

VANTAGE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

June



Summer



JULY 2011

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All About Missions



Strengthen the Church” Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ will be received on Pentecost Sunday, June 12. This is one of four special mission offerings within the United Church of Christ, grows the UCC's future by

- ◆ Funding new church starts.
- ◆ Nurturing lay and pastoral Leadership.
- ◆ Building youth and Young adult ministries.
- ◆ Supporting the [God is Stillspeaking Ministry](#) and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

All donations are directed to support the Florida Conference as well as UCC National ministries. You can always mail your gift to the church and mark the check with “STC”.



Local families who find themselves in a homeless situation are being assisted by Family Promise of South Palm Beach County. This tested organization is also known as Interfaith Hospitality Network in other areas. Volunteer training was completed by several members, who are now assisting in the day center in Delray Beach, hosting two dinner meals in June at Grace Community Church, who are a host congregation, and filling in as overnight hosts on a few occasions since April. If you have questions, or would like to offer your time, please talk with Linda Rosson, Matthew Rosson, Julio Arce, Lori Swett, or Sarah Hugas.



MUSTARD SEEDS & MOUNTAINS MISSION TRIP

Mustard Seeds & Mountains, Inc. is a Christian relief & development agency. Wes Smith, president of LCG, is the contractor responsible for the maintenance repairs and improvements that continue to keep our church building so beautiful. Wes also generously donated the new wooden cross in the front of the church! He and a crew of 4 will be traveling to the impoverished and rural Appalachian area of West Virginia to volunteer for Mustard Seeds & Mountain, Inc. They will donate their travel expenses, time, and construction skills to perform a complicated repair project on a steep 3-story roof of a building used as dorm houses for Mustard Seed & Mountain volunteers (pictured here).

Lets show our support for Wes, his team, and their mission by helping them with their food expenses. Nonperishable food (box in front lobby) or monetary donations are being collected until Sunday June 12th. Please note on monetary donations, *M&M Mission*. Contact Lori Swett 561.445.5070 if you have any questions.



All About Church Projects

Capital Campaign Update

May 2011 marked the official conclusion of our 3-year "giving period" for the Capital Campaign Fund. Fellow church members can thank each other for these extra funds, beyond annual giving toward our usual expenses. As a result of the generosity among us, we have accomplished many improvements and have a few outstanding projects yet to undertake in the near future. Your continued contributions to this fund will be appreciated.

Total amount pledged was \$324,173. Donations received as of April 2011 was \$283,946 and we still have one month to go!
Thank you everyone!

Facility Updating—Phase III

Updating of our facility has been completed!

We owe HUGE Thank You's to Larry Breakell, who, as Property Team Leader, schedules the work with our contractor and follows up on everything.

We are looking updated with long-overdue painting of the Rosser Room, foyer, stairwell, Pastor's study and volunteer office. The Upper Music Room was re-carpeted and painted; plaster on the stairs was repaired.

The stairway to our Sunday School level was improved with interior grade trim work which extends throughout the entrance foyer.

Fellowship Hall and the women's restroom was painted.

Carpet was installed in the volunteer office and replaced in Pastor Tom's study.

All lights in the parking lot are working again, and our church sign will be lit up soon; the photo cell was erratic, so it has been dark again.

A portion of the Rummage Sale profits of \$3500 were applied to Pastor's study and other projects, with additional funding approved by the Vision Ministry Team from Capital Funds.



Projects paid from the Rummage Sale Fund!

The new upholstered pews are complete! The team from northern Florida was very skillful as they tackled our entire sanctuary with foam cushioning and complementary-colored fabric to custom-create our comfortable, new seating. Their work was completed in four days so worship was not disrupted!

New window treatments for Fellowship Hall are underway with our resident seamstress, Audrey Eisnor. She has completed one pair which will be displayed at any time! They will look great with the new paint color.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who made the sale such a success, and especially to Audrey, Mary Rivollier, Phyllis Fuller, and Shannon Peterson, Church Administrator, who followed through on the funded projects, at no cost to our general budget or capital fund.



A Sound Improvement!

Recently we had some major improvements made to our sound system in the sanctuary. Now everyone should get a clear message without pops or feedback. Again, thanks to Larry Breakell, Kevin Newell, and Tom Lacey who worked quickly with the sound company to meet our needs. Funding for these items came from Deacons, Music, and General budget.

All About the Florida Conference

Congregational Church of Boca Raton hosted the Florida Conference Annual Meeting on April 30th. This was a one day meeting where UCC churches from all over the state came to discuss business topics, vote on issues, pray and worship together. The day was full and everyone enjoyed the event, according to the responses of the attendees! There was a creative presentation dedicated to recruiting volunteers for the Synod, which takes place every other year and includes ALL UCC churches from around the globe. Our Florida Conference is hosting the General Synod in Tampa, July 1st through 5th. This meeting was well planned and executed thanks to a crew of volunteers from our church, including the chancel choir!



Lily and Cindy ready to serve!



The tent outside seated over 150 for lunch!



Thank you to volunteers from our church who helped with the Florida Conference Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 30th! We could not have done this without you!

Rev. Misti Johnson-Arce

Faye Flemister

Lily Lamas

Shannon Peterson

Richard Dixon

Mary Ellen Kohlhagen

Rev. Julio Arce

Mary Dorst

Rev. Roy Nyren

Laura Borgesi

Nancy Nyren

Kevin Newell

Patti Jourdin

Nicholas Wurster

Audrey Eisnor

Chancel Choir Members

Grayce Esposito

Denise Dickison

George Sinclair

Brian Fischer

Peter Guilfu

Rev. David Lane

Carol McGovern

Dan Morrison

Cindy Byno

Lu Anne Leone

All About Church Families



Denise

Denise Dickison serves our church as Clerk, attending monthly and other special Vision Ministry meetings, keeping notes, logging attendance, and writing the official Minutes of the proceedings. She is full of spunk and has many good ideas to contribute.

For several years until just recently, Denise made sure her great niece, Camryn, and great nephew, Troy, were in attendance at special children's events, and regularly in church for Sunday School. They and their mom, Danielle (Denise's niece), moved back to Connecticut last year. Denise plans to see them during her vacation. She mails them *Vantage* issues so they can see photos of their church friends. When they come here to visit, they will be attending church with her again.

Currently, Denise is employed by Broward General Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale. She earned her cytology Associate Degree from Palm Beach Community College, and has 20 years' experience in the medical field.

After Denise came to South Florida she began attending our church, and has never stopped! Her first pastor here was Pastor Emeritus, John Shaw.

During off-work time, she loves to go golfing and is in a group training for half-marathons. Last year she competed in a 3-mile Muddy Buddy "off-road" race at Quiet Waters Park.

Denise was born in New York and was raised in Bethel, Connecticut. She grew up in the Congregational Church of Bethel. She remembers going to church camp with friends and her brother, who also lives in the Boca Raton area. Her sisters live in New Jersey and Connecticut.



Thanks, Denise, for sharing your family and your friendship with everyone at Congregational Church of Boca Raton.

Pictured at left, Denise with her Niece and her niece's kids

Women's Fellowship Family!



The final Women's Fellowship luncheon of the season was May 11th. We had a salad potluck and spent time chatting about plans for the summer.

We will have new and exciting activities planned beginning in October! Hope to see you then. Have a nice summer!



All About Church Activities



Seven children take their First Communion on May 1st



From L to R: Max Willard, Alexandra Willard, Justin Guilfu, Molly Jourdin, Chloe Borchers, Elena Teixeira, and Alex Griffin

Baccalaureate Service, May 15th

Confirmation May 8th



2011 HS Graduates: Kiva Ebert, Samantha Martin & Mary Srabian



2011 Confirmands: Luna Ross, James Lee, Shannon Lee, Jack Martin, Henry Adkins, and Orion Ross



More About Church Activities

Youth Worship Service, May 22nd



Symbols of the Cross



Ancient Words by Michael W. Smith

Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart.
Oh let the ancient words impart

Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.

CHORUS:

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you,
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart
Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own hearth
let the ancient words impart.

CHORUS

And More About Church Activities

Teacher Appreciation, May 22, 2011



Mary Ellen Kohlhagen eats with Jourdin families & friends



Swett, Ebert and Rosson families enjoy fellowship



The 'Kid's' Table!



And another Kid's table!



2010-2011 Sunday School Teachers

Nursery: Carla Borchers,
Sarah Hugus, Betsy Beasley

Preschool: Courtney Lacey,
Leanne Guilfu, Marit Lacey,
Jennifer Srabian,

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

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

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



Tracy Martin & Marit Lacey celebrate another successful Sunday School year!

All About Children's Education

One-room Summer Activities House!

During the summer months we continue programs for our children and youth. Nursery age (birth through 3 years) have an exciting nursery space in which to play and socialize. Our 4-year-olds through 5th grade, will be our traditional "one room schoolhouse" with an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Art projects, games, and wholesome videos will be a fun way for our youth to keep connected during the school break. Having "antsy" children occupied will allow parents to also keep connected and attend worship regularly.

Our group of 20 dedicated Sunday School teachers certainly have earned summer vacation, so we are requesting that other men, women, and teenagers who are willing to serve please volunteer your time to oversee the children during the summer. With sufficient numbers, you may only be asked to help one or two Sundays out of the summer.

Please see the signup sheet in the Rosser room or speak with Sarah Hugus or Tracy Martin to offer your help, and give your available dates. If you prefer to work as a team with another adult or teen, that can be arranged. We also need to know if you prefer the older or younger age group.

School supplies drive for Boca Elementary School students, August 22 through 28.

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



Save the Date! 
**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
KICKOFF!
AUGUST 28TH**

Sunday School Kickoff -

August 28 11:00 a.m. Busch's Wildlife Sanctuary will entertain and educate us during a one hour show showcasing a variety of Florida wildlife! Come meet the snake, owl, possum, skunk, hawk and alligator. Pizza lunch, too! Invite your friends to this fun event!

All About Church Happenings



Hospitality Team has been doing a great job at our greeting table on Sunday mornings! Thanks to Eleanor Magee! We would love a few other friendly faces to join her to greet and hold open our front door as needed. You may enjoy meeting some new people or greeting some familiar friends. It's really fun! Please sign up for a Sunday of your choice. The sign up sheet is on the table or you can reach Nest at 954.675.4893 if you have any questions!



A group of 11 met with The Reverend Linn Possell during a BCEO dinner on April 28. Linn is a Florida Conference staff member and is available to help us in various ways to minister to our members over 60 or to honor those who are at least 60 and have skills to share. Topics that were suggested included member care, intergenerational activities, health fair, study groups on topical issues, and small interest groups. What do YOU think? Share your thoughts with Valerie Ary, Audrey Eisnor, or Sarah Hugus.



B.C.E.O. (Boca Christians Eating Out) Meets on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. A group of church members and friends join together each week for dinner and conversation. The gathering place with details and

directions can always be found in the Rosser room each week. Please sign up to join us so we may reserve a table for the appropriate number of diners. Call the church office anytime before Thursday if you decide you would like to join us. 561.395.9255. All are Welcome!

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. We will continue to study from the Upper Room daily devotional. Please call John Bird or Valerie Ary if you have any questions.



Condolences to the family of Barbara Early.

Sunday Adult Bible Study continues at 9:00 a.m. Join us in the Youth Rosser room downstairs with Julio Arce, who will continue to lead a class called *Jesus & Spirituality* each Sunday before worship.



Good News for residents of St. Andrews! The "Church Bus" is bringing members and friends to our church. Pickup is from the lobby of both North and South. Please call Nancy Hindle if you have any questions 561.213.1280.



August Vantage articles & pictures needed by Monday, July 19. Please email to church office: office@churchofboca.org **before** that date.

Hey Snow Birds! It's about that time! Please call the church office and let us know when you have gone or plan to go back up North so we can stay in touch! We will truly miss you and look forward to seeing you soon!



Communication with the Congregation! Please notify the church office when you have returned from up North! As an ongoing effort to keep communication open, please notify the office of any address (postal or e-mail) and phone number changes. Thank you to all who have already updated this information. Send emails to office@churchofboca.org or call 561.395.9255.

Please feel free to call the church at 561.395.9255, if you need anything at all!

Shannon Peterson
Church Administrator



June/July 2011 Calendar

June 2011							July 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4						1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

June Anniversaries

- 5 Nancy & John Miller
- 7 Anthony & Rachel Borchers
- 16 James & Carla Robb
- 17 Alan & Mary Jane Christman
- 18 Araam & Sonya Marashlian
- 19 Ed & Nancy Hindle
- 20 Walter & Eileen Maas
- 21 Larry & Rose Breakell
- 23 Gary & Tracy Martin
- 28 John & Roberta Stetson
- 29 John Bird & Donna O'Connor

July Birthdays

- 2 Aiden Arce
- 3 Jeanne Baur
- 5 Peter Guilfu
- 7 Gale Blackburn
- 7 Alex DiPrato
- 8 Elsie Rice
- 9 Mary Jane Christman
- 9 Misti Johnson-Arce
- 10 Grayce Esposito
- 13 Valerie Stanesco
- 13 Norman Codo
- 14 Barry Rosson
- 14 Jake Venezia
- 17 Mary Jo Henderson
- 17 Laura Borgesi
- 19 Neal Dorst
- 19 Denise Dickison
- 21 Jacqueline Westerfield
- 26 Elena Teixeira

June Birthdays

- 2 Alex Willard
- 5 Mary Dorst
- 7 John Miller
- 7 William Collins
- 12 Amy Shaw
- 12 Beth DiPrato
- 12 Jack Martin
- 13 Lynn Buttner
- 13 Scott Monroe
- 15 Valerie Ary
- 15 Eleanor Butler
- 16 Fred Test
- 16 Carolyn Ehlers
- 19 Sonya Marashlian
- 20 Bob Tust
- 22 Julio Arce
- 23 Barbara Hichar
- 27 Elizabeth Ehlers
- 28 John Milshaw
- 29 Gordon Hawkins
- 29 Gail Hogan
- 30 Mary Rivollier
- 30 Rebecca Singer
- 30 Jennifer Harper
- 30 Eleanor Magee
- 30 Nora Martinez

July Anniversaries

- 10 Gordon & Ruth Hawkins
- 17 Scott & Sarah Hugus
- 23 John & Sylvia Shaw



The church office will be closed July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.



June		July	
5	Tom Lacey	3	Tom Lacey
12	Vardell Swett	10	Tom Lacey
19	Tom Lacey	17	Vardell Swett
26	Tom Lacey	24	Roy Nyren
		31	Roy Nyren

Congregational Church of Boca Raton

Address: 251 SW 4th Avenue
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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

Music Volunteers

Chancel Choir Members

Boca Bells Members

Elsie Rice, Pianist

Marit Lacey, Children's Choir

Volunteers

Flower Coordinator: Bonnie Tust

Storytellers: Rev. Misti Johnson-Arce

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, Victoria
McGovern, Betsy Beasley, Sarah Doty

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

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

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

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



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