

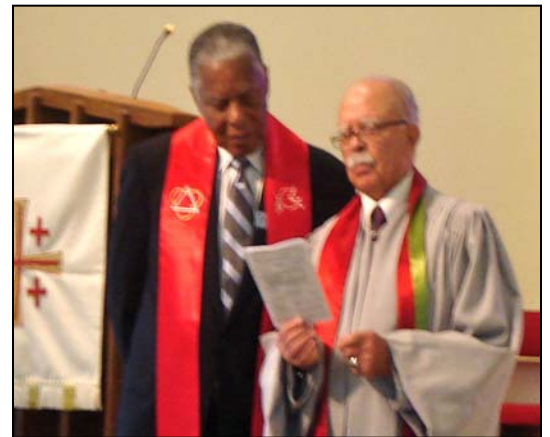
VANTAGE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA



2011

Happy Birthday to the Christian Church! We celebrated Pentecost on Sunday, June 12.



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From Pastor Tom Lacey

I went down to the lake one morning on vacation. It was still early, the water especially calm, sunlight golden on the shore and against the trees across the mirror-like surface, reflecting the soft glistening blue of the sky and the warm strong evergreen of the pines standing along the banks. The cool morning air doesn't move yet, which is the way you want it, 'cause then the water lies restful before you, like the receding, hanging note from a bell rung once. After a rather long time, I realized I hadn't exhaled, not wanting to disturb, not wanting to add anything. But breath must come and go, just as the scene too never stays the same. The trick, the art, the practice is to breathe well, easily, calmly, fully, gently, restfully, musically; this way you can blend in and hopefully even belong to the moment, the colors. When you enter a scene such as this, you try not to impose yourself, your ideas, even your breath. Rather, you simply wish to remain for your time, for the privilege to witness.

I had gone down to be there and to read. I sat down, opened my book, and began. Reading continued for a while, as did the looking up and about—after all, I can read just about anywhere.

This time when I looked up I saw a loon midway out on the lake. She was floating and then diving under the water. I saw the black and white male a couple of moments later. He was closer, also diving for his meal. Unlike “regular” ducks, loons don't dive just for food. They also dive to get away from something they don't like. You can get only so close before they go underwater and swim away, popping up more than a hundred yards from you and where you saw them last. This male was diving, swimming and then popping up closer and closer. I put my book down.

It took several minutes before he came within less than a hundred feet of me. Sleek in their black, tight feathers, unique with their penetrating red eyes, loons are distinct and impressive. Of course it's their long, lonesome call that is most known and unusual about them. That was as close as he came. The next time he dove he surfaced closer to his mate, and farther from me. It was an honor to have one swim so near, rewarding my quiet presence with its quirky one.

Now you may not want to quote me too often on this one, but what if God is like a ... loon?

It's tough to get God close if we don't stay still

It's tough to get God close if we won't breathe calmly

It's tough to get God close if we don't see God reflected in what's around us

It's tough to get God close if you don't go to your “lake”

Tom



PULPIT SUBJECTS

2011-2012 First Sunday of the Month Sermon Series
Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words

Brian McLaren's book entitled the same will guide us in a year-long sermon series. For the next year, we will open the month with a message that looks to move your spiritual life forward or ground you deeper in the spiritual walk you already have.

First Sundays will be marked by refreshing, innovative, and dynamic worship experiences, as well as messages geared toward renewing a powerful and personal spiritual life, making these must-attend Sundays.

Time magazine hailed McLaren as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals for his work as author, speaker, pastor, and social justice activist. You are encouraged to purchase his book, *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*.

Aug 7

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 3

Communion by Intinction

Aug 14

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 10:34-45

60+ Group meets 11:10

Aug 21

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 10:46-52

Safe Church Workshop 11:10

Aug 28

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 12:41-44

Sunday School Kickoff Picnic

Here: Naming the Mystery

Moses is tending sheep in the middle of nowhere one day and sees a common bush filled with uncommon fire. He is drawn to the flame. After famously removing his sandals, God self-introduces, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

While we may never find ourselves in front of a burning bush, or get God to tell us who he/she is, we are one more person encountering God in an ancient and on-going drama. This "here before God" is the beginning, the first word, of your spiritual life.

Get Your Head in the Game

Most of us think heaven is going to be when we get to kick back and relax, the most demanding part being a daily worship service. This may be true, though I'm not a big fan of this viewpoint. But no matter what, that ain't how it is now. The issue is not that you have to work hard in your life, though this is true; the primary issue is getting your head (and heart) in the game.

Get Your Act Together

Bartimaeus was no gentleman. When you read the short story, you don't hear him saying, "Excuse me, excuse me..." I don't think he raised his hand, and he definitely didn't wait his turn. What a cad! Perhaps, but at least he got face to face with Jesus, at least he got his miracle, at least he became a believer and a follower. If you're using lady-like expectations or gentlemanly considerations as your excuses, forget them.

One Little Old Lady

"The kingdom of heaven is like a little old lady, who never missing worship would always bring something to God as a gift of gratitude." Jesus didn't tell this parable because he saw it happen. It wasn't merely a story, it was one little old lady's faith. How good are you at bringing something of yourself to God? How good are you at letting go of all the big and little things that freeze your heart and soul, and giving over to the good Lord? Probably not as good as this one little old lady, at least not yet!

All About Church Events & News



60+ Programs, August 14. The group of eight interested people will meet to decide where we would like to focus our energies to begin new programs for those age 60 and over! We want to *serve* those in need and *share* our talents and experience with one another. The Reverend Linn Possell, our Florida Conference UCC Minister for 60+ Programs, will schedule a meeting with us, after we make one or two choices. Topics that have been suggested include member care, intergenerational activities, health fair, study groups on topical issues, and various small interest groups. Others, *including men*, are invited to share your thoughts and meet on Aug. 14 following worship.

First Thanksgiving Festival, Congregational-Style Is Coming November 19

Thanksgiving Festival VOLUNTEER SURVEYS were mailed to you. We encourage **everyone** who will be in town to please give this thoughtful, even **prayerful**, consideration, and **return** your commitment to help by August 15. When you complete your survey, return it to the office in person or by mail.

Countless hours are already invested in planning this event. Your participation on Festival Day, Saturday, November 19, will help ensure a successful church-wide, and **community-invited** event!

There **really** are fun ways to serve for **everyone**, pre-teens through our most **senior** adults! Prior to Nov. 19, you will be trained and given detailed directions. Perhaps you could demonstrate your craft skills of quilting, crocheting, lace-making, knitting, carving, simple wood-working, thatching, leather-work, candles, and so on.

The more people who help, the less each one needs to do. Additional forms are at church and can be mailed to you.

Let's all get together and enjoy this day!



Friday Prayer Fellowship & Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Rosser Room.

Please come and join us; it is a wonderful time for fellowship and sharing our faith. For our study we use the *Upper Room* daily devotional as our guide. Please call

John Bird or Valerie Ary if you have any questions.

Prayer Request forms can be found in the pews or on the table near the front door. We love to know your joys, concerns and prayers. Please feel free to fill one out if you have a special prayer you would like the pastor to know about.

B.C.E.O. (Boca Christians Eating Out) meets every **Thursday** at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and conversation. Please sign up in the Rosser Room to join us so we may reserve a table for the appropriate number of friends. Call the church office anytime before Thursday if you decide you would like to join us.



Farewell, Shannon!

Farewell Reception, Sunday, July 31, 11 a.m.

The time has come for our very talented church administrator, Shannon, to make major changes. She is returning to the state of Washington, and has accepted a new position there. We will miss her SO much! Shannon has been our one-person office guru for nearly 6 years. She will be very difficult to replace, with her multi-faceted skills. We all wish her God Speed as she continues her journey. We hope she might return for a visit now and enjoy some sun!

The 28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ Tampa Convention Ctr. July 1 – 5, 2011

The Florida Conference hosted a monumentally wonderful meeting of United Church of Christ delegates from near and far. The theme of the meeting, *Imagine What's Possible*, continually inspired all who were there of what we can and should be about as we attempt to act out our faith in these challenging times.

The agenda of meetings, music, worship and special events consistently energized all of us who were part of this outstanding event along Tampa's beautiful river front. The heat and humidity were hardly mentioned! There were far too many noteworthy events to single out, but one, the majestic service of worship on Sunday with thousands of people participating, was awesome and we felt blessed to have heard the awe-inspiring sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. LAURINDA Hafner, pastor of the Coral Gables United Church of Christ.

By Roy and Nancy Nyren, Florida volunteers



Do you have a desire to lift a person's spirits? Or give a little love, care & attention to a shut-in person? Please contact Valerie Ary, 561.395.3857.

September Vantage articles pictures are needed by **Monday, August 22nd**. Please email to office@churchofboca.org your articles, announcements and pictures for church events anytime **before** that date!



Communication with the Congregation! As an ongoing effort to keep up good communication, please notify the office of any address (postal or e-mail) and phone number changes. Thank you to all who have shared updates.

Send emails to:
office@churchofboca.org
or call 561.395.9255.

Shannon Peterson
Church Administrator

All About Our Children

**Safe Church Workshop
on Aug. 21**

*Calling All Sunday
School Teachers and
Youth Volunteers!*



**Become
Aware of
Our
Church
Safety**

We have a Safe Church policy, and all the Sunday School teachers need to attend a training about that policy and boundaries. The training is being held on August 21, for 30 minutes right after worship. Older youth who volunteer with Sunday School classes also should plan to attend. Younger children will have an activity at the same time relating to keeping safe.

If you absolutely cannot attend on Aug. 21, please talk to Tracy Martin or Sarah Hugus about a make-up date.



Sunday School Kickoff August 28, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Kids, bring your bathing suits and towels! Prepare to face the "Ultimate Challenge" and enjoy a cool, wet afternoon. Parents,

catch up with your church family over a picnic lunch under the trees. *Invite your friends!*

Donations needed for our picnic! Please contact Tracy at 561.488.3899 or garymartin@yahoo.com if you can help make our picnic a bountiful one. Catering from Shane's Rib Shack! Drinks, salads, fruit and desserts are welcome additions. Thank you!

Teaching/Acolyte Schedule (Sunday School begins Aug. 28)

August 28 Acolyte.....Justin Guilfu
Nursery.....Leanne Guilfu
Pre-school..Marit Lacey
K - 2.....Juliet Heynen
3 - 5Patti Jourdin
MiddleNilu Jimenez-Ross

*Grandparents
Are a Gift*



Grandparent's Day Ice Cream Social, September 11th. In honor of all grandparents, please enjoy a sweet treat after the worship service. Invite a grandparent to church to celebrate this special day.

School supplies drive for Boca Elementary School students

August 28 through September 11

Because of the tough economy, many parents are finding it difficult to purchase all the necessary school supplies for their children. Let's lend a hand to our neighbors by purchasing a number of the following items for the children.

Look for the drop off bin in the Rosser room. If you would like to participate in our school supplies drive but are unable to shop, please write a check to the church with "school supplies" in the memo line. Your shopping will be done for you! Our elementary school children will have fun packaging the supplies for our neighbors! Call Tracy 561.488.3899 or Jennifer Srabian 561.391.7060 for more information.

- ♥ Backpacks
- ♥ School boxes
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ No. 2 pencils
- ♥ Colored pencils (any size boxes)
- ♥ Pencil sharpeners
- ♥ Glue sticks
- ♥ Pocket folders
- ♥ Composition notebooks
- ♥ Crayons (any size boxes)
- ♥ Wide-rule spiral notebooks
- ♥ Highlighters
- ♥ Rulers
- ♥ Hand sanitizers

Thank you Summer Sunday School Volunteers

Over the summer, our children enjoyed a one room Sunday school "playroom." The kids had fun watching movies, playing with Legos, drawing and working on the medicine bottle mission project! Thank you to our volunteers for supervising our children this summer: Nilu, Luna and Orion Ross, John Bird, Patti Jourdin, Sarah Hugus, Pete and Leanne Guilfu, Winston Christian, Debbie Garland, Marit Lacey, Tracy Martin, Nest Jones, and Carla and Tony Borchers.



Marielena with the bottles!

Getting to Know Grayce Esposito



Grayce & Charles Esposito

Grayce (Bell) Esposito was born in Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in NYC. Her mother baptized her GRACE at the hospital, due to her difficult pregnancy, and being born a month early. Grayce was raised in New Millford and River Edge, New Jersey. She grew up in the River Edge Congregational Church. Her childhood home is now a Sunday School Annex for

another church, and her lovely church, see photo, was torn down and a brick one built. Grayce had a brother, Robert.

Grayce met her late husband, Charles, as pen-pals when she was 16, and he was 21. He was in the Navy and served as a yeoman (office work) in the Pacific theater. When he returned in 1946 they continued dating and married in 1947.

Charles had been raised in East Rutherford, NJ. Their honeymoon was spent "Down the Shore" in NJ. After 9 years, they began having three children. They also lived in Hackensack, Panamus, and Park Ridge, NJ. Their son "Chuckie" lives in Bali, daughters Arlene in Ocala, FL, and Patty in West Palm Beach. There are also three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Charles pursued his naval career and retired after 20 years.

Grayce's parents, Charlotte and Harry, retired to Ft. Lauderdale in 1961. Charles loved Florida, they visited annually, and he wanted to move here. Grayce resisted pulling up roots, so they waited until he retired from the Navy. To celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, they took their first cruise to beautiful Bermuda, with several friends, and shared their relocation plans.

Grayce was a stay-at-home mom for a number of years, and then worked in a school cafeteria in NJ, so when they arrived in Florida, she was hired as baker and cashier at Boca Middle School cafeteria and stayed 17 years. Their children were in Middle and High School when they moved to Florida in 1972, and could walk to school, as Grayce also did, from where they built their home on NW 8 St. Charles worked in administration at Boca Raton Community Hospital and later for the Department of Transportation, plus other part-time jobs and music gigs.

The family began attending Congregational Church of Boca Raton when Rev. Simonton was here. Patty sang in the choir, and Arlene helped watch the nursery, which was located in what is now our Pastor's study -- no Fellowship Hall at that time. There wasn't much Sunday School for their children after a while, and they found that a former pastor, Rev. Wadly, had been called to West Palm Beach Congregational on Georgia Ave., where they attended for a while.

Charles was a musician and played saxophone throughout his life, including in his own band in South Florida. Much of their entertainment involved big band and jazz dance music. They loved Henry's Hideaway for monthly music.

They enjoyed camping, traveling, and taking several cruises with friends. They took an Amtrack 30-day trip on the Sunset Limited across the northern states, through California, across Texas eastward toward Miami. They also went to several Naval ship reunions across the country. She continues to enjoy a vacation timeshare spot on the ocean in Vero Beach. Daughter Arlene lived near Lake Tahoe, and that is Grayce's favorite vacation spot.

Grayce's father died of stroke complications & pneumonia 1980. Her mother didn't drive, so Grayce and Charles cared for her in their home after she became ill, and she died in 1982.

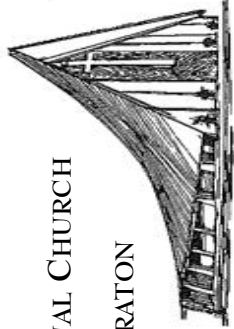
Grayce and Charles were married 55 years, enjoying 30 years in Florida together. Grayce cared for Charles while he was disabled with spinal stenosis. He had successful surgery, but while recuperating he was stricken with leukemia, and died at home in 2003. With her children grown and gone, Grayce found volunteer tutoring work at Boca Middle School.

She began attending our church again, and Pastor Emeritus, John Shaw, asked her if she could volunteer in the office, with her friend Eleanor Butler. She has never stopped, though her duties have expanded! She also brought in Betty Cooper and others to volunteer. We all love her smiling and upbeat personality. Grayce is a Deacon, and does a lot of planning to help keep our Women's Fellowship group exciting. She prepares refreshments for Sunday Fellowship time, and teaches others to help and to make coffee.

We love you, Grayce!



Wedding Day, 6.47



August 2011 Calendar of Events

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

August Birthdays

- 1 Roberta Whittemore
- 2 Lori Mussary
- 3 Orion Ross
- 4 Rachel Rique
- 7 Nancy Nyren
- 8 Joe Cogley
- 10 Lena Singer
- 11 Richard Harnist
- 12 Eugene Baur
- 13 Marjorie Kriebel
- 13 Ruth Hawkins
- 13 Karen Hayes
- 16 Kevin Newell
- 20 Bonnie Tust
- 22 Tracy Martin
- 25 Walter Maas
- 25 Mary Kohlhagen

Anniversaries

- 11 Joe & Lorraine Folino
- 12 Claire & Mary Dorst
- 20 Roy & Nancy Nyren
- 22 Richard & Eileen Lund

Condolences to the family of Charles Felten,
who passed away on
June 27, 2011.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 31 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time Deacon Meeting Farewell Reception for Shannon p. 4	1	2 7:30 pm A.A.	3	4 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	5 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study	6
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 7 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time	8	9 7:30 pm A.A.	10	11 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	12 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study	13
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time 60+ Brainstorming Meeting p. 4	15 7:00 pm Vision Ministry Meeting	16 7:30 pm A.A.	17	18 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	19 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study	20
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 21 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time Safe Church Workshop p. 5	22 Vantage Articles Due	23 7:30 pm A.A.	24	25 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	26 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study	27
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 28 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time Sunday School Kickoff Picnic p.5	29	30 7:30 pm A.A.	31	September 1 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	2 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study	3

Congregational Church of Boca Raton

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e-mail: office@churchofboca.org
Fax: 561.395.6409
Web site: www.churchofboca.org

Pastor: Tom Lacey (Home: 561.381.5222 , Cell: 561 306.5208)

Church Moderator: Sarah Hugus (Home: 561.338.4207)

Staff

Administrator:

Shannon Peterson

Music Ministry Director:

Lu Anne Leone

Organist: Nicholas R. Wurster

Children's Ministry Director:

Tracy Martin

Section Leaders:

Kevin Newell, Tenor

Robert Todd, Bass & Pianist

Sexton:

Dan Morrison

Sound:

Wendell Jackson/Kevin Newell

Music Volunteers

Chancel Choir Members

Boca Bells Members

Marit Lacey, Children's Choir

Volunteers

Flower Coordinator: Bonnie Tust

Office Helpers: Eleanor Magee, Grayce Esposito,
Rose Breakell

Newsletter: Grayce Esposito, Nancy Hindle,
Jeanette Stevens, Rose Breakell, Ruth Hawkins,
Eleanor Butler, Audrey Eisnor

Sunday School Teachers

Nursery: Carla Borchers, Sarah Hugus,
Betsy Beasley, Sarah Doty

Preschool: Courtney Lacey, Leanne Guilfu,
Marit Lacey, Mary & Jennifer Srabian, Sandra
Price

K-2: Peter Guilfu, Juliet Heynen, Debbie Garland,
Ingrid Barrios

Grades 3-5: Tony Borchers, Patti Jourdin,
Nest Jones

Middle: Gary Martin, Nilu Jimenez-Ross,
Tracy Martin