

FROM THE PASTOR

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first she placed carrots. In the second she placed eggs and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity- boiling water. Each reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

How do you handle adversity? Are you the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do you wilt and become soft and lose your strength? Or, are you the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did you have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a financial hardship or some other trial, have you become hardened? Does your shell look the same, but on the inside are you bitter and tough with a hardened heart? Or, are you like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you.

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith, of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire, may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6-7

Dr. Marshall Cook

Birthdays & Anniversaries

...for May

1st	May McNeil	12th	Diane MacWilliam
7th	Glenn Hower	15th	Barbara Jacques
8th	Pauline Little	17th	Doris Powell
9th	Gail Cook	18th	Gladys Lansdown
10th	Katharine Gordon	26th	Norma Gwen Yoak
11th	Rev. Dr. Clyde Embling David Holtje	29th	Jim Filosofof

and ANNIVERSARIES —

7th Dick & Carol Sinotte

29th Clyde & Audrey Embling

A special congratulations to Clyde & Audrey as they celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary! All the best wishes to you both - you inspire many!

Correction and Updates

- Correction:* Please change the information in my mailing label, directory and/or church files
- Moving soon:* Here is my/our new address and phone number
- No thanks:* I/We no longer wish to be on your mailing list.

Message/Concern: _____

Name _____

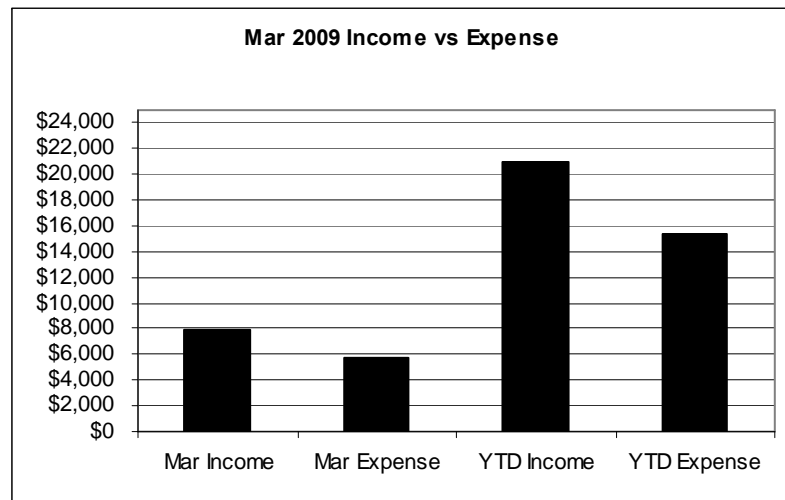
Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Birthday (mo/date) _____ Anniversary (mo/date) _____

Treasurer's Report...

March was a good financial month for the church. Normal income exceeded expenses by about \$2,200.00. Year-to-date income exceeded expenses by about \$5,600.00.



Fund transfers were not included in the numbers above. This is money gifted from Memorial and Designated Gifts funds and typically used for major purchases. These transfers increase the income over expense amounts to \$2,500.00 (March) and \$8,500.00 (YTD). The church needs these good "season" months to get us thru the slower summer months.

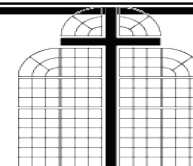
As usual, all bills are current. Respectfully submitted,
Charles Webb, Treasurer

Sunday, May 24th...

Articles can be dropped in the Treasurer's mailbox at church, e-mailed to candc@webbplace.com, phoned to (630) 761-3830; or faxed to (561)348-9909.



Prayer



List...

Sal Alibrio, Richie Allen, Fred Aniello, Wanda Bartoy, Carol Brooks, Stephan Burke, Ida Cram, Lori Culbertson, Gertrude Dovey, Alex & Dee Ford, Katharine Gordon, Shirley Hage, Bill & Jacque Hannah, Dennis Hower, Woodra Keene, Norma Kerkow, Debbie Knapp, Betty Lussier, Diane MacWilliam, Diane Millard, Bob Olobri, Don Rogers, Kathy Schaaf, Lillian Williams, Bill Wilson

NOTE: If any names contained here should be removed, or new ones added, please see one of our Deacons.

Our Sympathies...

Jim Welsh ... Jim passed away on March 25th in Somerset, PA. He was preceded in death by his lovely wife Elaine. Both were members of our congregation here at First Congregational during their winters in Florida. Jim's brother Paul and wife Shirley also wintered here and worshipped with us.



Tom Maybury's Family ... Tom's sister Peggy Maybury Springer passed away. Tom and Joyce were back in MA to attend her funeral service.

First Congregational Church of Ft. Pierce

(772) 465-2082 3601 Kirby Loop Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34981

Pastor: Marshall Cook (772/340-0472); **Organist:** Helen Boyd

Church Officers & Leaders—**Moderator:** Diane MacWilliam; **Vice Moderator:** Tom Maybury; **Clerk:** Carol Sinotte; **Treasurer:** Charlie Webb; **Asst. Treasurer:** Kim Sinotte; **Financial Secretary:** Diane MacWilliam; **Member-at-Large:** Bob Bater

Board & Committee Chairs—Trustees, **Don Locke**; Property, **John Souza**; Christian Education, **Becky Miller**; Deacons, **Tom Maybury**; Memorial, **Joyce Maybury**; Missions, **Audrey Magown**; Music, **Gerry Brown**; Nominating, **Diana Junker**; Auditors, **Bob Bater, Don Rogers**; Evangelism, **Cyndy Webb**; Women's Fellowship, **Carolyn Rogers**.

Marshall's Office Hours...

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1-4pm; Wednesdays Noon-2pm
 You may also feel free to contact him anytime at 772/340-0472. Please call before stopping by church in case he is out calling on people.

A Quarter Century... Where did the time go???

Did you know that First Congregational will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year? Do you have an interesting story or remembrance to share about our history? Next month we'll begin reliving our history and we want to hear from you. So...give me a call and share a story or two.

A Story worth the telling...

This applies to all of us; it may mean little at the time it happens to us but what it means to someone else.

After he retired, an old man opened a glass cabinet door, reached in and pulled out an old business journal. He sat down at his desk and placed it along side a journal his wife had kept about their son Jimmy.

His was leather-bound and engraved neatly with his name in gold, while his son's was tattered and the name "Jimmy" had been nearly scuffed from the surface. He ran a long skinny finger over the letters, as though he could restore what had been worn away with time and use.

As he opened his journal, the old man's eyes fell upon an inscription that stood out because it was so brief compared to other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words;

Wasted the whole day fishing with Jimmy today. Didn't catch a thing.

With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took Jimmy's journal and found the boy's entry for the same day, June 4. Large scrawling letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read;

Went fishing with my dad. Best day of my life.

Time has a way of opening our eyes to remembering what a difference a small statement can mean to another human being. May God bless you and may your dwell in his house forever.

~~ Submitted by Tom Maybury.



A big thanks to the following folks for their gifts!

... to **Leone Bater** and **Sandy Starkey** for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt for the kids.

... to **Joyce Maybury, Diana Junker, Elsa Millard, and Peggy Goldacker** who met on April 8th to do some additional cleaning in the church building.

... a very special thank you to **Albert & Helen Stankie** who purchased all of our lovely Easter flowers for the Sanctuary this season. This enabled memorial contributions to go toward replenishing the Deacon's fund.

... Pastor Marshall has been busy getting to know our congregation and four of our members have hosted some neighborhood get-togethers. Thank you to our hosts for your hospitality—Norma Gwen Yoak, Bob & Leone Bater, and the folks at Road Runner.

Property Committee...

Just as a reminder to all, if you are the last one leaving the church, please be sure to set the security alarm before you leave. That means you need to check that all the doors are securely closed before leaving. If, for instance, the sanctuary door is slightly ajar, you may think you are setting the alarm, but it will not be engaged. Thank you in advance for your help. If you feel you need a refresher in how to do this, please contact John Souza.

Our Season draws to a close...

Our last meeting this season was held on April 6th with guest speaker Hazel Haylman, executive director of "In the Image of Christ" who spoke eloquently and from the heart, about the organization. Its mission is to offer charitable services, health programs, educational training and prevention outreach to address health disparities in the community. They provide HIV prevention services, a food pantry including clothing and personal items, free educational group sessions and community events.

Women's Fellowship donated \$126 to the organization as well as canned and dry goods. Leftover items from our rummage sales have also been donated to this organization. All of these items are given to needy recipients free of charge.

Our annual luncheon was held on April 27th at Gator Trace. See you in the fall!



We welcome our newest members...



Pictured left to right: Gail Cook, Margaret Maher, Dr. Rev. Marshall Cook (Pastor), Brian Lammers, and Diane MacWilliam (Moderator).

During April we welcomed four new members into our congregation. Our new Pastor and his wife Gail made their membership "official". Margaret Maher is Sandra Cohen's daughter and has been worshipping with us for some time. She is currently serving on the Missions Board. Brian Lammers is another familiar face every winter. He lends his vocal talents to our choir each week during the season. Diane was pleased to welcome each and thanks each for their willingness to share their talents and commitment to the missions of our church.

Memorial Garden...

John Souza and Elaine Romano have completed planting in the Memorial Garden. If you wish to purchase some of the plants in memory of a loved one, please contact Elaine at 772-332-2120. Thank you both for your fine efforts!

In the mailbag...



You know, some folks relocate back north, and some relocate waaaaaaay north! **May McNeil** has moved to Alaska to be nearer her son and family. But, she does not want to lose touch with people. Her new info is:

3300W. 31st Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99517.

Jim O'Brien has been busy singing this spring. He was the guest baritone soloist with the Vero Beach Choral Society's production of Faure's Requiem in April; and sang with the Vero Beach Community Church Choir when they performed Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ" on Good Friday. Both performances were just superb! Thanks for sharing your talents Jim!

COUNCIL MEETING ~ April 15, 2009

Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00 with prayer. Those present were Cyndy Webb, Audrey Magown, Carolyn Rogers, Diane MacWilliam, Marshall Cook, Tom Maybury, Joyce Maybury, Becky Miller, Bob Bater, Don Locke, Gerry Brown, Charlie Webb and Carol Sinotte. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was accepted as printed. With State Farm likely to cancel the church's property insurance, Charlie discussed the options he is looking into to replace State Farm. He stated that finding an affordable and comparable replacement has not been easy and so far the UCC Insurance Board is the best option. He stated that an insurance appraisal is needed to make sure that the church is not over or under insured. A motion was passed to have an appraisal for the building and property done, to be able to make a better decision on the amount of insurance needed.

PASTORS REPORT: Marshall reported that the Lenten and Maundy Thursday services were well attended. Diane mentioned that only two people attended the Good Friday program, which was excellent and hoped that more would take advantage of this next year. New members were taken in on Palm Sunday. It was decided to invite the UCC missionary later this year.

DEACONS REPORT: The Deacons meeting was March 25th. Duties of the Deacons and Lenten services were distributed. It was decided to use fresh palms on Palm Sunday. The Easter Lilies were donated by Albert and Helen Stankie this year and the Deacons thank them for their generous contribution. A deacon will be available for Marion Kallstrom's memorial service. The deacons agreed to help serve a free supper for unemployed veterans if one is held.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Don said that the whereabouts of the title to the church is being researched.

PROPERTY REPORT: Don said that a new window air conditioner unit will be installed in Pastor Marshall's office next week.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Jerry reported that a price list is needed for funeral services.

STEWARDSHIP: It was decided to send reminder notices to those who might have forgotten their pledges for this year.

CHRISTIAN ED: Becky said that the Easter egg hunt was successful for the Sunday School children.

MISSIONS: Audrey reported that a speaker from the Image of Christ spoke to the Womens' Fellowship and was well received. All the food and other items that are donated to the Image of Christ are given to the needy. The council voted to donate our collected food to their organization from now on.

MEMORIAL: Joyce reported that contributions are being received for Marion Kallstrom. The funds will be used for upkeep of the Memorial Garden.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP: A meeting was held on April 6th. Hazel Haylman, the executive directory of "In the Image of Christ", was spoke and presented the mission of the organization. \$126.00 was donated to the organization as well as food to be used for their mission. A group of members met on April 8th to help with the cleaning of the church. The annual luncheon will be April 27th at Gator Trace and everyone is invited to attend.

EVANGELISM: Cyndy said that all the churches on our mailing list have been notified that they can receive our newsletter online and via our website. We will be able to save some postage costs by not having to mail a print copy. Our weekly newspaper ad was changed to reflect the times of our Holy Week schedule. The Wayside Pulpit will now be changed to reflect upcoming events or appropriate sayings in an effort to generate more interest and notice.

NOMINATING: no report

OLD BUSINESS: There have been 3 neighborhood get-togethers held so far with one more in the planning stages. Tom spoke for the membership subcommittee and said that letters might be delivered to homes in the area telling about our church.

NEW BUSINESS: October 25th is the 25th anniversary of our church. Tom will chair a committee to sponsor a celebration to be held possibly in February. Tom and "a person yet to be named" will be co-sponsors of the annual Holiday Bazaar. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 with all attending reciting the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Sinotte, Clerk