

# 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.



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

**OCTOBER  
2011**

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This issue has been  
graciously sponsored  
by  
Lois & Ed Cottrell

**Air, blowing  
everywhere,  
serves all  
creatures.**

Hildegard of Bingen,  
12th Century



**OUR CHILDREN  
ARE  
OUR FUTURE!  
PLEASE HELP  
SUPPORT THEM IN**



*God is still speaking*



## Pastors Jottings October 2011

## In the face of fear foster faith

In Acts of the Apostles, the apostle Paul is on trial for his life and defends his faith journey before a less than sympathetic quasi-Gentile ruler. Paul had been persecuting followers of Jesus, but then he has a vision of Jesus that says to him “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Then Paul declares to the ruler, “I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, . . .” He even tries to pull the ruler into believing as he does. But the ruler, King Agrippa, rebukes him saying, “Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?” To this Paul replies, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains.” (You can read this moving passage in Acts 26.)

As an instrument of faith “the heavenly vision” fosters courage in the face of fear. We live in a time of perpetual fear propelled by hate, rage, division. There’s an old Argus poster illustrating a powerful sun blocked by a huge boulder. It reads, “When you lose sight of the goal, all you see are obstacles.” That’s what fear does—it throws obstacles into our face and blocks our purpose. It’s true that there are many who hammer home the heavenly vision nailing darkness and Satan with devastating certainty and sculpting the light of God into a rigid monument. But let us foster that faith that stands fast together for social justice, that welcomes all people joyfully, celebrating the rainbow of orientations that define who we actually are in a world that wants to forge us into unreal sameness.

Many of us liberal or progressive Christians find Paul irritating because of his intensity and the way his words get lashed to rigid orthodoxies. But Paul is a creative and inspiring liberator from those very orthodoxies. As Faith UCC goes forward in its new location, let us recover our “heavenly vision” and fight fear with faith and shine the beacon of responsible love, which is justice, and extend the arms of compassion to a very sick society of unimaginable inequality that betrays our national sense of liberty and justice for all, and the key idea most of us had to learn by heart as kids: *We here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.* [from Lincoln’s *Gettysburg Address*] Our national vision is lofty. Our faith vision transcends all nationalities, ages, races, every social-economic-political status and sexual orientation.

Our vision and voice are needed. Let us foster Faith together and face down fears with a love like Jesus.

*God is still speaking*



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

	OCT 2	OCT 9	OCT 16	OCT 23	OCT 30
<b>WORSHIP READER</b>	Macy Unruh	Arazella Danner	Carol Kriebble	Molly Hancock	Sam Toney
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	Ginny Van Scoyoc	Trevesta Edwards	Donna Lund Marie Grein	Pam & Churk Stiers	Ellery & Cliff Albrecht-Subia
<b>USHERS</b>	Donna Lund Gary Hart	Ginni Pressgrove Helen Tulenko	Jaci Salisbury Don Salisbury	Ray Duplease Ginni Pressgrove Helen Tulenko	Janice Spicer John Spicer
<b>GREETERS</b>	Lois Cottrell Ed Cottrell	Donna Lund Joan LeSage	Jan Palazini Albo Palazini	Dan McfKnight Herb Donald	Bev Greaf

### *OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS*

Ginni Pressgrove	6th
Sara Snook	7th
Becky DeLay	9th
Jaci Salisbury	18th
Priscilla Morrison	21st
Cliff Albrecht-Subia	22nd
James Neal	
30th	



### *OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY*

Becky & Bob DeLay	11th
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### *CONSIDERING JOINING US?*

We would be delighted to have you share our call and journey as a member.

Want to talk about it?

Please contact our interim pastor,  
Dr. Robert Palin at  
727-269-1033  
Or by email at  
[rpln44@gmail.com](mailto:rpln44@gmail.com)



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## Improvisation

### Excerpt from Luke 6:9-11

“Then Jesus said to [the Pharisees], ‘I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?’ After looking around at all of them, he said to [the man with the withered hand], ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He did so, and his hand was restored.”

### Donna Schaper—interpretation

**Improvisation is when you don’t have enough information to do anything but just take the next step. Actors say the secret to improvisation is to go only as far as you have to and not a step or second more. They also argue that it is a great idea to make your partner look good when you speak. That keeps the story moving. Jazz musicians say the same thing. What did you play? “Oh, just something that the first chord told the second chord to say.”**

**To theologically improvise requires keeping the conversation close and moving. It also involves a concrete choice of partners, among a sea of partners. The powerful will always present themselves as snarkily in charge. The withered will also know the danger they are in. Theological improvisation involves looking straight towards the withered and ignoring the people who are playing games with the rules or the theology.**

**Improvisation is the art of the short term. Improvisation is when you go with the withered who are in front of you and decide to make them look good or feel good or at least not suffer any more or any longer. Good improvisation chooses who it will listen to and takes the next step.**

### Prayer

**Jesus, you knew how to take the next step and let the rest go by. Help us to do the same. Send us to the unlikely partners as our source of life. Make sure we know who it is we listen to.**

**Amen.**

### About the Author

**Donna Schaper is the Senior Minister of Judson Memorial church in New York city. Her latest work is “20 Ways to Keep Sabbath”, from The Pilgrim Press. Check out her work at [www.judson.org](http://www.judson.org).**

### Worship Team News

**Due to the economy and the change in our location, it is necessary for the Worship Team to make a couple of changes for Sunday morning services.**

**Flowers—The florist we have used for years has found it necessary to increase the cost of the flowers from \$25. to \$35. We would be very happy if someone knows of a florist who could continue to serve us at the \$25 amount. You can sign up to bring your own flowers if you choose.**

**Ushers and Greeters—Due to the space constraints in our new lovely church we have decided to have the same people greet and usher, unless there are folks who would not be comfortable doing both. Just let us know when we approach you to serve.**

**Thanks for your understanding.**

*God is still speaking*



### “THANK YOU” to our Sunday Morning Hospitality Hosts

Faith Church would like to recognize and THANK the following persons for “volunteering” to serve as Sunday Morning Hospitality Hosts for **Jan through Sept 2011**. Some of these persons have done it more than once these past 9 months. They have graciously provided the fine choice of foods for our taste buds. They have done this at their own expense, for which we are very appreciative.

Hospitality time is an important part of our weekly worship time. It is a time to greet our guests as well as mingle with our members. In order to continue this ministry, we rely on our volunteers. For others wanting to volunteer, there are guidelines/procedures provided. Please contact Carol Krieble for information.

Albrecht-Subia, Ellery & Cliff  
 Bucy, Mollie & Theron  
 Delay, Becky  
 Edwards, Doris & George  
 Edwards, Martha  
 Edwards, Trevesta  
 Faith Choir  
 Faith Friends  
 Glenn, Kathy & Frank  
 Grein, Marie  
 Hageman, Sarah  
 Hancock, Molly  
 Hayes, Ginger  
 Ketteringham, Donna

Krieble, Carol & Willard  
 Lane, Gwen  
 LeSage, Joan  
 Lund, Donna  
 Morrison, Priscilla  
 Moyer, Ruth  
 Palin, Carol  
 Simmons Family  
 Smith, Janet  
 Snook, Christine  
 Spicer, Jan & John  
 Van Scoyoc, Ginny

### WOMEN’S MINISTRY NEWS

Women’s Ministry will begin meeting again at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 12th in the all- purpose room of our church. This year we will be reading, “Life of Pi”.

Author Jann Martel was born in Spain Mexico and Canada. With a personal upbringing, he has created a wonderful matic and thought-provoking. The Glenn. In preparation for our first Note and the first 45 pages up to



but grew up in Costa Rica, France, background almost as varied as his adventure that is tender, funny, dra- books will be available from Kathy’s meeting, please read the Author’s Chapter 16.

All women of the church are invited to be a part of this interesting study. We anticipate another season of ever-deepening bonds with opportunities to share and get to know each other better. See you there!

Barb Campbell

### FAITH FRIENDS

The Florida Orchestra is presenting Cirque de Symphonie once again but it’s on November 6th at Ruth Eckert Hall so we don’t have much time. Anyone who went to the previous one will tell you what an exciting experience it was. I will order the tickets when I return October 12th but many winter friends will not be back yet, so we will need your support to get discount tickets for less than \$30. Please sign up at church and ask your friends so we can have a good group. If you want more information, you can e-mail me at [masspris727@msn.com](mailto:masspris727@msn.com).

Priscilla Morrison

*God is still speaking*



**STROKE:** Remember the 1st Three Letters.....S T. R.

### **STROKE - IDENTIFICATION:**

During a BBQ, a woman stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) ...she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Jane went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Jane's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00 pm Jane passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Jane would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

It only takes a minute to read this.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

### **RECOGNIZING A STROKE**

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, S-T-R. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

**S— \*Ask the individual to SMILE.**

**T—\*Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)**

(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

**R—Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.**

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

**New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue**

**NOTE:** Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that is also an indication of a stroke.

*God is still speaking*





## WHAT'S ON YOUR MODERATOR'S RADAR SCREEN?

We have so much to be thankful for! Our new “home” is so perfect for us (okay, maybe that’s my opinion!)—so much so that I can’t wait to show it off to our Faith friends who should be returning in a few short weeks. We’ve jumped so many hurdles to get where we are! But lest any of you feel we can now rest on our laurels, I thought I would take this opportunity to let all of you know what is on my “to-do” list. That way none of you will be surprised when you feel a tap on your shoulder and turn around to discover that it is Mollie asking for your help!

It is wonderful that we have been welcoming new people on Sunday at this new location. Some are very interested in joining! It has been quite some time since we have gone through this happy process, so we are working towards designing an appropriate initiation and rite whereby we formally welcome new members to the Faith family.

We have also experienced a growth in the number of children attending on Sunday! This is wonderful, but sadly we no longer have a program in place for children! This has caused us to scurry about looking for a temporary solution for now and a permanent one for later. We’ve purchased a small playground unit for starters, but we still need volunteers to work with the children, and we definitely need to develop an appropriate educational program that they will enjoy and will encourage continued attendance.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the two committees that are hard at work because both have critical implications on our future as a church. First is the Search Committee chaired by Ellery Albrecht-Subia. This is a huge job and it is currently in the final stages of reviewing profiles submitted by interested candidates. And YES, we do have lots of prospective pastors interested in us! Unfortunately, this committee began with a complement of seven members and, for varying reasons, is now down to three members! It’s a sad state of affairs! Needless to say, your Moderator will be looking for people interested in helping out here!

Secondly, Becky DeLay and a team of five have been working since April on rewriting a good, new set of Bylaws. Our existing Bylaws are grievously outdated to the point of being irrelevant to the Faith Church of today! We are in the final process of fine-tuning now. The new document will next go to council for their approval and from there to the congregation for their reaction. Stay tuned! This is definitely NOT racey reading, but read it you must!

Prior to the end of this year, we will be appointing a nominating committee for the 2012 council. The terms of several of our officers will expire at the end of December, so we must identify new leadership. I feel I must point out that next year promises to be one of relative clear sailing! We should have a new settled pastor by then; our money is safely invested; and a new set of bylaws will provide a workable framework for governance.

I think it’s critical that everyone is informed along the way which is why I have taken this time to inform you of the work that is in process and will hopefully be brought to closure before I leave office. My hope is to pass the baton to someone who should enjoy being moderator as much as I have!

God’s love to all,

Mollie

*God is still speaking*





“Every act of love is  
a work of peace,  
no matter how  
small.

The fruit of love is  
service.  
The fruit of service  
is peace.”

*Mother Teresa*

## THE OPEN DOOR

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

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Church e-mail	faithclear@tampabay.rr.com
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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 Krieble
Church Website	www.faithucc.org
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