



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

"Thinking Openly, Believing Passionately, Serving Boldly"



APRIL 2011

THE MESSENGER

WWW.RIVIERAUCC.ORG



Palm Sunday

Choral Cantata

Sunday, April 17th
9 AM & 11 AM

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service April 21st at 7:00 PM

Tenebrae (pronounced tén-ch-bray) is Latin for "darkness." Riviera United Church of Christ's "Service of Shadows" is a service of remembrance of the Last Supper, telling the story of Jesus' trial, betrayal, desertion and arrest, accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of candles.



Children's Easter Party!

Saturday, April 23rd 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Bring your children, bring your grandchildren, and why not bring some of the neighbors' children? The festivities will begin at 10:30 AM at the Riviera UCC Estate grounds. There will be games, crafts, and of course the treasured hunt for eggs. Enjoy a light lunch of sandwiches, cookies and drinks before parting around 1:00 PM.



Sunday, April 24, 2011

**Sunrise Service
6:30 AM**

**Traditional Easter Worship
9:00 AM**

**Contemporary Easter Worship
11:00 AM**

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,

April is here. And it will probably come as no surprise that the First of April has long been a huge holiday in my home. Nancy and the kids and I have played tricks on each other ever since our family first formed. Some of the tricks have been simple and some of them quite elaborate. Many of them are now the stuff of family legends; like the time our dancing teen-aged daughter's parents sent her a forged letter from Juilliard School of Dance in New York telling her that she had been accepted, only to have her flip the trick on us with a convincing (but false) tale that her dance teacher saw the letter, called the local papers and they were running a front page story the next day.



These family stories of jokes and fun are more precious to me than gold. I appreciate humor in life and the playful side of things, even as life can be sad and difficult, indeed maybe because it is so. I find respite from life's dark things in the light of humor, and I am not alone in this. As I try to point out as often as it is appropriate, the authors of the Bible mix in a lot of humor too. There are amazing puns (like creating babble in Babel) and jokes too. At this time of year I am reminded of one of my favorite bits of Gospel humor. It appears in the Bible story at the start of Holy Week. Historically, on the eve of Passover, Rome's ruler, Pilate, marched into Jerusalem from the west complete with all the pomp and circumstance of a royal entry; e.g. astride horses and with legions of soldiers preceding him shouting praises for the earthly ruler. And from the other side of town? Well, a whole other procession is going on in the Gospel. God's ruler, Jesus, rides in from the east on a lowly donkey with legions of everyday people preceding him shouting "Hosanna!" to a whole different kind of king.

The contrast of earthly power versus God's power in the Palm Sunday story is stark, but it is also funny. True power, God's power, needs no pomp and circumstance, it needs no symbols of earthly power. It just needs people praising love and peace, it just needs people wanting and making a path for love and peace. In the Gospels, human ideas of power are held up for what they are - gaudy and silly in the universal scheme of things. God's idea of power is also held up for what it is - the power of God in ordinary people who want Christ's kingdom and who lead the way with whatever they can find.

After a triumphant entry to Jerusalem by Jesus, the rest of his week gets pretty ugly. The earthly power uses all it has to shut Christ down. It works, but, only for half a weekend. Come Sunday God's power wins out. Jesus is raised from the dead and lives on. The joke is on Rome and all other earthly powers: God will not be put down. To think otherwise is mere human folly. Easter proves it. Amen.

This year our Holy Week includes the following services: On Palm Sunday (April 17th) the RUCC Chancel Choir will perform a Cantata at both 9:00 and 11:00 AM. On Maundy Thursday (April 21st) there will be a moving Tenebrae service at 7:00 PM. On Saturday (April 23rd) the Teaching Ministers are hosting the annual Children's Easter party between 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM. And of course, on Easter Sunday (April 24th) we will have three services of worship; Sunrise service begins at 6:30 AM, and two Easter Worship services will follow at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

Please plan to attend as many of these services as you can and make sure to invite your family and friends!

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Scott Elliott



RUCC's Shepherd's Fund

You can easily help our neighbors in need by donating loose change, cash or check to Riviera UCC's Shepherd's Fund. The Shepherd's Fund is used to care for those in need in our community, bringing hope to many who need it. Please consider helping out with this ministry. You may mail your contribution, place it in the offering plate (marked) or there is a donation box near the doors of the Sanctuary.

Ladies' Evening Group

Last month the Ladies' Evening Group met at Phyllis Rhinehart's home for dinner. She spent the entire day prepping and cooking up the meal. As each of us entered the house, she gave us a list and instructed us to number the first four items we would like to have served on our plates. This is called Mystery Dinner. She filled our plates as we requested. It was then that we learned what some of the mystery names meant, and what a surprise we found on our plate when she put it down in front of us. The name of one dish was Irish Disaster and it was potato salad. After seconds, Phyllis allowed us to go into the kitchen and help ourselves for thirds. We want to thank Phyllis for having us over for an entertaining evening!

Next month we will be going to Wagon Wheel and the May gathering will be at one of our homes. If anyone would like to volunteer and have the Ladies' Evening Group meet at her home, please let me know.

Monday, April 18, 2011 at 6 PM: Wagon Wheel Pizza and Restaurant
1760 Palm Bay Road NE Palm Bay, Fl. 32905 (321) 724-4769

PS: Lorraine Crook, hurry and get well soon! Your smiling face has been missed both here and at Second Service on Sunday mornings. You are in our prayers!

Submitted by Pat Lucas



Ginny eating with a knife and celery.

2011-2012 Reading List Available

The Florida UCC Women's Reading for Renewal book list is now available. We are getting an earlier start this year so hopefully our participation will be greater. The tallies of books and number of readers will be due to the state chairperson in February 2012. Pick up a list at the Information Counter in the narthex and find the books that will enrich your life.

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. Look for the clipboard and sign-up to be part of the team to cook, provide materials and/or help serve. It is a pleasant and rewarding service.



Justice Ministry Group

Next Meeting Wednesday April 13, 2011
10:00 – 11:30 AM

Agenda: Advocacy: How and Why

Submitted by Carol Robinson



Vacation Bible School in the Works

Plans are in the making for a morning Vacation Bible School during the last weekend in June. Be on the lookout for more details; a call for helpers; the registration forms for participants, and for lists of needs of all kinds of stuff and special talents.

Do You Hear the Children Calling?

Together we can help build the community of children at Riviera and better meet the needs of the few we now see. 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 and Kathy Hufford.

RUCC Scholarship

Application forms and criteria information for the RUCC scholarship are now available. The scholarship of up to \$1,000 may be awarded annually to one or more church members who are pursuing post secondary education. For more information or to obtain forms please contact the church office or a member of the Scholarship Committee, including Kay Martin, David Cook, Steven Clark, and Kathy Hufford. Application deadline is May 8, 2011.

Community Family Players

announces

AUDITIONS

for

Much Ado

About

Nothing

Drop-In:

May 14, 2011

between the hours of:

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

at

Riviera United Church of Christ

451 Riviera Dr. NE

Palm Bay, FL 32905

(321) 723-3963

www.rivieraucc.org/drama

Callbacks:

May 21st

11 AM - 3 PM



The coolest
Shake
(spear)
in Brevard
County.



Open to all youth 12 to 20 years old.

Previous experience not required.

No preparation needed.

**Auditions will consist of reading,
speaking and taking direction.**









**COMMUNITY FAMILY PLAYERS
IS DEDICATED TO
"Connecting youth and community
with the performing arts"**

**HELP US TELL
EVERYONE WITH
YOUTH ABOUT
AUDITIONS!**



*Would you like to be in-
volved in this exciting
youth ministry? You can!*

Community Family Play-
ers (CFP) is seeking vol-
unteers to assist in many
aspects of this summer's
production, including:

-  Costume Design
-  Stage Construction
-  Lighting
-  Make Up and Hair
-  Backstage Helpers
-  PR and Fundraising
-  Front of House
-  Ticket Sales

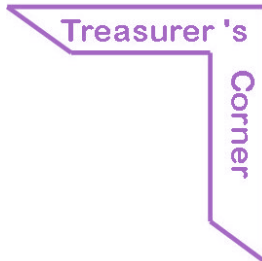
If you are interested in
assisting in any capacity,
please tell Scott Elliott,
Amy Lewis or Paul Lucas.

**Production Dates of
MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING will be:**

Thursday-Saturday at 7PM
July 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 30

Sunday Matinees at 2PM
July 24 & 31, 2011

RUCC Financial Health Report:



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

Income for February was: \$15,648.50	Expenses for February were: \$11,644.85
Year To Date projected income: \$53,023.50	YTD Projected expenses: \$28,620.30
Per Capita Owed to UCC: \$2,276.50	Per Capita Collected: \$1123.00

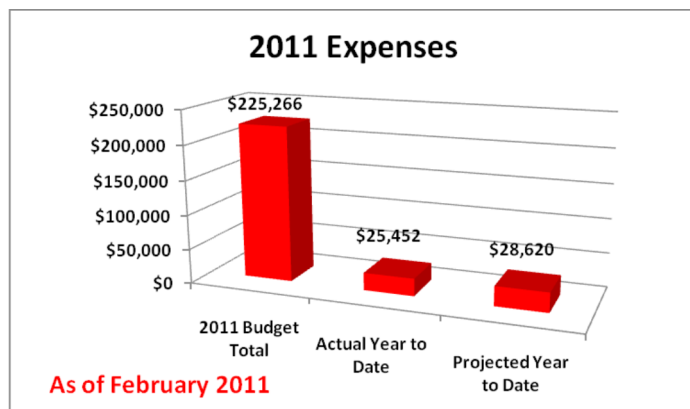
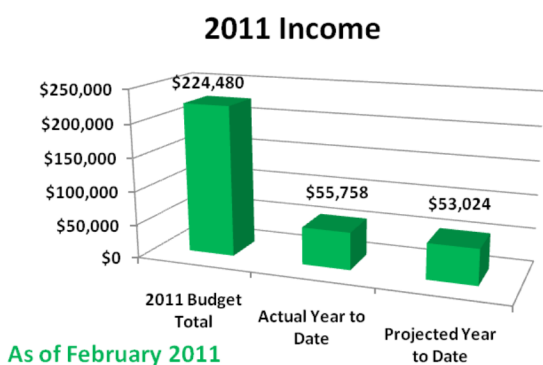
Save our Savings as of February 2011: \$470.00

As of the end of February the actual income is still slightly higher than projected and the expenses are lower.

To date, RUCC has received a total of \$67,250.00 from Bud Baader’s Estate. Bud’s generous gift is a General Donation, which means there are no designated restrictions on its use. The Church Council has met and determined how to best distribute these funds. The first gift of \$20,000 received in early January was applied to the 2011 Operational Budget. The second gift of \$5,000.00 received in late January was applied to the Designated Future Building Repairs Fund. The third gift of \$42,250.00 received in late February was distributed three ways: (1) The majority, \$35,750.00, is being invested to cover any future budget deficits. (2) An amount of \$5,000.00 is set aside in Bud and Micki’s name to upgrade the sound booth with a new sound board, microphones, and a new computer. (3) The final \$1,500.00 is set aside to purchase a commercial vacuum cleaner and carpet shampooer for the church.

Bud and Micki Baader’s gift has made such a difference in RUCC’s ability to continue its mission and ministries.

Paul Lucas
RUCC Treasurer



Stewardship News Flash

2011 Pledge Campaign – The 2011 Pledge Campaign thru February is 60 pledges for \$128,000.00. The budget deficit is based on a total of \$136,000.00. To date we have an \$8,000 budget gap based on pledged income. 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.

2011 Per Capita Campaign – As of February 2011, \$1123.00 has been received. Envelopes are available at the office or near the sound booth. Please place your Per Capita (\$14.50) in the provided envelope or add it to your offering and place it in the collection plate on any Sunday or give it to the Financial Secretaries.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering – The first special offering of 2011 is the One Great Hour of Sharing. The offering materials have been included in the weekly bulletins in March and the offering will take place April 3, 2011. Note this offering is one that assists countries in need. UCC National has already provided \$20,000 to Japan from the One Great Hour of Sharing Fund.


Save Our Savings Campaign - As of the end of February, \$470.00 has been identified as SOS. Many members are giving extra included in their offering pledge or loose change, which is perfectly fine. However, if you can identify the extra you are giving as SOS it helps us keep track of your extra giving. Any method you prefer to help save our savings is genuinely appreciated.

Submitted by the RUCC Stewardship Team



APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES <i>(Sunday, April 24, 2011)</i> Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM Easter Service - 9:00 AM Easter Service - 11:00 AM					SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM - Traditional Worship 10:10 AM - Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM - Contemporary Worship 11:10 AM - Kids' Sunday School	
3 <u>Worship Services:</u> Traditional - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10 :10 Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 Planning Mtg 3 PM RIC 3 PM	4 Finance Mtg 7 PM HomeBase 6-9 PM	5 Shepherd Center Council 10 AM	6 Bible Study 12:00 Noon "Green" Team 6 PM Choir 7 - 8:30 PM	7 Shepherd Center Classes 8AM-2PM RIC 6 PM	8 Mateh Chaim 7PM	9 HomeBase 6-9 PM
10 <u>Worship Services:</u> Traditional - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10 :10 Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 Council 1PM RIC 3 PM	11 HomeBase 6-9 PM	12 Bible Study 12:00 Noon Choir 7 - 8:30 PM	13 Justice Min 10 AM Bible Study 12:00 Noon Choir 7 - 8:30 PM	14 Shepherd Center Classes 8AM-2PM RIC 6 PM	15 Mateh Chaim 7PM Good Friday	16 Fellowship BFast @ Chekmars 9 AM HomeBase 6-9 PM
17 PALM SUNDAY: Choral Cantata - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10 :10 Choral Cantata - 11 AM RIC 3 PM	18 MESSENGER Article Deadline Ladies Evening Group 6:30PM HomeBase 6-9 PM	19 Easter Flower Order Deadline Riviera Key Home- owners 7 PM	20 Bible Study 12:00 Noon Choir 7 - 8:30 PM	21 TENEBRAE SERVICE: 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday	22 Mateh Chaim 7PM Good Friday	23 KIDS EASTER PARTY 10:30 AM-1:00 PM HomeBase 6-9 PM Holy Saturday
24 EASTER SUNDAY: Sunrise Service - 6:30 Easter Service - 9 AM Easter Service - 11 AM RIC 3 PM	25 Daily Bread 10A-2P PFLAG 6:00 PM HomeBase 6-9 PM	26 Stewardship Meeting 5:30 PM	27 Bible Study 12:00 Noon Choir 7 - 8:30 PM	28 Shepherd Center Classes 8AM-2PM RIC 6 PM	29 Mateh Chaim 7PM	30 HomeBase 6-9 PM

Monthly Breakfast Fellowship - All Welcome!

On each third Saturday of the month, a group meets at Chekmars' 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 April 16th.

Easter Lillies are available for purchase at \$10 each. Please use the forms in the narthex and submit them to the front office by Tuesday, April 19th.



Jason & deMarco rocked RUCC!

On March 19, our sanctuary was filled with the spirit through the amazing gifts of the signing duo, Jason and deMarco. Kathy Nilan brought the guys over to Palm Bay for us and Paul and Daryl got the place all set up, then Paul ran sound for the show. Thanks to all who made this happen!

A good-sized crowd of over 70 people arrived to share in the fun and inspirational concert. We hope to have Jason and deMarco back in the future for more spirit-filled evenings. They rocked!



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 Palm Bay, FL • 32905
 321-723-3963
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

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

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

Phone: (321) 723-3963

Fax: (321) 723-1281

Email: 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