

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 43 - ISSUE 4

April 2012

Sunday Worship: 8:00am - 11:00am - 6:00pm

www.pcumc.info

941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

MEMORIES THAT LEAD TO LIFE

If there was a season set aside in the Christian calendar for remembering, it is the season of Lent. One of the things that I find memorable in the Lenten season at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church is the opportunity to gather with our brothers and sisters from St. James Episcopal Church for our Easter Sunrise Service. Certainly, it is memorable because of when we worship. It is EASTER! But it is also memorable because of where we worship. We worship together in the park that our two churches created – **New Beginnings Park**.

If you are new to our PCUMC family perhaps you have not seen or taken the time to visit the park that is located on Viscaya Boulevard between our two campuses. It is a gorgeous space that has a place for fellowship, meditation, and worship.

(From website: newbeginningspark.org) On Friday, August 13, 2004, *Hurricane Charley* ripped through Charlotte County, devastating homes, businesses, and lives. St. James Episcopal Church (SJEC) and Port Charlotte United Methodist Church (PCUMC) both suffered severe damage from this storm. *Charley* also destroyed the densely wooded 2-acre parcel of land between the two churches. In January 2005 the SJEC and PCUMC pastors, and several of their parishioners, met to discuss what could be done with that parcel of land now that they all 'could see each other'. The *New Beginnings Park* Committee was formed to create a park that would serve the two churches and the community.

The park is woven into the fabric of our two churches and we gather at times during the year to remember how God's people come together through our shared ministry to the world. It is also available for weddings, parties, and events for the community. The ongoing maintenance of the park is a volunteer effort on behalf of both churches. It is overseen by PCUMC's Trustee Committee. Work days are established through the year to address the park's ongoing care and upkeep.

A couple of weeks ago I was privileged to work in the park with some of our church's men. They were replacing benches in the Prayer Labyrinth area, and placing memorial bricks in the walkways of our park. Names that I recognized and relationships that were so clearly special were represented in each brick we placed. As the years move forward from that day when our community was dealt a tough challenge, those "memory" bricks continue to fill up the walkways of our park. Their presence speaks to the value of relationships, but the entire park is a significant memory of what our two churches wanted to say to the Charlotte County community – "after the storm, **a new beginning.**"

*"I have set my **rainbow** in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*
Genesis 9:13

If you would like to honor a memory from your life through New Beginnings Park, you can call the Church Office, find the link from our church's website: pcumc.info, or go directly to the park website mentioned earlier.

I am hoping that your Lenten season was meaningful and that your Easter celebration will be blessed!

Keep going and never quit!
Grace, Pastor Brian





Louise Conway 2-24-12
 Peter Lonneville 3-7-12
 Bill Robshaw 3-9-12
 Mildred Askew 3-15-12

Bread Ministry

Terry Hixson

Are you an early riser? Would you like to combine your actions and your meditations? Then you need to serve with the Port Charlotte UMC Bread Ministry Team. What do these volunteers do? They drive to arrive before 7am at the Publix Grocery on the corner of 776 and Placida road. There they pick up the bread and pastries the store has boxed up, put it in their vehicle, drive to the Homeless Coalition Kitchen on Kennesaw Avenue, unload the bread at the front door (or inside if they are open) and they are done. That's the action! Where does the meditation come in? On the drive back to Port Charlotte, you are driving east about sunrise. That, coupled with the reason you are doing this, will put you in a frame of mind that will draw you closer to God, and with a grateful heart. How do you volunteer for this? Call J.C. Spann at 941-629-0363 and give him your name, phone number and address. Address is needed so that the Bread Pick-Up Schedule can be mailed to you.

Sunshine Ministry

"Feed my sheep"
 John 21:17

Jesus asked Peter and his disciples to "feed my sheep." Sometimes people need more than food alone to sustain them. Loneliness can sap one's strength. The Sunshine Ministry truly can use your help in attending to the shut-ins. Please think and pray about it!

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9-10am in the Conference Room. Please join with us in taking care of our shut-ins.

For more information, call Doris Culver 743-5092

Letters

Dear Church family,

I sincerely want to thank everyone so very much for the kindness and caring that they have shown me regarding the illness and death of my mother, Florence Bishop. The visits over the years from the Pastors, Stephen ministers, and Sunshine team have been heartwarming and very special.

Thank you for being the most caring church and for all the cards.

Sincerely,

Lynda Freas



UMW Birthday Luncheon

Evelyn Robertson

The UMW had a turnout of 57 ladies celebrating their birthdays with fellowship and a delicious potluck lunch on March 6. The tables were beautifully decorated and they enjoyed a presentation by "D" Fletcher regarding the prayer shawl ministry.

For more information on joining a United Methodist Women Circle, contact Evelyn at 624-4067.

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D February 2012
 Income \$154,233.83
 Expenses \$158,130.40

HELP:
 24 Gas Vouchers
 3 Utilities

Enjoy this newsletter from Connie DiLeo, a missionary that our church supports.



Greetings from Connie November 2011

*Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic*

Church Fellowship

The upstairs of the church has been such a wonderful place to congregate with our church members and youth of the village. We celebrated various birthdays, going away parties and general interactive activities. We are so blessed to have this space. Dominoes are always a favorite as are the games like 'wacky tourist' and of course, one of the favorite past times is eating!



New Home

It seems I have been in the process of moving for four months now. Well, I am finally in the pastoral house! We ran into a problem of contractors not completing their work and in this case it was the windows. We are still without two windows, but I just needed to get moved! This means that whenever I am away from the house, I will need someone else to be here. It is a very humbling situation, but it makes one have more empathy with those who live in such a situation all the time. It brings back memories of when I taught school in south Phoenix. I remember students who had to take turns staying home so someone was in the house since they didn't even have locks for their doors. We had to go to another company to finish the work. I do have hopes that the windows will finally arrive this week as I will be going to Texas to spend Thanksgiving with Jon, Jenny and Matthew. I did not get to see them over my itineration so we are all very excited about this visit. Unfortunately, Rob will not be able to join us from Ohio.



Legalization of Undocumented Children

This process has already proved to be very difficult. We decided to begin with the easiest cases. These are those children born to Haitians who do, in fact, have legal status. These are children who have every right to be documented. So what is the problem? Getting the parents to walk through the process! We meet with the parents, explain the process and ask them to do the first step which is go to the hospital and get a certificate verifying the child was born there. When they return with this paper, we tell them the next step which is to take this paper and submit it to the proper office. Sometimes they may be asked questions, but since they are legal, this should not cause any problems. There is even a temporary office set up in a high school in Barahona that is a bit less threatening. Sounds quite simple, but we have a few families stopped at either of these two processes. We really don't want to take them by the hand as that is not enabling, but debilitating. We will continue encouraging these parents to follow thru. We do have some papers submitted and when these children become documented, we hope it will inspire more to do their part.



Photos by Paul Jeffries

Street Evangelism

Once a month we hold outdoor services in the early evening in front of one of our church member's houses. Most all of our members come as do many neighbors who don't usually attend church. It is a fun event and we go under the motto that "If they won't come to church, we'll take the church to them!" The hardest part is that we usually don't have light in the evenings so it is a bit hard on the old eyes to read the scriptures by flashlight!



Prayer Requests:

Continued good health to be able to work here in the DR

That more youth would make commitments to Christ

For wisdom in leading this new flock of believers

For Rosalba as she begins her master's degree

For the young leaders of our church to resist the evil forces working against them

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana (IED)

Rev. Connie Di Leo, Advance Special # 014169

connie_copa@yahoo.com

Telephone (809) 399-3096

Salty Service

Kairos Prison Ministry #58 *Pastor John Robertson*



Port Charlotte United Methodist Church has generously supported Kairos Prison Ministry both prayerfully and financially. During the Kairos weekend, six meals are brought in for 30 inmates and 40 team members. Snacks are also provided. The cost for the weekend is \$7,000. Through the Salty Service missions budget, the United Methodist Men and Bible Study groups \$750 is received. You can make a personal donation by the purchase of a meal ticket. At each meal, a meal ticket is placed in front of each of the 30 inmates. They will have your name and the name of the town where you live. The price for each meal ticket is \$5, or \$30 for the six inmates seated together at one table.

As a team member, I have observed how the inmates keep those meal tickets from each meal served. They use them as prayer cards, thankful that a stranger gave such loving support.

Since this is a practical way to financially support such a wonderful demonstration of God's love, I ask you to consider the purchase of at least one meal ticket.

DATE: Thursday, April 19 - Sunday, April 22
LOCATION: De Soto Correction Institute

Frequently Heard Questions

No.4, Jonathan Carlsen

Question: Where is The United Methodist Church's denominational headquarters?

Answer: There is none. Each time the 1,000-member General Conference meets, it normally meets for 12-14 days during Leap Year in a different rented location. (This year it meets in Tampa, Florida, beginning April 24. *Pray for them!*) Different church agencies have their own agency headquarters, most notably in New York, Washington, D.C., and Nashville.

Question: I read once that John Wesley said, "Once every seven years I burn all my sermons." If this is so, why do we have so many sermons bearing his name?

Answer: Wesley wrote these words in his *Journal* (September 1, 1778) and they often appear in books of religious quotations, but they were taken out of context. Wesley wasn't describing his own practice. He was quoting another preacher describing *his* practice. The *Journal* entry begins: "I went to Tiverton. I was musing here on what I heard a good man say long since, — 'Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I could seven years ago.' Whatever others can do, I really cannot. ..." Wesley goes on to name some of his sermons, some of them preached decades earlier, that he could not improve on despite years of further reading, prayer and study. Wesley not only saved his sermons; he also had them printed to use as textbooks to instruct his preachers in correct Christian teaching. United Methodist seminaries use them today for that same purpose.

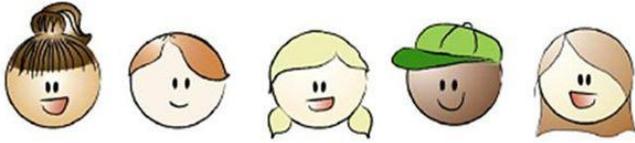
Question: In John 19:34, we read, "... one of the soldiers pierced his [Jesus'] side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out" (*New Revised Standard Version*). Someone recently said this verse gives us strong evidence for the reliability of the Gospel of John. How so?

Answer: We can thank Campus Crusade for Christ's apologetics lecturer Josh McDowell for this insight. In his *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Thomas Nelson, 1999, pp. 224-225), he preserves a long quotation from 19th century University of Dublin physiologist Samuel Houghton (spelled "Houghton" in *The New Evidence*) where the Irishman reports on his experiments of stabbing numerous newly expired animal and human corpses (executed convicts?) to study the effects of the Roman soldier's spear thrusts. He concluded that the gush of blood followed by the gush of "water" (the transparent elements of the bloodstream) indicated that Jesus died of a ruptured heart. This detail, a rare outcome of crucifixion, argues that (1) Jesus was dead and not simply unconscious as some people trying to explain away the resurrection have supposed, (2) John 19:34 could only have been written by an eyewitness (as John himself declares in verse 35), and (3) John himself wrote gospel. It was not a 2nd century forgery as unbelievers (and even some misguided believers) have claimed.

Do you have a question about the Bible or United Methodist belief, organization, or practice? E-mail them to me at the exhorter_fla@yahoo.com or leave them with Katherine Arthington at the church office and I'll try to answer as many as I can. — JAC

Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry



2011/12 Staff

Back Row: Brenda Shine, Janel Hawley, Cindy Friend, Ciera Lipp, Carrie Weller, Nancy Ristic, Judy Western, Kelli Tull.

Front Row: Claire Sheffield, Patty Royer, Ericka Brown, Paula Mann, Kim Davis



We are raising money for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life April 21/22!

Our team goal is \$2,000.

If anyone would like to donate to this important effort, they may turn in a check or cash to Ericka or any of the CWM staff and it will be turned in to the Relay for Life.

Bunny Breakfast
 Saturday, April 7th
 7am—11am

Sponsored by the United Methodist Men

Bring your camera!

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

HAPPY EASTER! I hope everyone will join us for Holy Week - a time of reflection and a time to celebrate! Join us Wednesday April 4, 6pm in the sanctuary for "Until the Whole World Hears" An Easter Celebration. The children have worked hard so please come and support their efforts.

Good Friday at 6pm in Fellowship Hall the children will experience the walk of Jesus and make "empty tomb" cookies.

PBNJ's will meet on Wednesday nights through the summer. We have lots of activities planned so join us from 6 to 7; after school's out, 6 to 7:30pm.

Vacation Bible School is June 25 thru 29. We need all kinds of volunteers to serve as we reach out to our community and bring the joy of Christ to children. So please look for the sign-up sheet at the children's area.

Speaking of outreach! I want to thank everyone ahead of time who helped with "Easter Fest." It is always a joy to work with the United Methodist Men and bring joy to our community. Thank You!

In His Love, Barbara

Come with us to Faith Night!



April 27th at 6:30 pm

If you come with the PCUMC group, you will receive:

- * Free Charlotte Stone Crabs Exclusive Group Hat
- * Group Name Announced over PA system
- * Free 'First Pitch' Game Program
- * Special performance by Fireworks Extravaganza!!!

All for \$10 per person—sign up in the Lobby!

April Birthdays

01 Paul Ward	19 Veronica Vieux
01 Jerry Swanson	20 Andy Anderson
02 Frederick Paulsen	21 Charlton Christman
02 Joann Gress	21 Jim McGuire
02 Jillian Scott	21 Ray Rowley
04 Louise Patchen	22 Nicholas Coccaro
04 John Minehan	23 Mary Huggins
04 Caleb Cox	23 Weltha Carr
05 Viris Brown	24 David Stout
06 Darcy Wright	24 Carrie Weller
07 Delma Giles	24 Jessica Dunda
09 Helen Ross	26 Calvin Gress
10 Linda Layman	26 Charlene Ball
11 Linda Lawson	26 Cynthia Friend
12 LaVonne Goodell	27 Hilda Ramer
13 Maxine Giles	27 Eva Welch
13 Marilyn Morrison	27 Fran Rowley
14 Shannon Roberts	28 Sid Scott
15 Barbara Pennington	29 Esther Schaumleffel
15 Guy Emerich	29 Ruth Miller
17 Onie Fuller	29 Marilyn Siebenburgen
17 Betty Rankin	30 Marilyn Thompson
17 Tracy Barbarena	
18 Carl Schleich	



April Anniversaries

02 Irwin and Jan Schinkel
04 David Sr. and Mary Cox
14 Phil and Judy Western
14 Cecil and Violet Ward
15 Don and Flora Bunger
21 Leo and Inez Jones
24 Samuel and Jackie Carter

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

Congratulations to our youth for being named "Work Group of the Year" for 2011 by the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Our church joined Christ UMC Lehigh Acres, Gulf Cove UMC, and Fort Ogden UMC last June to spend a week working at the Children's Home. PCUMC was represented by Paige Calvert, Kelsey James, Jessica McNally, Eryne Phillips, and Paul Kisner.

Important Dates:

April 8: Easter Sunday – no Confirmation Class
April 29: Youth Sunday

Surge into Missions 2012

What: High School Youth Mission Trip
When: June 15- June 22
Where: Lake Junaluska, NC

See Paul Kisner for more details

*Sign up is taking place during the month of April

Grandparents and Me CAMP! (<http://lecprograms.org/2011/10/11/hello-world/>)

Grandparents and Me Camps are for grandparents and their grandchildren ages 5 to 11 years. The camps are a program of the Life Enrichment Center, a United Methodist retreat center located in Fruitland Park, Florida just north of Leesburg and south of Ocala. You will enjoy Bible study, arts and crafts, games, swimming, campfires and all your camp favorites. Scholarships are available. Contact Paul Kisner for dates and more information.

