

**FROM THE PASTOR
Dr. Rev. Marshall Cook**

Several years ago, a woman and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. The woman, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so she was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before. What was the point of this?

"Look at it," he said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?" "No, keep reading..."

In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least. I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

Think about your own trust in God the next time you look at a coin!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering is one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. This offering is observed every Fall. This year we will receive the Neighbors in Need offering on October 16, 2011.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

Historically, forbears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

PET BLESSING

Many churches have a blessing of pets in October in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi who was renowned for his love of animals. We would like to offer a blessing to those in our church and community who have pets. You have two opportunities. On Sunday, October 2, at 2:00p.m., Dr. Cook will be blessing animals at Dogs and Cats Forever, 4600 Selvitz Road, Ft. Pierce. Or, you can bring your pet to church for a blessing on Saturday, October 15 at 11a.m. If you have friends and neighbors who would like to come with their pets, invite them. The service will not be long.

CHOIR

Time to make a joyful noise once again. Choir practice begins **Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00p.m.** You do not have to read music to participate. Come join the fun!

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OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our prayers are with all who are ill or who are recuperating from an illness. Over the summer several of our members were hospitalized. They include: Alice Fowler, Julia Culbertson, John Souza, Naomi Underhill, Ted Fowler(Lawnwood), Doug MacWilliam(Indian River), and Leone Bater(Port St. Lucie).

Our church was saddened by the loss of Gertrude Dovey, who died July 1st. A memorial service was held on July 15th. Many will remember Gertrude's devotion to the church. For many years she arranged flowers for the altar.

Also, we learned of the death of the Rev. Charles Erickson on July 4th. A memorial service was held July 9th in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was a minister of United Church of Christ churches in Demorest, Georgia; Haslett, MI; Topeka, KS; Birmingham, MI; and our church in Fort Pierce. Throughout his 42-year career, he served numerous national and state church committees and interfaith organizations.

ALSO IN OUR PRAYERS

Sal Alibrio, Ida Cram, Richie Allen, Fred Aniello, Carol Brooks, Stephen Burke, Dee Ford, Katharine Gordon, Kathy Schaaf, Lillian Williams, Jennifer Gray, Jim Allan, Ken Courtwright, Kay, Dave Huels, John & Ann O'Connor, Sheila, Amy Stoll, Lillian Baker, Edward Russell, John & Sylvia Stratton, Lorrie Perkins & Family, Diane Harrison, Kim Newberry, Ed Kotterst, Keith Baker, Robert Schneider, Diane Baker, Tim, Laurie & Shelby Little, Gladys Werkley, Rachel, Esther Lutz, John Gillespie, Carol Flanigan, Julia Culbertson, Naomi Underhill, Ted Fowler, Bob & Linda Whitt, Vicky Diekman, Leone Bater.

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Marshall's Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1-4; 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.

Women's Fellowship Leone Bater, President

The yard sale will be October 15th. Clean out your closets, it's that time of year!

You can start bringing in items on the 8th.

We will need people to help set up starting on Wednesday, the 12th.

If you need help with your large items, call the church. We will get help for you.

We also need help on the day of the sale.

There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Thank you all.

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

6th John Goldacker
7th Diana Junker
9th Cyndy Webb
13th Marilyn Kreger
20th Donald Facey
Sandy Starkey

ANNIVERSARIES

13th Jason & Trish Fairbanks
24th Doug & Betsy Wolmer
30th Don & Shirley Facey
31st Bruce & Bette Forbes

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

You can drop off your articles in the newsletter mailbox at church, or give Elaine Romano a call at 772-332-2120. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEETING Sept. 18, 2011

Don Locke opened the meeting at 11:33 with a prayer. Those present were Lindsey Miller, John Souza, Leone and Bob Bater, Elaine Romano, Diana Junker, Peggy Goldacker, Joyce and Tom Maybury, Don Locke and Carol Sinotte

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was accepted as written. Tom explained that he deducts expenses from the proper committee's budgets, and it's important for each committee to present a budget each year for proposed expenses. He will give each committee a list of what was spent in the previous year.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Marshall was on vacation, but he had prepared a report for the council meeting. Since the last council meeting he has made 29 hospital calls, 32 personal visits and 16 nursing home visits. The church has observed Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Gail and Marshall attended the Florida Conference Annual Meeting in Boca Raton. Marshall officiated at a memorial service for Gertrude Dovey, and a wedding in August.

Upcoming activities will be a pet blessing on October 2 at Dogs and Cats Forever and one at the church October 15th at 11:00. Marshall has a friend that wants to donate a \$700.00 vacuum to the church to be used at the church or sold at the yard sale. It was decided that we have a fairly new vacuum cleaner at the church and it would be profitable for the church to sell it at the yard sale..

DEACONS: Diana reported that Louis Holdgrafer has been appointed to the deacons to fill Alice Fowler's position. Alice had to resign her position to care for Ted since he has been taken ill. 75 Bibles have been purchased by the deacons, for the church. They will be available for anyone that wants to use them during the church service, or they could be purchased.

TRUSTEES: Don said that there has not been a meeting due to committee members being gone for the summer. Because of the stock market decline, some money has been lost that was invested, but the financial advisor said that next year should be better for investments.

STEWARDSHIP: No report

PROPERTY: Lindsey said that the driveway has been resurfaced. Two refrigerators have been purchased for the church to replace the old refrigerator that had stopped working. The upright freezer has been sold. Plans are underway to put fences around the air conditioners to prevent theft. There are some issues with the lawn maintenance and Lindsey will get in touch with the lawn care people to resolve the issues. There was discussion about the windows in the church being washed, especially the window behind the altar.

MUSIC: Gerry reported that choir will resume on October 23rd. Rehearsal will be October 19 at 7:00 p.m. Hopefully some choir members will have returned from up north. The music committee will pay for any special music from their budget..

CHRISTIAN ED: Nothing to report

MISSIONS: No report

MEMORIAL: Peggy said that two contributions had been made in memory of Arlene Noone and Gertrude Dovey.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Leone said that there would be a meeting on Sept. 19 and the date of the yard sale would be decided. The Holly Bazaar will be Dec. 3. There will be a Christmas Pot Luck at the beginning of December.

EVANGELISM: Don said that the church brochures have been distributed to different communities

NOMINATING: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none

NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

Carol Sinotte,



Secretary