

Happy Birthday to Us!

In 1981 the Board for Homeland Ministries and the Florida Conference began a demographic study of the Fort Pierce area to determine if a need existed for a United Church of Christ. The study continued until 1984 when a decision was made to begin a "new church start."

The Rev. Dr. Charles O. Erickson was chosen to be the founding Pastor of this new church start. In December 1984, two open invitational meetings were held to discover the vision of a new UCC church in Fort Pierce. A total of 10 people responded to newspaper advertising

Sunday, March 17, 1985, the first service was held in the gymnasium of Indian River Academy on Tedder Road in Fort Pierce. The original name selected was Pilgrim Way Congregational Church, and was later changed to First Congregational Church.

The first service in our present location was July 3, 1988 with the new sanctuary being added in 1993.

To celebrate our twenty-five years as a church we are having an Anniversary Dinner at the church on January 30th at 5:00 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from Diann Holtje or Rusty Goodwin. No tickets will be sold after January 24th. Tickets are \$12 which include a catered chicken dinner and entertainment.

An anniversary is a time to look back at what we have done and where we have been, to pause, give thanks and celebrate. An anniversary is also a reminder that what we have done should be an impetus as to where we are going. An anniversary should be a time to remember that God has been our guide through these past twenty-five years, and it is only with God's help and guidance and our dependence upon God that we will have another twenty-five years. May we be attuned to

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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.



February Birthdays...

3rd	Mea Hulme	20th	Charles Basdekis
8th	Trish Fairbanks	22nd	Marge Hauer
	Beatrice Lariviere		Dorothy Klein
19th	Audrey Embling	26th	Jeannette Merrill
		27th	Betsy Wolmer

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 _____

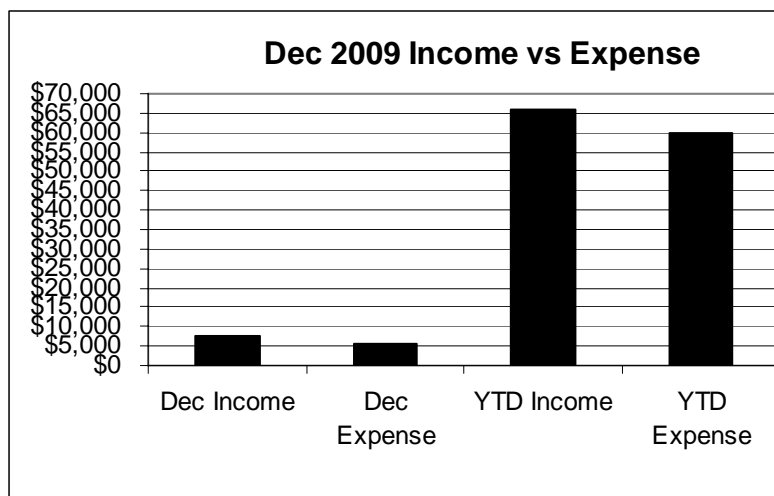
Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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

Treasurer's Report...

December was a good month for the church, ending \$1,905.00 in the black. The Holiday Bazaar and Enjoyment Book revenue helped out a lot. Income for the year exceeded expenses by \$6,124.00.

For 2010 the church anticipates increases in property insurance,



electric, and water. Our interest income will be down significantly due to much lower interest rates. Final budget information will be available in February. As usual, all bills are current.

Respectfully submitted, **Charles Webb**, Treasurer

Enjoyment Books...

Still available...be sure and get yours today! Only \$35 again this year with loads of 2-for-1 coupons. \$10 from every book sold comes back to the church.

Coupons are good now through Oct. 31st, 2010. And what better money saver for the person looking to stretch their entertainment dollars!

This is a great fund raiser for us, so please, if you



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God's guidance as we look ahead to the next twenty-five years and beyond!

Dr. Marshall Cook

PS...I would also like to thank the congregation for their generous Christmas gift. It was most appreciated.

Wednesday, February 17th

6:00 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter, set aside for spiritual growth as we prepare our lives for Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

The name comes from the medieval custom of marking the foreheads of penitents with the ashes of palm branches that have been blessed on Palm Sunday of the preceding year. In the Bible, people covered themselves in ashes to express sorrow over the death of a loved one, as well as demonstrating one's desire for forgiveness. This year, Ash Wednesday comes on February 17. We will have a special service starting at 6:00 p.m.

Those of you who wish may come to the Altar to receive the ashes of repentance. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated, symbolic of God's love and forgiveness.

Lenten Soup & Sandwich Suppers...

We will again have these suppers on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Plans are being finalized for programs and will consist of some Bible study program and mission activity. Save the dates and join us for dinner!

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

We will begin collecting your donations at the end of February, so start putting your stuff together. This is a good fund raiser for the church, and a ministry to those in the community in need of a good bargain. 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 will be officially installed as our pastor during the morning service of worship on—

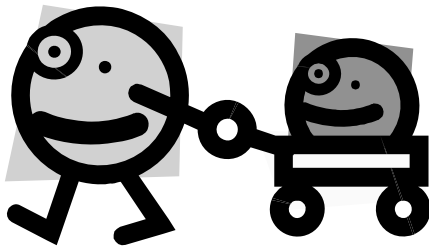
Sunday, January 31st

The Rev. Bill Koch, our Southeast Regional Conference Minister will deliver the sermon and officiate at the installation.

Need a lift?

Maybe we can help. Perhaps you no longer drive at night and would like to participate in an evening event. Or maybe you need a ride to church.

Please contact Marshall or the church and we'll see if we can line someone up to give you a lift.



From the mailbox...

This is an excerpt from a letter from Phyllis Kinsinger, Marion Kallstrom's daughter. *"Thanks for the wonderful food, the beautiful service and for Women's Fellowship's donation to the Memorial Fund. As you know, Mom and Dad loved the church so much and I sure hope that the fund can help keep the church going."*

The Kallstroms' Memorial Fund is set up to help care for the Memorial Garden. This fund still receives gifts from Marion and Russ's daughter-in-law in Hawaii for this cause.

Hygiene Kits for Disaster Relief...

Church World Service helps throughout the world (and in the US) in the case 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.

Your mission now is to begin collecting the supplies needed for the kits. We'll let you know when to bring them in and set a specific evening during Lent to assemble the actual kits.

Please note we DO NOT need toothpaste for the kits. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. All items will be sealed in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

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®

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.





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.

Haiti Earthquake Relief...

The United Church of Christ has launched the Haiti Earthquake emergency appeal to raise funds to support immediate relief and long term recovery efforts.

News has reached the UCC's Cleveland headquarters that missionary personnel in Haiti are safe. Patrick and Kim Bentrrott had just returned home with their infant son when the earthquake struck. They were able to descend from their third floor apartment to join others on the street who lived in the building. Though the building's first floor, stairwell and balconies collapsed, no one was harmed.

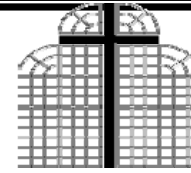
Kim Bentrrott, who oversees the clinic at the National Council of Churches of Haiti, reported grim conditions at the center. "The building has been flattened," she said. "All my nursing students were inside. Yesterday we helped pull bodies out of the wreckage and heard some voices within the rubble. Efforts continued frantically all day to reach them."

One Great Hour of Sharing funds have been released to Haitian and International partners to support their initial emergency response. UCC supported efforts will include the construction of temporary water systems, providing water purification materials, tents, food packages and medicines and medical supplies.

We can help by praying for the people of Haiti and emergency and humanitarian aid workers. If you would like to donate, make gifts payable to our church marked for "OGHS-Haiti Earthquake Relief." They will then be sent to our Conference office and on to Wider Church Ministries. Or, you can send gifts made out to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "OGHS- Haiti Earthquake Relief" to Wider Church Ministries, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

If you want to donate through our church, please try to do so by February 14th.

Prayer



List...

Sal Alibrio, Jim Allan, Richie Allen, Fred Aniello, Wanda Bartoy, Carol Brooks, Stephen Burke, Gail Cook, Ken Courtwright, Ida Cram, Gertrude Dovey, Alex & Dee Ford, Ted Fowler, Jim Fritz, Family of Chet Gill, Jennifer Goldacker, Katharine Gordon, Jennifer Gray, Shirley Hage, Diane Harrison, Dennis Hower, Pastor David Huels, Norma Kerkow, Debbie Knapp, Ruth Livingston, Don Locke, Diane MacWilliam, Dick Magown, Diane Millard, George & Betty Pallas, 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.

Care Note Opportunities...

Please remember some of our members recently hospitalized...

Pastor David Huels, Don Locke, and Don Rogers

Also—special prayers to the Hower family and Dennis Hower in particular. Ken and Glenn's brother Dennis has been on our prayer list for a while and is currently having increased difficulties.

Why not drop these folks a note to let them know they are remembered.



Sunday, February 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.



Poinsettia Purchases...

Thanks to each of you who purchased a poinsettia this past Christmas season. They graced our altar beautifully, and were a lovely tribute to those remembered, both living and passed from this life.

- Linda Campbell, Scott & Debbie Gage**.....for Diane Campbell Holtje with all their love at Christmas and always
Sandra Cohen.....for loved ones and grandchildren
Dr. Marshall & Gail Cook.....for our parents
Rev. Clyde & Audrey Embling.....for our parents, and son-in-law Don
Ted & Alice Fowler.....for loved ones
Diana Junker.....for family and in memory Carl
Don Locke.....for wife Joan
Diane MacWilliam.....for husband Al
Joyce Maybury.....for Father & Mother, and brother-in-law Dick Forfini
Tom Maybury.....for Father & Mother, and sister Peggy & brother Bill
Tom & Joyce Maybury.....for Magen & Bob, and all our grandchildren
Lindsey & Becky Miller.....for Doris & Thurston Powell, and Norman & Clara Miller
Arlene & Ken Noone.....for our grandson
Martha Pease.....for husband, mother and father
Carolyn Rogers.....for mother Annetta and Anna Mae
Elaine Romano.....for John Romano and Marion Scherer
Dick & Carol Sinotte.....for our family and friends
John Souza.....for Elsie Souza
George & Sandy Starkey.....for loved ones
Charlie & Cyndy Webb.....for our beautiful grandchildren



Worship & Music...

We enjoyed beautiful music throughout the Christmas season. A big thank you to **Jan Gonzales** for her work in putting all of this together!

Christmas Eve's candlelight service was beautiful. We'd like to thank **Julie Gagliardo** our guest flautist; **David Holtje, Kim Sinotte, and Cyndy Webb**, solists; **Becky Miller, Bob & Mary Sternal**, readers, and **Jan & Tracy Hammond** who lead us with guitar and voice in singing Silent Night.

A very special thanks to **Ben & Charlotte Gray** who sang "Happy Birthday Jesus" and then accompanied the choir with musical instruments on another piece. Nice job!

Upcoming Dates...

- 25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER—Sat., Jan. 30th
REV. DR. MARSHALL COOK'S INSTALLATION
Sunday, Jan. 31st
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—Monday, Feb. 1st
SUNDAY BREAKFAST—Sun., Feb. 14th
(Served 9:15-9:45)
ASH WEDNESDAY—Wed., Feb., 17th
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—Sun., Feb. 21st
LENT SOUP & SANDWICH DINNER—Wed., Feb. 24th
CROP WALK—Sun., Feb. 28th
YARD/RUMMAGE SALE—Saturday, Mar. 6th
CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING—Sun., Mar. 14th

Mission Tree

Donations...



The following people generously gave to *In The Image of Christ*, a local ministry for the needy in Ft. Pierce. As is our tradition here, we put up a tree in the Narthex, decorated with ornaments purchased by those wishing to wish their church family a blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in lieu of mailing out Christmas cards.

So — Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all from...

Gerry Brown

Sandra Cohen

Marshall & Gail Cook

John & Peggy Goldacker

Jack & Rusty Goodwin

David & Diann Holtje

Diana Junker

Norma Kerkow

Diane MacWilliam

Dick & Audrey Magown

Tom & Joyce Maybury

Ken & Arlene Noone

Don & Carolyn Rogers

Elaine Romano

Bob & Sue Schwertfeger

Dick & Carol Sinotte

Al & Helen Stankie

George & Sandy Starkey

Charlie & Cyndy Webb

Norma Gwen Yoak

25th Anniversary Celebration...

Yep—we are that old! We'll be celebrating this occasion with a dinner party at the church on **Saturday, Jan. 30th** with a catered meal and entertainment to follow.

It is our hope that each and every one of you will be able to attend. We will have volunteers pick up those who are unable to drive at night. We do have some folks joining us from out of town too! Charter members who are still with us will be asked if they would like to share any stories of the "old days".

Tickets at \$12.00 and will be closed off this Sunday, Jan. 24th. Please join us to celebrate our many, many memories!
The Anniversary Committee

Women's Fellowship...

Our next meeting will be **Monday, Feb. 1st** at noon when we'll have our meeting and a Chinese Auction (your chance to re-gift "unique" items you've collected or received). All women of the church are welcome to join in!

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

Carolyn Rogers, President



COUNCIL MEETING ~~ December 16, 2009

Tom Maybury opened the meeting at 6:00 with a prayer. Those present were Marshall Cook, Diane MacWilliam, Charlie Webb , John Souza, Cyndy Webb, Carolyn Rogers, Jerry Brown, Don Locke, Tom Maybury and Kim Sinotte.

The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the November were accepted with the correction that the Deacons supper will be on January 9th, not February 9th.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Marshall reported that he had made 8 personal visits, 1 hospital visit, joined the choir and decorated the church for Christmas with the help of others.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as written.

DEACON'S REPORT: The deacons have a balance of \$661.00. The Christmas Eve service has been planned. Marshall's installation will be January 31, 2010.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: The committee is getting figures for building rentals. Tom Maybury has offered to do the stewardship drive for 2010. Cyndy and Charlie have a skit to perform for the congregation. Cyndy will get the pledge cards for Tom.

PROPERTY REPORT: The flag outside the church was taken down because of the palm tree. There was discussion as to whether to move the flagpole or cut down the tree. This will be investigated and will be brought up at the next council meeting. Plants have been put in the memorial garden and some weeding has been done. Don offered to repair the mail box.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Everything is going fine.

STEWARDSHIP: No report.

CHRISTIAN ED: Has ordered new study guides for the Sunday School.

MISSIONS: The profits from the mission tree will be used for *In The Image Of Christ*. Hazel from *In The Image Of Christ* will be asked to attend a worship service to receive the gift from the mission tree, and to explain about her mission to the congregation.

MEMORIAL: No report.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Will be having a tea on January 4th.

EVANGELISM: Will be having a meeting in January.

NOMINATING: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: The church's 25th anniversary celebration will be held at the church on January 30th with a catered dinner. Favors and entertainment for the affair are being worked on.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom thinks that we are asking for or doing too much at Christmas, with flowers, ornaments and dinners. Should some changes be made?

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm. The next council meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Sinotte, for Carol Sinotte, Clerk