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Faithful follower

September 2015

Faith in the Community

MEALS ON WHEELS PLUS

Jim and I are volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels Plus. One morning each week we drive to a meal drop-off point and pick up, on the average, 15 balanced meals to deliver. Delivering the meals should take 1 1/2 hours, but our time is most often longer because we enjoy the conversations we have with the meal recipients. We have gained so much from what they have shared with us. They don't realize that they are our volunteer mentors!

It is good to know that due to the meals, and weekday check-ins by us and the other volunteers, many of the recipients are able to live independently, in their own homes, for a longer period of time.

For more information, you can visit the site, mealsonwheelsplus.org, and while you are there you can learn about other volunteer opportunities they offer. There are many!

Valerie and Jim Willard

Congregational Meeting

After Worship on Sunday, September 20.

BIRTHDAY UPDATES

"I had a wonderful 100th birthday party with so many people who showed up to celebrate with me. I want to say thank you so much to each one of you who were there. I loved my birthday party."

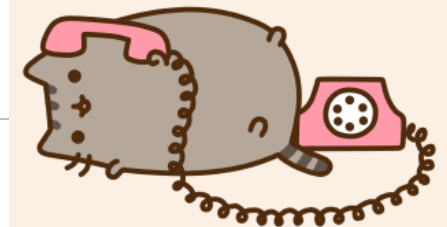
~ Helen Nutting

Happy belated birthday to Pete (Lowell) Peterson. His birthday was also August 1, and we apologize that it was unlisted on the calendar. This has since been corrected. We wish you well this year and blessings upon your life.

If your birthday is missing from the calendar, please indicate your birth date on the friendship pads as they are circulated on Sundays. Don't worry, you don't have to put the year. Please keep us informed; we don't want to miss you!

Also, if there is any other information you would like the office to have, the friendship pad is an excellent place to leave that information. If it is private information, then please email the office at faithchurchucc@verizon.net or give us a call.

Thank you!



From Your Moderator

We are over half way through the month of August and are looking forward to our members and friends who are visiting in the north to avoid the Summer heat and humidity, to begin returning to the Bradenton area sometime in September.

Please check the September calendar to see the activities that are scheduled. There will be sign-up sheets on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Please sign up if you would like to host any of

the activities. There will also be sheets for you to sign if you plan on attending any of the activities. Please sign the sheets so we know how many to plan for.

If you have any questions about any of the activities or about anything else at the church, please call the Church Office.

If you can't call between the hours of 9 A.M. to noon, you can call me at my

home number, which is 941-747-2734. If I do not answer, please leave a message on the answering machine, and I will call you back as soon as possible.

The church phone number and mine are also listed in the Sunday Bulletins. I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday.

Marge Hooie, Moderator

From the Pastor's Desk

Rev Brian and Rev Judy Bagley- Bonner

Dear Friends,

I write this in early August, even though I know you will probably not read it until closer to September. I have been thinking about you and missing you this summer, and I wanted to touch base.

As most of you know, my mother has been under hospice care for the last several months. This summer has been a really precious time of being able to be with her, to hear her share memories and reflections on her life. I have been writing down those memories and reflections, and I know I will cherish them in the days to come. It has been a gift to have this time with her. In addition to time with Mom, I have also been working at a large UCC Church in Ohio this summer. It is the church on whose staff I served from 2004-2008. I have been filling in for the Senior Minister who is on sabbatical. Due to other staff illness, it has been a very busy summer of ministry for me!

As of now, I plan to return to Florida on Saturday, September 5th, assuming that my mother remains relatively stable. In the meantime, I share with you a reading that has been important to my mother and to me, during this summer of limbo that we find ourselves in. I offer it for all who may be struggling to see God's hand in a difficult situation.

"Patient Trust"

(By Teilhard de Chardin)

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything

to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something

unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through

some stages of instability—

and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time

will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit

gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of

believing

that his hand is leading you,

and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself

in suspense and incomplete.

May we trust that God is at work in our lives and circumstances, even when it feels otherwise. May we know the peace that passes all understanding, one day or one minute at a time.

Love,

Judy Bagley- Bonner

Judy Bagley-Bonner

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SERVERS

If you are serving for the first time and have questions regarding your duties, please look on the bulletin board.

Detailed duties for each assignment are printed for you. Please take a copy if you wish.

Thank you for volunteering.



WORSHIP WITH US Sunday Volunteers

September 6, 2015

Flowers: John & Robin Wentz

Greeters: Council

Scripture: Marge Hooie

Ushers: Council

Communion: Council

Nursery: Linda Anderson

September 13, 2015

Flowers: Available

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Sherry Angus

Ushers: Available

Nursery: Marge Hooie

Potluck Available to host

September 20, 2015

Flowers Pat Osborne

Greeter: Available

Scripture: Available

Ushers: Available

Nursery: Babs Brownell

September 27, 2015

Flowers: Anita Porter

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

Ushers: Available

Nursery: Linda Anderson

Financial Snapshot

The Faithful Follower is published monthly by Faith United Church of Christ. Editor: Faith Quici

PER CAPITA 2015



The Church Council would like to thank all who have paid their Per Capita. At this time we are at 60% participation. The decision for individuals to pay their own Per Capita was made years ago. Per Capita is an obligation we owe yearly to the conference to pay for staff, help with pastor searches, programs, etc. If you have not paid your 2015 Per Capita please do so because it is money that will come from the church budget if not paid individually. The cost is \$14.50 per person. Thanks for your prompt attention to this conference obligation. Your statement will show if you have paid for this year.

Financial Secretary
Judy

ONECO FLORIST

941.756.1556

Oneco Florist is offering Church members \$5 off their first arrangement. Just mention this article.



Need Extra Support?

One of our newest members, Dr. Gary Rosenfeld, is offering his skills as a retired Marriage and Family Therapist to anyone at Faith who might need some extra support. Gary can offer help with family issues, grief, health, stress, depression, and aging concerns among others. He is able to meet with you in your home or at the church. There is no cost for Gary's support. Please feel free to contact him via email at drgaryphd@verizon.net or call him at [941-251-9566](tel:941-251-9566).

facebook

Just search for:
"Faith United Church of
Christ, Bradenton ,FL"

Mark Your Calendars

Breakfast

Men and Women's Combo breakfast will be Saturday, September 12 at 9am at the Bob Evans on 14th St. in Bradenton.

Potluck

Will be Sunday, September 13 after service in honor of our secretary's birthday. Happy Birthday Faith!

Dinner & Dessert

Is available. If you would like to sign up please contact us.

Children's Ministry Team

God has a mission for you, and if you have a heart for children, then it could be to join the Children's Ministry Team. **It's so easy to sign up for only a few Sundays out of the year.** Contact **Babs Brownell** if you would like more information about this purposeful and rewarding ministry: **747-9643.**

Guest Preacher

An old friend of Faith will be offering his words of insight and inspiration while the Bagley-Bonnors are on vacation. On Sept 27, Rev. Paul Binder, retired Pastor from St. Andrew UCC in Sarasota, will be preaching. Welcome, Paul!

Beach Worship in October

We will be having Church on the Beach in October. Most likely we will be at Coquina Beach again on either the 11 or 18 of October. Details to follow at a later date.



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the **Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)**. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. The **Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)** is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church. Watch for more.

Can We Be Even More Welcoming?

The Church Growth Committee has always been impressed with how welcoming our congregation is to visitors. They have been working hard at researching the latest information on the best ways to be even more welcoming. They have some exciting ideas and possibilities to share as we enter the fall. Some of these ideas will be shared at a **Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, September 20.**

Green Team?

One of Pastor Brian's goals for 2015 is to establish a Green Team to look at ways we can improve our treatment of the earth both inside and out. Energy usage, using recyclable materials, gardens of native plants to reduce our mowing area, are some possibilities. If you are interested, please contact the church office.



Prayer team: (L to R) Joan Sheehan, Pastor Brian, Janis Groth, Donna Rusch, Marge Hooie, Helen Nutting and Sheryl Smith



**Pride Day
June 27**

Pastor Brian
Richard, Jimmy
and friends



Everyone having fun at Helen's party

HELEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



The Nutting Family



Jeff, MR, Robin, Cindy, Deborah and Babs



Jimmy and Cindy



Helen and Pastor
Brian dancing

SEEDS AND NEEDS

Have a need or something to give?

Pick up a Seeds & Needs form in the Narthex or bulletin board. It has all the instructions on it. Please return the completed form to Faith in the office by Mon, September 21.

Anything received later than the deadline will not make it into the Follower. Thanks for your cooperation!

Host A German Student

Mindy Melendez is looking for host homes for high school students in the area. If we refer someone to her and they host, she will donate \$100 to Faith. Here is one student needing a home for the upcoming school year:

Elaine 15, from Hanover, Germany says,

"I am a lovely person and I love staying together with my friends. My friends love me and we have a lot of fun when we spend the time together. While on my program I would like take part in a musical course (Stage Coach) or participate in a basketball club, because these are my hobbies in Germany. I am an only child, but I love pets and little children. When I am on Stage Coach, I always take care to the little Kids and show them the dances."

CIEE High School Exchange Programs

Join one of CIEE's high school exchange programs as an international exchange student, host family, or local coordinator. Get started today! Contact Mindy Melendez at 614-284-7517 (*she is here in Florida, we checked*)



2015 Church Council

Moderator:

Marge Hooie 747-2734

Deputy Moderator:

Barbara Brownell 747-9643

Secretary:

Linda Anderson 704-8772

Treasurer:

Marge Critelli 685-3807

Financial Secretary:

Judy Wetter 755-4583

Building & Grounds:

Denny Wetter 755-4583

Christian Education: OPEN

Fellowship & Events: OPEN

Community Outreach:

Deb D'Angelo 610-704-4049

Social Action & Missions:

Robin Wentz 758-6575

Faith Care Team:

M. R. Lembright 758-5716

Worship Team Leader:

Richard Dilts 776-7293



NEWS FROM FAITH PRESCHOOL

The staff and I have been preparing for the upcoming 2015/2016 preschool year. The playground has a whole new look, thanks to Gina, our VPK lead teacher and her husband Tom. On Wednesday, August 26th the VPK class will have a "Meet and Greet" get together at the preschool from 9:00 - 10:00 and on Thursday, August 27th the MWF class will have theirs. The teachers and I will meet for staff training on Thursday, August 27th from 10:30 - 2:00. We will have a guest speaker from the Early Learning Coalition to teach us more about brain development. We are welcoming two new teachers to our team this year. Nichole Parsley will be working in the VPK classroom and Whitney Starner will work in the T/TH class. On Tuesday, September 1st we will have Parent Night from 6:30 - 8:00. During Parent Night the parents will get a chance to meet their child's teacher, spend some time in their child's classroom and ask any questions that they may have about the upcoming preschool year. The first day of preschool is Tuesday, September 8. We are all looking forward to another wonderful year! *We hope everyone has had a great summer!*

Wendi Steinbach, Director

In attendance:

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner, Marge Hooie, Judy Wetter, Denny Wetter, Robin Wentz, Richard Dilts, M.R. Lembright, Babs Brownell, Faith Quici and presenter Sherry Angus.

Meeting started at 7:02 pm and with an opening prayer by Pastor Brian.

Before approving the minutes, which were printed in the Follower, Denny made a correction in the amount of insurance money for the preschool. He said the amount allotted was actually \$3,744 not \$1,600, as printed in the minutes in the last Follower. Judy motioned and Babs seconded to accept the minutes of the last meeting with the correction added. It was voted on and accepted by all.

Sherry Angus made a presentation to the council. With discussion afterwards, it was decided that it would be wise to have a second meeting in September, dedicated to the subject. We are asking Sherry to return to the second meeting with Jeff and the following requested information: What are the budget, goals, outcomes, objectives, time frames and please show how the success will be measured. A meeting will be scheduled in September.

Financial and Treasurer Report:

Judy reported for Marge Critelli, who is on vacation.

Judy reported that all the insurance money came in and was used to start the reconstruction of the back part of the building and to pay Service Master for their work. A love offering total of about \$130 came in for Bob Cox and it will be used to provide a gift card to Bob as a thank you for being our volunteer choir director when he is here. The organ was sold for \$250. \$1,500 was borrowed from interest of the building of the future account to cover bills this month. It is intended to pay this back if possible. New offering envelopes were presented as an alternative to the current envelopes that are being used.

Pastor's Report:

He will be on vacation Sept 21-Oct 6 and this will include him being gone for two Sundays. Suggestions were made for certain pastors to pulpit fill in his

absence. Fall UCC conference is approaching Oct 24 in Winter Park. He passed out post cards to sign which will be mailed to our winter friends. We went over names of other winter friends who should receive postcards, as not to miss anyone.

Secretary's Report:

We went over the calendar for Aug and Sept. It was brought up that there needs to be an explanation and notice in the bulletin and Follower that the church directory is now located in the office for security reasons. It was suggested the directory have some corrections, additions and aesthetic adjustments. It is Faith's desire for the office to have one printer/copier which does color copies as well as black and white. The current copy machine has a lease contract that will end in Nov 2016. There is a local company who can offer a new name brand machine that is modern and provide color for about the same amount we are paying for our current machine. It was suggested we look into possibly getting a new machine in the near future. A final decision was not made on this matter.

Old Business:

The Music Committee members include: Jim Willard, Deborah Peters, Bob Cox, Anita Porter, Judy Wetter and M.R. Lembright. The Directories are in and will be mailed out this week and distributed on Sunday.

New Business:

Dinner and Dessert will be Friday, Aug 21, at 5pm at Casa Di Pizza and dessert will be at Sacred Grounds Coffee House. Donna Rusch is hosting. No one has signed up for September Dinner and Dessert yet. No one has signed up for the September 13 Potluck. Both will be advertised as available in the next Follower. It was suggested that the sign-up sheet for the potluck be at the potluck for people to keep it "top of mind" and hopefully sign up. Blessings of the backpacks and lessons plans will be Aug 23 during service.

Building and Grounds:

The building and grounds have been hard at work locating the sprinkler

valves and helping take care of the logistics in regards to building fixes due to the flood. As far as the insurance money, we are about \$2,300 ahead but that could change as the work progresses. The rooms have been painted and the floors are in progress. It will take two weeks to get the tile delivered in order to be able to replace the tile floors. This will be too late to take care of in time for school to start, so the floor replacement in the classrooms could be done over Christmas or we don't have to have them replaced since the floors are mostly covered in rugs. The Pastoral Relations Committee met and discussed Pastor Brain's goals. There was talk about doing an anonymous survey in October for the congregation to offer feedback on how things are going.

SAM:

September is Neighbors in Need and we plan to do the offering collection for it, on Oct 4. September food collection is soups and stews. This month is macaroni and cheese.

Faith Care Team:

M.R. will be out of the country for a couple of weeks and Donna Rusch will be the contact person while she is out of town. M.R. is really impressed with the volunteers of the team who are so faithful and diligent to still do their part while they are away.

Worship:

Richard will be out of town the last three Sundays of Sept. This will not affect communion. Intinction will be continued until October. World Communion Day is on Oct 4 and we will participate in a special way. He suggests we put envelopes in the friendship pad folders for those who would like to place an offering in an envelope for privacy. A suggestion was made to develop a safety plan for emergencies. It is likely we would need a committee to handle making a policy and develop procedure for this. It was suggested we get a birthday card signed and sent off by Aug 21 for Michael, Carol Knight's brother.

Babs closed in prayer and the meeting was closed at 9:36pm

*Respectfully submitted by,
Faith Quici*

2015 Food Bank of Manatee Items

**SEPTEMBER IS:
CANNED SOUPS
and STEWS**

Sept-Canned soups and stews

Oct – Dry and canned beans

Nov-Sugar and flour

Dec-Baby cereal, baby food and formula



Prayer Team

Please Contact the Church

If you, a member of your family, or someone you know is ill or hospitalized please let the office know as soon as possible. A member of Faith Church would like to make a visit to bring God's word of comfort. The church office telephone number is 746-8890 or email at

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call one of the following:

Janis Groth 941-779-6988

Marge Hooie 747-2734

Helen Nutting 792-3124

**Sheryl Overheidt- Smith
269-673-1546 (until Sept. 20)**

Donna Rusch 301-825-9611

Joan Sheehan 748-2498

Members of the Prayer Team want to keep the prayer list current. Please advise us when you would like a name removed.

Your Staff

Pastors

Rev. Brian and Rev. Judy
Bagley-Bonner
Cell: 941-718-3132

Pastor Brian's SUMMER Office Hours

Monday 10 am - 1 pm
Tuesday 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Wednesday 9 am - Noon
Thursday 8:30 am - 9:30 am
Other times by appointment

Secretary

Faith Quici

Office Hours

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
746-8890
Fax 746-0670

Faith UCC Email:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:

faithchurchucc.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:30-8:30pm Preschool Parent's Night 7pm Sable Harbour HOA	2 7pm BAC	3 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	4 7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm BAC	5 10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon
6 10:30 AM Worship 11:45am Music Rehearsal 1:30 BAC	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed TODAY	8 Preschool Starts today	9 7pm BAC	10 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	11 7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm BAC	12 9am Men's and Women's Breakfast Bob Evans on 14 th St 10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon
13 10:30 AM Worship 11:45am Music Rehearsal Potluck (Available) 1:30 BAC	14 7:00 PM Church Council	15	16 Faith Care Team 4:30pm 7pm BAC	17 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	18 Follower Reminder 7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm BAC	19 10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon
20 10:30 AM Worship 11:45am Music Rehearsal Congregational Meeting after Service 1:30 BAC	21 7pm Braden River HOA Follower Deadline	22 11:30am Prayer Mtg. Freedom Vilg Moved to the 4 th Thurs this month only	23 7pm Pastoral Relations Committee Mtg 7pm BAC	24 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	25 6pm Dinner & Dessert (Available to host) 7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm BAC	26 10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon
27 10:30 AM Worship 11:45am Music Rehearsal 1:30 BAC	28 7pm Inlets HOA	29	30 7pm BAC	<div> Happy Birthday </div> <div> 09/13 Faith Quici 09/24 Wendi Steinbach (Preschool Director) 09/28 Anita Porter 09/30 Denny Wetter </div>		

BAC= Bradenton Apostolic Church