

Events and Christian Enrichment

Last Chance ~ If you are considering attending the performance of WICKED at Barbara B. Mann, please pick up a registration form in the Middlers' Plus Mailbox.

Yoga ~ With Shannon Danford in McSpadden Hall Thursdays at 10:00 am and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 pm in the Narthex. Chair Yoga with Shannon meets in Beverly Hall at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. \$5.00 donation.

New Book Club ~ Please join us for the formation of a new book club on **Tuesday, January 3rd at 10 am in the Parlor**. Bring books you've read that you would like to give away, share or trade and suggestions for our reading list for the season. Questions, contact Candy Nordland at 239-434-6438.

Palette Pals ~ Our monthly meeting is on **Monday, January 9th at 11 am**, followed with a group art discussion/critique led by Mary Aimee Pikul. Those who wish to stay for the critique should bring a sack lunch and some paintings to discuss. Critique will begin at 1:00 pm.

Behind the Scenes Stories ~ A unique Bible study experience that involves entering into the thoughts and feelings of a character in a biblical story. Be prepared with pencil and paper to consider the question, "What was it like for 'this character' to be alive at that moment?" Watch the story come alive with new relevance and freshness. Join poet and pastor, Rev. Dr. George Bell, on **Mondays, January 9th and 16th from 10:00 – 11:30 am in the Parlor**. Advance registration is required. Please call the church office: 239-261-5469.

The Future of the Internet ~ Learning about the future of the Internet will guide us on our ongoing cyber journey into tomorrow. Knowing what works now and what will work in the future will direct our decisions for eCommerce, Social Networking and the Web3.0. Semantic search engines will give us artificial intelligence based results. Join internet guru Marcus Zillman for this single session presentation on **Thursday, January 12th from 10:00 – 11:30 am in NH 207**. Registration is not required.

Speaking Christian ~ A study of Dr. Marcus Borg's new book, which seeks to reclaim the wisdom and richness of the language of faith and will offer a 'Christian primer' to help us understand the key ideas of our tradition. Join Dr. Patterson, for a thoughtful and relevant five session discussion group **at 2:00 pm or 6:30 pm on Thursdays beginning January 12th in NH 104**. Registration is not required. The book may be purchased in the church office for \$15.

Stroke Prevention Screening ~ A stroke screening will take place at the Church on **Thursday, January 12th beginning at 8am in McSpadden Hall**. Get any vascular screening for \$60.00. Get all 5 screenings for only \$149. An osteoporosis screening costs only \$35! To pre-register call Life Line Screening: 1-800-324-1851.

State Recognition ~ Save the date to celebrate with others from your state in 2012! Pick up your state name tag at the kiosk on the following dates: **January 15th, Connecticut & New York, January 29th, Rhode Island & Massachusetts**. Then visit with your state neighbors during coffee hour. Many wonderful friendships were formed last year during state recognition Sundays.

Men's Coffee and Conversation ~ **Thursday, January 19th at 10:00 am in NH 104**. Topic is Putting America Back to Work. This is a time of open discussion, good fellowship and conversation.

Bargain Box ~ **Save the Date for our Grand Opening on January 21st at 10:00 am at our new location 153 10th Street South**. We are now able to accept furniture, but WE CANNOT accept TV's, computer components, VCR's, or fax machines. If you would like to volunteer or need assistance with donations, call Sandy at 262-3802.

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Journey to Discipleship ~ If within you a small voice is calling you to a deeper intentional understanding of the Bible, then this small group study may be the path. The class, limited to twelve people, will meet every **Monday, 11:30 am – 2 pm, beginning January 23rd in NH 101**. All that is needed are (1) the Disciple study book, (2) a study bible with the Apocrypha, (3) your brown bag lunch and (4) an inquiring mind. The Disciple study book, \$30 payable to NUCC Adult Education, is available in the church office. Advance registration is required. Joan Byerhof, experienced course facilitator, will welcome your call and inquiries, 239-777-9668.



Reaching Across the Divide: A Dialogue on Current Issues in our Multifaith Word ~ Faith is a relevant, powerful, ascendant societal and global force in our world today. Will religion continue to be a conflict source or a path to peaceful solution within the Abrahamic family? What is the way forward: ecumenism, pluralism, secularism, fundamentalism, evangelism, syncretism? Join interfaith expert Steve Crosby for an informative and interactive six-session class on **Tuesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 am beginning January 24th in NH 104**. Advance registration is required and can be completed by calling the church office: 239-261-5469.



Bloodmobile ~ **Friday, January 27th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. You may make a blood donation every 56 days. Sign up schedules will be available in the Gathering Place on January 15th and January 22nd. Call Bob Partridge at 239-353-7020 with any questions.

Youth Christian Education

Church School ~ Starting January 8th, we will move our Children and Youth Message and Church School to the 11am service.

Junior Disciples ~ We will be on break from December 28th to January 4th.

Youth Group ~ We will be on break from December 25th to January 1st.

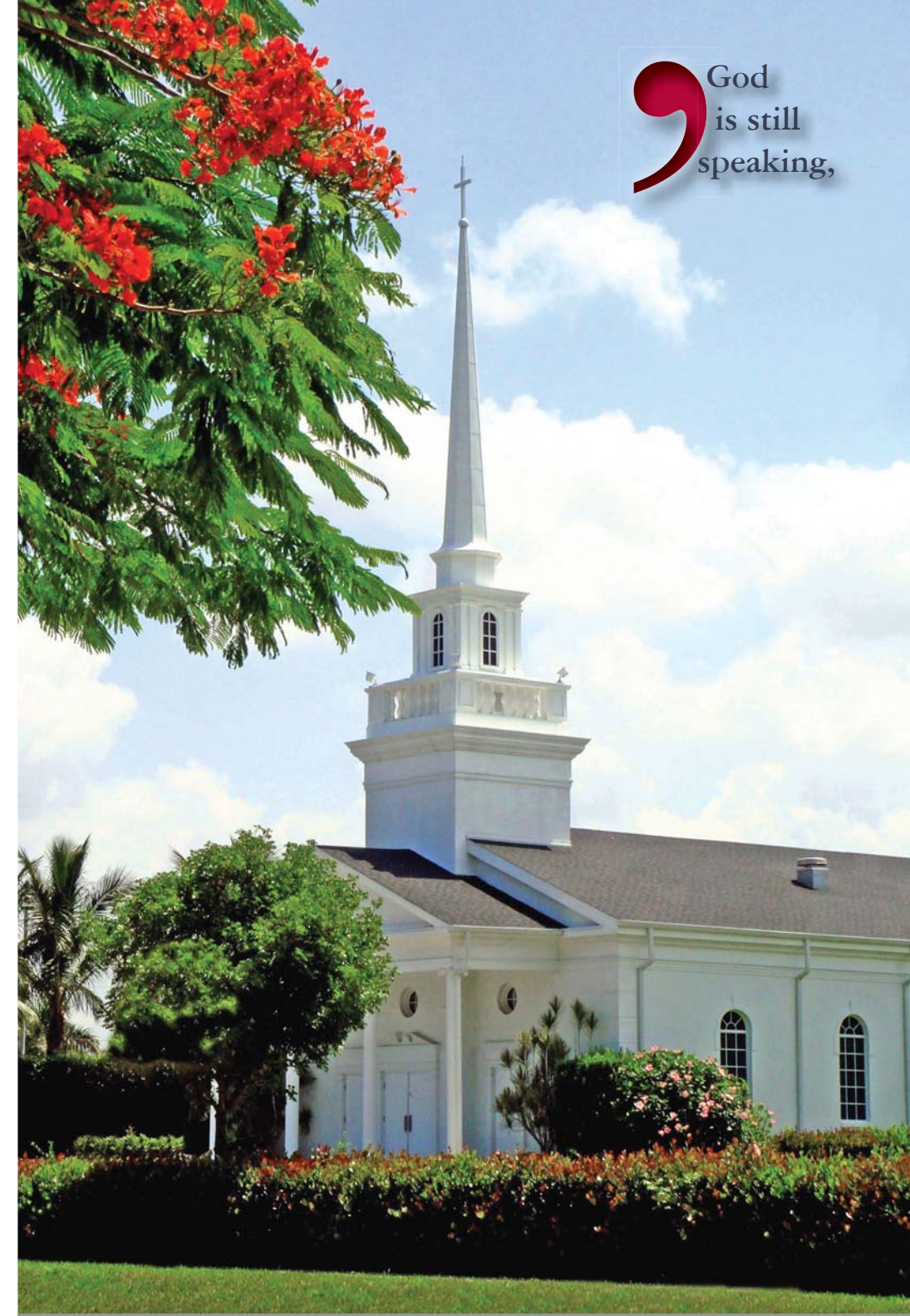
Confirmation Class ~ We will be on break for the holidays and will resume on January 8th.

Nursery Care ~ for infants and toddlers is available during worship and is located just outside the south Sanctuary doors. There is also a Cry Room available to parents who wish to stay with their child and observe the service.

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Ronald Patterson, Senior Minister
Rev. Catherine O'Connell, Associate Minister
Rev. Beverly Duncan, Assistant Minister
Rev. Luvvy Kovacik, Assistant Minister
Dr. Becky Weese, Director of Music
Dr. Greg Smith, Director of Adult Education
Nancy Van Fleet, Director of CE
Ron Thompson, Youth CE
Kary Sirken, Church Administrator
Kaleigh Caldwell, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Magiera, Finance Administrator

Susan Pratt, Pastoral Assistant and Membership
Susan Melick, Events Coordinator
Gregg Lepore, Production Manager
Donna Blais, Publications
Dan Brower, Facilities
Chad Anderson, Facilities
Mary Jo Welch, Director, Precious Cargo Academy
Leanne Badham, Assistant Director, Precious Cargo Academy
Sandy Goldstein, Director, Bargain Box



God is still speaking,

Naples United Church of Christ

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103

Phone: (239) 261-5469

E-mail: info@naplesucc.org

Read our church newsletter, Steeplelights, online at: www.naplesucc.org

Our Mission Statement:

Where all are welcome all the time in community with God
Growing by Loving—Sharing God's Story—
Making the Journey



The Worship of God

January 1, 2012 – 9:00 and 11:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany Sunday

As the Prelude begins, you are invited to seek God's peace for your life in silent meditation and prayer. Please be considerate of those around you.

*Those who are able please stand.



PRELUDE

"The Kings" Arr. K. Lee Scott
(Jim Patterson, soloist)

CALL TO WORSHIP

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #233 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"
KINGS OF ORIENT

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: As light from a long ago star led wise ones on their journey, lead us, O God of hope. Lead us to abandon the cares of yesterday and embrace the way of life. Lead us to give up worn out opinions and embrace the way of love. Lead us to let go old hurts and embrace the power of forgiveness. So teach us to number the minutes this New Year, that we might find ourselves transformed to serve and care in circles which embrace all your children without condition. Let us live the words Jesus taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN #230 "O Morning Star" vs. 1 WIE SCHOEN LEUCHTET
(Please remain seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (9:00am) Nancy Van Fleet and Ron Thompson

FRIENDSHIP MOMENT, OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Please sign and pass the register book to your neighbor.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC "Epiphany Carol" Bruce Neswick
(Sanctuary Choir; Pamela Jimenez, soloist)

CALL TO PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-32 (NT pg. 60)

SERMON "How to Clean Up the Mess" Dr. Patterson

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentences and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "How Far Is the Star?" Bradley Ellingboe
(Sanctuary Choir)

The Lord's Supper

At this table all are welcome guests. Jesus is our host. We hold the bread and cup until all are served and then we commune together. Our cups contain grape juice. The gluten free wafers in the center of each bread plate are for those with wheat allergies.

The Invitation

The Prayer of Blessing

The Breaking and Sharing of the Bread

"Away in a Manger" Arr. John Rutter
(Jessica Van Ord, soloist)

The Giving and Sharing of the Cup

"He is Born" IL EST NE
(Pamela Jimenez, soloist)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*RECESSIONAL HYMN: #188 "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"
SETTING BY MICHAEL BURKHARDT



Greeting: 9:00 am: Judith & Porter Daniel;
11:00 am: Heather & Dominique O'Connell

Ushers: 9:00 am: Barbara Converse, Head Usher; Dave Stephenson, John Richardson, Davey Scoon, Roger Terry, Sandy Terry, Art Robins, Marsha Arthur, Charles Arthur and Ruth Himburg

11:00 am: Bob Miller, Head Usher; Jean and Bob Partridge, Jen Rainey, Jan Hakes, Ruth Himburg, Michael Hunt, George Kessel, Dick and Barb Wilson

The Stephen Minister: 9:00 am: Jan Abbott; 11:00 am: Louise Brown

Staffing the Kiosk: Anne Kruse

The chancel has been decorated from a portion of the money donated from our Poinsettia Donor List. The remainder of the donations will be given to a local food bank to help those in need. The donations were made in Memory, Honor, or Celebration of a loved one in lieu of Poinsettias.

The pulpit flowers are in honor of Ron and Charnley's 15th wedding anniversary.

Christmas Sermon Series. Each Sunday during the Christmas Season, Dr. Patterson has been sharing his thoughts on the practical side of the holiday season. The series concludes today with "How to Clean Up the Mess."

Poinsettia Donor List Additions:

Pamela and Bob Oliveira 'In Memory of our parents'

DVDs from today's service are available for \$5. Please fill out the order envelope located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate or in the basket outside the Sanctuary doors. They are available the next day in the church office and are filed alphabetically. If you would like it sent to you, please call Ralph at 239-595-7590.



The T-Loop (Telecoil Loop) Hearing System is now installed in the Sanctuary. If your hearing aid is equipped for the T-Loop, please let us know how it is working for you. Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex.

ANNUAL MEETING

The NUCC 39th Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary. Please plan on attending.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion, The Eucharist, The Lord's Supper

The United Church of Christ (UCC) uses these terms interchangeably to stress various traditions about our sharing of the Bread and the Cup. NUCC also makes room for a range of beliefs about the sacrament of communion. This can include the sharing of a memorial meal in remembrance of Jesus or the sharing of the bread and the cup as a tangible way to express our oneness as a faith community. Individual beliefs may stress that Christ is symbolically present in the bread and cup or that the real presence of Christ is present in the elements. As a tradition which stresses the "freedom of the individual conscience", NUCC welcomes such diversity. The Communion Table welcomes all who accept one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. Our theological differences strengthen rather than divide our community when together we recognize that God's love transcends our human ideas and preferences. As you receive Communion today, reflect on its meaning for you.

Welcome Visitors

Naples United Church of Christ is united by our love of Christ and one another and a desire to care as Jesus cared. We stress freedom of conscience and local autonomy, celebrating a tradition which arrived on this continent on the Mayflower and with other early settlers. We honor the beautiful diversity of our world. We cherish our mission partnerships in Naples and around the globe. From the Ebenezer School in Honduras to local efforts, our gifts and hours multiply the love of Jesus. With 5,700 other UCC congregations and partner denominations we embrace the idea that "God Is Still Speaking."

Journey with us as a visitor or unite with us as a Full or Associate Member. Full and Associate Members share the same rights and responsibilities, but Associate Members choose to maintain a home church membership. Visitor information cards are in the pew racks, and can be put in the offering plate or handed to our deacons or ministers. Our next Information Brunch is February 12th. For more information please call Susan Pratt at the church office. We look forward to having you worship with us again.

Hymn Notes

"We Three Kings" was written and composed by John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891) for a Christmas pageant at General Theological Seminary in New York City while he was a student there. Hopkins, a graduate of the University of Vermont, initially prepared for a career in law, but was called to ministry. He served a number of congregations and ended his career as the Episcopal Bishop of Vermont.

"O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright" was written and composed in 1599 by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) based on Psalm 45. A pastor, he wrote this hymn during a time of plague seeking the comfort of his faith. The tune, WIE SCHOEN LEUCHTET has been referred to as the queen of the chorales and appears in our hymnal in an arrangement by J.S. Bach.

"Angels We Have Heard on High" is an example of a traditional French carol of uncertain origin. Carols were used for teaching before people could read and were often sung while people danced to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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The 2012 flower calendar is available on the reception desk. Please enter the date (or call the office) to reserve your Sunday for donating Chancel or Pulpit flowers.

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