

Come Worship With Us...

Our Sunday Worship Service is at 10:30am;
Communion Served 1st Sunday of each month.
Sunday School and Nursery are available.
Coffee & Fellowship
following the service at 11:30am

First Congregational United Church of Christ

3601 Kirby Loop Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Phone: 772-465-2082

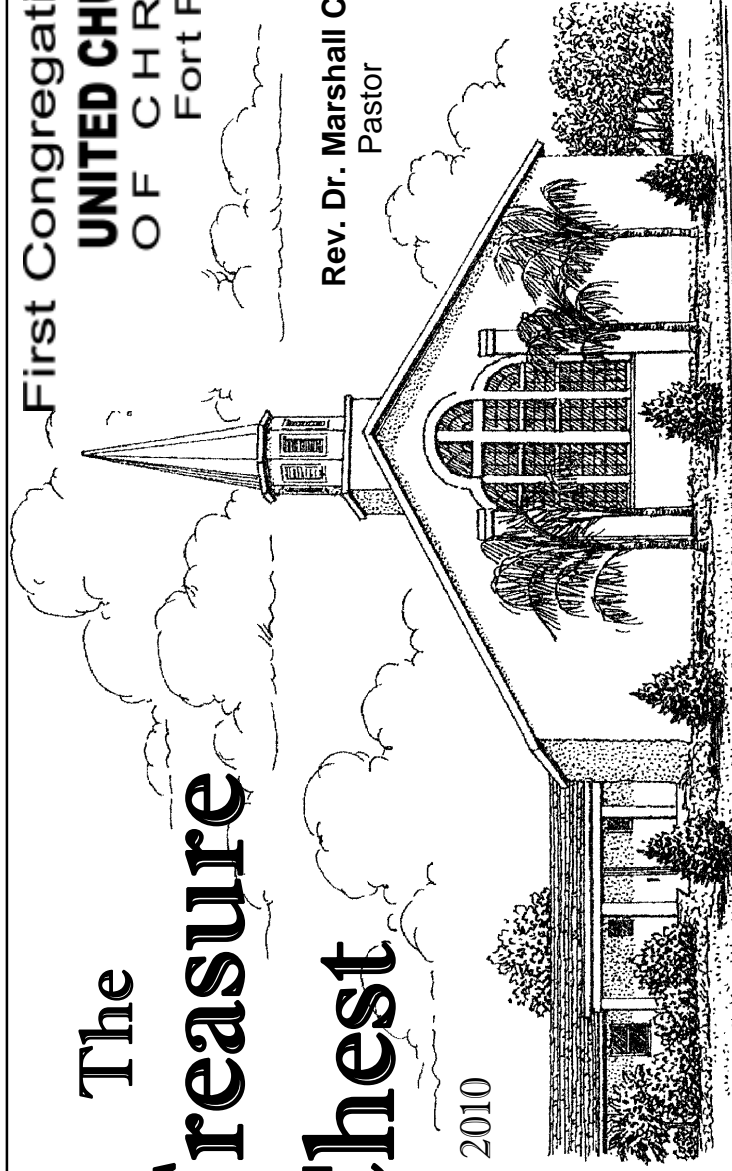
Website: <http://www.firstcongfpc.org>
e-mail: churchone@firstcongfpc.org

The Treasure Chest

May 2010

First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Fort Pierce

Rev. Dr. Marshall Cook
Pastor



3601 Kirby Loop Road

Fort Pierce, Florida 34981

772/465-2082

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

FROM THE PASTOR

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'" Genesis 1:26

Are you prepared for the end of the world? December 21, 2012 is supposed to be the date. This date is supposedly based on a prophecy contained in an ancient Mayan calendar, at least that is what the sci-fi thriller film *2012* tried to tell us this past winter.

An apocalyptic film, of course, is a favorite Hollywood scheme for unleashing all kinds of amazing special effects. Over the years, Hollywood has produced all kinds of sci-fi films about the end of the planet, from huge asteroids hitting earth to wild weather changes that result in either a massive flood or another ice age.

Hollywood films, though, are not as frightening as what we're doing in real life. We don't have to worry about ancient prophecies. We're killing ourselves! The massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is still spewing thousands of gallons of oil a day into the Gulf, threatening the shoreline of our Gulf Coast states, not to mention destruction to the fish and wildlife of our waters.

The cause of this catastrophe has yet to be determined, but the spiritual cause is apparent. Call it greed or pride, but the best term for it is sin, for it seems that safety measures were overlooked in the rush to drill for oil.

When the author of Genesis wrote about humankind having dominion over the plants and animals, God didn't mean that we have the license to do whatever we please with creation. Dominion means responsible stewardship of creation. God gave humans a special role and responsibility as caretakers or stewards of His creation. The intent was not for us to destroy creation, but to preserve and care for it so it could benefit all people and creatures for generations to come.

Accidents do happen. But have we as a society become so greedy for oil, for example, that we have disregarded caring for our planet? We need sources of energy to run our cars, our homes, our factories, etc., but let's not forget the sanctity of life and our responsibility as God's caretakers.

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: Janis Gonzales

NOTE: At the time of this publication, new committee chairs have been appointed; and a new Moderator and Financial Secretary will be appointed at the May 19th Council meeting to replace Diane Macwilliam. A complete listing will appear in the next newsletter.



June & July Birthdays...

JUNE BIRTHDAYS...

7th Gertrude Dovey
14th Joyce Maybury
16th Doug MacWilliam
Ginger Morse
17th Sandra Cohen
18th Elsa Millard
23rd Doug Wolmer
29th Audrey Magown

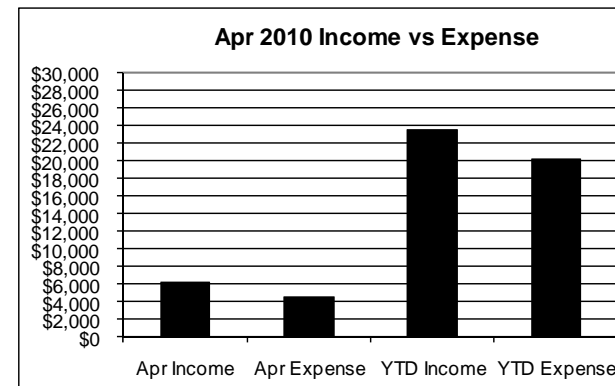
JULY BIRTHDAYS...

7th Carol Sinotte
16th John Souza
18th Rachael Hulme
20th Carol Showalter
26th Bette Forbes
27th Gladys Werkley
28th Arlene Noone
31st Charlie Webb

...and anniversaries

June 4th Chuck & Jane Erickson
June 18th Charlie & Cyndy Webb
June 20th George & Sandy Starkey
June 27th Ted & Alice Fowler
July 3rd Bob & Mary Sternal
July 23rd Ernie & Peggy Smith

Treasurer's Report...



For April the church ended up \$1,769.00 to the good. Year-to-date revenues are ahead of expenses by \$3,446.00. As usual, all bills are current.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Webb, Treasurer

Florida UCC Conference Report...

Diana Junker and Sandy Cohen) were privileged to attend the 11th annual meeting of the UCC Florida Conference in Naples this spring.

The theme of the conference was: IMAGINE: ...a new heaven and a new earth ...(Revelation 21:1a). Imagine the greening of the church; imagine leadership for the future; imagine the future by looking into your mission field; imagine creative worship. Diana attended the leadership "conversation," and Sandy attended one on the mission field where we learned how to study the mission field by going on the internet, specifically to the websites - Percept Group and Mission Insite - and learning about the demographics of the location of your particular church. Diana's Leadership meeting was about using the internet as well and bridging over the gap of generational and racial, ONA, etc. Image the Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven. We need to share our resources with other churches and religions in our area. Fighting in church can happen; people have ideas they think are the right way. We need to think of this as spirited debate and try to solve our problems. Summary of the meeting THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A SAFE, FUN, MISSION-BASED, BELOVED COMMUNITY.

In addition, there were small discussion groups where we shared what we thought a new heaven and a new earth would look like. Diana and I managed to be in the group led by our former pastor, Jason Fairbanks. You can email Jason for the gist of our musings.

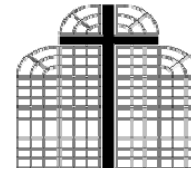
Along with business and financial matters, one of the main items on the agenda was a resolution whether to declare the Florida Conference an open and affirming conference (ONA), that is, that "all people regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or adherence to a particular spiritual perspective, are welcome in our churches." There is an emphasis in the resolution on recognizing the rights of L/G/B/T individuals. The resolution passed by a large majority.

At this point a few statistics are interesting: there are 14,000 churches in Florida, 100 of them UCC churches. Of these, 29 have gone through the open and affirming process and are ONA churches. Of the 38 UCC conferences in the United States, 15 have declared themselves to be ONA (open and affirming).

Apart from all the business, we enjoyed delicious meals under the huge tent on the UCC grounds. We had time to relax in the luxurious Naples Grande Beach Resort and admire the ocean view from our 10th floor balcony. In the nick of time we snagged a golf-cart ride to the beach to enjoy the sunset and looking for shells. A friendly gentleman took our picture with the beautiful gulf sunset as a backdrop. All in all, it was a trip worth taking.

Sandy Cohen, Diana Junker

Prayer List...



Sal Alibrio, Jim Allan, Richie Allen, Fred Aniello, Lena Antowiak, Wanda Bartoy, Carol Brooks, Stephen Burke, Ken Courtwright, Ida Cram, Gertrude Dovey, Alex & Dee Ford, Katharine Gordon, Jennifer Gray, Shirley Hage, Kay, Maija MacKenzie, Marjorie Metz, Diane Millard, Matt Pavone, Don Rogers, Chuck St. John, Kathy Schaaf, Al Strankie, Lillian Williams, and Norma Gwen Yoak

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

Please remember Norma Gwen Yoak and Al Stankie as they have each been hospitalized recently.



Sunday, July 18th...

If we have enough news to pass along, I will put out another issue in July. This newsletter is only possible because of you and your input...so please pass along information to share. I'm now back up north. You can always drop-off your articles in the Treasurer's mailbox at church, e-mail to candc@webbplace.com; mail to us our northern address, or fax to (561)348-9909.

Women's Fellowship...

April was a busy month with our annual luncheon at Gator Trace on the 5th; a lovely atmosphere and good food. We also had 2 gentlemen join us. It was fun! Maybe we will invite our spouses next year.

On April 22nd we served 23 members of Elder Care Affairs, who meet monthly at our church, a sit down luncheon of chicken casserole, salad, homemade rolls and a cake for dessert. They enjoyed it very much - and added a nice tip. The total was \$180.00. We received a thank you note, also. Diana and I want to thank Leone, Arlene, Norma Gwen and Alice for their efforts.

On April 25th we participated in a Pot Luck Luncheon after church. Everyone brought casseroles, salads, desserts, etc. Such good cooks in our parish!

On May 2nd we provided finger sandwiches, salads, and desserts for Diane MacWilliam's Memorial Service for her family and many friends. She is very sadly missed! We have donated \$100.00 to her Church Memorial Fund.

May 3rd was our last meeting for this season. We are debating a change for our meetings to accommodate anyone who cannot be here on the first Monday of the month. We will take a vote at our next meeting on September 13th. All of our women of the church are invited to join us - it is really a lot of fun and fellowship!

Peggy Goldacker

Council Meeting ~~ April 21, 2010

Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00pm with a prayer. Those present were Leone and Bob Bater, John Souza, Don Locke, Gerry Brown, Pastor Marshall, Tom and Joyce Maybury, Diana Junker, Becky Miller and Carol Sinotte

The agenda was accepted as presented. Tom moderated the meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Marshall reported that he had made five hospital visits this month. Diane's memorial service will be May 2nd at 2:00pm. There was discussion about reinstating the prayer chain as some people were not notified of Diane's passing.

CLERK'S REPORT: The report was accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as presented.

DEACON'S REPORT: Diana is the chairperson for the Deacons.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Don reported that there are five proposals recommended for the church insurance. Don, representing the trustees, proposed a special congregational meeting during May to vote on the insurance options. The current insurance policy expires July 1st. The trustees will send ballots to each member to vote on one of the two best insurance proposals. There was a motion to hold a congregational meeting in regard to the property insurance, if necessary. This was seconded and approved by the council. The meeting will be May 23rd.

PROPERTY REPORT: John reported that he is keeping up with the maintenance at the church. He has been working in the Memorial Garden. There was a motion to put a lock on the wardrobe in the choir room where purses are kept during church services. This was seconded and passed by the council. There was discussion about locking all the rooms in the church when there are groups using the facilities. It was decided that this wasn't necessary.

NOMINATING: Diana reported that there are two openings on the council, the Moderator's position and the Financial Secretary. There was discussion about how many people need to serve on a committee and should there be changes to that.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: No report.

STEWARDSHIP: No report.

CHRISTIAN ED: Leone reported that there will be no Sunday School during July and August.

MISSIONS: No report.

MEMORIAL: No report.

MUSIC: No report.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Peggy reported that there was a successful luncheon at Gator Trace. The Elder Care Luncheon was well received. There will be a pot luck luncheon after church on April 25th.

EVANGELISM: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Marshall, Diana Junker and Sandra Cohen will attend the UCC Conference on April 30th and May 1st. The meeting was closed at 7:00pm with everyone reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Sinotte, Clerk