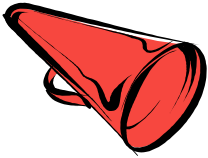
I’ll end this report with some more good news! Effective July 1, 2011, our Interim, Pastor Robert Palin, will begin working on a full-time basis. We have been very fortunate to have Pastor Robert serving us as a bridge between our former pastor, Anton, and the settled pastor that we hope to bring into our family in the coming year. Pastor Palin has really been working full-time at half pay since he joined us last year, so this is definitely the right thing to do.

This concludes my report on council meetings for now. We will be taking the month of July off as has been our habit in the past few years. Most of us are planning vacations then.

Have a wonderful summer! Stay cool!

Mollie





A FEW WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR...

WHO ARE WE, AND WHAT EXACTLY DO WE STAND FOR?

Perhaps one of the main reasons I feel so comfortable at Faith UCC is the very fact that we embrace everyone's right to have different opinions on a variety of issues, be they faith issues, politics, etc. Don't we all have that right, after all? Certainly on most subjects that is the case.

Recently, however, we took a poll on a very controversial subject—that of whether to display the rainbow comma on the sign outside of our new church. Members were asked to vote either “yes,” “no,” or “I don't care one way or the other.” The majority of you voted in favor of the comma, but it certainly was not an overwhelming majority. Several said they didn't care either way. There was a considerable number who were clearly uncomfortable with the rainbow display for a variety of reasons that I won't go into here.

Before I go further, let me say that as your moderator I must avoid stating my own opinion here. What concerns me now and going forward is making sure that Faith always provides a place where we feel comfortable, loved, and in unison with our fellow members as best we can. We want Faith to be our second home, if you will, and we want it to be a shining example of love and justice in our community.

While I applaud our ability to accept one another's divergent opinions, this may be the one point where we must come together and take a unified position. Several years ago, we as a congregation voted to become an “Open and Affirming” (ONA) church. The results of our little poll, however, have pointed out a degree of ambivalence on this issue...and the issue is way too important for ambivalence!

So! What to do? We are going to take the time to talk through this in detail before we make a decision. It's highly possible that many of us don't really know what it really means to be ONA. I might even be one of them—but I'm willing to learn! As I talk with others, I've come to understand that it is way more than just accepting members of the LGBT community into our church!

Starting this very next Sunday after worship, we will hold 3D conversations with all that want to participate to get all our feelings, apprehensions, etc. out on the table for discussion. I invite those that have strong opinions on both sides of the fence to share their positions with everyone in the hopes that we can arrive at a more unified and educated decision. And please! This is no time to sit quietly! If you have strong feelings, we all want to hear them. In this way, we avoid any divisiveness as best we can and preserve Faith as a family. My goal is to assure that we all stand beside one another whatever the outcome.

A special note to our Faith Friends: Please don't feel excluded! If you don't have a computer, feel free to call me and give me your opinions. (727-446-1384) I will relay them at the very next 3D. If you have a computer, write to me, and I will read your communication aloud as well. (mandtbucy@gmail.com) We want to know how you feel.

Peace and God's love to all!
Mollie

PS: Theron and I want everyone to know how much we appreciated the liquid gifts we received from you all! We only wish the liquid had lasted longer! Many thanks again!

Mollie and Theron



HUG COUPON

A hug has...

No moving parts, no batteries, No
monthly payments and no fees.

It is inflation proof and
Non taxable.

In fact, it is quite relaxable.

It can't be stolen, won't pollute,
One size fits all, will not dilute,

It uses little energy,

But yields results enormously.

Relieves your tension, and your
stress,

Invigorates your happiness;

Combats depression, makes you
beam,

And elevates your self esteem!

Your circulation it corrects,

Without unpleasant side effects.

It is the perfect drug,

There is nothing like a Simple hug.

**And, of course, it is fully
returnable.**

THE OPEN DOOR

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

JULY / AUGUST 2011

Minister
Church Telephone
Toll Free #
Church Fax
Church e-mail
Office Manager
Moderator
Moderator's home phone
Music Director
Vice Moderator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Clerk
Photographer
Church Website
The Open Door email

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