

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 42 - ISSUE 11

November 2011

Sunday Worship: 8:00am - 11:00am - 6:00pm www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

A SINGULAR DECISION

I remember when I was a kid, I would spend hours imagining myself to be all kinds of heroic figures, epic sports heroes, or global conquerors. I remember how bold and fearless I imagined myself to be, but when other kids came around or anyone asked what I was doing, I quickly became that same sheepish little boy. I was afraid of what they might think of my imaginary life.

Many of us do the same when it comes to living our lives today. We imagine ourselves making bold proclamations against cultural or societal behavior. We see and hear things in the lives of our friends and family that we disagree with and imagine ourselves expressing concern. Perhaps we are afraid of looking foolish, or being talked about and misunderstood. We can quickly lose our courage to stand alone when the crowd seems so safe, so right.

It takes courage to think individually, to stand alone, to decide alone.

There are four courageous statements each of us must decide are true in order to make individual choices about who we want to be:

1. **"I will not forget."** We must choose to remember who God is and what God has done.
2. **"I am responsible."** The things that happen to me and the things I have in this life are in my hands.
3. **"I am accountable."** Whether I live in Port Charlotte or the South Pole, what I do matters.
4. **"God is my standard."** The world doesn't get to measure my decisions. Only God delivers a verdict that lasts.

During the month of November, our Extravagant Generosity Team is going to be leading us through Worship, Discipleship, Salty Service, and Hospitality so that each of us can make our own individual decisions about how we will seek to move forward in our spiritual lives in 2012. We will be learning through Sunday School lessons and worship messages that God desires us to live "A Blessed Life". We will have the opportunity to make commitments (Sunday, November 20th) that show the world that we believe we are blessed by God.

I am looking forward to our time together as well as what God has in store for us in 2012. Keep going and never quit!

Grace,

Pastor Brian

November 5

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am

November 11/12

UMM Garage Sale

November 13

Operation Christmas
Child Shoebox Deadline!



November 18

Family Dinner and a Movie
Kids' Clothes/Toy SWAP
6-8pm—Fellowship Hall

November 20

Big Red Bus 8am –12:30pm

In Loving Memory

Bruce Bishop 9-15-11
Shirley Blair 9-28-11
Becky Titus 10-20-11

Letters

Our son, Bruce went to be with the Lord on September 15, 2011. I would like to thank Pastor Brian for his home visit during a very needed time. For all of you who sent cards and gave words of spiritual help during the death of our son Bruce, thank you and live with God's blessings.

What a blessing when I heard the many testaments at the funeral -- it was Bruce that helped them become Christians. God bless all of you who have out-lived one of your offspring.

Thank you, Bill Bishop

Thank you for hosting your recent blood drive. Your efforts registered 9 donors and collected 7 units which saved up to 21 lives at local hospitals.

I really appreciate your commitment to the community's blood supply.

Julie McGlinchey
FBC Volunteer

(Our next blood drive is scheduled for Nov. 20th!)



November Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 01 | Buckingham, Marilyn | 15 | Shelt, Charles |
| 01 | Trader, Shirley E. | 15 | Weaver, Olive |
| 01 | Chinn, Sharon | 17 | Keating, Josephine |
| 01 | Littlefield, Lynn | 18 | Schwartz, Lauren |
| 02 | McManamy, Russell | 19 | Bertuzzi, Lorry |
| 02 | Kramer, Jennifer | 19 | McNamara, Pat |
| 03 | Clemons, Mary Sue | 19 | Harris, Sue |
| 03 | McNally, Jessica | 21 | Alverson, Frances |
| 05 | Coleman, Edrel | 21 | Tschetter, Lois |
| 05 | Roberson, Kenneth | 22 | Cox, Emily |
| 06 | Peck, Mary Lou | 22 | McNamara, James |
| 07 | McCleary, Ruth | 23 | Coccaro, Beth |
| 08 | Weller, Bill | 24 | Anglin, Barry |
| 08 | Kisner, Paul | 24 | Stocker, Allan |
| 08 | Yanni, Brett | 25 | Sniecinski, Joan |
| 09 | Neill, Buddy | 25 | Schleich, Karabeth |
| 10 | Brown, Ella | 26 | Bishop, Florence |
| 10 | Watts, Bob | 26 | Robertson, Evelyn |
| 10 | Leathers, Grace | 26 | Marquez, Arthur |
| 11 | Lonneville, Peter | 27 | Cox, Phyllis |
| 11 | Gomez, Joseph | 27 | DePaul, Santi |
| 12 | Williams, Esmelda | 27 | Keating, Megan |
| 12 | Grimes, Art | 28 | Shaw, Karen |
| 12 | Hald, Clarice | 29 | Edwards, Edward |
| 13 | Woods, James | 29 | Price, Kay |
| 14 | Force, Linda | 30 | Keirnan, Esther |
| 14 | Halter, Virginia | 30 | Koehler, Robin |

November Anniversaries

- November 3 Frederick and Harriet Paulsen
- November 14 Bill and Carrie Weller
- November 23 Tom and Judy Brown
- November 26 Irwin and Majorie Clark
- November 27 Arthur and Donna Lageveen
- November 30 Verlin and Marilyn Morrison

Extravagant Generosity

Year to Date 9/30/11

Income \$631,091.72 Expenses \$639,261.37

Assistance
Utilities—4

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) Nov. 13

Jonathan Carlsen

Last month, Egypt saw “the worst violence since Hosni Mubarak was ousted,” according to an October 10th Reuters report. Coptic Christians clashed with police and soldiers in Cairo when a peaceful protest turned ugly. The Coptic Church, founded in Roman times and representing 10% of Egypt’s population, was protesting Muslim radicals who, allegedly, damaged a church in Aswan province the week before. In May, Micah Halpern reported in *The Australian* that two Cairo churches were burned, while other churches were “gutted, vandalized ... violated with graffiti [or] blown up.” Halpern also reported 12 Christians murdered; 232, wounded. All told, “more Christians were killed in Egypt at the hands of Muslims [in those few days] than people were killed in Syria or in Libya as a result of protests, riots and resistance.”

Ironically, Egypt, compared with other Muslim lands, is Christian-friendly. Its constitution guarantees religious freedom. Its laws allow Muslims to convert to Christianity. The problem is “unofficial” persecution. Ordinary people or thugs commit violence and local officials shrug. Churches are damaged and officials delay issuing repair permits or refuse to issue them.

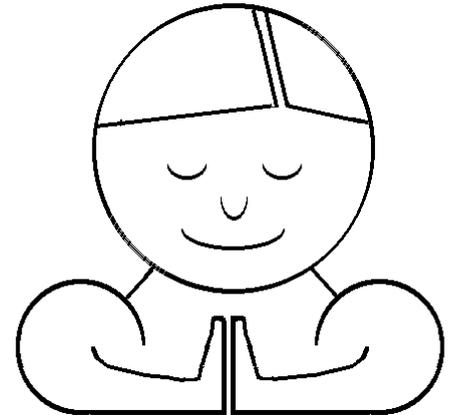
Jos, in Nigeria’s heavily Muslim North, where pre-1968 Evangelical United Brethren missionaries labored, has seen similar unofficial persecution coupled with official indifference.

Muslim countries comprise 2 out of 3 of the 50 worst persecutors of Christians on Open Doors’ *World Watch List*. On the other hand, Senegal (92% Muslim) prides itself on its religious tolerance. Other persecutors include the 5 surviving Communist states, Buddhist Myanmar (Burma) and Sri Lanka, and surprisingly India, where Hindu militants terrorize non-Hindus, and Ethiopia, where Somali invaders rampage.

Since 1996 more than 100,000 churches around the world have prayed on the second Sunday in November for persecuted Christians. The United Methodist Church has participated since 2000. We’ve observed the day here since 2007.

Prayer can change hearts and alter circumstances allowing miracles to occur. On Monday, August 9, 2004, four days before Hurricane Charley, *Operation World* (the daily prayer guide designating a country, region, or ministry to pray for each day of the year) said *pray for Mauritania*. That North African country, nearly 100% Muslim, has, like Sudan, many, many Arabs and Berbers in the north and black Africans in the south. The southerners include only a few thousand Christians and animists. So I prayed for Mauritania with thousands of others.

The next day, the *Sun* reported: “Mauritania’s pro-U.S. government broke up a plot by military officers and radical Islamists to seize power in this heavily Arab West African nation through a bombing and assassination campaign, officials with the military and ruling party claimed Monday.” Thank God, prayer works. — Jonathan Carlsen, Salty Service Committee



“The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve.” — James 5:16 Common English Bible

Mark Your Calendars for the United Methodist Men’s Annual

Indoor Yard Sale

Friday, November 11 8am-2pm
Saturday November 12 9am—Noon

Bring any items you would like to donate on Thursday, November 10 between 8am and 2pm. To schedule a pickup, call Gene Novak 766-9054.



General Conference 2012 Volunteer Opportunities

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church meets every four years and is a world-wide gathering of Methodists. The decisions made during the General Conference affect the social policies of the church and how we govern ourselves. The Book of Discipline is amended at the General Conference, and the most recent General Conference was in 2008 in Fort Worth, TX.

The Florida Conference will host the 2012 General Conference which will be held at the Tampa Convention Center. The 11-day event is slated for April 24 through May 4, 2012. It is not likely to be held again in Florida in our lifetime, so this is a great opportunity to participate in some way. Delegates from all over the world will be in Tampa representing their conferences. In addition to delegates, there will be 5,000 to 6,000 observers and guests attending the General Conference. As the host conference, our role is to prepare for all the people arriving and to provide volunteer greeters during the General Conference.

The Florida Conference is asking for everyone's support in meeting the large need for volunteers to host this event. While team leaders and coordinators are in the process of constructing schedules of volunteer needs, you can enroll now to be a volunteer for General Conference. Go online to www.flumc.org/GC2012 to volunteer for the Florida Hospitality Team. In the near future, you will have the opportunity to select the days, times, and jobs you would like to volunteer for. Job postings will be updated throughout the year, as needs are presented. Even after you select your desired job, should another one become available that you would prefer, you can update your selections, delete previous ones, and also sign up for additional times and jobs. Some of the current volunteer opportunities include: airport greeters, convention center greeters, hotel greeters, prayer ministry, registration, and lounge hospitality.

If you are able to help at General Conference, please complete the volunteer enrollment form online at www.flumc.org/GC2012. Lots of volunteers will be needed, so let's join together and show the world some of our Florida hospitality. It will be a rewarding and fascinating experience. Sign up today!



Looking ahead to the Holidays.... Mark your Calendars!

Sunday, December 11
Children's Christmas Program
"The Gift"

5:15 Dinner, 6pm Church@6
6:30 Program in Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 14
Christmas Cantata
Performed by the Chancel Choir

5-6pm WNT Dinner | 7pm Cantata Performance

Intentional Discipling at PCUMC

Doris Hixson

Becoming a disciple means being committed to becoming more like Jesus in our attitudes and actions. Jesus invites persons into a community committed to following him and assisting one another in becoming fully devoted followers. Intentional Discipling happens most often in small groups of two to fifteen persons. We offer many various groups, but all our church groups are not “discipling” groups. Some groups are designed for other purposes such as fellowship, education, or service. “Discipling groups” gather for the purpose of growing in their walk with Christ.

Each discipling group should regularly answer this question: “How does participation in this group/study advance Jesus’ mission for us to make disciples and have a Kingdom impact in the world?” If the answer is, “This really doesn’t make us better disciples or help us bless other,” then wonder why you are spending time and resources for it. If your answer to the questions is, “Yes, this does help,” then wonder how to do it even better!

The Intentional Discipling committee members are Doris Hixson, Linda Layman, Dustin James, Jeff West, Darcy Wright, and June Richards. Their role includes helping groups find curricula, recommending studies, assisting in scheduling and placement of classes/groups, and encouraging everyone to be part of a discipling group.

We ask that each group notify us (the committee) of any curricula or study prior to beginning it. For some this will mean quarterly notifying; for others, more or less frequent notification is necessary. At the beginning of each quarter (January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1), please be sure that we have a list of your group members. If possible, let us know of changes during the quarters. Weekly, the only information we need from your group is the number present at your meetings and amount of any offerings given.

Current leaders of Sunday School classes:

Bob Burr, Paul Coker, Billie Deaton, Terry Hixson, Dustin James, Gene Middaugh, Florence Nevins, and Jeff West.

Current Bible/Study Group Leaders:

Hap Arnold, Jonathan Carlsen, Sue Edmiston, “D” Fletcher, Pastor Brian James, Linda Layman, Don Nevins, June Richards, and the Rev. Marlene Young.



Shoeboxes are due Nov.13!

SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC

OPERATION Christmas Child Samaritans Purse

BOY
2-4 Years Old
5-9 Years Old
10-14 Years Old

GIRL
2-4 Years Old
5-9 Years Old
10-14 Years Old

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK
FOR SHOE BOX GIFTS > NOVEMBER 14-21, 2011

Don't wait!

Apostles Build
Angels in the Attic

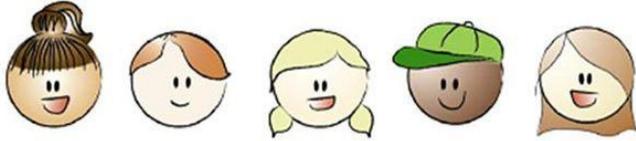
Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity

Your blessing here...

ANGELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE WELCOME CENTER AFTER EACH SERVICE. EACH ANGEL WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE ATTIC BEAMS OF OUR NEW HABITAT HOME. GROUNDBREAKING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 12, 2011!

Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

I hope that you are enjoying getting to know just a bit about each of this ministry's wonderful staff.

Last month I introduced you to Brenda Shine, I thought I should tell you that her son Cory is at Tennessee Wesleyan College (a United Methodist school) in Athens, TN.

Cindy Friend has been teaching preschool here for three years. She had worked in our afterschool program for several years, but left to teach preschool at another church. We are so glad she transitioned back to our school. Cindy and her husband Gary live in Desoto county with their many animals.



Cindy Friend

Kelli Tull just started working at the preschool this year, but has volunteered for several years. Kelly and her husband Steve have two sons and live in Deep Creek. Her family is very involved in 4-H and has just welcomed the newest member to the family...a pig!



Kelli Tull

Praising God, Ericka
Love ♥ Play ♥ Learn

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

Join us during Church@6!

Our Children's Ministry is starting a new series November 6 on Sunday Nights at 6pm: "Professor Playtime's Christmas Shop of Wonders." Come and join in the fun!

November Family Movie Night

Friday Nov. 18th we will have "Family Dinner and a Movie" featuring "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium." Family Movie Night is from 6-8pm in Fellowship Hall—and it's all FREE!

Christmas Play

Open dress rehearsal for our Children's Christmas Production: "The Gift" will take place after WNT on Wednesday Dec. 7th from 6to7pm. The performance is Sunday, Dec. 14th during Church@6 (at 6:30pm). Please come and enjoy the children's gift.

Advent Calendars for Sale!

See Barbara Hald or anyone in the Children's Ministry to purchase yours!



The Children's Ministry is selling **Advent Calendars** for \$1!



Family Dinner & a Movie

Friday, Nov. 18 6-8pm

Come Join Us!

Molly Mahoney is the awkward and insecure manager of Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, the strangest, most fantastic, most wonderful toy store in the world. But when Mr. Magorium, the 243-year-old eccentric who owns the store, bequeaths the store to her, a dark and ominous change begins to take over the once remarkable Emporium.





Children's Clothes & Toy Swap!

November 18, 6-8pm During Family Movie Night

Bring what you don't need - take what you do!

**TOY - CLOTHES - MOVIES
AND MORE - ALL FREE!**



The United Methodist Men Invite You!



Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, November 5

7am - 11am in Fellowship Hall

PUMPKIN PALOOZA!

Thank You!

A big "Thank You" to all who helped make our PUMPKIN PALOOZA events a success this year!



\$1,147.78 was raised for Habitat for Humanity from our Pumpkin Patch sales!



Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

November 11-12: Shoebox lock-in

All youth are invited to a lock-in to help get our shoeboxes ready for Operation Christmas Child. Of course there will also be time for games, food, and movies.

November 27: Youth Sunday

Any youth interested in helping serve as greeters, ushers, and readers for the 11am service, please see Paul Kisner or Mike Hald.

Operation Christmas Child has started again this year. Please see our display in the lobby for information about making donations to this important ministry.



The deadline to drop off completed shoeboxes is Sunday, Nov.13th

If you are donating individual items (that need packing) please bring the items to the church by Wednesday, November 9 so the youth can pack them into shoeboxes at their lock-in on Nov.11-12.

