



# FROM THE PASTOR

**"O death, where is thy sting?"**

1 Corinthians 15:55

Have you ever watched an experienced beekeeper work with a colony of honeybees? He or she inspects each frame of honey with great respect. Occasionally the beekeeper does get stung, but it is of little consequence. It is a small price to pay for the joy the beekeeper receives from the satisfaction of his work and the delicious honey he retrieves. Paul speaks of the sting of death. As the beekeeper is certain to get stung at one time or another, so we cannot escape death. The way we view both the honeybee and death will condition our personal reactions. Those who do not understand the honeybee are afraid of her sting and see her as a horrible monster. In a similar way, we are afraid of death because we do not understand it.

The first Easter the disciples and friends of Jesus felt the sting of death. They had lost the One in whom they had trusted to lead them and guide them. Now their hopes were dashed. Their sorrow over the loss of their friend was matched by their fears for their own lives. But then something so incredible happened that even today some people have difficulty believing. Jesus came to the disciples, alive! Their sorrow turned into gladness. Their fears turned to hope. Their tears of sorrow became tears of joy!

Christ knew the sting of death, but He overcame it. And He has promised to all who believe a life that is eternal. "I am the resurrection and the life," said Jesus. "He who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Today we also feel the sting of death. Loved ones and friends die. We experience life-threatening illnesses or disasters. But Christ has promised to be with us. He has promised to comfort us with His presence and to bring us His peace. Our fears, our losses, even death will lose its sting as we trust in Christ's victory. His victory over death is the assurance, the promise, the hope of our own victory over all that seeks to destroy us, even death. "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

**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.



**...for April**

3rd	Ted Fowler	18th	Virginia Winslow
4th	Jan Thompson	22nd	Tom Maybury
7th	Richard Kreger	25th	Don Locke
9th	Spike Makey	26th	Sue Schwertfeger
	Ernie Smith	27th	Kim Sinotte
16th	Don Rogers		

#### **and ANNIVERSARIES —**

3rd ..... Ken & Arlene Noone

11th ..... David & Diann Holtje

A special congratulations to Ken & Arlene Noone as this will be their 55th wedding anniversary! Our best wishes to you both - you are great examples to us all.

### **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 \_\_\_\_\_

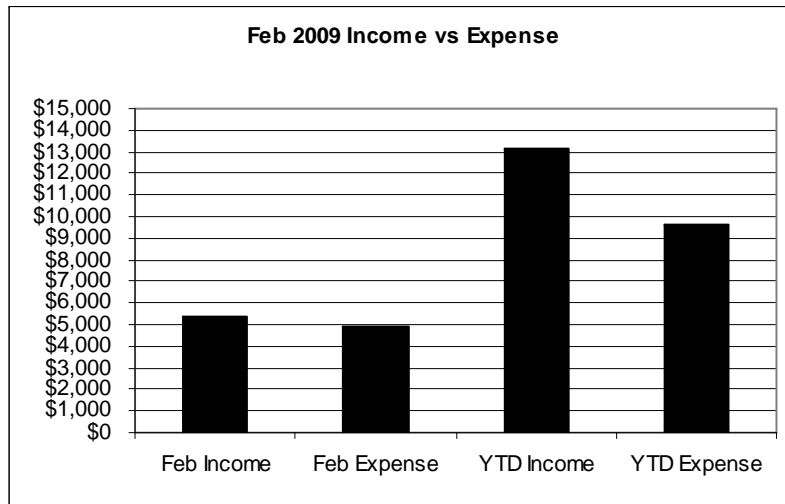
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Treasurer's Report...

February was a good financial month for the church. Normal income exceeded expenses by about \$440.00. Year-to-date income exceeded expenses by about \$3,450.00. And while this is great, contributions during the "season" are typically greater, so this will be a much needed cushion for us during the summer months.



A \$1,325.00 fund transfer, used to pay for the new kitchen floor, was not included in the numbers above. This further increases the amount of income over expense.

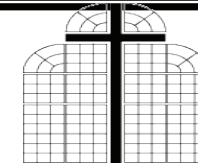
As usual, all bills are current. Respectfully submitted,  
**Charles Webb**, Treasurer



## Sunday, Apr. 12th...

Articles can be dropped in the Treasurer's mailbox at church, e-mailed to [candc@webbplace.com](mailto:candc@webbplace.com), phoned to (772)595-3421; 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, Debbie Knapp, Betty Lussier, Diane MacWilliam, Dick Magown, Diane Millard, Bob Olobri, Bill Wilson

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

## Our Sympathies...

**Marion Kallstrom** ... our sympathies go out to Marion's family as we all grieve her passing. Marion and her late husband Russ were founding members of our church. There was a memorial service to celebrate her life here this past Saturday.



A memorial fund has been established in her name at the church. If you wish to contribute, please designate this on the memo line of your contribution.

**Joyce Maybury's Family...** on March 12th Joyce's brother-in-law, Richard Fortini passed on while in the loving care of Hospice at HealthFirst. He had suffered from brain tumors for 20 years. Joyce says, to accept this, we must remind ourselves, "To everything there is a beginning and an end," and she thanks everyone for their prayers.

**Peggy Smith's Family...** Peggy lost her brother this past week and thus she and Ernie will be leaving our community a little earlier than usual in order to attend his service. Our sincere condolences on your family's loss.

## Prayers & Concerns...

We just got word that **Kathy Schaaf** had fallen and now has a broken arm. I'm sure she would appreciate hearing from friends. Also **Sal Alibrio** is back at LifeCare in Port St. Lucie and loves cards and visits!

## From the Moderator



I feel very fortunate and blessed to have been asked to serve as your Moderator for the ensuing year. It is going to be a challenging year as we are facing a deficit budget. Our projected expenses exceed our projected income by \$2,518.

Sometimes people talk as though faith and money were two separate issues, but for faithful people they are very closely connected. We will all face challenges in the days and weeks ahead. There will be stress on all of us, and on this church. There will be temptations for us individually and as a church to pull in and look only to our own needs and our own security. There will also be opportunities for us to look beyond ourselves and our own walls to reach out to do what we can to help others who are more in need than we are. As Christians and as a faith community, we will have opportunities to model faithful living -- living without fear in difficult situations; and continuing to be generous with our time, our talent, our caring for others, and yes, even with our money.

It will be necessary for us to have many fund raisers this year to meet our budget. We hope that you will be able to support our efforts. If you have any concerns regarding our church, please feel free to discuss them with me.

May God bless you and our church in the coming year.

**Diane MacWilliam**



If you would like to have emergency contact information on file for the Pastor, or Deacon's use, please see the sign-up information in the Narthex, at the rear of the church or contact the project coordinator, **Peggy Goldacker** at 772-460-6226.



## Church Library...

We have moved to the fellowship hall for your convenience. Our choir needs their own room, so now you can check out the books during/after church coffee hour! We hope this move will spur more interest in our excellent collection of hard-cover and paperback editions covering many topics.

I just finished reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd; a New York Times bestseller. It is a poignant novel of a young Southern girl's journey through a very difficult time in her life. Please see me if you have any requests or suggestions.

**Peggy Goldacker**, Your Library Lady



A big thanks to the following folks for their gifts!

... to **Steve Sabecki** for donating and answering machine for the office

... to **Helen Boyd** for donating a piano tuning

... to **John Souza** for preparing beignets after the Ash Wednesday service, and all the clearing work on our property lines and replanting in the Memorial Garden

... to **Betsy Wolmer** for donating a box of yarn for those women working on needlework ministries.

Have you noticed the lovely new flower arrangements at the altar? Thanks go to **Dorothy Mead**, one of our newest Crafty Ladies. If you are ever in need of an arrangement, she is happy to provide this for you. Price will depend on size of the arrangements and materials used.

The Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner was a big success with plates generously filled, a fresh fruit cup and a yummy pistachio cake for desert! A game was played afterwards and won by **Mary Ann Hower** and a sing-a-long was enjoyed by all. A thank you to **The Deacons** who entirely underwrote the cost of the meal. Due to their contributions, all proceeds will go toward the general fund at church.



**MISSION  
EFFORTS**

## **Cleaning your pantry before you head north?**

Many of us snowbirds end up with some groceries we'll not be using as we pack up to head back north. Here's just the spot - there is a tub by the front door which is just aching to be filled with non-perishable food. Why not bring your "extra's" and make a difference in someone's life as we share these offerings with the local food pantry at Mustard Seed.

## **And speaking of Snowbirds...**

We don't want to lose touch with you. So as you head north, please let us know and we'll switch your mailing address, and if you have an email address, let us know that as well and we'll fill you in as news items come up in-between newsletters. You can simply drop a note into the offering plate. Thanks!



## **Come get crafty!**

It may seem like the end of the "season" is upon us, but we never stop our crafting, do we? We're still meeting at Noon on Wednesdays at the church. And for those of you who will begin to head back north, keep your hands busy through the summer and bring your completed projects



back in the fall for the Bazaar. We owe a debt of thanks to those of you who do just that, some even mailing their items back through the summer and fall.

## **Join the lunch bunch...**

Our annual Spring Yard/Rummage sale was held March 7th and many helpers made this a success. A big "Thank You" to all who participated, and helped us to raise \$553. Unsold items were donated to the organization In the Image of Christ.



Please plan to join us for our annual luncheon which is set for **April 27th** at Gator Trace. Please contact Carolyn Rogers or Joyce Maybury for details.



## **LENT & HOLY WEEK EVENTS...**

**Wednesday, April 1st**

Our final Soup & Sandwich Supper followed by a Lenten Devotional presented by Pastor Marshall. Dinner at 5:30; devotional from 6:00-7:00pm.

**Palm Sunday Service - April 5th**

Usual worship time of 10:30 followed by Fellowship Time

**Maudy Thursday Tenebrae Service - April 9th  
7:00pm in the Sanctuary**

The word 'Tenebrae' is Latin for shadows and the purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. Join us at 7:00pm. We will celebrate Communion and leave in silence following the service.

**Good Friday - April 10th  
Noon - 3:00pm**

The church will be open for you to drop by as it is convenient for you for worship and private meditation in the sanctuary. You may pray, read the Bible, or follow a devotional guide-either your own or one provided by the church.

**Easter Sunday - April 12th  
Worship Service at 10:30am**

Join us in celebration of this Glorious Gift. Following the service there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

---

## **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.