

VANTAGE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER

2011



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From Pastor Tom Lacey

Judy and Steven Kronenberg are new members. On June 19, they were baptized and became members. This was the first time for me that folks had me baptize them and then joined the church. It felt absolutely biblical! (If only we had a river I could have dunked them. I did think of a canal or two but thought better of it...)

Judy and Steve would like to invite all of us to participate in an Adult Confirmation program they are hosting at their home and that I will be leading. The Kronenbergs are opening their house to us each Tuesday night beginning September 27th from 7PM to 8:30PM. I am very grateful for their kindness and generous spirit, and I am very excited about this program.

When you hear about an Adult Confirmation program you may have doubts or some confusion. What I mean to say is that this program will cover a large number of topics, and by doing so will feel more like a Confirmation class than, say, a Bible study. For those of you who don't know what a Confirmation class is you should know that it is a class that usually young teenagers go through in order to learn more about their Christian faith than they have so far as children.

There is a lot to learn—as adults! I promise a very stimulating, wide-ranging, invigorating, exciting learning, sharing, growing experience for all those who participate.

Our Adult Confirmation class will run thirty weeks, from the end of September to the middle of May with several Tuesdays off for holidays. Our syllabus includes *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity*, by Wm. Paul Young, a multi-month *New York Times* bestseller; *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*, by Marcus J. Borg, an eye-opening discussion of the more traditional ideas of Christian faith and newer or progressive ones; portions of *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (and Why We Don't Know About Them)* by Bart D. Ehrman, which I will provide; *Heaven is for Real: A Little Boys Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back*, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent. We will also watch portions of *Jesus of Nazareth*, the 1970s classic. Some of the scenes are just fantastic and contain profound scripture interpretations. We will cover a bit of Christian history and another religion or two.

As you can see we will have a full year together. I hope you will make every effort to save Tuesday nights for growing in the knowledge of your faith, sharing in Judy and Steve's hospitality, and experiencing a special time with other church members and friends.

And yes, of course—Snowbirds are welcome too!

If you are interested or already know you're coming, please purchase the first book *The Shack* as soon as you can and begin reading. If this is difficult for you for any reason, let me know and we will work something out.

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*.

Sept 4

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Thessalonians 5:12-23

Communion

Sept 11

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 18:21-35

Sept 18

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 16:2-8, 13-15

Sept 25

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 17:40-50

Rev. Dr. Carl Flemister
preaches

60+ Group meets 3 - 5pm
Rev. Linn Possell

"Thanks": How to Appreciate Being Happy

"Thanks" is the second of our twelve simple words that make up "naked" spirituality. It is a spiritual word that when said enough and lived enough keeps us real and balanced. Being thankful is best understood not as a state of mind or a mood of the moment, but as a practice or a habit. By its power we gain strength in the fight against overconsumption and a materialist life. By its wisdom we remember that God has done and given enough, and more than enough.

When Walls Come Tumbling Down

This being September 11, 2011, we will commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Our children's choir will sing and our liturgical dancers will dance.

The truth is we often have to rebuild. We often have to remember, never forget, and then move forward with strength, wisdom, and courage. Our hearts will be touched by stories of those who have made tremendous efforts to rebuild their lives after the walls came tumbling down.

Manna

While the Israelites wandered in the desert, they lacked lots of vital necessities. So they complained and God responded. God proved his care of them by providing what they needed. Later, when Israel arrived in Canaan, they would look back and be reminded that it was their God who brought them all the way, in spite of their fears, struggles, and lack of trust. It's no different today. God still provides.

Take What You Have and You'll Have What It Takes

A portion of an Old Testament story that gives substance to the oft quoted words "A little child shall lead them".

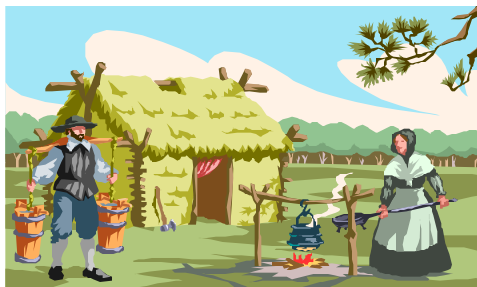
All About Church Events & News

Thanksgiving Festival Updates

On November 19 Congregational Church will host our Thanksgiving Festival! We anticipate a community-wide event with activities for all ages, including some educational displays depicting early history of our religious ancestors in the U.S. Crafts persons, artists, and licensed food vendors will sell their wares. A space may be reserved for \$50 and each vendor must provide and set up their own 6 or 8 ft. table plus a 10 ft. x 10 ft. awning; with a few spots available inside Fellowship Hall on a first come/first served basis. Letters and vendor applications may be requested from Nest or Rose through the church office, by calling 561-395-9925 or by email.

An admission fee will be charged.

Additional volunteers are needed for advance planning in several areas such as publicity and media marketing. On event day, MANY volunteers will serve as a team in order to ensure a successful day. Everyone will get directions and training in what their "job" entails. Volunteer surveys that outline numerous ways to serve are also available at church, or can be mailed when requested.



The Children's Section of the Thanksgiving Festival (Saturday Nov 19th) is looking great! We have bounce houses, a petting zoo, climbing wall, and face painter/airbrush artists. However, WE NEED

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS. The church will be in charge of a vendor tent (selling balloons, pumpkins, etc..), an art/craft tent with 4 tables for projects, and a relay race area (sack races, tug o war, etc..). We can use volunteers throughout the day for these areas. If you can volunteer, please complete the volunteer form at church or email Leanne Guilfu at leanneguilfu@comcast.net. We also need donations of material for the art/craft tent-these need to be in by the middle of September for prep work for the Festival. Donations can be left in a bin in the upper Rosser

Room. We are looking for: Gallon size Ziploc bags, Construction paper (brown, black, yellow, orange, red, green), Cardstock paper (fall colors), Craft Glue, Wiggle Eyes, 8.5 oz paper or foam cups, and Thanksgiving stickers. Thank you!! All members and friends are encouraged to participate and make this the first of many terrific Thanksgiving Festivals at Congregational Church of Boca Raton.!



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.

Sandra & Dan Price, along with their sons, Grant and Spencer, welcomed a new baby girl into their family. Leila Ann Price was born on August 9, 2011 weighing 7 lbs, 4 oz. and measuring 19 3/4". Congratulations!



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.

Condolences to Ashley Sarri and family on the passing of her mother, Debra Andresky on August 3, 2011.

How's that trial? (governance update) by Sarah Hugus, Moderator

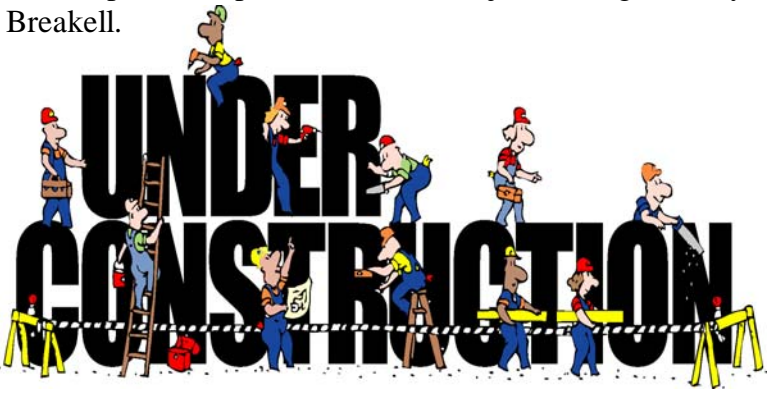
From my viewpoint, the new trial governance, composed of Teams whose leaders are members of the Vision Ministry Team, is going fairly well. There are new things to learn and try, and with change, some discomfort is to be expected. A sub-team has been meeting since May to complete the challenge of creating a draft Vision Statement, with supporting Mission Statements. Having these purposes in place will be helpful to all teams and leaders as they focus on the purposes of their programs.

We have had quorums at monthly and special meetings, and have completed our agenda with discussions in a shorter average time period than when we had the larger Council in place. Some teams are meeting, but a couple have not yet met.

There are several team leader positions which we would like to see filled, in order to cover the various ministry areas that our church should be addressing. If you have an interest in helping your church from a leadership position, please contact me or Pastor Tom.

Pardon our Dust!

Bathroom Remodeling has been dusty and noisy all summer. Thank you to everyone for your patience! Special thanks to choir members who have been retrieving their music and robes from their upper office/meetings area while their storage closet is displaced. We are going to appreciate the new design, modernization, spaciousness, and handicap-accessibility in the near future. Our contractor, LCG was great to figure out how to keep one set of plumbing operating so we haven't had to use portable ones! This summer was especially challenging with the downstairs being unusable due to so much dust and mess with the bathroom construction. We give extra special thanks to those who volunteered their time in providing care and enjoyable activities for our one-room schoolhouse, which quietly met in the Rosser Room upstairs! Special thanks to Project Manager, Larry Breakell.



Coming Soon -- New Doors

Thanks to an anonymous donation to last winter's rummage sale, doors have been ordered and will be installed on both sides of our beautiful sanctuary. Vision Ministry accepted the donation on behalf of our congregation. The doors will be a modern upgrade that will enhance our lovely sanctuary. Everyone is sure to appreciate the design and beauty these unique doors will add to our updated physical space. Thank you, Door Angel!!

Adult Christian Education

The Reverend Julio Arce led a well-organized and worthwhile study called "Jesus and Spirituality" during May and June. Julio raised many thought-provoking discussion questions, such as:

Are religion and spirituality the same thing?

Why did organized religion begin?

Are there different levels of meaning in the Beatitudes?

Thank you, Julio, for your time and talents!



60+ Programs, Sept. 25

In mid-August a group of interested women met 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 of care and share our talents of experience with one another.



The Reverend Linn Possell, Florida Conference Minister for Elder Programs, will meet with us and she share her suggestions. Topics that were considered were member care, intergenerational activities, health fair, study groups on topical issues, and various small interest groups.

Join Us for a 2-hour Workshop with Rev. Linn Possell.

WHEN: 3 - 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 25, 2011

WHERE: Congregational Church of Boca Raton

WHY: Gain insights and how-to's for starting programs

We will focus on these two areas for our first efforts:

1. Care - caring - visitation - home visits -- 6-word memoirs (from Linn) nursing home visits, communion, listening skills.
2. Social Gatherings, beginning with monthly church potlucks, with program or games on Friday or Saturday evening.

Thanks to these women for coming out to our August planning meeting: Audrey Eisnor, Eleanor Magee, Valerie Ary, Nora Martinez, and Sarah Hugus.

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.

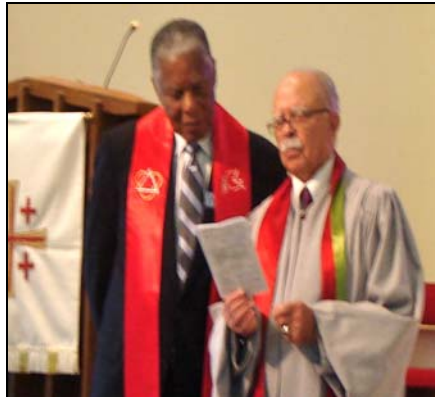


Prayer Request forms can be found in the pews or on the table near the front door. We love to know your joys, concerns and prayers. Please feel free to fill one out if you have a special prayer you would like the pastor to know about.

Women's Fellowship get-togethers begin in October.

Vacation Preachers Are the GREAT

On June 12, Pentecost Sunday, The Reverend Misti Johnson-Arce planned and led our worship service. The Reverend Vardell Swett preached on Sunday, July 17. The Rev. Dr. Roy Nyren preached two Sundays and was on -call for pastoral care from July 17-August 3. We appreciate the generous help of these fine people and pastors!



Happy Birthday to the Christian Church! On June 12 we celebrated with the worship service designed and led by The Reverend Misti Johnson-Arce. The congregation were asked to participate and we brought

forward our challenges, written on paper slips, and laid them in baskets. Four pastors participated by "receiving our troubles" and giving us individual blessings. People talked afterward about how it was tough to decide which personal challenge to choose! It was great to have four of our "resident" pastors involved in this special service -- Vardell Swett, Rev. Dr. Carl Flemister, Julio Arce, and Misti.



It was a very moving and memorable service.

Thank you, Misti! .

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.

October Vantage articles & pictures are needed by Monday, September 12th.

Please email to office@churchofboca.org your articles, announcements and pictures for church events anytime **before** that date!



Thank you, Lu Anne!

As church moderator, it is my sad responsibility to announce that our Director of Music Ministry, Lu Anne Leone, will be resigning on Sunday, September 4, after worship. Lu Anne has brought us wonderful music through the chancel choir, Boca bells choir, ensembles, and many duets & solo pieces during her 8 years here.

When people talk about what they like best about our church, music is usually in the top two.

Lu Anne has requested no party or reception, so, out of respect for her wishes, I encourage you to make and send your goodbyes individually.

We **do** want to remember Lu Anne's ministry here in a permanent way, and therefore are establishing a college scholarship fund in her honor.

Thank you so much, Lu Anne, for being such an important part of our worship experience at Congregational Church of Boca Raton since August 2003.

Our very best wishes go with you! Sarah Hugus

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

All About Our Children

One Room Schoolhouse Project

On one Sunday in July, under Winston Christian's leadership, the numerous boxes and bags of empty prescription pill bottles were sorted and labels removed by our children. The donations are a step closer to Africa through American Foundation for Children with AIDS -- 2 large boxes will be sent soon. This organization can only use plastic bottles that are see-through of amber, blue, or green colors. We recycled all the bags of white ones.



Thanks to everyone who has donated, and please keep those bottles coming in; we'll send another box soon.

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.

Grandparents Are a Gift



UNICEF

Nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress. UNICEF was created with this purpose in mind--to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path. To reach Somalian children as quickly as possible, UNICEF has mounted a massive scale up of its operations and is using all avenues available to get supplies into the region. So far, UNICEF has brought in enough supplemental feeding supplies for 65,000 children in the drought affected regions of southern Somalia. These supplies are being distributed by partners on the ground. Please, let's do our part to help the starving children in Somalia! Support our youth during the month of October as they participate in a variety of fundraising events. Thank you



Teaching/Acolyte Schedule

September 4

Nursery Sarah Hugus
Pre-school Tracy Martin
K - 2 HELP NEEDED
3 - Middle Family Worship

September 11

Nursery Katherine Ramos
Pre-school Leanne Guilfu
K - 2 Carla Borchers
3 - 5 Tony Borchers
Middle Tracy Martin
Acolyte Chloe Borchers

September 18

Nursery Leanne Guilfu
Pre-school Marit Lacey
K - 2 Juliet Heynen
3 - 5 Patti Jourdin
Middle Nilu Jimenez-Ross
Acolyte Molly Jourdin

September 25

Nursery Sarah Hugus
Pre-school Leanne Guilfu
K - 2 Pete Guilfu
3 - 5 Nest Jones
Middle Tracy Martin
Acolyte Justin Guilfu

October 9 Tickets go on sale today for a delicious pancake breakfast scheduled for October 23. Cost: \$5.00 ages 12 to adult, \$3.00 for kids 11 and under!

October 16 Purchase a delicious homemade cookie or two and enjoy a glass of lemonade prepared by our youth. Join in the fun right after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

October 23 Join our youth from 8:30 AM until 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a "hot off the griddle" pancake breakfast! Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, please call Lori Swett at 445-5070 or Tracy Martin at 716-3670.

October 30 11 AM in the Fellowship Hall It's time for our annual Halloween costume party! More details to follow!

Sunday School Kick-Off!

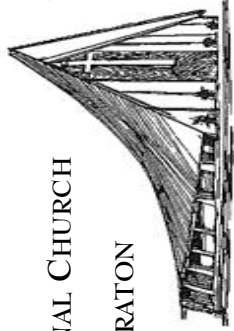






Alexandra Willard's amazing flip!





September 2011 Calendar of Events

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

September Birthdays

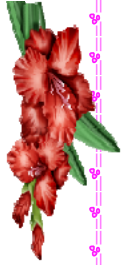
- 4 Jim Ary
Delores Duven
- 5 Larry Lacey
- 7 Patti Jourdin
Winston Christian
- 9 Samantha Martin
James Lee
Noel Weaver

Anniversaries

- 2 Jim & Valerie Ary
- 8 Robert & Bonnie Tust
- 9 John & Beth DiPrato
- 10 Joe & Kathy Cogley
- 13 Fred & Janice Test

Condolences to the family of

Debra Andresky,
who passed away on
August 3, 2011.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 am Communion Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time	4	5 7:30 pm A.A.	6 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	8 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study	9 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service 10:15 am Church School 11:00 am Fellowship Time Grandparent's Ice Cream Social	11	12 Vantage Articles Due	13 7:30 pm A.A.	14 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	16 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:00 am Worship Service 0:15 am Church School 1:00 am Fellowship Time	18	19 7:00 pm Vision Ministry Meeting	20 7:30 pm A.A.	21 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	23 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 0:00 am Worship Service 0:15 am Church School 1:00 am Fellowship Time 5-5 pm 60+ Group/ Rev. Possell (p.5)	25	26	27 7:30 pm A.A.	28 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30 pm B.C.E.O.	30 10:00 am Prayer Group Bible Study

October
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Congregational Church of Boca Raton

Address: 251 SW 4th Avenue
Boca Raton, Florida 33432
Phone: 561.395.9255

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:

Music Ministry Director:

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

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