

March 2011

Steeplelights

Naples United Church of Christ



God
is still
speaking,



From the Pastor

Gathered or Scattered



Dr. Ron Patterson

One of the vital images for the church in our tradition is the difference between the church gathered and the church scattered. When we are together, we are the church gathered. When we are apart from one another we are the church scattered. While many of us refer to our worship space as the sanctuary — which reflects the holy feeling we experience in that beautiful space, our faith ancestors insisted that space was only made sacred through the presence of a community gathered — so that where we gather for worship on Sunday is made sanctuary by our gathering. They emphasized this difference by often referring to their church buildings as “meeting houses” — places where the church gathered for a time each week before it scattered to be the church in the world.

I think of this each Sunday when I stand greeting members and friends of the congregation as they file past me at the church door on their way into our beautiful new “gathering space.”

On a recent Sunday, our gathering space was a beehive of activity. Members of our excellent Music Committee were promoting several concerts. Two mission partners were present telling their stories. Friendships were being strengthened over cookies and coffee. Sign-ups for adult education events, a retreat, a Wednesday Nite Live dinner, and a Middlers social event were all happening. A couple of hundred people were mixing and mingling and being the church together in that amazing “gathering space.” I found myself thanking God for the miracle of those who designed and gave the gift to make that space possible. I found myself saying a quick prayer for all the good things dedicated people are doing as we gather and scatter to serve and share the love of Jesus.

And I had a thought. Our gathering space is such a gift because of the interactions that go on there. It is such a gift because of parties and funeral receptions and communication and idea sharing, but it is becoming sacred space because our gathering there is enriching our gatherings once we have scattered. Think about it.

We promote our mission partnerships in our gathering — and then we scatter to be the church scattered in mission. Things like the Mothers’ Club of Haiti, water projects in Guatemala, the Ebenezer School, and four of our members working in the Philippines on population control are places where our church “gathers” scattered around the world. Each week day our scattered church gathers at the Bargain Box to make mission happen for the sake of others. Each week day hundreds of you volunteer to serve in dozens of caring organizations — the church scattered gathered to show the love of Jesus.

Why are we here? Why do we gather? So we can scatter out into the world God so loved to let the love of Jesus move through us. Gathered or scattered — this congregation is an amazing collection of the children of God and I am thankful!

With love,
Ron

P.S.

As always — if you need to talk, my cell number is 239-253-1512. I make house calls and gladly receive phone calls. I need you to help me know where my presence is needed. God bless you!

From the Associate Pastor

Ash Wednesday Service



Rev. Cathy O'Connell

Please join us on March 9th at 5:00 pm in our Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday Service of Healing and Anointing followed by a Soup for the Soul Dinner. This special service will provide an opportunity to begin the Lenten Season with prayerful reflection, fellowship, and beautiful music by our Sanctuary choir. Please call the Church office to sign up for the meal, 239-261-5469.

In past years we have had the honor of making many soups for many Lenten souls. If you love to chop, cook, stir, serve, or clean up in the kitchen, we would love to have your help for our Ash Wednesday Soup for the Soul Dinner. Please call the office to volunteer. It is a very rewarding experience! If you have any questions, please contact Susan Pratt at 239-261-5469.

Blessings,
Cathy



The Board of Deacons

The Blessings of Unexpected Consequences

Beverly Hall will be open, ready and welcoming on March 6th when Bishop John Shelby Spong, a world-famous theologian, will deliver the sermon at both the 9am and 11am services. A separate sermon is offered at each service. Many of us will want to attend both services, and we anticipate hosting many visitors, friends, and neighbors.

Beverly Hall will be ready. The oversized screen will feature a larger than life view of our sanctuary chancel. The state of the art sound system will feature Bishop Spong and our choir in a room that is acoustically awesome. Hymnals and programs will be provided. Rev. Gordon Svoboda has agreed to serve as attending pastor. Ushers and greeters will assist.

Filling Beverly Hall for Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday services was anticipated. Many of us did not foresee unique events resulting in the need of additional seating space. The blessings of a visit from Bishop Spong may present the perfect opportunity for you to experience the blessings of Beverly Hall. Please plan to arrive early enough to choose the location you prefer. Most of all, we are blessed by your presence among us. There will also be a 3pm lecture in the Sanctuary. This lecture is \$20.00. Please contact the Church office for tickets, 239-261-5469.

~ Jan Hakes

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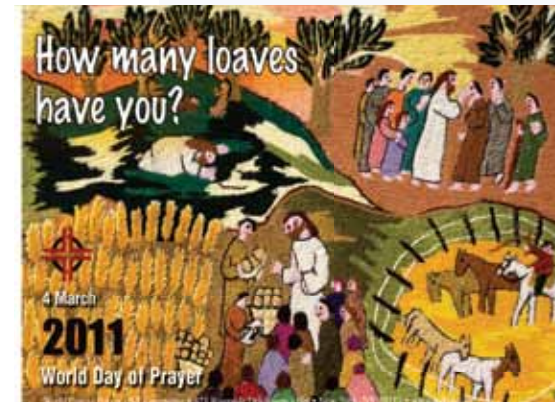
March is Here, Wow!



If we were up north, we'd be dreaming about those warmer breezes that make the snow melt and the earth smell fresh and muddy. We'd be watching the crocuses blooming, and counting the buds on the lilacs. We'd be thinking of Easter flowers, Passover foods, longer days and brighter sunshine. Our shovels would be put away, our wood pile empty, and seeds might be sprouting on our windowsills as witness to a magic that happens after a long winter's sleep.

But we're not north, we're here. Our needs are met with little effort...sun, wind, rain, flowers are commonplace. Our spirits have rested in a different way, without the longing and preparation needed for renewal. So how can we do this: discover the spirit, emotion, and magic of our religious holidays? I have two ideas closest to my heart, and would like for you to share them with me.

First, is prayer. We all witness the power of prayer each and every day. Now imagine a unified prayer beginning at the first sunrise on March 4th in the Pacific Region, following the Earth's orbit, shining it's light on the continent of South America, and in turn, the rest of the world. If you close your eyes, you can actually see it in your mind's eye...a body of light so strong and unified until the entire earth is coated with it's warmth and strength.



This year, on March 4th at 5:00 pm, we will be having our Fourth World Day of Prayer Service in our Chapel. It is a simple celebration of voices in prayer. The prayers were written and bible text chosen by the women of Chilè to best reflect their conditions, in tradition with the theme they have chosen: "How many loaves have you?" Chilè isn't unique in its dividedness: the poorest of poor and the wealthiest land owners share the same ground but not the same food. Profits from the rich mineral deposits and abundant plant life are possessed by a few, while many cannot feed their families. It is their lives we celebrate, it is to them our prayers are sent. We will end the service with a fellowship of tea and bread.

Second, is Ash Wednesday. Healing is such a gift, to give it and receive it. And when we gather together for our peace-filled Healing and Anointing Service, the power of a tender God is undoubtedly present. This day is a time of reflection. We all have little rooms in our heart that hold a tremendous amount of memory: joy, sorrow, love and hurt. Within this healing service, you have the time and space to empty those chambers that you wish and witness them sent up to God in the smoke of the burning bowl, only to refill them with the fellowship and love shared at the Soup for the Soul Supper.

Ash Wednesday Service is March 9th, at 5:00 pm in our Sanctuary, followed by a simple dinner of soup and bread served in our Gathering Place. Everyone is indeed welcome for this special journey into Easter.

In light of the magic and beauty of this season of preparation, call me with any questions. If you love to cut vegetables, stir soup, bake bread or set tables, we welcome your help with open arms!

With Love,
Susan Pratt

Board of Mission and Outreach

In his message in the January Steeplelights, the chairman of the board, Rev. Gordon Svoboda, quoted Jean Ann Lynch of "Baby Basics": "NUCC gets Mission right. Mission is local, national and worldwide." We agree! In addition to everything we do right here in Collier County and nationally, this church is noted for its global outreach.

Lavinia Ochoa brought us a moving testimony in January about our ministry to the children in San Pedro Sula, Honduras through our support of the Ebenezer School. And, Reverend Patterson has reminded us of the international scope of our ministry through our support of the micro-lending Mothers' Clubs of Tanzania and Haiti and of the recent medical mission in the Philippines undertaken by several members of our congregation and supported by the board.

Beyond these "home-grown" international projects, we align ourselves with others to do the work of God in the world by praying for and giving to UCC Global Ministries. We had the opportunity to hear more about this at a conference we attended in January: "Hearts United Globally." Similar to what NUCC is able to achieve locally through its many productive partnerships, UCC Global Ministries works with many different partners in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and Southern Asia that request specific kinds of help.

In Egypt, for example, we partner with a Coptic social service organization called "Water as an Essential Ingredient" that works with dozens of rural communities to promote agricultural development. At the conference in the Middle East we met Nohemi and the Reverend Samuel Pagan, educators from Puerto Rico, who are serving in Bethlehem, where they teach Spanish language and Biblical archaeology respectively. As they have developed close personal relationships with the Arab tour guides they teach, they are able to break down barriers of misunderstanding. By their "critical presence" they act as peacemakers on our behalf.

One important way that our church supports global missions is by means of the One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering collected each year at this time. It enables us to support not only on-going projects in education, healthcare and sustainable development worldwide but also to provide timely disaster relief and to aid refugees. Moreover, UCC Global Ministries fosters advocacy for justice and peace around the world. The needs are so varied and so great. United by our love of Christ, let us open our hearts and share generously.

~ Tom de Witt and Margaret Ward

Urgent Pantry Needs!

- * Beans, all kinds and all size containers
- * Dry Milk
- * Cereal
- * Peanut Butter and Jelly

also...

- * Volunteers for St. Matthews (774-0500) and Grace Place (455-2707).

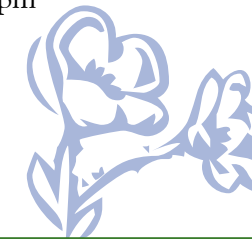
~ The Rev. Gordon J. Svoboda, Chairman



Come visit our mission partner ~ Grace Place for Children and Families:

Special informational tours are being offered for church members to come and see our faith in action.

- * Tuesday, March 29th at 10:00 am
- * Thursday, March 31st at 3:00 pm
- * Friday, April 1st at 1:00 pm



Our church partners with Grace Place to serve our neighbors in need (just 15-20 minutes away in Golden Gate city). Over 300 at-risk children and their impoverished families are learning the literacy, language and life skills they need to thrive. Almost 200 families every week are receiving emergency food provisions.

Please contact Rev. Stephanie Munz Campbell (455- 2707 or stephaniecampbell@graceplacenaples.org) to R.S.V.P. for a tour.

Precious Cargo Academy

All is well here at PCA.

We would like to thank you for your generous donations toward the PCA wish list. We have been able to purchase additional "ride-on" toys for our toddlers and preschoolers, as well as a small tunnel and climbing structure for our Infant Playground.

We also purchased herb plants for the rooms, so not only do they smell great, but we can make salad as a food experience! Other purchases, including new rocking chair cushions, cushions for high chairs and wheels for our strollers, are on their way. Thanks again for your donations.

Our 3's and 4's, Pandas, Giraffes and Elephants, were given the opportunity to watch and listen to the rehearsal of the Shanghai Children's Choir. They also had the pleasure of going up on the stage to meet the performers. What a spectacular cultural exchange!

PCA wishes you a happy and healthy Spring!

~ Mary Jo Welch, Director



Music Events

Wednesday, March 16th
Sanctuary, 7:00 pm
Purdue University
Men's Glee Club



Tickets are \$25.00 and are available for purchase at the Church office.

Tuesdays at Twilight
March 22nd
Beverly Hall, 7:00 pm



Adam Satinsky, *Cello*
Richard Bosworth, *Piano*

Adam will be playing a hand-carved, stunningly varnished one-year-old crimson cello which he says "sounds like a 280-year-old Strad." Richard will be playing our beautiful Bechstein piano purchased a year ago. You will be a part of the uncanny experience of hearing two instrumentalists sound as one. These two gentlemen have blended and synchronized their part to a "tee."

Tickets are \$30.00 and are available for purchase at the Church office.

Sunday, April 10th
Beverly Hall, 3:00 pm



Lan Lam, *piano*

After a five-year absence from the concert stage, pianist Lan Lam returns to perform variations of Haydn, Beethoven and Brahms. The program begins with Haydn's elegant but passionate Variations in F minor, followed by Beethoven's sublime masterpiece, his last Sonata, opus 111. After intermission Lan Lam presents Johannes Brahms's youthful and all-encompassing Variations on a Theme of Handel, whose concluding fugue is considered by some to be one of the most difficult passages in the repertoire.

Tickets are \$30.00 and are available for purchase at the Church office.

Tuesdays at Twilight
April 19, 2011
Beverly Hall, 7:00 pm

Glenn Basham, *Violin*
Dr. Becky Weese, *Piano*

Tickets are \$30.00 and are available for purchase at the Church office.

Wednesday Nite Live

March 16th at 5:30 pm

Old Gold and Black Dinner

Come one and all...

And make this a very special evening out with family and friends! Our dinner will precede the Purdue University Men's Glee Club Concert in our Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



Menu: Russell's Clambakes Pulled Pork Buffet Dinner with Black Beans and Rice.

Place: McSpadden Hall

Cost: \$12.00 per person, no charge for children 12 and under

Time: Dining between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Ticket reservations are required. Seating is limited.

On sale after Church on March 6th and in the Church office before Friday, March 11.

For further information contact Lynne Fries at 261-6171.

Highlights from Wednesday Nite Live, February 9th

"The Four Loves of FDR" and Kentucky Dinner



Rusty Brown and Regina Dell were the performers in "The Four Loves of FDR".



19th Annual Progressive Dinner

Last Call to sign up Sunday, March 6th between services in the Gathering Place or call Jean Partridge no later than Monday, March 7th, 353-7020.



- ◆ Social hour begins at 5:30 pm.
- ◆ Dinner begins at 7:00 pm.
- ◆ Dessert Buffet at 9:00 pm.

Saturday, March 12th

This special occasion is planned for Church Members and friends to become better acquainted with one another in small groups.

Everyone attending will be asked to contribute either by serving as a host, bringing an appetizer, salad or dessert.

If you have not previously hosted, please consider opening your home this year. Dinner homes are needed. What better way to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances.

Noteworthy...

“Do the Right Thing”



Danielle O'Connell with Sheriff Rambosk.

Two of our young people were honored at February's "Do the Right Thing" ceremony. This program was created by the Collier County Sheriff's office to honor school children who have exhibited exemplary behavior or performed acts of heroism. Along with several other young people, Danielle O'Connell and Alyssa Long were presented with a trophy and framed certificate by Sheriff Kevin Rambosk. Alyssa and a friend were honored for organizing a fund-raising event for a beloved teacher who was in financial need. Danielle was praised for reporting suspicious behavior, and her report led to the arrest of burglars.

Congratulations to Alyssa and Danielle!



Alyssa Long and her friend, Kendall Roy.

Womens Fellowship Luncheon

Bracelet Making Workshop



Monday, April 4th

11:30 am - 1:00 pm



Annie Knouse and Sarah Smith

If you are a cancer survivor or have been a care giver for someone receiving cancer treatment, you have first hand knowledge of the trauma associated with a diagnosis of cancer.

Enter two incredible ladies, Annie Knouse and Sarah Smith, who not only weathered the diagnosis as patient and care giver, but have dedicated their lives to benefit others who are fighting this insidious disease. They are the heart and soul of an amazing organization known as **KRYSTALS FOR CANCER**. This all volunteer program is supported by the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation.

The "bracelet gals" have been meeting at NUCC in Nelson Hall to string beautiful bracelets and necklaces that become items for fund raising at special events. Some of the volunteers are cancer survivors and their up-beat and positive attitudes are reflected in the bracelets they produce. All proceeds from bracelet sales go directly to the LMHS Foundation earmarked to help cancer patients in treatment.



While creating each piece of jewelry, we share laughter, tears, hugs and on-going support in times of need. In the sparkling crystals of each piece of jewelry, the lives of many are touched by the purchase of these lovely creations.

Following our luncheon and presentation by Annie and Sarah, we will have a workshop for any participant who wants to make a special bracelet for themselves or to give away to someone who may be going through this trauma. The materials are all organized in small kits that represent the many different types of cancer by special color combinations.

It is easy and fun to do. There is a \$25.00 charge to make a bracelet which is a significant savings from the normal retail price. During the luncheon and workshop, All of the Krystalz for Cancer jewelry items will be available for sale.

The luncheon is open to all and the workshop is limited to 30 people.

For more information, direct your questions to [Krystalzforcancer @ Comcast.net](mailto:Krystalzforcancer@Comcast.net) or Call Pat Slater 262-4867.



The "Bracelet Gals"

Youth Christian Education

Miss Nancy and I are very excited to begin introducing “centering prayer” into the life of all age groups. Centering prayer is a reflective and meditative style of prayer based on quiet and focusing on God. In our busy world a moment of quiet time with God is a rare treat. Imagine three to five minutes of silence with no cell phone, no TV... just you and God. We take this time to just listen and find a time of peace with God as we move into the Lenten season with its reflective inner look.

This will lead us to our annual Ash Wednesday Special Lent Service with Pastor Cathy in the Chapel which will be March 9th from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. We welcome all families with children and teenagers to join us in the Chapel for an intimate service with Pastor Cathy. We will have a prayer and reflection area in the courtyard and then move to a soup and bread dinner in McSpadden Hall. This was a very special time for us last year, and we look forward to spending this wonderful time of reflection of the Lenten Season with you and your children!

Pre-school

We have begun to look at the life of Jesus as he grew from boyhood and teaching in the temple to his ministry in the four Gospels. Starting with the story of his twelve helpers (the apostles), we talked with the kids about them being God’s helpers. We then talked about the story of the woman at the well and loving your neighbors. As we approach Easter, the stories will focus on Jesus’ life. We will prepare for the Lent Season with centering prayer.

Elementary School

It has been a blast as always with the continuing series entitled “How to Be With Your Attitude”. This is based on the teachings of Jesus found in Matthew 5. Our lessons take place in the setting of the World Eye Institute videos with the famous fictional Eye Specialist Dr. Seymour Clearly, who helps us to see spiritually. Some of these lessons have helped us learn to demonstrate God’s peace and accept God’s help.

We also continue to enjoy the creative and interactive art lessons presented by the church’s artists also known as the Palette Pals during our Wednesday Junior Disciples Program. The children made paintings to themed music, made paper hats, and enjoyed learning art techniques from the ladies who bless us with their talents and time.

Middle School

We cooked sloppy joes for the Shanghai Children’s Choir. Our lessons continue to focus on being made in the image of God. We talked about how we view ourselves and how others view us. The youth had fun when we taped paper on one another’s backs and wrote the qualities of God we saw in each other. We talked with the high school group about how we honor God in our every day lives.

High School

They also helped cook for the Shanghai Children’s Choir. We explored along with the middle school youth how we view one another. We talked about hypocrisy and the responsibility we have when we follow Jesus. We also enjoyed learning about the Beatitudes from the video series with the World Eye Institute. We will continue to talk about humility and service with more conversations and skits involving non-violent communication techniques.

Our first ever High School/Middle School bowling night was a tremendous time of fun, food and fellowship. We met many new friends. Word got out of this wonderful time, and on Sunday night Feb. 20th we had a family bowling night!

The College/20’s Group

We continue to meet at Barnes & Noble Coffee Shop for a once a month Sunday night discussion time. We also will continue to talk about the “Be-attitudes”.

March Birthdays

Jake Waleri 3/7 ★ Andre Aguilera 3/31

On February 1st we hosted 62 children and 13 teachers and leaders of The Shanghai China Radio Children’s Choir. They arrived by bus from Orlando, and we enjoyed time in the church game room and play areas, followed by an intensive practice for the wonderful show they performed for a packed church. Our kids and parents served a wonderful sloppy joe dinner for the entire choir.



Mr. Ron’s Youth Group Facebook page can be found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/profile.php?id=100000982432963>

This is a great place to catch up with youth topics and events and look for upcoming topics and discussions.

March 2011

What's Happening This Month at Naples United Church of Christ

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
		<p>1</p> <p>9:30am Learning In Retirement (N207) 1:00pm Stephen Ministry Class (N207) 3:00pm Music Committee (ACR) 3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (P) 6:30pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting (N204) 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting (ACR)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30am Chair Yoga with Shannon (WH) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 1:00pm Stephen Ministry (N207) 3:00pm Junior Disciples (N204)* 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (BH/S)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am Precious Cargo Chapel (S) 10:00am Basic Yoga with Shannon Danforth (MH) 2:00pm UCC Theology Class (N101) 4:30pm Camruzzi/Yeager Rehearsal (S) 6:00pm UCC Theology Class (N101) 7:00pm Interlochen Academy of the Arts (BH)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am Perky Patchers (N105) 5:00pm World Day of Prayer (GC)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:30pm Camruzzi/Yeager Wedding (S)</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Bishop John Shelby Spong</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service (Rev. Spong Preaching) (S) 10:00am Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 11:00am Worship Service (Rev. Spong Preaching) (S) 12:00pm Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 3:00pm Spong Event (S) 6:00pm Youth Group (N204)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Monday Morning Workshop (N104) 11:00am Palette Pals Meeting (N201) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 1:00pm Bell Choir Practice (BCR) 3:00pm Book Club (N101) 7:00pm VON Practice (BH)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am Long Range Planning Committee (ACR) 9:30am Learning In Retirement (N207) 1:00pm Stephen Ministry Class (N207) 3:00pm Precious Cargo Committee Meeting (ARC) 3:00pm Membership & Growth (N104) 6:15pm 4C's Training (N207)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Ash Wednesday ~ Soup Dinner (MH)</p> <p>10:30am Chair Yoga with Shannon (WH) 3:00pm Junior Disciples (N204)* 5:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (S) 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (BH/S)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am Precious Cargo Chapel (S) 10:00am Basic Yoga with Shannon (MH) 2:00pm Rev. O'Connell's Class (N101) 3:00pm Stewardship Meeting (ACR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00am Men's Breakfast Group (N101) 9:30am Perky Patchers (N105)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm Progressive Dinner</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time begins</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service (S) 10:00am Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 11:00am Jackson Patterson Baptism (S) 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm New Member Orientation Luncheon (N207) 12:00pm Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Monday Morning Workshop (N104) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 1:00pm Bell Choir Practice (BCR) 3:00pm Book Club (N101) 7:00pm VON Practice (BH)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Learning In Retirement (N207) 1:00pm Stephen Ministry Class (N207) 2:00pm Rental Committee Meeting (N101) 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (BH/S)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30am Chair Yoga with Shannon (WH) 3:00pm Junior Disciples (N204)* 4:00pm Bargain Box Committee Meeting (N101) 5:45pm WNL Dinner (MH) 7:00pm Purdue University Men's Glee Club (S)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am Precious Cargo Chapel (S) 10:00am Executive Club of Naples Condo Association (N207) 10:00am Men's Coffee and Conversation (N104) 10:00am Basic Yoga with Shannon (MH) 1:00pm Board of Missions and Outreach (N101) 2:00pm Rev. O'Connell's Class (ACR) 7:00pm PFLAG Meeting (N207)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Perky Patchers (N105)</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>New Member Sunday</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service (S) 10:00am Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 6:00pm Youth Group (N204)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Monday Morning Workshop (N104) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 1:00pm Bell Choir Practice (BCR) 3:00pm Book Club (N101) 6:00pm Trustees (N104) 7:00pm VON Practice (BH)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am Learning In Retirement (N207) 1:00pm Stephen Ministry Class (N207) 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Tuesdays at Twilight ~ Adam Satinsky, cello Richard Bosworth, piano (BH)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30am Chair Yoga with Shannon (WH) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 2:00pm Lenten Book Study with Dr. Patterson (N104) 5:30pm Precious Cargo Staff Meeting (N207) 6:30pm Lenten Book Study with Dr. Patterson (N104) 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (BH/S)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am Precious Cargo Chapel (S) 10:00am Basic Yoga with Shannon (MH) 2:00pm Rev. O'Connell's Class (N101) 2:00pm Labyrinth Meeting (MCR)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00am Men's Breakfast Group (N101) 9:30am Perky Patchers (N105) 7:00pm Chorus of the Everglades Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2:00pm Chorus of the Everglades Performance (S)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Stephen Ministry Sunday</p> <p>9:00am Worship Service (S) 10:00am Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P) 6:00pm Youth Group (N204)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Endowment Committee Meeting (N101) 9:30am Monday Morning Workshop (N104) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 1:00pm Bell Choir Practice (BCR) 7:00pm VON Practice (BH)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am Learning In Retirement (N207) 1:00pm Stephen Ministry Class (N207)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30am Chair Yoga with Shannon (WH) 1:00pm Duplicate Bridge (MH) 2:00pm Lenten Book Study with Dr. Patterson (N104) 3:00pm Junior Disciples (N204)* 6:30pm Lenten Book Study with Dr. Patterson (N104) 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (BH/S)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30am Precious Cargo Chapel (S) 10:00am Basic Yoga with Shannon (MH) 2:00pm Rev. O'Connell's Class (N101)</p>	<p>*Children's Choirs</p> <p>4:00pm Children's Choir: K-2nd Grade (BH) 4:30pm Children's Choir: Grades 3-5 (BH) 5:00pm Youth Choir Grades 6-12 (BH)</p>	

Adult Education

Who Are the Ministers?

In one of the churches I interned in, the bulletin listed on the front cover the names of the three Pastors. Then under that it said Ministers: All of you.

For most of us, “minister” and “pastor” are interchangeable. In reality, a pastor is one charged with spiritual oversight (and usually “set apart” by ordination). Interestingly, the Latin root of “pastor” (pacere) means to feed, which became the word “pastor,” which originally meant “herdsman.” So much for the essence of a pastor’s job of spiritual oversight in a congregation.

The word minister is again from the Latin — for “servant.” The first English definition for a minister is an “agent.”

Last month I spoke of Shannon Danford’s long-held desire to have a “yoga ministry” at NUCC. That might have sounded strange, but in her “serving” us in this way, with her popular classes at NUCC, Shannon is indeed an “agent” of God’s love and care amongst God’s people — not simply a yoga instructor. I trust (and know) those who take her classes feel ministered to.

So many members of this church minister in myriad ways — some quietly and valuably, and some more visibly and valuably. We definitely have a strong kitchen ministry here, an art ministry, a sewing ministry, a property-management ministry, group-leadership ministries, a labyrinth ministry, and on and on. We all are called to serve and to be agents of God-in-Christ’s vision for human stewardship of the earth and one another. We are ALL ministers. Think about what your ministry is.

~ Rev. Bev Duncan

Our Yoga Ministry

“Thank you—that was beautiful!”

“Really good! I’ll come again!”

These are just two of many good comments after our yoga classes led by church member Shannon Danford. Shannon has wanted for a long time to begin a ministry at NUCC using her professional training as a yoga instructor.

Shannon integrates yoga history and philosophy with her Christian spirituality in her approach to the exercise, relaxation through meditation, and renewal yoga provides.

The Chair Yoga and Basic Yoga classes that Shannon teaches here are uniquely centered in the concept of self-respect and care advocated by Paul the Apostle in 1 Corinthians 6:19: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God...?” Our bodies are sacred, and Shannon, with great skill, helps us remember that.

Chair Yoga meets Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the White House,
Basic Yoga meets Thursdays at 10:00 am in the McSpadden Hall.

The Book Club

We will resume on **Monday, March 7th at 3:00 pm in Nelson Hall 101.** “*Saving Cee Cee Honeycut*”, a debut novel by Beth Hoffman.

Twelve-year-old Cee Cee is catapulted from caring for her psychotic mother to living with a great aunt in Savannah, GA. Here she is surrounded by a cast of women who are wise, eccentric and strong with good old-fashioned heart. In a hilarious and heartbreaking journey, an unforgettable girl loses one mother, but finds many others.

Please join in for lively conversations and fellowship. Books are available online at Barnes & Noble, Amazon or local bookstores. Please contact Robyn Coker at 597-9174 if you would like more information.

New! Men’s Breakfast Group at NUCC!

Men — Come for an organizing breakfast on **Friday, March 11th, 8:00 - 9:30 am.** Want a safe place to talk about struggles and matters related to your faith, God in your life, who Jesus is for you, spirituality, and other personal religious issues generated by the group? Don Snyder, assisted by Al Hannigan, will model this group on a successful 25-year, every-other-week men’s breakfast gathering he has led in his church up North. Watch for announcements and an opportunity to sign up in the Gathering Space if you are interested in this unique opportunity for food and sharing.

Lenten Book Study with Dr. Patterson

For five Wednesdays in Lent this year (March 23rd, 30th, April 6th, 13th, 20th), Dr. Patterson will lead a book study on Robin Meyers book: “*Saving Jesus from the Church*”. Identical classes will be offered at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm in Nelson 104. Copies of the book will be available in the Church office before March 1st or it can be purchased on line for your Kindle. This book is one pastor’s attempt to help people understand “how to stop worshipping Christ and start following Jesus.” This provocative book will encourage discussion and cause us to reexamine our faith assumptions. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said of this book: “Every once in a while, a book comes along that changes everything. This is the book.”

Thursday’s at 2:00 with Rev. Cathy O’Connell

On March 10th we will begin a six week study of the last half of the DVD curriculum “First Light”. Theologians Dom Crossan and Marcus Borg will walk us through the final weeks of Jesus’ life and help us understand what those events meant for the first followers of Jesus and what they might mean for us. Meet in Nelson Hall 101 at 2:00 pm. Contact Cathy O’Connell for more information, 261-5469.



Sunday, April 3rd at 1:00 pm

Sr. Ruth Lautt, National Director of Christians for Fair Witness on the Middle East, will be speaking here at NUCC on “The Church’s Witness on the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Are We Fair Peacemakers?”

What is the legitimate role of the church in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict?

The church is a community of peace, led by the Prince of Peace; so the role of the church in any conflict must be one of peace making.

Since the main obstacle to peace in the Middle East may be the Israeli and Palestinian fear of death, and since we hear the voice of God say to us, “I want you to live,” we as Christians must find a way to bring that same good news—that God wants all of God’s children to live—to the Palestinians and Israelis. HOW do we bring that good news?

Sister Ruth Lautt, O. P., whose work is endorsed and actively supported by the United Church of Christ and other major denominations, will bring us her insights on this conflict, the democracy tremors in the region and their possible impact on Israeli/Palestinian negotiations, and answer our questions. Michael Downs, CEO of the Pension Boards of the UCC, will introduce Sister Ruth to us at morning worship.

A light lunch will be available to people staying after church for the 1:00 program. A freewill offering will go toward the work of Christians for Fair Witness. Please sign up after worship or through the Church office (261-5469) during March.

www.christianfairwitness.com



Volunteer Questionnaire

We need Your Help!

As a follow up to last summer's survey, we have included in this Steeplelights on the following pages (and enclosed in the last few Sunday's bulletins) a short questionnaire that will help us get to know each of you better. Many of you indicated an interest in greater participation in our church. Many of you wanted quicker and more timely communication about what is happening at NUCC. Some of you want more done by computer (like donating, receiving information, signing up for activities) while others are happy the way we presently operate! This questionnaire will help us make some valuable decisions.

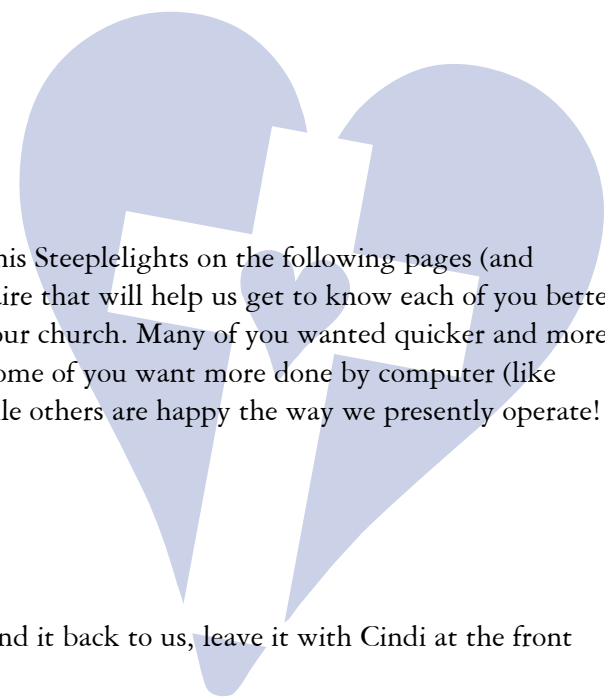
This questionnaire is VERY IMPORTANT!

We need one returned for EACH member.

Please take the time to fill out this short questionnaire and send it back to us, leave it with Cindi at the front desk in the Church office or in the box in the Narthex.

We will enter the information you provide in our private church database which will allow us the opportunity to involve each of you in our church life in the manner you have indicated.

Thank you!



State Recognition



The first month of celebrating the states in January has been a wonderful success. Many people have made new friends from their own state. On the Sunday that we recognize your state, invite your friends and then please pick up your state name tag at the kiosk before the service. After the 9:00 am service, meet and greet your state neighbors at the coffee hour. The Membership and Growth Committee suggests that you will be able to meet more people if those of you planning to attend the second service, will come early and have your coffee hour before the service.

March 6: New York, New Hampshire, Alaska and Hawaii

March 13: Michigan, Wisconsin and Nebraska

March 20: Pennsylvania

March 27: Connecticut and New Jersey

April 3: Ohio, Iowa and Indiana

April 10: Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, California, Tennessee and Texas

NUCC VOLUNTEER QUESTIONNAIRE

- Name _____ Date of Birth _____
- Full time Naples resident? YES NO If NO, what months are you in Naples? _____
- What state(s) other than Florida do you consider "home"? _____
- Have you served before on a committee or board (either here at NUCC or elsewhere?) YES NO

Would you consider serving on a NUCC church Committee/Board if you were interested in the mission of the Committee/Board? YES NO Please place: 1) a "check mark" beside those in which you might be interested; 2) an "NS" beside those on which you now serve; 3) an "HS" beside those on which you have served previously and would like to consider serving again.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> Precious Cargo(PC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education | <input type="checkbox"/> WNL - Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children and Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Deacons | <input type="checkbox"/> Bargain Box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Council |

- Please check the following areas in which you might be interested - or about which you would like to receive more information. If you are already involved in an area, mark it with a "0".

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Palette Pals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perky Patchers (Crafts - Fri.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Music Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> Bazaar | <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Morning Craft Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middlers | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Group - 20-30s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Bell Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Group - 30-50s |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild | Other _____ | |

- Please check areas in which you might be interested in volunteering for the church.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Assemble mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Answer telephone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facility painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Library work | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School Teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance & repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in kitchen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lot direction | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare communion | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with special receptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read to PC child/children | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor PC child | <input type="checkbox"/> Help in PC classroom at lunch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share talent with PC class | <input type="checkbox"/> Help in PC infant room | <input type="checkbox"/> Accompany PC field trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport donations to mission partners | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with weekday children/youth programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport shut-ins | <input type="checkbox"/> Help mission partner | <input type="checkbox"/> Make prayer shawls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make telephone calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher on Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake cookies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Coffee Hour | <input type="checkbox"/> Greet on Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a Church officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bargain Box | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach/share ideas | |
| | Other _____ | |

- Please check programming in which you might be interested.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music concerts/Recitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-help information | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Meditation/Prayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Labyrinth Ministry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

8. a) Have you ever volunteered at our Bargain Box Thrift Shop? YES NO *If NO, would you be interested in volunteering at the Bargain Box – or receiving more information?* YES NO
 b) Have you ever volunteered at Precious Cargo Academy? YES NO *If NO, would you be interested in volunteering or receiving more information?* YES NO

9. In order to help us learn more about you and your areas of interest and expertise, we would like to ask you some questions about your past experience. Please place check marks in the areas where you have knowledge and experience based on your work/volunteer background.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resource/Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailing/Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building and Grounds Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth education/programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Estate Planning/Financial Advisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planner | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writer | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Development experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Investment Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Church/Volunteer Leader/Chair of a |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> Church/Volunteer Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development/Early Childhood Education | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Please give a brief description of areas marked above:

What do you do in your "spare" time? Hobbies, etc _____

What is/was your vocation/occupation? _____

If you have expertise in an area where our church needs advice, would you be willing to help NUCC if called upon? YES NO

10. Do you use a computer for email? YES NO
If YES, would you be willing to receive information about our church activities and programs and status via email? YES NO Preferred Email address _____

11. Do you use a computer to search for information on internet websites? YES NO

If YES, would you be interested in accessing our NUCC website for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Information about church programs/events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Information about church finances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Information about church activities and missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Information about church volunteer opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Signing up to attend church programs/events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Signing up to learn more about volunteer opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | Making donations to stewardship and missions via the website |

12. Would you be willing to get your Steeplelights by email or through the website, rather than by US mail? YES NO email YES NO website

PLEASE RETURN TO CHURCH OFFICE OR BOX IN CHURCH NARTHEX

Membership and Growth

New Members ~ February 13, 2011



Chris and Charlotte Bramley are residents of Naples and Westborough, MA and are joining as Associate Members.



Mike and Kris Brown are residents of Naples and Chatham, MA and are joining as Associate Members.

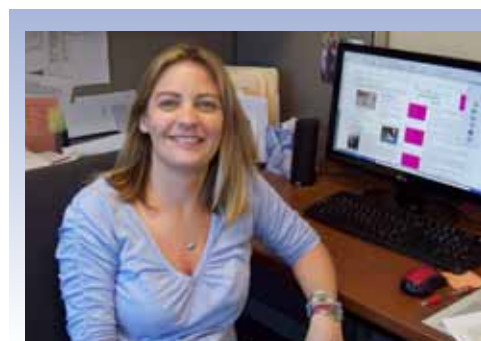
This Month's New Member Luncheon: March 13th following the 11:00 am service in Nelson Hall

This Month's New Member Sunday: March 20th

UCC Theology Classes Led by Dr. Patterson: March 3rd at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm in Nelson Hall 101.

Please call Susan Pratt at 239-261-5469 for more information.

New to Our Staff



Hello, I'm Donna Blais, and at the beginning of January I became the new Publication Specialist here at NUCC. I have been a Graphic Designer for almost 20 years and have a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art. I am originally from Massachusetts and moved to Naples with my husband and two small children almost two years ago. We are very happy to be living here and I'm very pleased to be working with all of you.



My name is Cindi Packard and I am the new Administrative Assistant. I have a degree in Business Administration from USF in Sarasota and a degree in Digital Design and Drafting from Hodges University. I have previously worked in healthcare and was the Administrative Assistant for First United Methodist Church in Naples. My three daughters attend school at Seagate Elementary, Gulfview Middle School and the Community School of Naples. I would like to thank everyone for the gracious welcome I have received here at NUCC.

March Birthdays

Harry Gillis3/1	Katy Serr3/14
James Nelson3/1	Gerry Van Fleet3/14
Marlene Braham3/2	Ana Prado3/15
Mary Lou Kelley3/2	Jack Richards.....3/15
Anita McCabe3/2	Flossie Watt.....3/15
Karen Bonnell3/3	Mary Fischer.....3/16
Patricia Bonner.....3/3	Tom Griffith3/16
Ruth Himburg3/3	Richard Ahrens.....3/17
Adelaide Spanton.....3/3	Sandi Button3/17
Walter Stevenson.....3/3	Nancy Cummings.....3/17
Darrel Seibert3/4	Ed Lyon.....3/17
Marcia Daily.....3/5	Charles Robichaud.....3/17
Scott Herstin3/5	Marcie Sener.....3/17
Cheryl Turner3/5	Pat Wiedner3/17
Lygia Brock3/6	Keith Huston3/18
Maggie Lauer3/6	John Ordway.....3/19
Kevin Myers.....3/6	Betty Jane Snyder.....3/19
Marianne Davis3/7	Bev Trucks.....3/19
Margaret Grant3/7	Ethel Gillis3/20
Katie Ogden.....3/7	Ellen Brown3/21/
Laura Wright.....3/7	Cara Melito3/21
Milton Haeger.....3/8	Terry Moore.....3/21
Bill Hall3/8	Russell Broad.....3/22
Kristy Thompson3/8	Bryson Goss3/22
Margaret Badgley.....3/9	Ralph Bailey3/23
Jean Doty.....3/9	Janet Lynch3/23
Bill Evans3/9	Dan Wistran.....3/23
Shirley Heimerl3/9	Jay Berkley.....3/24
Shanine Breit.....3/10	Lynda Christensen3/24
Mackynze Ryhan Noe.....3/10	Judy Jacobs3/24
Dick Lynch.....3/10	Jim Lundquist3/24
Carol Hunt.....3/11	Bill Stevens.....3/24
Jane Nelson.....3/13	Ed Graf3/25
Richard Pitbladdo.....3/13	Nancy Herlihy.....3/25
Robert Rowland.....3/13	Louise Engelke3/26
Ed Waldron3/13	Gail Lyon3/26
Stillman Copp3/14	Robin Lea Strob.....3/26
Lou Ann Ransom.....3/14	Dick Lynch.....3/26

Anniversaries

Ron Cornetet3/27	Robert & Elizabeth Thomason ... 3/2
Virginia Schott.....3/27	Harold & Helen Hasselbacher ... 3/4
Judy Hale.....3/28	Brian & Mary Guhl 3/5
Fred Klippert.....3/28	Darrel & Nancy Seibert 3/5
Beverly Oliphant3/28	Donald & Kathryn Matson 3/6
Karen Howick3/29	Richard & Judy Ahrens.....3/7
Patricia Fischer3/29	Robert & Joanne Bodine 3/10
Martin Biles.....3/30	Jeff & Debra Lambert 3/11
Andrew Fabacher.....3/30	Mike & Kris Brown 3/13
Gail Steinmetz.....3/30	David & Nardo Prado..... 3/15
Andre Aguilera.....3/31	Ronald & Sandra Baden..... 3/17
Judye Baer.....3/31	Caroll & Sally Arnold..... 3/23
Ashlyn Freshwater3/31	Roger & Elaine Osbond 3/23
Mark Haller3/31	Tom & Peg Walbridge 3/24
Evelyn Thoman3/31	Jim & Ruth Jackson..... 3/27
	Charles & Renee Lewis..... 3/29
	Bill & Janet Scott..... 3/30
	Stan & Elizabeth Wolfe..... 3/30
	David & Bobbi Hoefel..... 3/31

Condolences

To the friends and family of Robert Fisher, who passed on Jan. 31st
 To Merle Blow and family on the loss of Ernest (Dick) on Jan. 26th
 To Perle Sunder and family on the loss of Ed on Jan. 30th
 To Jane Gaillard and family on the death of her mother, Janet Vanderweil.
 To the family and friends of Kathryn (Kay) Pfeiffer.
 To Shirley Heimerl and family on the loss of Allen.
 To Emma Kingston and family on the loss of her husband Walter.

In Service to Our Country:

Yuri Higuchi

We wish to thank everyone for all of your prayers for our son, Jeff, while he was stationed in Afghanistan this past year. He is now back in the states, and so very grateful that your prayers were answered. We would like to extend a special thanks to Don McGee for all of his letters to Jeff and also Susan Pratt and the Monday Morning Ladies for their support during this difficult time.

~ Earle and Velma Cook

Bargain Box News

We have another exciting month ahead of us. The fundraiser for Grace Place was so successful that we are going to do another one on March 12th for Baby Basics.

You can help in many ways. You can volunteer, donate goods, make a cash donation or come shop on that day. Any way you do it will be greatly appreciated. There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone in need.

We have found in the past few weeks we are coming up short handed on volunteers. If you are interested, please call the Box at 262-3802.

We will welcome you with open arms. The fun never ends at the store. You can sort, work the register or spend your time on the floor straightening and visiting with the customers. We all work toward one common cause and that is helping people less fortunate than we are.

With so many people shopping, our shelves are a bit bare. If you need help getting your larger donations to us, call and we will send a mover or a van.

The Bargain Box thrift store put on a fashion show during a monthly luncheon for Shells, a local women's community group, in late February. Many of the over 100 women in attendance shared their enthusiasm with applause and gasps at the quality designer fashions (and their affordable prices), which were hand-picked from the store's boutique by Sandy Goldstein and the six volunteer models.

On March 12, Bargain Box is hosting another benefit at its store with proceeds from the day's sales going to Baby Basics. Coincidentally, it's the same date the popular St. Patrick's Day parade will take place down 3rd Street and 5th Avenue. Watch your e-mails for more information and promotions regarding this great charity event.

Your help is appreciated. Thank You

~ Sandy, Your Bargain Box Manager



Evlyn Bickford, Kate Frankel, Rose Ann Allcott, Barbara Hoye, Mary Lou Brenner, Darlene Plog, Doris Young & Sandy Goldstein, were the models who worked the room.



Send this gorgeous white full length leather coat with white fur hood back to your best friend up north.



Kate knocked everyone's socks off with this casual yet trendy ensemble that she topped off with a vibrant metallic jacket, hat, and purse.



Darlene is wearing the perfect mother-of-the-bride ivory flapper dress.



Darlene looks ready for elegance in this two-piece gold pant suit with a black beaded jacket.

It's Official!

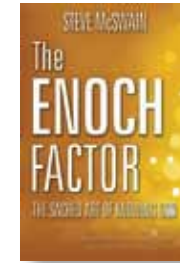
The Bargain Box is Expanding!

Our Moderator, Cheryl Turner, signing the new Lease Agreement which will enable the Bargain Box to move into a more spacious, accommodating area. More information to follow!



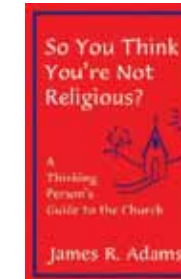
Book Recommendations

~ Don Snyder



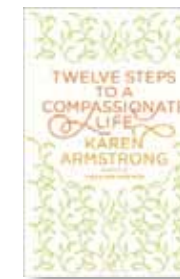
"The Enoch Factor – The Sacred Art of Knowing God" by Steve McSwain

The book plumbs the depth of our hunger to know God, not just know about God, and gives us the hope and the peace that we can walk with God. We discover a kindred spirit in an author who understands how religion can subvert a spiritual life. His story will help us navigate our own spiritual journeys.



"A Thinking Person's Guide to the Church" by James Adams

The author sets himself a formidable task; asserting the value of Christian faith and practice to skeptics, and overcoming their very reasonable objections. Doubters may find that Jesus would have supported them in their skepticism about organized religion. However, though participation in a church community may entail genuine risks much good may come of it.



"Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong

The author believes that while compassion is intrinsic in all human beings, each of us needs to work diligently to cultivate and expand our capacity for compassion. Here, in this straightforward, thoughtful, and thought-provoking book, she sets out a program that can lead us toward a more compassionate life.

Lectionary

Our music and worship resources each Sunday are based on the lectionary readings. The lectionary is a three-year cycle, which takes the reader through all the major themes in the Bible. Use these readings to prepare for Sunday and for your private devotions.

March 6th

Last Sunday after Epiphany/
Transfiguration
9:00 am
Lesson: Matthew 1:1-17
11:00 am
Lesson: Matthew 6:24-34

March 13th

First Sunday in Lent
Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Rom 5:12-19
Matt 4:1-11

March 20th

Second Sunday in Lent
Gen 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Rom 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9

March 27th

Third Sunday in Lent
Ex 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Rom 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Preserving Our Future

Your Endowment Committee is pleased to report that, even in this early phase of our campaign "Preserving Our Future," a number of members and friends have already come forward to share their plans to include the church in their estate plans. The early results are very encouraging.

We will give the congregation a quick progress report on Sunday, March 13th. However, you might be interested to learn that over 90% of our new commitments are coming from members' estates. The rest are current gifts to Endowment using cash or securities. So far, almost all new gifts are being directed to our Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

We will begin our "in person" meetings with members in March. However, if you know now that you are ready to talk with us about your plans to include the church in your estate, please call the church office or any Committee member. We look forward to talking with you about "Preserving Our Future."

Fred Berlet: 262-8803

Jane Gaillard: 435-1626

Jim Lozelle: 261-6680

Sam McCullough: 591-0496

Alan Olson: 261-1437

Charlie Sellman: 304-2253

Marilyn Sherwood: 254-0823

Dave Stevenson: 593-6860

Jo Ann VanDegriff: 947-9340

Dear Members and Friends:

Due to a mistake in our office, one fourth of our Pledge Card Letters were not mailed as requested. The remaining Pledge Cards have now been mailed. However, since they were not mailed in a timely manner, the letters are dated January 28, 2011. You can imagine how Stewardship giving has suffered when a quarter of the members and friends were not contacted and given the opportunity to support our efforts. Please pray for our efforts. If you have forgotten or misplaced your Pledge Card, please pick one up at Church on Sunday or contact Sharon at the Church office and help our Church be all that it can be.

~ God Bless, The Stewardship Committee

Financial Report

Yes! Yes! We had a balanced budget in 2010. Our goal for 2011 is another balanced budget. After the first month of 2011, we are on course with 11 more months to go. The key for another balanced budget is pledge payments. I will keep you posted.

~ Charles Hanscomb, Treasurer

Upcoming Events and News

Men's Coffee and Conversation

March 17th at 10:00 am. The discussion will be **Job Creation and the Economy and Education.**

Single Seniors

Sunday, March 27th at 12:30 pm. Our buffet lunch will be held at the Vineyards Country Club. Jean and Bob Partridge will be our hosts. Please sign up at the coffee hour or call the Church office.



The recent placement of the Maltese Cross signage at every entrance to our buildings on our beautiful Church campus is mandated by the State Fire Marshal and the local fire officials in accordance with Florida Statute s.633.121. This statute requires the placement of this symbol in order to warn persons conducting fire control and other emergency operations of the existence of light-frame truss-type construction in the structure.



Dr. Patterson with Sister Connie Krstolic, Sister Marie Ballmann and Sister Marcia Ziska during the Awakening the Spirit Retreat.



Women's Fellowship and Palette Pals Luncheon.



Congratulations to Cheryl Turner! She received an honor from John R. Woods Realty for being the #2 Individual Agent in the company for Production.

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (or PSP) may not be a familiar term to you. It falls under the Parkinson domain as a "Parkinsonian" disorder. PSP is a fatal neurodegenerative brain disease. A name you may recall, the comic actor and acclaimed concert pianist Dudley Moore was afflicted with this disease. In its progression it affects nerve cells that control walking, balance, mobility, vision, speech, and swallowing. Five to six people per 100,000 will develop PSP. On average it begins between 40 and 60 years of age and has no known geographic, occupational, or racial preference. Both PSP and Parkinson's disease cause stiffness, slowness, and clumsiness. This is why PSP may be difficult to distinguish from Parkinson's in its early stages. Currently there is no effective treatment or cure. Aspiring pneumonia is often the final cause of death. There is research, clinical trials and studies being conducted around the world. The cure PSP Foundation for PSP/CBD and Related Brain Diseases, founded in 1990, has the motto "Because hope matters". Being educated and aware of this slow, suffering, fatal disease will carry this hope for others.

The PSP 7TH Annual Awareness/Memorial Walk will be held on Saturday, April 2nd at Mackle Park on Marco Island. Registration is 10:00 am, the walk at 11:00 am with a luncheon following the walk. Call Cindy MacDonald, (239) 353-3960 for more information