

**FROM THE PASTOR**

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and all the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am commanding you to build an Ark." And in a flash of lightning, God delivered the specifications for an Ark.

"Okay," said Noah, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints.

"Six months, and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You'd better have the Ark completed, or learn to swim for a very long time."

Six months passed, the skies clouded up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping...and there was no Ark. "Noah," shouted the Lord, "Where is the Ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn't meet code. So I had to hire an engineer to re-draw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system. Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch any owls. So, no owls. The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer. Now we have sixteen carpenters going on the boat, and still no owls. Then I started gathering up animals, and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind."

"Just when I got the suit dismissed, EPA notified me I couldn't complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. Then the Army Corp of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed new flood plan. I sent them a globe. Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over how many employees I'm supposed to hire. The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country. And I

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...for  
September

1st	Antio Espinosa	20th	Joanne Hower
7th	Roy Thompson		Bob Schwertfeger
15th	Ellen Huels	28th	Gerry Brown
18th	Janice Shogren		Peggy Smith
		30th	Peggy Goldacker

**and ANNIVERSARIES —**

4th ..... Ken & Mary Ann Hower  
David & Ellen Huels

20th ..... Tom & Joyce Maybury  
23rd ..... Glenn and Joanne Hower

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

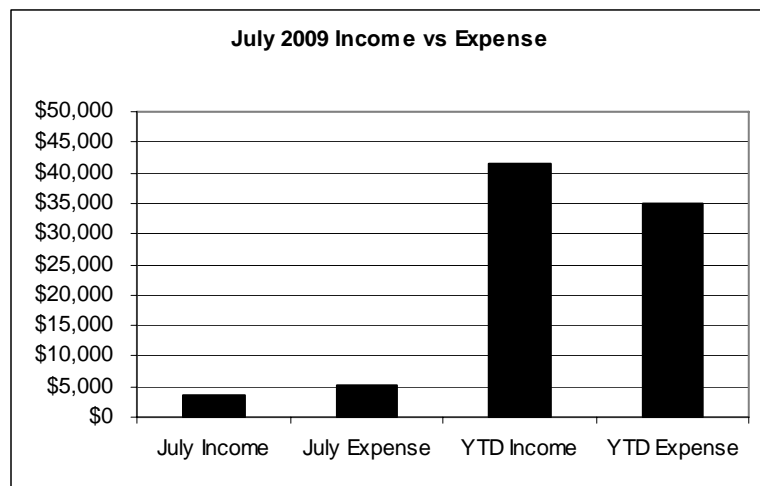
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (mo/date) \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary (mo/date) \_\_\_\_\_

# Treasurer's Report...

June and July were negative financial months for the church. Normal income exceeded expenses in June by about \$2,300.00 and July by about \$1,600.00. However, year-to-date income thru July still exceeds expenses by about \$6,400.00.



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 \$9,400.00 (YTD).

Due to concerns over proper insurance coverage, a property appraisal was completed in June. The appraisal will be discussed when the council reconvenes in the fall. As usual, all bills are current.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Charles Webb**, Treasurer



## September 13th...

All our snowbirds will begin returning shortly and that will mean more activities kick into gear. So, let's fill the newsletter with all that you have planned for the upcoming season.

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

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just got a notice from the state about owing them some kind of use tax. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for at least another five years."

The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth?" Noah asked hopefully.

"No," said the Lord sadly. "The government already has."

We're in a time when many worry about our government and our country. There are worries about the economy, worries about making ends meet, worries about the government's health care proposal, and as we move closer to 9/11, there will be worries about terrorism and the war against terrorism. Like Noah, what can we do? The simplest thing we can do is pray that our leaders will do the right thing, and pray for God's guidance for the future of our country.

**Dr. Marshall Cook**

**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.

## 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**.



### Rev. Arlo D. Vandlen

Rev. Arlo Don Vandlen, 88, died of a stroke on Sunday, June 7, 2009. He and his wife Gerry are fondly remembered by many of us here at First Congregational. Gerry

summed up Arlo's life well when she said, "For most of his life he has preached on the Love of Christ and eternal life, and he now has reached his final goal. Praise God!"

Our sympathy goes out to she and Arlo's families on their loss. For over 60 years he served churches of the United Methodist Church in various locations, as well as the UCC at Congregational churches in Lakeview, Dowagiac, Comstock Park, Michigan and the First Congregational Church of Port St. Lucie, Florida, where he was their founding minister. Gerry has mentioned that contributions in Arlo's memory may be made to First Congregational of Ft. Pierce.

### Betty Lussier

Betty Lussier, sister of Alice Fowler, passed away on June 22, 2009 at her home in Vermont. Betty has been on our prayer list for some time, and many of you will remember she and her husband Leonard who spent many a winter with us at First Congregational in Ft. Pierce. Ted and Alice Fowler had been with her visiting for a couple of weeks visiting where Betty was busy planting her garden and caring for her family. Our prayers go out to the Lussier family and the Fowler family.

### Marilyn Brown

Marilyn Brown, 84, died Aug. 1, 2009, at the Life Care Center of Port St. Lucie. Many of us remember Marilyn in her role as a substitute organist here at First Congregational Church. For those of us in the choir, it was sheer delight to have her appear and play for us. We smiled all the way through practice because her enthusiasm and joy were absolutely contagious! Our sincere sympathy goes out to her husband of 59 years, Dr. William Brown, who was always at her side when she played the organ at First Congregational. Memorial contributions may be made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, 801 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006-3517.

### Additional Sympathies...

Our condolences go out to **Lynn Volanski** on the passing of her aunt, Jean Brandt.; and to **David Holtje** on the death of his sister.



### Mission Efforts take many shapes...

- Bring in your "Box Tops" and "Labels" for Education or donate to the food bank "In the Image of Christ". There is a bin and container located by the front door for your convenience in donating to these two efforts.
- Bring refreshments for after-church fellowship
- Be a Lay Reader, Usher or Greeter. When you return this winter, perhaps you will consider helping to spell our "year-rounders" who have served all summer long.
- Join the Crafty Ladies—come at noon on Wednesdays or make something at home.



- Plan to be a part of CROP Walk next February

### Monthly Meetings to Resume...

It's a brand new season and our monthly meetings will begin again in September (date to be announced) at 12:00 noon. Plan to bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy lunch together with friends. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Our yard sale will be in October so start cleaning out the garage and closets for the sale. More details to follow!

### The Blessing Jar...

Have you seen the big jar with the fabric skirt on it in the main entry way? It's for extra blessings that we may receive any pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or dollars to help others. Remember every penny is a BLESSING from GOD.

## Thank you's...

Benjamin & Charlotte Gray would like to say, "Thanks to everyone for their help in sending us to summer camp at the Crossings Church. We had a wonderful summer. The things that we did were going to chapel, doing puzzles, learning new songs, going outside to play sports, arts & crafts, watching movies, learning new dances & making new friends. Thank you for making this a wonderful summer."

Love, Charlotte & Benjamin

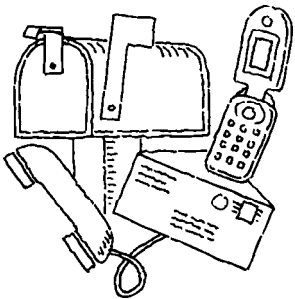
On June 21st we were treated to wonderful music thanks to Helen Boyd who brought a quartet made up of Sandra McNiff, Barbara Humer, Bill Coslett and Joseph Zablinki to sing for us during the church service. What a treat! Their music was wonderful and truly inspirational.

Gerry Vandlen offers a special thank you to those who have sent cards on the death of her husband, Rev. Arlo Vandlen. They have been much appreciated.

John Sousa extends thanks to Judy, Peggy and Elsa who cleaned the windows and blinds with him. If you are interested in any occasional cleaning or maintenance projects, please let him know...and he can put you to work. We love our "church mice"!

## Member news...

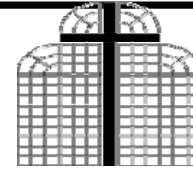
Bob & Leone Bater have had some challenges over the summer. Leone had foot surgery and has been in a cast all summer and Bob was hospitalized with heart problems.



## Address Updates...

- **Gerry Vandlen** has moved into a new apartment. Her address is now:  
1551 Franklin ST SE, #3027,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
- **Dick & Audrey Magown** have moved to Vero and can now be found at:  
1700 Waterford Dr # 308,  
Vero Beach, Fl. 32966  
Ph 772-564-7971

## Prayer



## List...

Sal Alibrio, Richie Allen, Fred Aniello, Jill & Trent Barker, Wanda Bartoy, Helen Boyd, Carol Brooks, Stephan Burke, Ida Cram, Lori Culbertson, Gertrude Dovey, Clyde Embling, Adam Flanigan, Alex & Dee Ford, Jim Fritz, Alice Fowler, Katharine Gordon, Jennifer Gray, Shirley Hage, Dennis Hower, Woodra Keene, Debbie Knapp, Diane MacWilliam, Audrey & Dick Magown, Diane Millard, Chuck St. John, Kathy Schaaf, Carol Strunk, Lillian Williams

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



Worship &  
Music

## We're gonna miss you Helen!

Helen Boyd has announced that she will retire as our organist and choir director in October. The 18th will be her last Sunday. We'll be sorry to see her go. Speaking on behalf of the choir, Helen has done a terrific job and rehearsals are well organized and we have all had a delightful time working with Helen. You have made us work and grow, and all the while gifting us with a most enjoyable time.

In the meantime, if anyone knows of someone interested in filling this position, or has any suggestions, they can contact Gerry Brown, chair of the Music Committee.

From the  
Moderator



## Notes from the road well travelled... ...in other words, Diane's been on the road and has lots of news to tell us!

On June 16th, Sandy Starkey and I left Ft. Pierce to journey to New England. Our first stop was in St. Mary's Georgia where we had notified Marge Hauer we were stopping to see her. What a pretty, little town. Although Marge has given up her car, she directed us around town which is dominated by a U.S. Navel Submarine station. She is living in a Methodist Independent living facility. Her apartment is lovely with a small kitchen, a good-sized living room and bedroom. Her bathroom is large with lots of storage space. There are double glass doors in her living room looking out over the lawn which backs up to the woods. Marge gets a great deal of enjoyment watching the birds come to her feeder. She took us on a tour of the main dining room, craft and social rooms, etc. We met some of the staff and her new friends there. All in all I'd say she is very fortunate and certainly happy to be in such a nice place. Although she goes to church there, she says it just isn't the same as her wonderful church family in Ft. Pierce which she misses sorely. After spending the night in a local motel, we resumed our travels the next morning.

Next stop was to Colonial Williamsburg where we spent the day sightseeing. Coming from New England and being steeped in Boston, Concord, Lexington pre-revolutionary events, it was interesting to see what was going on in Virginia during the same time period.

The next morning we headed off to Pennsylvania to see Dick and Marilyn Kreger. We had dinner and spent the night with them. It was a night of little sleep as we talked until we had covered all of our shared interests. They are both in good health. Dick is still organist at his church. Most of all they are enjoying their girls and their grandchildren.

Last week a friend drove down to central Massachusetts with

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me to see Kathy Schaaf. Despite this past winter's broken shoulder and wrist, she is doing well. She is in a remote area so she does not have a lot of neighbors and hasn't found a church where she really feels at home. Her main interests are singing with a group that visits nursing homes, and, of course, her grandson, Freddie, whom she sees usually once a week. Freddie will be 3-years old in November. Kathy misses all her friends in Ft. Pierce. I tried to talk her into coming down this winter. Hopefully she will have good health and be able to join us.

Tom and Joyce Maybury have spent time with me this summer. We also took a trip to Nova Scotia, Canada, to see mutual friends. We experienced a week of rain, but we were used to that as it had rained in New England ever since we got here from Florida. We had a delightful evening at a Scottish Tattoo. Such wonderful international entertainment! There was even a fife and drum group from the county in Massachusetts where Al and I grew up and brought up our children. They dress as during the Revolutionary War and are called the Massachusetts Volunteers.

The day after I saw Kathy, I left for New Brunswick, Canada with a niece where we saw members of my family and Al's family. The Mac's got 24 people together on short notice for a covered dish supper. There was lots of reminiscing, laughter and games. This was Al's family but they are like my own as I've known them all since I was a little kid.

The summer is fast growing to a close. It's been wonderful spending weekends with children and grandchildren. It will also be good to be back in Ft. Pierce with friends and family there.

As we all return during the fall, may we come refreshed, optimistic and committed to helping our church grow. We have God's love and our own love and warmth to share. Let's do it!!!

Love,  
**Diane MacWilliam**