



**Port Orange  
United Church of Christ**  
651 Taylor Road  
Port Orange, FL 32127  
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**Sunday Worship**  
9:00am Contemporary  
10:30am Traditional

**Volume 32, Issue 12**

**December 2011**

**Pastor's Message**



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**Church Staff**

**Senior Minister:**  
Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner  
**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Beverly Schafer  
**Pastor Emeritus:**  
Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert  
**Minister of Music:**  
Dr. Tom Naus  
**Worship Team Leader:**  
Terri Zinke  
**Dancing Angels Leader:**  
Bonnie Morisset  
**Office Manager:**  
Pamela Schafer  
**Media Communications:**  
Bob Brewster

**Dear Friends,**

Last month I had a real adventure! I got to watch three young girls - five years of age and younger for a little less than two hours. I even got to change a diaper for the first time in over 15 years and I was successful! We colored, sang songs, talked about their favorite foods, and built/flew paper airplanes. I went home that afternoon and took a nap – I was exhausted! The experience made me respect young parents and especially mothers all the more.

As we enter this special season, consider the young Mary. She was a pregnant and unmarried teenager. What must have been going through her heart and mind? I know the scriptures record her being calm, expectant and jubilant but she surely struggled and wondered what all of it meant.

I have asked Lisa and our Praise Team to sing



Amy Grant's *Breathe of Heaven* – a wonderful testimony of struggle and petition for aid from God. We would all do well to follow her lead in order to make it through this time of commercialism and cynicism!

Please take the time to join us for our special services this month. They will help keep you focused as well.

Among other things I think we need to remember this Christmas is that we do not focus as some think on "baby worship." Rather, we must connect the Cradle to the Cross. There is a striking piece of art

entitled *Destiny*. The artist wished to remain anonymous but it depicts Jesus as a toddler in his father Joseph's workshop. He is bending over to pick up a nail while the shadow from his body forms a cross behind him. A striking reminder it is and a preview of our Lenten 2012 theme of "Nails"!

As we travel through the month ahead, may we find time in our church's theme of "A Season for Angels" to celebrate the birth of the One who would change the world forever by offering His life to offer us the greatest gift we will ever receive. I hope you will join us for several special services we have worked very hard on to spread the joy of the real reason for the season.

*Merry Christ-Mass to you and yours!*

*Bill*

## Pastoral Assistant



Bob Brewster's synopsis last month of what Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is all about was quite accurate. Within the very first half hour of my first 24-hour solo shift as chaplain at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center in Ormond Beach back in September, there was a Code Blue (death) in the Emergency Department, making me immediately aware of the intensity of this program. In addition to ministering to patients and staff during our assigned overnight shifts, weekly classroom sessions are sometimes even more intense as we focus on our own innermost, deepest feelings and reactions regarding our ministry at the hospital, as well as sharing life-history experiences which may have affected our ministerial responses, either consciously or subconsciously. Classroom time frequently evolves into counseling sessions for ourselves, often quite emotionally. CPE has been an amazing learning and growth experience

spiritually, professionally and personally towards my goal of Licensure as your Assistant Minister here at POUCC – hopefully not too far beyond the two-year mark in April 2012 -- but I must admit that I definitely will celebrate my completion of CPE December 22<sup>nd</sup> so I can again elevate to its proper priority my focus on you, my church family. I am sure Pastor Bill will be happy to have his Pastoral Assistant available on a more regular basis as well!

I want to thank you all for your patience, understanding and support throughout this four-month chapter of my life which appropriately ends three days before Christmas – introducing yet another chapter of service and love as we celebrate together the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May we all be renewed in His spirit as we walk hand-in-hand into the future of Port Orange United Church of Christ.

*Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!*

Bev

## Missions & Outreach

### Dear Friends:

November was a busy and exciting Month, thanks to YOU!!!!!!

**The MISSION ONE FOOD DRIVE** was very successful!! You donated 854 items!!!! Our goal was 320!! PLUS you donated many jars of Peanut Butter for **CROP WALK**. I do not have a final count yet, as soon as I receive it, I will notify you. Additionally, \$150.00 was donated to CROP Walk. We thank **Kay Taylor** for coordinating the CROP Walk activity for our church. We had no walkers this year as it was the same Sunday as Pastor Bill's Installation



as our Senior Minister. If you have not submitted your donation to Neighbors In Need, it is not too late. We thank you !!

We are now in **Advent** and with it our participation in the angel **ANGEL TREE** activities! Once again this year we are continuing our support of the children of the Palm Terrace School as recipients of the Angel Tree gifts. There will be two Angels for each child, one is for a warm clothing item, such as a hooded sweatshirt, sweater or jacket. The second Angel will be for an age appropriate book. We decided that a book can be used by the family for a long

time, whereas a toy can be gone in a few days. Many stores are featuring children's books during this Christmas season.

Also we will have envelopes for folks who would like to donate funds to help those in need have a nice Christmas Dinner. **The Angel Tree is up** and the **gifts and donations must be in by December 11<sup>th</sup>** as School closes for the holiday on December 15<sup>th</sup> and we must deliver all items to the school no later than December 12<sup>th</sup>. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ANGEL TREE!** (read more next page)



For best results, only follow Jesus Christ.

We also provide a “Christmas Stocking” containing toilet articles and something for a “treat” for each Resident of **Palmetto House**. Currently there are 70 residents, 30% are women and there are two children ages 5 and 9. We are inviting you to donate toothbrushes and tooth paste for the stockings. There will be a box in the back of the Sanctuary that you can deposit them in. WE thank you for supporting this project.

The Christmas Fund Offering we receive in December is for Retired Ministers and their families.

These funds help them with expenses that their pension might not cover. It shows our faithful Clergy that we appreciate their service to our churches and congregations!

**WE**, the Mission Team, **Thank You** for your support of **ALL** the Mission Activities we have throughout the year, -

*Sue Batturs, Jeanette Campbell, Kathy Cratin, June Ferreri, Liz Mills, Kaye Taylor, and Chuck Konopsky*

**A “HANGING OF THE GREENS” THANK YOU!**  
When Bob Brewster suggested

that we accomplish the Hanging of the Greens in a mere 1 1/2 hours’ time, I thought to myself: “Sure, like that’ll happen!” I stand corrected, because **HAPPEN, IT DID!** Thanks to these faithful servants from both services who worked from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, the sanctuary and Jim Reed Building blossomed forth into Christmas adornment more radiantly than ever! Ric and Barb Pountain; Nick, Stacy and precious little Isabella Clark; Bob & Ruth Brewster; Bill & Susie Greiff; Sandy Kransi; Sher, Tom, Tommy, Aydan & Blake Buller; Dalen & Liz Mills; Dee Dardeen; Jeanette Campbell; Tim & me. Y’all are **AWESOME!** Your church family thanks you! *Joyfully,* **Beverly Schafer**

## Thrift Store News

### Dear Friends:

At any given time, you may find the following items in our Thrift Store -

1. antiques, art
2. baskets, blankets, books
3. coffee pots, costumes, candles
4. DVDs, dolls, decorations
5. earrings, egg plates frames, fry pans
6. games, globes, gifts
7. hats, hangers
8. ice buckets, ink wells
9. jewelry, jars
10. kaleidoscopes, knick knacks, kites
11. lamps, lace, ladders
12. mixers, mugs, masks
13. neckties, nutcrackers
14. ottomans, Ouija boards, organizers
15. puzzles, punch bowls, purses
16. Quilts
17. radios, rakes
18. small appliances, scarves, sheets
19. tools, tote bags, toys
20. umbrellas, ukuleles, utensils
21. vases, valances
22. watches, wastebaskets, wooden signs
23. Xylophones
24. yarn, yo-yos, yard goods
25. Zippers, zithers

**Currently we need linens, gift and kitchen items.**

**THRIFT STORES ARE A**



### **WELCOME ALTERNATIVE TO RETAILERS**

- As prices climb and in many instances quality drops, it makes more and more sense to shop at your local thrift store. Here at POUCC we do not have a large thrift store in square footage but what we do have is very clean and very well organized. We get many comments from frequent shoppers that these are the primary reasons they keep coming back. Our Thrift Store inventory is constantly changing and frequent visitors understand this fact. They come back often to avoid missing something. Our country’s economy is causing people to look more carefully at what they buy. Often times, the best gift is something unusual from the past with a special meaning to both the giver and receiver. Our thrift store provides this type of shopping “adventure”. Plus, we have “specials” where you can fill an entire shopping bag with whatever you want for one very low price. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about us.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**An Evening with Alan Wolfelt.** Mr. Wolfelt, from Colorado, is the founder and director for the *Center for Loss and Life Transition* - nationally known. Pastor Bill says he is a very good inspirational speaker. The program has two components:

- The Dec. 14th\Wed evening program (6-8 pm) focuses on individuals reconciling with their grief.
- The second program, from 8:30 - 10:30 am on Thursday, Dec. 15th, is for professionals who serve bereaved families.

Lohman's Funeral Homes is

sponsoring this event, which will be held at **Prince of Peace Catholic Church**, 600 South Nova Road, Ormond Beach.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

1. What is the most Musical part of a Turkey?
2. What does a Snowman have for breakfast?
3. What stays hot in the Refrigerator?
4. What are two things you never eat for Lunch?
5. What do you call a lazy Baker?

*Ans. #1 Drumstick #2 Snowflakes #3 Mustard #4 Breakfast & Dinner #5 A Loaf*

## THE THRIFT STORE NEEDS HOLIDAY & JEWELRY ITEMS

**Congratulations** to Lisa & Bill Wassner on the birth of their grandson, Owen Lowell Sowers, who arrived on Sunday November 20, 2011 at the weight of 7lbs 4oz. Owen, is Lisa's first grandchild and was born to son Shaun and his wife Ally.

## Count the F's in the sentence below -

*Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with the experience of years.*

**Answer:** Did you count all 6 of them or only 3? Most people forget to include the F's located in the word "of".

## Thrift Store Missions

**In addition to the financial contribution, the Thrift & Gift Store helps many others directly with your donations.**

- Children's clothing to the Early Learning Coalition of Volusia & Flagler
- Dish towels, baskets & tray to POUCC kitchen
- Yarn for several prayer shawls
- Baseball items & tennis racket to the YMCA
- Toy car and teddy bear to Sunday school
- Clothing and suitcases to Palmetto House
- Cases and bags to Foster Kids mission
- Shoes & Clothing to Palmetto House
- Helmets, games and books to YMCA
- Afghans to Boggy Creek
- Books to Ormond nursing home

- Bowling balls & bag of craft items to YMCA
- Baby clothing and stuffed animals to POUCC missions
- Teaching materials to POUCC teaching team
- Bags & boxes of clothing to Palmetto House
- Water pitcher & serving utensils to POUCC kitchen
- 2 boxes of activity books & small stuffed animals to YMCA
- Table covers & spatulas to POUCC kitchen
- Clothing and blanket to Haitian orphan
- Paper, balls, skates, crayons, colored pencils to YMCA

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO DELIVER THESE ITEMS AND TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER AND DONATE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS!!!!**

## Getting to Know You

*(Each month we will be highlighting a different Thrift Store Volunteer)*

This month we start with -

**BARB POUNTAIN**—I am just a little farm girl at heart, raised on a 100+ acre dairy farm in Jewett N.Y. I attended W.A.J. (Windham-Ashland-Jewett) Central School and graduated in a class of 26 along with a feisty young man named Billy Mulford. I worked in dentistry and banking. Many years later after college and after living in different towns, countries and states; Ric retired from the USAF and we moved to Port Orange. One day I noticed a sign on the corner of Country Lane and Taylor Road that indicated the pastor was Rev. William Mulford. I just had to check it out!!! I felt welcomed here. I joined POUCC in March of 1999. With some guidance and encouragement from Jeanette Campbell and Jackie Gaither, I became involved in the Thrift Store and continue to see the love and support we provide to many people and organizations to this day.

It truly is a rewarding life as I see our "Thrift & Gift Store" grow and help others. I thank God for this opportunity!  
**- Barb Pountain**



## Operations Team Update

Operational Budget as of 10/31/11

	ACTUAL thru OCT 2010	Budgeted Amt. thru OCT 2011	ACTUAL thru OCT 2011
<b>Income</b>	\$150,883	\$143,397	\$140,166
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$134,146</u>	<u>\$133,168</u>	<u>\$135,024</u>
<b>Net</b>	\$ 16,737	\$ 10,229	\$ 5,142

\*Through October our income is down from both last year and budgeted. Expense is up from both last year and budgeted. The areas where income is down the most are tithes and facility use. Expenses are up most in the areas of insurance and building maintenance. Although we may not end the year as well as what was budgeted, we are still in better shape than previous years.

*Keeping the Faith!* - Susie Greiff, Asst. Treasurer

The **Operations Team** has started the 2012 Budget planning & review process. This projected budget will be presented at the December Church Council Meeting. Anyone with suggestions for next year's budget should submit them to the church office addressed to the Operations Team. Suggestions can be for saving and earning money as well as for expenses. The operations team has primary responsibility for managing all church funds approved by the church membership at the annual meeting in January. From time to time it becomes necessary to adjust expenses up and down or to reallocate funds based on changing needs. All this is done through careful review and approval by the Church Council. **If you would like join the Operations Team and participate in these responsibilities please let us know by calling the church office.**

## Deacons Corner

### Stewardship Message

#### Too Good To Be True Giving

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us."* - Luke 1:78

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising "gift-son", John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the skeptic.

When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he did not believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully



servicing God; clearly he was a sincere believer.

He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something "too good to be true," the skeptic in Zechariah comes out and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad.

This Christmas let us be about giving to the world in ways that are too good to be true. Let the skeptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and

John. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true! Merry Christmas.

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*

**Note: POUCC Pledge cards can still be turned in at church on Sunday, mailed or dropped off at the church office.**

**RESULTS OF THE JOE COURTY "AWAKE LEADERSHIP" CONSULT HELD SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20TH** - Thank you to all who participated. 47 church members were in attendance and when asked to pick from three areas of focus, the overwhelming majority picked **YOUTH/GROWTH** first and **EDUCATION** second. Missions was our third choice but all attending agreed that this was already a strength of our church. During the coming months the Church Council and various Church Teams will be looking at ways to create stronger emphasis and positive steps to move us forward in developing **YOUTH / GROWTH** programs.

## BUTTONS NEEDED

**Bernie Hunt is in dire need of Buttons!** She uses them for the beautiful greeting card ornaments that she makes. Anyone who would like to contribute to the cause will be very appreciated. Buttons may be left in bags at the church office or given to Bernie on Sunday (10:30am svc). Also, we need to thank Bernie for all she does as our official POUCC historian.

## CAMPBELL'S LABELS for Education:

Pick up a complete list of items in the Jim Reed Building and take a second to see if the products you're using qualify to earn points in the

Church's account. Recently more items were added. The points accumulated can be used to purchase classroom items for the Sunday School. Thank you to **Bernie Hunt** for managing this account for the Church.

## POP TOP FACTS

**The Pop Top Container:** For those who enjoy soaking up facts, did you know that a full 5 gallon container of pop top tabs holds approximately 26,880 tabs, which is about 1120 cases of soda can tabs. There are approximately 1792 tabs per pound and a filled jug weighs about 15 lbs.

In the past couple of years of filling the jugs, we have turned in five – 5 gallon jugs that generates \$ for cancer research. That's 134,400 pop tops!! **Let's keep 'em comin'!!**

## BRAIN TRICKS

**Prediction: Your result will be 18.**

- Think of a number
- Add 7 to it
- Subtract 2
- Subtract your original number
- Multiply by 4
- Subtract 2

**Explanation:** This problem gives the illusion of guessing an unknown number, but the unknown has been cancelled mathematically.

$$81 = 2 - 4 \times (x - 2 - 7 + x)$$

*Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.*

--Washington Irving

## Incredible Food

### Downeast Maine Pumpkin Bread



- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour three 7x3 inch loaf pans.
2. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans.
3. Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

By: Laurie Bennett

"This is a great old Maine recipe, moist and spicy. The bread actually tastes even better the day after it is baked. Great for holiday gift giving!"

Original Recipe Yield 3 - 7x3 inch loaf pans

#### Ingredients

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups white sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt

## Second Thursday Fellowship Dinner



Every Second Thursday at 5:45pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the church's Jim Reed Building. If you have attended, you already know that we EAT, TALK, LAUGH, SING and ENJOY each others company. If YOU have not attended isn't it time for you to put this time on your calendar?

The food is Pot Luck and it is delicious! **Just bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert.** We also have special meals for Thanksgiving, Easter, St Patrick's Day and other dates. Watch for announcements.

***Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday December 8th. The meal will be pot luck. Bring a main dish, a side dish, salad or dessert, plus your appetite & laughter.***

## POUCC INSTALLS NEW PASTOR

On Sunday, November 13, 2011 **Rev. Dr. William J. Wassner** was officially installed as **POUCC's permanent Senior Pastor.** It was a truly joyous day followed by a wonderful reception and celebration.

**Special participants in the service included** - Florida Conference Minister Rev. Kent Siladi, Rev. Raymond Hargrove, Pastor Emeritus Bill Ebbert, Conference Member David Heald and Moderator Sherian Buller. Also included were the nine member Pastoral Search Committee (Bob Brewster, Sherian Buller, Jackie Gaither, Susie Grieff, Jack Hilgenberg, Sandy Kransi, Dalen Mills, Bonnie Morisset and Janna Thompson) who were all elated to see the process come



full circle. We welcome Pastor Bill and Lisa with open arms as we journey into the future together. Imagine What is Possible...**Thanks be to God!**

Pastor Bill was presented with a beautiful "Imagine" prayer



stole and an original painting by Bonnie Morisset depicting Jesus and the 23rd Psalm.

Also, during the ceremony, Pastor Bill & Lisa Wassner were also



welcomed as new POUCC church members through transfer by Rev Dr Bill Ebbert. Afterward, a wonderful meal was enjoyed by all. ☆

## YOUTH MUSIC GROUP GROWING

The newly formed **Port Orange Music Academy** began rehearsals at POUCC in November under the direction of Mr. Ed Clowers and his son Brent. Ed has been the music teacher at Spruce Creek Elementary School for the past 26 years and Brent is the Director of Bands at Holly Hill Middle School. They have brought their talents together to form the Port Orange Music Academy, Inc.

Local 3rd-5th grade students now have the opportunity to play the Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion and Bass. The POMA is utilizing the church sanctuary for their rehearsals and most recently the parking lot as they learn the art of "marching". They will be making their debut on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the 2pm Port Orange

Holiday Parade. POUCC is proud to provide facilities to support children and the arts. Praise be to God!

- **Sherian Buller, Moderator**  
*Learn more at their website*  
[www.portorangemusicacademy.com](http://www.portorangemusicacademy.com)



## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

All the food that you donate goes to H.U.M. (Halifax Urban

Ministries). Below is a list of items that are needed most. **Canned Vegetables & Fruit:** Green Beans / Corn / Potatoes / Sweet Potatoes **All Canned Beans:** Pork & Beans / Pinto Beans / Navy Beans / Black Beans / Kidney Beans / Red Beans, etc. **All Canned Fruit. Other Canned or Jarred Food:** Soup / Pasta / Chili / Beef Stew / Tuna / Ham / Peanut Butter / Pasta Sauce (regular size) **Dry Food:** Cereal / Rice / Pasta (regular size) / Pasta Sides / Macaroni & Cheese / Dry Milk / Instant Hot Cereals

**If you or someone you know is in need of the services of the H.U.M. food pantry in Port Orange, it is located at the Grace Episcopal Church on US 1, just south of Dunlawton Ave. The food pantry is open from 9 – 11:30 AM on Mon, Wed & Fri.**

For questions visit the pantry or call H.U.M. at 252-0156.

## CHIME CHOIR



The **POUCC Chime Choir** is **developing**. Under the watchful experienced eye of Dr. Tom, the Chime Choir players are learning techniques and method for playing together. It is anticipated that the group will make its official debut during the Christmas season, this year.

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## CHURCH WEBSITE

Be sure to pass our church website address on to others. [www.PortOrangeUCC.org](http://www.PortOrangeUCC.org) It is a great way to introduce our church and to show people some of the things we are doing. Here is the link for reading our newsletters online - <http://portorangeucc.org>

### Let people know!

Also, Pastor Bill has created a special **Facebook** page that can be found at the following Internet address -

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/107789452636804/>

(You can check it out but first you must become a free member of Facebook.)

## SENIOR CHOIR

This past month, the choir lost one of its treasured members, **Suzanne**



**Holby**. Sue sang in our Alto section and will be greatly missed. For a time she also sang with the Contemporary Praise Team. Sue loved music and for this reason, the family has asked that anyone wishing to make a memorial donation in her name, please do so by giving to the **POUCC Choir Fund**.

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*You left us so suddenly, your thoughts unknown. You left us memories, we are proud to own. Those who loved can truly tell the heartache of parting without farewell. Now, surrounded by others filled with love, in Gods loving care you rest above. - Anonymous*

## CHURCH FACILITIES LAND CLEARING

A **REMINDER** - Our church has a new outside user. (Weight Watchers will only be using our facility for Thursday morning meetings.) Every week day M-F from 2:30pm to 4:30pm there will be the sound of music coming from our sanctuary. Not the music of hymns or the organ but the music that comes from children learning how to play musical instruments. The students will be coming from across the street at the Port Orange Elementary School.

We are excited about this and hope this might create opportunities for more youth music ministry within our church.

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The West Church Property has **been cleared!** Wow! What a job! We have heard many comments regarding the property's size. It is much bigger than most thought. Now, we need to decide on how to use this new space to enhance our church's presence in the community. Also, we will be having a property "Naming Contest". In addition the old church sign will see a "re-birth" as it will be placed on this property with a special message. Put your thinking caps on & watch for details. Special thanks to **Reid & Mary Hughes** for making all this possible.

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## Birthdays\*

Dalen Mills	12/4
Ted Batturs	12/4
Beverly Schafer	12/7
John MacNeil	12/7
Helen Van Nostrand	12/8
Chuck Konopsky	12/10
Drew Knock	12/10
Selena Miller	12/13
Susie Greiff	12/16
Joe Thompson	12/19
Terri Zinke	12/24
Rose Williams	12/28

## Anniversaries\*

Bill & Susie Greiff	12/12/1970
Bill & Betty Heffner	12/21/1952
Ron & Sonnie Zinke	12/23/1958
Ric & Barb Pountain	12/23/1977
Louise & Bob Johnson	12/26/1955
Ted (Sr.) & Margaret Yaeger	12/29/2002

Note: \*Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your birthday or anniversary.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

All of Our Military & Their Families, Helen Acri (POUCC Member), Maurice "Mo" Claunch (POUCC Member), James Eckersen (Uncle of Susie Greiff), Family of Arlie Deaton (Close friend of the Brewsters), Terry Ruehmer (Family of Pastor Bill), Alice Welsh (Aunt of Tim Schafer), John Middlebrook (Friend of Pastor Bill)

## ON-GOING PRAYERS

Jeanne Taylor, Gary Crippin, Clayton Wagner, Kimberly Comfort, Roy Spiller, Ricky Sawyer, Barry Arrasmith, June Ferreri, Frankie Smith, Will Welch, Marie Buller, Helen Holmes & the Holby Family.

## ABOUT MEMBERS & FRIENDS

**Helen Acri Update** (thanks to Joanne Flatt for keeping us informed)...Helen was at a doctor's appointment on November 8th and while there an electrical fire destroyed her mobile home in Park Wood - she lost 1 of her 3 cats. The home was insured and will be replaced so she can move back in. For now, she is living with her daughter outside of Philadelphia, PA. An interesting side note - her box with insurance papers, etc. was not touched! It also held a cross, and angel, and her Bible! Wow! Blessings!. - Pastor Bill Wassner (Please contact the church office for Helen's address in PA). There will an assistance drive to help her when she returns.

**Tommy Buller** and his fellow teammates participated in the Florida Special Olympics Fall Classic held November 4-5, 2011 at Walt Disney World. They represented Volusia County with the Silver Sands Middle School Warriors Bowling Team. They placed Fourth in their division.

*Group Photo: Head Coach Laurie Gawriluk, Team Assistants Morgan Willems and Tom Allard and Assistant Coach John McCloskey Team Members: Nicholas Powell, Thomas Buller, Kyle McCloskey and Anthony Heard.*

*Family Photo: Tom, Sherian, Thomas, Aidan, Blake and Elijah Buller*



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What if  
Jesus  
was  
born  
today?

Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-25-2009

**WELCOME TO THE STABLE ... PLEASE LEAVE ANY KNIVES OR WALKING STICKS WITH THE HORSE, IF YOU SMOKE WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DO SO OUTSIDE, FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED INSIDE THE MANGER ROOM ...**

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## **December Schedule**

**Candle Themes: "The Angels Speak"** by Galen Hackman

### **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 4, 2011:**

FOCUS: Mary

ADVENT CANDLE THEME: "The Lord is With You"

CANDLE LIGHTERS:

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 1: 26-38

### **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2011:**

10:00 a.m. Combined Service

FOCUS: Joseph

ADVENT CANDLE THEME: "Give Him the Name of Jesus"

CANDLE LIGHTERS:

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 1: 18-24

CHILDREN'S PLAY: "The Littlest Christmas Tree"

### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2011:**

10:00 a.m. Combined Service

FOCUS: Shepherds

ADVENT CANDLE: "Good News of Great Joy"

CANDLE LIGHTERS:

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 8-12

CHORAL PRESENTATION: "Lessons and Carols"

### **CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24,**

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Choir "A Service for Angels"

FOCUS: Angels

ADVENT CANDLE THEME: "Glory to God in the Highest"

CANDLE LIGHTERS:

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2: 13-20

### **CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, 2011**

9:30 a.m. Christ-Mass Service



## **A HOLIDAY**

### **INVITATION** -

During the coming Christmas Holiday and New Year's Seasons, we are planning to do many special things at our church in celebration of these joyous times. We hope you can join us for everything scheduled and invite you to tell your neighbors and friends about what we have scheduled. For many people, this is a wonderful time of joy and for others it may be less so where they need a helping hand or a welcoming voice. For all of us it is a time to be together to give thanks and appreciation for a caring God who watches over all of us.

- Pastor Bill Wassner

## **POINSETTIAS FOR FLOWERS FOR CHURCH SERVICES**

The Christmas Season is now here! Part of this is the tradition of decorating our church sanctuary



with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. **Everyone is invited to bring in a poinsettia plant the Thursday prior to Christmas December 22nd.** All poinsettias can be taken home or donated after the Christmas Day service. Please let the church office know you will be bringing in a plant or signup on the sheet posted on the church sanctuary back bulletin board.

- Each Sunday, we look forward to beautiful flowers in the sanctuary front. *Flowers can be donated to celebrate a date or be for the remembrance of a loved one.* Also, more than one display can be dedicated on any date so if someone has already signed up for a date that has special meaning for you, please do not hesitate to dedicate your flower display also. See **SIGN-UP SHEET** at the back of the church sanctuary.

### **STAFF Christmas Gifts** -

Envelopes are available in the Narthex for donations to our church staff. Gifts received will be divided equally between staff members to show our appreciation for all of the hard work they do throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your generosity and may God continue to bless the POUCC.

## Port Orange United Church of Christ

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### Abbreviated Calendar for December 2011

#### Sunday Worship 12/4

9:00am Contemporary 10:00am Fellowship Coffee  
10:30am Traditional

#### ★Sunday Worship 12/11 Combined Service

10:00am - Children's Christmas Play

#### ★Sunday Worship 12/18 Combined Service

10:00am - Choir "Lessons & Carols"

#### ★Sunday Worship 12/25 9:30am One Service

Wednesdays Choir 7:30pm

Thursday 12/8 Fellowship Dinner 5:45pm

Fridays Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm

Newsletter Deadline 12/18

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made." Two days later the girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved." The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?" The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

## QUICK NEWS

**NEW OFFICE MANAGER** After interviews of many well qualified individuals, a new POUCC Office Manager has been selected and will be formally announced after the completion of the various required background verifications. The planned start date is mid-December for two weeks of orientation with Pamela Schafer.

**POUCC Sign** - The new church sign is installed and was dedicated on Sunday November 13th. (Final lettering is not completed)

### Painting Donations

We are still accepting donations for the beautiful artwork "*The Wheat & the Weeds*" painted by Bonnie Morisset. Please identify your donation with "Bonnie

Painting" on the check or envelope.

### Church Policies

The POUCC *Personnel Policy Manual* for church staff and *Safe Church Policy* are available to church members in the church office.

### Special December Events:

On page 10 in this newsletter, we outlined our plans for the Advent Season. Be sure to mark your calendars that Sunday December 11th and December 18th are combined services at 10:00 am and the Christmas Day service will be at 9:30 am.

### JANUARY 2012 EVENTS:

**POUCC Annual Meeting**—Mark your calendars for **SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH at 11:45AM**. This meeting will review the past year's events, review & vote on the

2012 church budget, announce people for the various church teams and committees, plus discuss key issues relevant to our church going forward for the coming year. Please make it a personal goal to attend this meeting. Only POUCC members may vote on key issues but all friends of POUCC are cordially invited to attend as a guest. More details will come in the January 2012 Newsletter.

### WE WELCOME

**PASTOR  
BILL &  
LISA  
WHO  
UNITED  
WITH  
POUCC  
AS MEMBERS  
ON NOVEMBER  
13TH**

