



No matter who  
you are...  
Or where you are  
on life's journey  
You are welcome here!

*A ministry in the  
United Church of Christ*

**Our Ministry Staff:**

Rev. Bill Klossner, Pastor  
Margo C. Lazzarini,  
Organist and Choir Director

**Office Staff:**

Peggy Kapinski, Manager

**Volunteers:**

Susan Cheney  
Susann Luckenbach

**Elected Leadership:**

Marsha Rutherford, Moderator  
Barbara Fleshman, Clerk  
Robert Naylor, Treasurer

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[www.puntagorda-ucc.com](http://www.puntagorda-ucc.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED FOR NOVEMBER 13

Following the completion work of the Leadership Task Force, the Executive Board calls a Special Meeting of the congregation to act upon proposed revisions to the Constitution and By-laws that reflect a re-structuring of the church leadership. This meeting will be held following the November 13 worship service.

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to recruit members to serve on the many committees responsible for our ministries. Our congregation is not alone in this issue, in fact churches across many denominations are reviewing how ministry is organized.

**Why do we need these changes?** The proposed revisions reflect a more streamlined organizational style that will offer the opportunity for people to participate in short-term projects and ministry activities within the life of the church based on their personal interest and availability. We know that people

are reluctant to agree to a "term of office" of one or three years, so this will use both time and talents more effectively.

**What are the significant changes?**

Instead of ten Standing Committees designated for specific ministries, the revisions propose three **Ministry Teams** who will coordinate activities under their responsibilities. All of the ministries currently offered will find a home in one of the Ministry Teams. New ministries and activities will also bubble up from the team members. Members and friends may volunteer to participate in more than one Ministry Team activity at any time (or at the same time). The Executive Board, which is currently comprised of the committee chairpersons, will become the Leadership Team made up of the church officers and three elected as at-large members.

**When will these changes take place?**

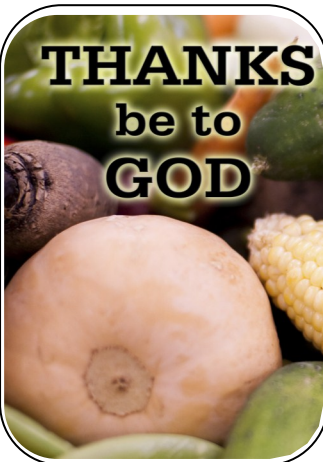
If adopted by the congregation, the new structure will take effect on January 1. In reality, the month of January and beyond will be a time of transition. The Nominating Committee will present a leadership slate at the December Budget Meeting that will reflect the new structure.

**Where can I read the revision?**

The revisions to the constitution and by-laws and an "organizational flow chart" are available in two places. You may visit the church website at [www.puntagorda-ucc.com](http://www.puntagorda-ucc.com) and click on **Special Events** to download and print it. The Leadership Task Force report is also available there. Or, if you do not have internet access, copies are available on the table near the windows in the sanctuary or in the church office.

## A BUSY MONTH AHEAD

As hard as it is to believe, we fly through church seasons during this month. The spirit of thankfulness not only recalls the Pilgrim heritage but is part of our United Church of Christ heritage. And then, just days after Thanksgiving. We will begin the Advent season with our tradition of "Hanging the Greens" in the sanctuary beginning at 4 pm.



# DOLLARS & SENSE

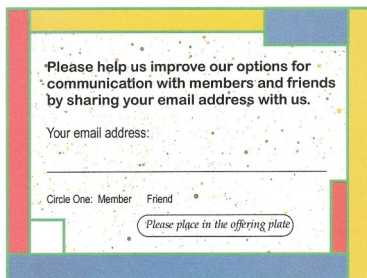
At the October Executive Board meeting, the Chairpersons of our Standing Committees were given a 2012 Operating Expense budget worksheet with instructions complete and return it so that the Finance Committee could create a proposed budget for the November 16 Executive Board for their action. This will allow for a distribution of the proposal in sufficient time before the Annual Budget Adoption Meeting on December 11. If the proposed restructuring is adopted by the congregation, then the 2012 budget will also be redesigned to fit the new format. The "bottom line" will not change, merely the line item organization.



With the resignation of Judy Gerlach, **Margo Lazzerini** has stepped forward to assume the responsibility for both playing the organ and directing the choir.

The Executive Board will be considering the ways that we will continue to strongly support our music within worship and covets your prayers.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP...



In an effort to continually improve our communication links with our members and friends, we need your email address!

With this information we will be able to share important news quickly and perhaps even institute a weekly email update of our ministries and activities.

You will find a card that looks like this in the chair pockets in worship—just drop them in the offering plate.

This information will also be helpful for those who travel during parts of the year to keep us connected. We appreciate your participation in this effort.



The congregation recognized **Ken and Mary Horton** on October 30 as they stepped away from the Lead Usher responsibilities that they have given to the congregation since late 2002. In fact, their service as ushers on Sunday morning goes back to the mid-1990's.

Ken has claimed that he would step down as he reached his 90th birthday, and with that milestone arriving on November 3, he fulfilled his promise.

The Hortons will continue to drive to church every Tuesday morning to gather the trash from around the church so it is ready to be placed out for collection. The church's gift of a certificate to The Bean on 41 will let them continue to stop for lunch after this important volunteer ministry. Thanks for ALL you have done and continue to do for the church.

### November 1-Irene Silverman

- 3 - Ken Horton
- 6 - Isabel James
- 7 - Jean Phillips, Neoma Remiger
- 16 - Don Nagel
- 18 - Cecilia Morton; Nita Ruple
- 21 - Craig Phelps
- 23 - Pat Beatty; Angie Upton
- 24 - Bob Armstrong; Audrey Young
- 27- Vivian Latta

### November 1 - Pat and John Baran

- 5 - Lee and Ann Swift
- 17 - John and Carol Schmuhl
- 19 - Harold and Ruth Woodhouse
- 20 - Jim and Kaye Kirby
- 23 - Bruce and Barbara Campbell
- 25 - Dwight And Marie Nickerson
- 27 - Steve and Elinore Kline
- 29 - Guy and Linda Greenfield





# HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Set up - Friday, November 18 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SALE - Saturday, November 19—from 8 a.m. - noon

Women's Fellowship is counting on you to bake cookies, pies, cakes, jelly, jams, breads, soup and entrees for the sale. If you have been making crafts or other extra craft supplies, please bring them for the sale. Also, if you have Christmas decorations, cards, etc., bring them, too. Coffee and donuts will be sold at the Holiday Food Fair. Bring your sale items BEFORE 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 19 so the items can be sorted and priced.

Preparation for the fair will be Friday, November 18 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. We need many ladies from the church who can help that day, even if you can only spare a couple of hours. *Any MEN, who are available from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. will be most welcomed to arrange tables and help set up.* Posters advertising the Holiday Food Fair are available for you to display at your favorite business locations and community centers and can be found at the kiosk.

If you can help on Friday or Saturday, please sign up at the kiosk or call Neoma Remiger at 575-6775.

This is one of our major fund raisers that makes it possible to purchase extra items for our church and to support local charities.

Working at the Holiday Food Fair is also a great opportunity for you to get better acquainted with fellow church members. New members are always encouraged to participate. Come join the fun!!



## The "Not Yet Factor"

October 31, 2011

Reflection by Kenneth L. Samuel, Pastor, Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia

"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be." 1 John 3:2

There is a forward momentum to the Christian faith that is absolutely undeniable. No matter what goals we've attained or challenges we've conquered, there is an element of our faith in Christ that keeps beckoning us toward something more. There is always something yet to be consummated in us, something yet to be realized about us and something yet to be received through us.

I like to call this urgent beckoning toward our destiny's fulfillment the "not yet factor." The hope that we have for what has not yet been revealed is what keeps us from being stagnated by our present accomplishments. Steve Jobs, the man who redefined technology in the 21st century, was relentless in his quest to keep his focus on the future, despite the impending limitations of his own mortality. "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life," he told the 2005 graduating class of Stanford University.

According to the book of Hebrews, faith is the substance of what we hope for and the evidence of that which we do not yet see. This focus on the future is what moves us past the myopic perceptions of our own supposed perfection and engages us in the thoughtful processes of becoming better than we are—indeed better than we've ever been. Realists may be expert at analyzing the present, but it takes visionaries to discern the seeds of new possibilities, and to open doors to the future.

In the modern day parable, *The Shack*, by William P. Young, God speaks to a man living with deep depression and says: "You are depressed because every perception you have of your future is without me." The "not yet factor" requires vision beyond sight. **Prayer: Lord, you are the God of our past, our present and our future. Give us sufficient grace for what is, and sufficient hope for what is yet to be revealed. Amen.**

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## MISSION:1

11.11.11-11.11.11

That they may all be 1

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice

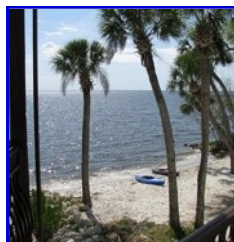
[ucc.org/mission1](http://ucc.org/mission1)

Food Total 11/3/11 -

275 items

Thank you to all who have brought healthy, non-perishable food for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry; have written letters to legislators to improve governmental food policies; or made a financial gift to Neighbors in Need or the East Africa Famine needs through **Mission:1**. We are partners in the UCC and we affirm **"That They May All Be 1."**

## A BEAUTIFUL VIEW, GOOD FOOD AND THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS



That's what awaits those joining the **Senior Singles Dinner Group** on Thursday, November 17 as they gather at *Portofino's Restaurant* on beautiful Charlotte Harbor. Meet at church at 5 or at the restaurant at 5:30 and sign up today at the kiosk.



## Charlotte High Vocal Music Concert to Honor Veterans

*Free admission for all....*

The vocal music department along with four elementary choruses will honor military veterans at their fall concert on Tuesday, November 8, 7 p.m. at the **Charlotte Performing Arts Center**, Carmalita Street, on the high school campus. *“Of Thee I Sing”* will feature the show choir, **CHARISMA**, as well as the Varsity Choir, and students from *East, Peace River, Neil Armstrong, and Kingsway* Elementary schools. Tickets are free but the Center seats 850.

As part of his Scout Troop popcorn fundraising efforts, Dan Harnden offered our members the opportunity to support our troops on a recent Sunday. Dan’s note to us:

*Thank you to everyone that donated last week. We collected almost enough money to send a \$50 package to our troops.*

*Gratefully, Daniel Harnden*



*I dwell in possibility...*

-Emily Dickinson

*With all the good friends in this church—how could we not*

*“live in possibilities”*

*Thank you for all that you have done for us*

*Mary and Ken Horton*



## STAR AND SHIELD SOFTBALL TOURNEY

On Saturday, November 12, law enforcements agencies will descend upon Punta Gorda and engage in some “hand-to-hand” combat to support the Punta Gorda Police Department **Do the Right Thing** student recognition program. Beginning at 9 am and running until the last championship game about 6:30, police officers, sheriff deputies, correction facility and wildlife officers will battle it out for agency superiority. The team entry fees, food sales, and silent auctions, and a TV raffle will be used to support the monthly program that recognizes Charlotte County young people who choose to live and act in positive ways. Our congregation is invited to watch the fun and support our Punta Gorda Police Department’s team, “The Force” as they demolish all comers! The games will be played at the Carmalita Street softball complex in Punta Gorda.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **Friday, November 11, 2011** - Our monthly meeting will begin at noon. Please bring a salad to share with others. After the meeting, we will assemble soup mix which will be sold at the **Holiday Food Fair on the 19th**. If you signed up, don't forget to bring your soup mix item, . Many hands will be needed to complete this task .
- ◆ There will be **no Book Talk Tea or Lunch Out in November**. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
- ◆ **DECEMBER Events: Friday, December 9** - *Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Captain's Table (Fisherman Village) at noon. The cost is \$20 per person. Our menu choices are Crab Quiche or Mandarin Chicken Salad. Sign up at the kiosk or call Betty Cooley at 391-6351. The deadline for reservations is December 6. Please bring some toiletry items for use by the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition (shampoo, soap, razors, skin lotion, toothpaste and brush, toilet tissue, etc.).*

**Friday, December 16 - Book Talk Tea at 1 p.m.** at the home of Marie Nickerson, 22480 Lacombe Avenue, Port Charlotte, 941-625-1662.

**There will be no Lunch Out in December.**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*Neoma Remiger  
Women's Fellowship, President*



As or many friends are returning from other places, I want to remind you that our

lovely little library is available and convenient for your use. We have about 700 wonderful books, fiction on the left and non fiction on the right, as well as some audio visuals, that are easy to borrow. Just remove the card from the front pocket, sign and date, and place the card in the little black box on the shelf. When you return the book, cross your name off the and place it back in the pocket, leave the book on the shelf and the library elves will re-shelve it.

There is a basket on the floor with books that have been donated that are free. Help yourself.

There is a list on the shelf that says "Reading for Renewal". Those books have been read and recommended by folks in the wider church. Most of them are in the "New" section. They are all excellent. **Read - Learn - Enjoy.**

**June Walter, Librarian**



## Your Spiritual Side

**ADVENT** season begins on November 27. *"May others catch a glimpse of my spiritual side - help someone in need, sing a carol, write a Christmas letter to someone telling them what wonderful things God has done for you this past season."*

*There are a variety of Advent booklets to be found in the kiosk during this season of the year for your use.*

*Also there are booklets for families with children.*

**UPPER ROOM** - *As I make plans for the day ahead, may I seek your guidance Lord, your priorities, and your will. Visit the kiosk for the November-December issue of the daily devotional.*

*Have you noticed some new CARE NOTES on the table at the back of the church? The Care Board provides many helpful and interesting pamphlets that deal with a variety of topics such as death, grief, stress, anxiety, depression, and serious illness. Oftentimes we are at a loss when we struggle with difficult times in our lives.*

*The Care Board is designed to provide some help for those difficult times. Stop by the back table and feel free to take one or more pamphlets that may be of help to you or someone you know.*



## Moderator's Message - Marsha Rutherford

Hello, Everyone,

It is November and a time when we think about our blessings. I am thankful for so much at our church..

- ...the fresh feeling of the renovation in Faith Hall
- ...the beautiful music created by the choir and Margo each Sunday
- ...the hard working office staff
- ...the return of the smiling faces of our snowbird friends each week
- ...the stimulating discussions of the Bad Girls Study Group
- ...the faithful service of Ken and Mary Horton, as well as many others
- ...the energy of our youngest members as they begin participating in our family of faith
- ...the generosity of everyone to the Food Cart, Kids in Crisis, Mission 1, and special offerings
- ...the inspiration of Bill's sermons
- ...the leadership of the Executive Board
- ...the vision of the Leadership Task Force

*Thank you one and all for being a part of our ministries here. We are blessed. May we continue to be a blessing to others.*

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Marsha*



## The Last Word

from Rev. Bill Klossner

My friends,

Here we are soon to be at the end of one church liturgical year and knocking on the door of the beginning of a new one. I'm looking ahead, thinking about - working on - the worship for December, and I know Margo and the choir are doing the same thing. And we're not yet in Advent! I still have worship in the Thanksgiving mode yet to prepare. We have a special congregational meeting coming up in a couple of weeks. We always have Sunday worship folders, monthly newsletters, and daily office stuff to keep busy with. And you know, those of us who share the administrative and musical responsibilities have personal lives to enjoy. So when does the church life slow down?

The reality, my friends, is **IF** we are, as individuals, as well as a congregation, are filled with the excitement of God's Spirit, have a vision for what we do not yet see but can only imagine, and are committed to fully living as the followers of Jesus, we will always find ourselves going, and going, and going, like some Energizer bunny. The church will flourish, and God will be lifted up, and outreach to those in need will occur, and lives will be transformed. And we will never slow down - just find times to occasionally catch our breath! But that is good to be the church in those times.



Many of us are expecting that the opportunity to restructure our ministries as proposed by the Executive Board will infuse a new sense of excitement, activity and commitment level into all of us. Not because of the re-organization, but because of the reconfirmed understanding that God calls *all of us* to share in the ministry of the church, to use the various time, talents, and treasures with which God has blessed each of us. And because living in the time of both thanksgiving and advent we are grateful for what ever will come our way! Blessings to you,

*Rev. Bill*

# November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00am Men's Breakfast 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 8:00pm Peace River AA	2 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	4 WF Church Women United 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	5 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 5:00pm Mike Riley - Juli Harley Wedding - Laishley Park
6 10:30am Worship 6:30pm FAA	7 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	8 8:00am Mens Breakfast 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 8:00pm Peace River AA	9 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	11 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 12:00pm WF Monthly Meet- ing	12 8:00am Eyeopeners AA
13 10:30am Worship 11:45am SPECIAL CONGREGA- TIONAL MEETING 6:30pm FAA	14 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	15 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 8:00am Mens Breakfast 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting 8:00pm Peace River AA	16 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	18 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 9:00am WF Set Up-Holiday Food Fair 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	19 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 8:00am Holiday Food Fair 6:00pm Mike Nottingham - Jessica Jameison wedding
20 10:30am Worship 6:30pm FAA	21 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	22 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 8:00am Mens Breakfast 8:00pm Peace River AA	23 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	24 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	25 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	26 8:00am Eyeopeners AA
27 10:30am Worship 6:30pm FAA	28 8:00am Eyeopeners AA	29 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 8:00am Mens Breakfast 8:00pm Peace River AA	30 8:00am Eyeopeners AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			