



Every once in a while someone tries to convince me that going to church "isn't really necessary" for them to be a "good Christian." I make an attempt to give good theological reasons why going to church is necessary for all Christians, but sometimes feel frustrated that my arguments seem to go over the head of my audience.

The internet has come to my rescue with a story that says in everyday language what I attempt to make clear to people.

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone to church now for some thirty years," he wrote, "and in that time I've heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I've come to the conclusion that I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

Needless to say, this started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the newspaper. It went on for weeks until someone wrote the following letter: "I've been married now for some 30 years, and in that time my wife has cooked over 32,000 meals. For the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this...they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work and flourish. If my wife hadn't given me those meals, I would be physically dead now. Likewise, if I hadn't gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

That about says it all. Even Jesus spent time with God in order to be strengthened. He spent forty days and nights in a wilderness area to prepare himself for his mission. Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter, set aside for spiritual growth as we prepare for Easter. We hope you will use the Sundays during Lent, as well as every Sunday, as a time for spiritual nourishment and growth.

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.

Upcoming Dates...

LENT SOUP & SANDWICH DINNER
 Every Wednesday of Lent at 5:30pm

CROP WALK—Sun., Feb. 28th

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—Mon., Mar. 1st

YARD/RUMMAGE SALE—Saturday, Mar. 6th

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY—Sat., Mar. 13th

BREAKFAST—Sun., Mar. 14th

(Served 9:15-9:45)

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING—Sun., Mar. 14th

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER—Wed., Mar. 17th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—Sun., Mar. 21st

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 _____

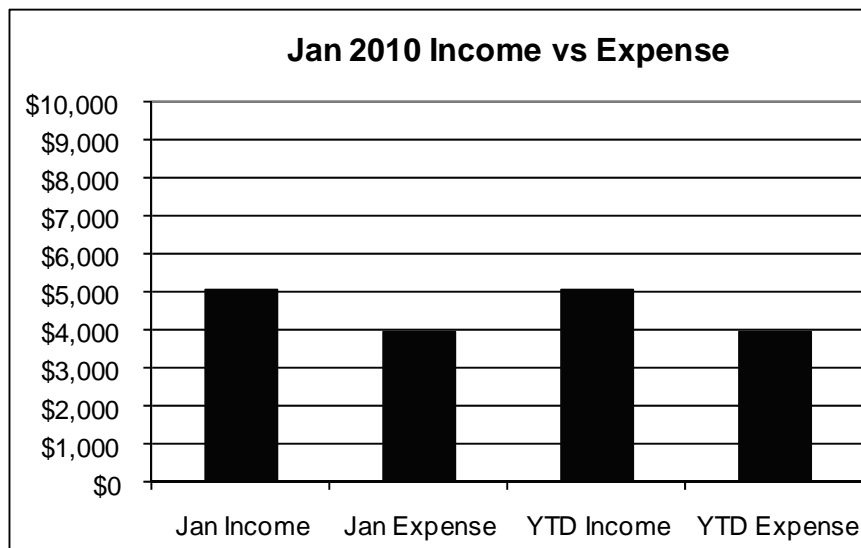
Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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

Treasurer's Report...

January was a good month for the church, ending \$1,138.00 in the black. As usual, all bills are current.



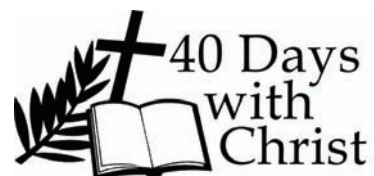
Good financial months during "season" are important so the church can get thru the slower summer months.

Respectfully submitted, **Charles Webb**, Treasurer



March Birthdays...

9th	Julia Culbertson	24th	Jane Erickson
15th	Kathy Schaaf	27th	Bruce Forbes
	Richard Sinotte	30th	Jim O'Brien
20th	Jason Fairbanks	31st	Marshall Cook
	Brian Lammers		



Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers...

Each Wednesday during Lent there will be an opportunity to grow spiritually as we prepare for Easter. A soup and sandwich supper will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by a time of devotions. This year our focus will be on prayer. Each week a video will depict the impact of prayer in the lives of individuals and families. Then there will be a discussion on how to make prayer more meaningful in our lives.

Since St. Patrick's Day (March 17) falls on a Wednesday this year, Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. Tickets are now available for purchase.

Wednesday, March 24, we will have our soup and sandwich supper, AND we will have guest speakers that night—Laslo and Coralyn Medyesy, who have served as missionaries with the United Church of Christ for fifteen years. They are on leave and visiting churches in our Florida Conference. Laslo serves as professor of theology at the Karoli Gaspar University in Budapest, Hungary. Coralyn serves as a teacher of Social Work and Diakonia at the Nagy Koros School.

First Congregational Church of Ft. Pierce

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

Pastor: Marshall Cook (772/340-0472); **Organist:** Janis Gonzales

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.



Clean your closets, and garages
because it is Yard Sale time!!!

SATURDAY, MARCH 6th

Please remember us when doing your spring cleaning or down-sizing. Items can be brought in on March 3rd and 4th. As always, we will need volunteers. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. We appreciate your assistance in this fundraiser. All items left over at the close of the sale are donated to *In the Image of Christ*, a local Ft. Pierce outreach ministry.

Installation Service...

The Rev. Dr. Marshall Cook was officially installed as our pastor during the morning service of worship on Sunday, Jan. 31st. The Rev. Bill Koch, our Southeast Regional Conference Minister delivered the sermon and officiated at the installation.

Thank ou to Bill and his wife for joining us for the weekend—attending the 25th anniversary party the night prior, and delivering a sermon challenging us as a community to “spread the word.”



Women's Fellowship...

Please plan to join us at our next meeting March 1st when we will elect new officers for 2010-

2011. Nominees are: Co-Presidents **Peggy Goldacker** and **Diana Junker**; Vice-President **Carolyn Rogers**; Secretary **Julia Culbertson**; Treasurer **Alice Fowler**. We will also make final plans for the March 6th Yard Sale. Hope to see you there.

We are also sponsoring the Yard/Rummage Sale on March 6th...so purge those closets and garages!

Carolyn Rogers, President

Let's Build Hygiene & Baby Kits for Disaster Relief...

Church World Service helps throughout the world (and in the US) in the ace of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, by providing Hygiene Kits. These can literally mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

One night, as a part of our Wednesday Lenten Soup & Sandwich supper, we will be assembling Hygiene Kits and Baby Care Kits.

Your mission now...is to begin collecting the supplies needed for the kits. You can bring them in to the church, and when we've collected enough, we'll set aside some time, probably during one of our Wednesday evening Soup & Sandwich nights, to work together and assemble the actual kits. **DO NOT** try to assemble kits beforehand as they need to be done in a specific manner.

Please note we **DO NOT** need toothpaste for the Hygiene kits. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. All hygiene items will be sealed in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.; baby kits will be wrapped inside one of the receiving blankets and secured with diaper pins.

Hygiene Kit supplies needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids®

Baby Care Kit supplies needed:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be handknitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)



Mission Efforts Abound...

The joy of serving Christ and others can be found both within the church and in the world at large. We have many opportunities to play a part. We each have different gifts and talents. So the question is...how can you best use your God given gifts? Here are some ideas.

Mission Efforts have many looks...

- **Food Pantry:** Drop off non-perishable food and toiletry items in the bin by the front door. These are delivered regularly to a local ministry.
- Bring in your **“Box Tops”** and **“Labels” for Education**. There is a bin and container located by the front door for your convenience.
- **Join the Crafty Ladies:** Come at noon on Wednesdays or make something at home.
 - Be a **Lay Reader** at Sunday service.
 - Be a part of **CROP Walk on Sunday, Feb. 28th.** Set aside the date to walk, or plan to pledge your support to one of our walkers. You can also make a pledge online at: www.churchworldservice.org.

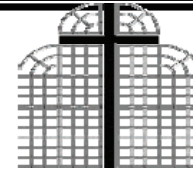


In the Image of Christ receives donation...

This year our church is supporting local ministry *In the Image of Christ*. Hazel Hoylman, executive director, joined us for our worship service on Sunday, Feb. 21st to accept our quarterly contribution toward their mission efforts.

As Hazel explained, she first began this effort to take on the AIDS problem in our area, but quickly learned that until people's basic needs were attended to, it was difficult to educate them on AIDS prevention and care. So, today they operate a food and clothes pantry, are active currently in relief for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, and active in community ministry. Hazel is grateful for our partnership with them in their outreach efforts.

Prayer



List...

Sal Alibrio, Jim Allan, Richie Allen, Fred Aniello, Wanda Bartoy, Carol Brooks, Stephen Burke, Ken Courtwright, Ida Cram, Gertrude Dovey, Alex & Dee Ford, Jim Fritz, Jennifer Goldacker, Katharine Gordon, Woodra Keene, Jennifer Gray, Shirley Hage, Diane Harrison, Dennis Hower, Norma Kerkow, Debbie Knapp, Don Locke, Maija MacKenzie, Diane MacWilliam, Dick Magown, Joyce Maybury, Diane Millard, George & Betty Pallas, Don Rogers, Chuck St. John, Kathy Schaaf, Carol Strunk, and Lillian Williams

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



All-Church Workday...

Don't be scared—you CAN do this! There are a number of small projects inside and out which need some tender loving care. So, if you can, please set aside some time on the morning of:

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th

What do they say...many hands make light work. Won't you please come and lend your hand to the effort? Thanks in advance for your willingness to help out and keep our little church looking its best!



Sunday, March 21st...

I need your help and input to make this newsletter happen so please send/drop-off your articles. As usual, articles can be dropped in the Treasurer's mailbox at church, e-mailed to candc@webbplace.com; or faxed to (561)348-9909.

Bible Quiz (or eye test!)

There are 30 books of the Bible in the following paragraph. Yes, there really are! Can you find them? See Alice Fowler for the answers...

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

From the
Moderator



The Treasurer has come up with a budget and the Stewardship committee will soon be asking you for pledges. While this is going on, I would like you to stop and remember that a budget is not just a set of dry figures. These figures mean many things...

- They represent the spiritual concerns, goals and programs of the congregation.
- They mean we have a wonderful pastor preaching, teaching, counseling, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, even singing and helping us know how to share our faith.
- It is the music program with a talented and dedicated music director who leads us in congregational singing, teaches the choir and play the organ—all to the glory of God.
- It is Sunday School teachers who must have curriculum to teach our children.
- It is UCC home missionaries in impoverished urban and rural areas.
- It is Missionaries in the foreign field sent to preach the good news of Jesus Christ, heal the sick, train the hungry to grow food and provide education for a new generation of church leaders.
- It is building schools, hospitals, children's homes and retirement centers and staffing them.
- It is our beautiful little church building whose doors are always open to welcome people from all walks of life.
- It is a warm, loving family where many deep-seated friendships have been formed.
- And most of all, our church budget is the expression of our Christian compassion and love, the demonstration of our spiritual hopes and desires, and our realization that God holds each of us accountable for the stewardship of our time, talents and treasure.

Please try to be generous as you think about all the church means to you. Thank you...

Diane MacWilliam, Moderator

25th Anniversary Celebration...

A good time was had by all 84 people who attended our 25th Anniversary celebration. October was the real date but it was held in January so as many people as possible could attend.

We had guests including the Rev. Wm. Koch and his wife; Bill is our area minister. Don Stoner, retired UCC minister from Vero who fills in for us when needed. It was wonderful to see Jason and Trish Fairbanks and Emerson who has grown so much! Jason tells us that he finishes school this year and we look forward to his ordination. Dick and Helen Boyd were also on the list of visitors as she was a former music director prior to Janis. What a joy it was to welcome back Kathy Schaaf whose late husband, Clarke, led this church during its most prolific years (we had 166 members at one point during his ministry). Rev. Jim O'Brien, retired UCC minister who was a school friend of Clarke's and attended this church for a couple of years lending his beautiful voice to our choir.

The living charter members were acknowledged: John Bachausen, Pat & Emmet Bussey, Sandra Cohen*, Julia Culbertson*, Charles & Jan Erickson, Janet Ingraham, Barbara Jacques, Charles Jones*, Diana Junker*, Norma Kerkow*, Diane MacWilliam*, Spike Makey, Barbara Merrill, Kathy Schaaf*, John Sousa*, and Helen Stankie*.

Speeches were given by guests, a delicious chicken dinner was served, candle favors were given to the ladies, centerpieces were distributed. A wonderful collage of pictures adorned one wall of the sanctuary provided by David Holtje.

The highlight of the evening, according to many, was the entertainment. Janis led the choir in singing several lively favorites. The song that brought the house down was *Never Polka with a Porcupine* accompanied by Janis and Marshall on their accordions! And the rousing finish was provided by none other than our own "Willy Nelson"...David Holtje!

A wonderful evening was provided for everyone by the hard-working committee. Special thanks goes to **Diann & David Holtje, Rusty & Jack Goodwin, Carol & Dick Sinotte**, and to their fearless leader **Diane MacWilliam**.

* Attended in person



Happenings and News to Share...

We extend our sympathy to **Rusty Goodwin** and her family on the death of her sister, Norma Harris.

Happy congratulations to **Becky & Lindsey Miller** on the birth of a new granddaughter. Becky proudly has pictures to share!

We welcome **Audrey Studholme** back to Florida. Audrey has now relocated and is living at Brighton Gardens in Port St. Lucie. She loves visitors and notes from friends! She can be found at:
1699 SE Lyngate Drive Room 138
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
Cell Phone 772-971-4527

What a wonderful time was had at our 25th anniversary celebration! We have to hand a huge thanks to our committee: **Rusty & Jack Goodwin, Diann & David Holtje, Carol & Dick Sinotte & Diane MacWilliam**. Also, thanks to Janis Gonzales and her entertainers of the evening.

Diane Holtje would like to extend a special thank you to Diane MacWilliam...*"As part of the committee, I would like to thank Diane MacWilliam for making it happen. She put a lot of time and effort into making it turn out so lovely. Diane, thanks again for another wonderful church memory."*

It has been good to see old friends and members, such as **Dick & Marilyn Kreger** who joined us for the month of February. Last Sunday we all enjoyed Dick and Janis playing organ and piano duets throughout the service. Thank you for sharing your friendship and musical gifts!