



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
451 Riviera Drive NE • Palm Bay, FL • 32905

*"Thinking Openly, Believing Passionately, Serving Boldly"*



MARCH 2011

## THE MESSENGER

WWW.RIVIERAUCC.ORG



### A Service In-The-Round for Ash Wednesday 2011

Featuring:  
The Imposition of Ashes  
and  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

12:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
March 9, 2011



On Ash Wednesday, March 9th, Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians evaluate their spiritual lives.

**Join the Lent Study Group each Tuesday,  
March 15 - April 19, at 6:30 PM**

A Chili dinner will be followed by discussions on Paul Alan Laughlin's book "Remedial Christianity." The cost of each book is around \$15.00, and scholarships are available.

Please sign-up in the narthex so that we know how many books to order. **We need a minimum of ten people to sign-up in order to hold this class.**

#### OUR MISSION

Welcoming and accepting all people.  
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Encouraging freedom and responsibility to explore our lives of faith by studying and worshipping together.  
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Sharing the love of God found in the teachings of Jesus.  
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Working for justice for all people, striving to demonstrate God's love for all creation.  
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Building a family of believers where people are nurtured and equipped for ministry.



#### Church Council Members

Moderator: George 'Butch' Litteral

Vice-Moderator: Dick Rhinehart

Vice-Moderator: Billy Lane

Clerk: Kathy Nilan

Treasurer: Paul Lucas

Financial Secretary: Nancy Cook

Financial Minister: Michael Ross

Finance Minister: Lisa Leslie

Finance Minister: Nancy Marsh

Teaching Minister: Carol Robinson

Teaching Minister: Kathy Hufford

Spiritual Minister: Wesley Main

Spiritual Minister: Phyllis Yanis

Spiritual Minister: Margaret Ann Eisenmenger

## From Our Pastor

The Reverend Scott Elliott

Dearest Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There are about two hundred or so folks who attend Riviera UCC throughout the year on a regular basis. Some of us are formal members, some of us are not. All of us though, are brothers and sisters in Christ, and all of us have found a home here at Riviera United Church of Christ.

It's a good home too. The facilities are nice. The worship services are pretty good too. But what keeps us coming back is the goodness and love we find in one another, in this family. Goodness in how we try and take care of others in the community for sure, but also in how we treat one another, i.e., the love that fills this place.

In the Bible, Paul tells us all that we do as church ought to be about building each other and the church up. He writes, "When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up." (1Co 14:26). We do this fairly well in our church, this building up stuff. You can hear it in the way most folks talk to one another with kind words and thanks and compliments. You can see it in the things that we do for each other and the community. That is the way church should be.

Building up is more than just kind words and compassion toward one another. It can also be heard to mean offering time and talents to help accomplish the operation of the church and its many ministries and missions. If you are one of the many folks in our community who volunteer to do things around the church or out in the field (like Daily Bread and hospitals, etc.) thank you, you're building up the church. If you are someone in the community who has yet to volunteer or have not volunteered very much, it is never too late. We need your help helping the other volunteers build up this lovely church and one another.

If you go to this church, whether you are an official member or not, here are just some of the areas you can help build up this church and make it better: You can volunteer to provide coffee hour refreshments, paint, visit the homebound, aid in the nursery, work in the garden, sing in the choir, clean windows, landscape, teach a class, work on our Shakespeare play, file, cut prayer trails on our acres, be on a committee, play music on Sunday, clean up after second service, work with Paul on the soundboard, do maintenance, pick litter up off the grounds before a Sunday service, greet people at worship, usher at worship, work in the office on Fridays, help with the women's regional meeting, etc., etc., etc. These and more things need to be done at church by volunteers, so please think about finding time and offering your talents to help. It not only up builds the church, but can be a way to meet new people and feel good about helping the community, and it helps spread our love!

Thanks to all who volunteer and all who are now thinking about it. Your help matters.

Your Brother in Christ,

**Rev. Scott Elliott**



*Rev. Elliott writes a monthly column for Palm Bay/Melbourne's Hometown Newspaper. You can find a link to his columns on our website: [www.rivieraucc.org](http://www.rivieraucc.org) or you can go directly to the Hometown News website:*

*[http://www.myhometownnews.net/index.php\\_archive=true&cat\\_id=Religion~Scott+Elliott](http://www.myhometownnews.net/index.php_archive=true&cat_id=Religion~Scott+Elliott) to read and rate the articles.*



RUCC's **Shepherd's Fund** cares for those in need in our community and in the greater communities, and it is in need of replenishing. You may mail your contribution, place it in the offering plate (marked) or there is a box near the doors of the Sanctuary. Your check or loose change will make a great difference.



## Monthly Breakfast Fellowship

On each third Saturday of the month, a group meets at Checmarcs Restaurant (2162 Harris Ave Ne Palm Bay, 32905) at 9:00 AM. Formerly the men's fellowship breakfast, this group is now open to anyone who wishes to attend. The next gathering is March 19th.

## Ladies' Evening Group - March Gathering

On March 21st at 6:30 PM, we will be gathering at Phyllis Rhinehart's house. She is planning to cook a delicious and surprising meal. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you are planning to come please let Phyllis know so she will know how much to prepare. For those who may not know, Phyllis is an outstanding chef and just the smell of her cooking makes one's mouth water!

Ladies' Evening Group is open to all women. This is a great way to meet and get to know each other better and the topics for discussion are open! If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call

*Submitted by Pat Lucas*

## The Florida Conference of the UCC

has issued a plea to the conference congregations for a direct donation. This is a completely voluntary and tax-deductible donation, Please contribute by mailing your donation to the Orlando office:

Florida Conference UCC  
Attn: Rev. Kent Siladi  
924 N. Magnolia Avenue, Suite 250  
Orlando, Florida 32803



## Children's Program Updates

What's the easiest, least time intensive volunteer opportunity at RUCC? The answer is, Sunday morning nursery assistant! For safety and liability reasons it is necessary to have a volunteer available during each worship service to help our wonderful nursery attendant, Tracy Rabidou. The Teaching Ministers hope to recruit enough volunteers (men and women) so that each person is called upon only once every few months to give up an hour of their time on Sunday morning. Thank you to all those who have already said "yes." Anyone interested in participating in this important children's ministry please contact the church office, or Kathy Hufford.

"Rescue 911" is the **children's Sunday School** program for the month of March. We are following the curriculum titled Living Inside Out – Where Kids Dare to Live their Faith 24/7. Through Bible stories, games, other stories and crafts the children will be learning about the saving grace of Jesus. The Key Bible Verse this month is John 3:16: "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everybody who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

The four weekly lessons will be 1) Zacchaeus Repents, Luke 19:1-10; 2) Jesus Saves the Criminal on the Cross, Luke 23:32-43; 3) Saul's Conversion on the Road to Damascus, Acts 9:1-19; 4) Nicodemus Learns about Eternal Life, John 3:1-17.

You don't have to wait to be asked to work with our children. To build the community of children at Riviera many willing hands are needed. Consider which of the five levels of programming in the Teaching Ministry of the church is the one for you? The Nursery/pre-school, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, Youth, Adult. The Teaching Ministers this year are Carol Robinson, Kathy Hufford and Cathy Carnes.

## Justice Ministry Group

Next Meeting Wednesday March 9, 2011  
10:00 AM – 11:30

Agenda: A continuing look at the work of the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministry of the national UCC body.

*Submitted by Carol Robinson*



## Supper at All Faith Center, Florida Tech Volunteers needed!

On Monday night, April 18, 2011 Riviera UCC will be providing the supper for 70-80 students and some faculty. Who among us will be the providers and cooks? If you wish to participate, look for the signup sheet at the information counter in March. We'll divvy up the work in early April.

## Stewardship News Flash



**2011 Pledge Campaign** – The results of the 2011 Pledge Campaign, as of the completion of January are, 59 pledges for \$127,500.00. The goal this year is to obtain pledges for a total of \$136,000.00. If you would like to pledge or change your pledge, please submit your pledge card anytime at the office or on any Sunday by placing your pledge card in the offering plate. You may also give the pledge card to Nancy Cook, Bonnie Hankins, or Pat Lawson. Pledge cards are available at the office or near the sound booth in the Sanctuary. Anyone who attends RUCC (not just members) are encouraged to pledge what you can.

**2011 Per Capita Campaign** – The Per Capita Campaign is in full gear for 2011. Per Capita is \$14.50 per member and is collected once per year. RUCC owes the United Church of Christ \$2276.50 for 157 members. As of January 2011, \$873.00 has been received, or 38%. All members were sent a special Per Capita envelop to assist in collecting this special fee. Envelopes are available at the office or near the sound booth. Please place your Per Capita amount in the provided envelope and place it in the collection plate on any Sunday or give it to the Financial Secretaries.

**One Great Hour of Sharing UCC Special Offering** – The first special offering of 2011 will take place on April 3, 2011 (see note below).

**Save Our Savings Campaign** - The Stewardship Committee kicked off the Save Our Saving (SOS) Campaign in 2011 at the congregational meeting. The point of this fund is to protect our modest reserve funds from being used at the end of the year to cover operating costs. Also discussed at the 2011 congregational meeting was the reduced mortgage payment of \$2500.00 per month, the projected income from the building fund will be double what is needed to pay the mortgage. Therefore, it has been suggested to the members of the congregation to voluntarily reduce their building fund donation for the rest of 2011 and add that amount to the SOS campaign.

An example is shown below:

Current Pledge: \$200.00 Building: \$200.00 Close the Gap: \$50.00 (Total \$450.00)

Suggested change: Pledge: \$200.00 Building: \$100.00 SOS: \$150.00 (Total \$450.00)

**Stewardship Committee** - The Stewardship Committee of Paul and Pat Lucas, Nancy and David Cook, and Amy Lewis normally meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM to discuss ways raise funds for RUCC. The committee is always looking for fund raising ideas. If you would like to make a suggestion or become part of this committee, contact anyone of us. This is a voluntary committee not appointed by the congregation.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: April 3, 2011

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the first of four special offerings we do each year. This offering is collected during Lent. OGHS is supported by many denominations, including the United Church of Christ (UCC), and provides assistance in over eighty countries, including the United States, to people needing health, education, refugee, or emergency assistance.

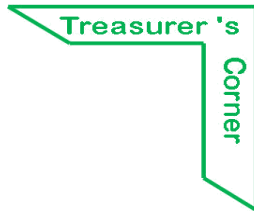
OGHS works through many international partners to provide relief and development aid. Four agencies highlighted in the OGHS 2010 Annual Mission Report are Foods Resource Bank, Oikocredit, Church World Service, and IMA WorldHealth. You can read about these agencies on the UCC web site (<http://www.ucc.org/oghs/2010-mission-report.html>).

This year's resources for use in the OGHS campaign include information on OGHS projects during the floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

Through OGHS you become the hands and feet of God. "Sharing brings joy to us. To others. To God." Please give as you are able to this cause.

*Submitted by the Stewardship Team*





## RUCC Financial Health Report:

The financial report for RUCC through the end of January 2011 is as follows:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Income for January was: <b>\$40,109.78</b>        | Expenses for January were: <b>\$13,806.84</b> |
| Year to date projected income: <b>\$36,801.00</b> | Projected expenses: <b>\$14,869.80</b>        |
| Per Capita Owed to UCC: \$2,276.50                | Per Capita Collected: \$873.00                |

The congregation approved the 2011 budget with projected expenses of \$225,266.36 and projected income of \$224,480.00. This means that the projected use of savings is \$786.36.

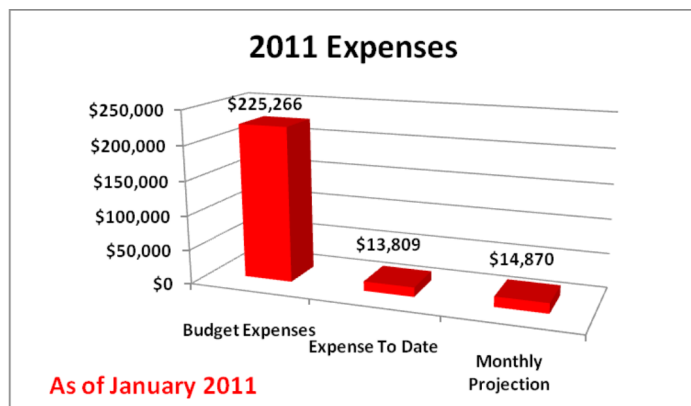
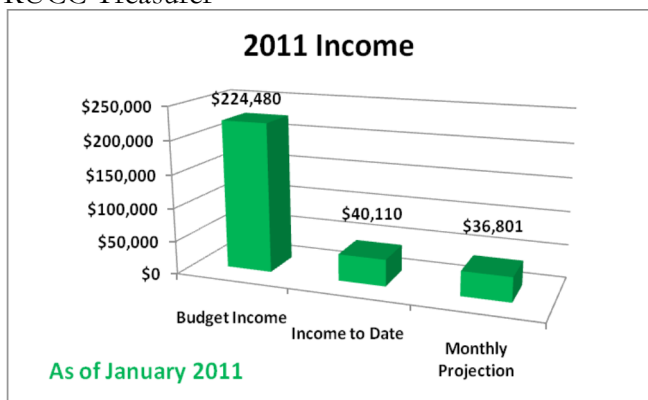
The special gift from Bud Baader’s estate of \$20,000, which was applied to the 2011 budget, significantly reduced the use of our savings, which is a modest reserve fund. Also in January another donated gift in memory of a family member was presented and applied to deficit reduction.

However in addition to Bud Baader’s special gift, as discussed at the congregational meeting and approved in the 2011 budget, there needs to be \$15,000 received in Save Our Savings, which replaced the Close the Gap Campaign. So the special giving needs to continue to minimize use of our savings.

January 2011 makes things look really good because of the special gifts (thank you for your generous donations!) but the projected quarterly expense months such as March, June, September, and December tend to eat up the extra income as they arrive.

This year I plan to include two charts to provide graphic display of how the income and expenses are doing vs. the projected income and expenses:

Paul Lucas  
RUCC Treasurer



## Adult Sunday School April 3 – May 15, 2011

The adult Sunday school class will read and discuss the Mitch Albom book, *Have a Little Faith*, to complete the winter-spring term. The paperback will be released on March 29<sup>th</sup> and should cost approximately \$9.00 per copy. Please **sign up in the narthex by March 22<sup>nd</sup>** so we know how many copies to pre-order.

Mitch Albom is the popular author of ten books, including *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *Five People You Meet in Heaven*. His first novel, *Five People You Meet in Heaven*, released in January of 2003, is the “most successful U.S. hardback first novel ever.” [http://www.amazon.com/Mitch-Albom/e/B000AQ79EY/ref=ntt\\_dp\\_epwbk\\_0](http://www.amazon.com/Mitch-Albom/e/B000AQ79EY/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0)

In *Have a Little Faith*, Albom has been asked by an eighty-year-old rabbi from his hometown to deliver his eulogy. Albom then describes his search for how to fulfill this request through dialog and interaction with the rabbi and an African-American pastor from Detroit, whose congregation is the poor and homeless.


Amazon describes the book this way: “As America struggles with hard times and people turn more to their beliefs, Albom and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times. Although the texts, prayers, and histories are different, Albom begins to recognize a striking unity between the two worlds - and indeed, between beliefs everywhere.”

Submitted by Nancy Cook



# MARCH



| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu                                  | Fri                       | Sat   |
|---|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
|   |  | 1   | 2<br>Bible Study<br>12:00 Noon<br>“Green” Team<br>6:30 PM<br>Choir 7 - 8:30 PM   | 3                                    | 4                         | 5<br><b>UCC FL East Coast Regional Women’s Meeting</b><br><br>HomeBase 6-9 PM     |
| 6 <u>Worship Services:</u><br>Traditional - 9 AM<br>Adult Seminar - 10 :10<br>Contemporary - 11 AM<br>Kids’ Sun School 11:10<br>Planning Mtg 5 PM<br><br>RIC 3 PM                     | 7<br><br>Finance Mtg 7 PM<br><br>HomeBase 6-9 PM   | 8   | 9 Justice Ministry Meeting 10 AM<br><br> <b>Worship:</b><br>Noon & 7 PM<br><i>3rd Wednesday</i> | 10                                   | 11<br><br>Mateh Chaim 7PM | 12<br><br>HomeBase 6-9 PM   |
| 13 <u>Worship Services:</u><br>Traditional - 9 AM<br>Adult Seminar - 10 :10<br>Contemporary - 11 AM<br>Kids’ Sun School 11:10<br><br>Council 1PM<br>RIC 3 PM<br>Daylight Savings Time | 14<br><br>HomeBase 6-9 PM  | 15<br>Lent Studies<br>6:30 PM   | 16<br>Bible Study<br>12:00 Noon<br><br>Choir 7 - 8:30 PM   | 17<br><br>Youth Group<br>4 PM - 6 PM | 18                        | 19<br>Fellowship BFast @<br>Checmarks 9 AM<br><br>Jason & DeMarco<br>Concert 7 PM |
| 20 <u>Worship Services:</u><br>Traditional - 9 AM<br>Adult Seminar - 10 :10<br>Contemporary - 11 AM<br>Kids’ Sun School 11:10<br>Planning Mtg 5 PM<br><br>RIC 3 PM                    | 21<br>MESSENGER<br>Article Deadline<br><br>Ladies Evening<br>Group 6:30PM<br>HomeBase 6-9 PM | 22<br>Lent Studies<br>6:30 PM<br><br>Riviera Key Home-<br>owners 7 PM | 23<br>Bible Study<br>12:00 Noon<br>Youth Group<br>4 PM - 6 PM<br>Choir 7 - 8:30 PM   | 24                                   | 25<br><br>Mateh Chaim 7PM | 26<br>Puuurs Benefit Con-<br>cert 3 PM<br><br>HomeBase 6-9 PM                     |
| 27 <u>Worship Services:</u><br>Traditional - 9 AM<br>Adult Seminar - 10 :10<br>Contemporary - 11 AM<br>Kids’ Sun School 11:10<br><br>RIC 3 PM   | 28<br>Daily Bread 10A-2P<br><br>PFLAG 6:00 PM<br><br>HomeBase 6-9 PM                         | 29<br>Lent Studies<br>6:30 PM<br><br>Stewardship Meeting<br>5:30 PM   | 30   | 31                                   |                           |   |

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

9:00 AM - Traditional Worship  
 10:10 AM - Adult Sunday School  
 11:00 AM - Contemporary Worship  
 11:10 AM - Kids’ Sunday School

**RUCC Youth Group**

Due to the busy schedules of our current youth, the group meets monthly, on the third Thursday of the month until further notice. Our next gathering is March 17th, from 4PM - 6PM. All youth ages 13-18 are welcome to join us!



**Fellowship Hour** (between the two worship services) is a great way to catch up with members and friends of Riviera UCC, regardless of which service you attend. **Everyone is invited to sign-up to host this on Sunday, in honor or remembrance of a loved-one.** If no-one signs up, RUCC Spiritual Ministers typically provide coffee and light snacks, but the snacks (and funds) are running low. The Spiritual Minsters ask those of you who are able to donate cookies or funds for Fellowship Hour to do so, or only beverages can reasonably be served. Thanks!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 451 Riviera Drive NE  
 Palm Bay, FL • 32905  
 321-723-3963  
[www.rivieraucc.org](http://www.rivieraucc.org)



The **MESSENGER Newsletter** is a monthly publication of Riviera United Church of Christ in Palm Bay, Florida and is also available online:

[www.rivieraucc.org/Newsletter](http://www.rivieraucc.org/Newsletter)

**Deadline** for material to be published is the **third Monday** of each month. All items are subject to approval and editorial changes. Articles or information may be submitted to the church office in hard copy form or by email: [arlewis@rivieraucc.org](mailto:arlewis@rivieraucc.org)

To receive **The MESSENGER Newsletter** by mail, please send your written request to the church front office. Please include \$15 (or whatever you can afford) to cover costs for the year.

**OUR VISION**

Thinking Openly

Believing Passionately

Serving Boldly



**Church Office:** 451 Riviera Drive NE  
 Palm Bay, FL 32905

**Website:** [www.rivieraucc.org](http://www.rivieraucc.org)

**Phone:** (321) 723-3963

**Fax:** (321) 723-1281

**Email:** [rivieraucc@rivieraucc.org](mailto:rivieraucc@rivieraucc.org)

**Hours:** 9 AM to 1 PM, Monday-Thursday  
 9 AM to 12 PM, Friday

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Traditional Service  
 9:00 AM

Adult Sunday School  
 10:10 AM

Contemporary Service  
 11:00 AM

Kid's Sunday School  
 11:10 AM

*Our pastor, Rev. Scott Elliott generally schedules himself to be at the church from 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday through Wednesday. He works many more hours, however, coming in early and staying late (and working at home too). If you need to contact Scott, please contact him at the church or make an appointment to see him. When possible, please avoid calling Scott at home for church matters unless an emergency arises. Scott's email is:*

[selliott@rivieraucc.org](mailto:selliott@rivieraucc.org)