



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

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



JUNE 2011

## THE MESSENGER

WWW.RIVIERAUCC.ORG

### Congratulations Class of 2011!

Riviera United Church of Christ is proud to announce that the following RUCC youth have graduated this year: **Elizabeth Knapp, Ashley VanEick, Marissa Krienke, Michelle Torres and Amanda Ellison.**



RUCC Teaching Ministers have awarded **Elizabeth Knapp** this year's scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. In addition, Ms. Knapp is the recipient of the Betty Outz Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,200, both of which will help her in her goals of higher education. Lizzy's application and essay were articulate and compelling, and we believe that with the financial assistance of these two scholarships a special young lady will be able to take her first steps toward realizing a dream, and a rewarding career.

Congratulations and great job everyone!

### Vacation Summer Camp

**PEACE HEROES and PEACE MAKERS**  
June 27 through June 30, 2011 from 9 AM - 12:30 PM

Whoaaa..... Time to get registered for Riviera UCC Peace Camp. Don't miss this great summer experience if you are between six and thirteen or if you are an adult associated with those who are. Registration forms are available at the church or via email by request from Carol. Youth and adults, there's a place in the program for you too. Peace and good communication are buddies.



### *Fed by the Spirit!*

**Sunday Church School Grades One through Six**

The foundation for this month's lessons will be how we use the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). These will be tied in with scriptures selected for congregational worship.



June 5 - Acts 1:1-11; June 12 - Acts 2:1-21;  
June 19 - Matthew 28:16-20; June 26 - Matthew 10: 40-42

*Submitted by Carol Robinson*

### 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



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

You may have noticed that there are a lot of new people visiting our church. A number of these new friends have come to visit because they have heard we are a church that truly welcomes those whom other churches reject. Our website visit are up by hundreds of hits a month too. Word is getting out.

We are making difference with your support in getting the word out. A powerful story in this regard happened a few weeks ago. A young woman approached me at the front door as I was locking up last month. She shyly asked, "Is it true that this church welcomes people like me? I am a lesbian." Of course I told her it was indeed true and I gave her some of our reading materials and invited her to come to one of our services.

As I drove home I was both sad and glad. I was sad that the first words out of anyone's mouth at a church would be, Is it true a person like me is welcome here? Churches are supposed to be a place anyone should feel welcome without having to ask. I was glad because without hesitation I could answer that we were just such a place. Riviera United Church of Christ is a loving place with a warm embrace thanks to God and the Christ within each of you.

This week I got an email from four new visitors who praised the service and the welcome they received and applauded the RUCC, "fellowship and welcoming attitude toward the GLBT community." They came here because they heard good things about us!

Please keep telling folks about Riviera United Church of Christ. The tried and true way of getting a church to grow in membership and visitors is for all of us to ask our friends, coworkers and relatives to check us out. Send them to the website, bring them pamphlets, and bring them to church.

And do not forget to come to worship yourself! If you like what we are doing at Riviera UCC help us thrive! Be here on Sundays, and sign-up to volunteer to help around the church. We cannot and will not exist if our supporters only find time to come to worship once in awhile or do not find a way to pitch in.

In short, please, please support your church by coming to worship.

**DON'T JUST COME TO THE CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH!**

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.*



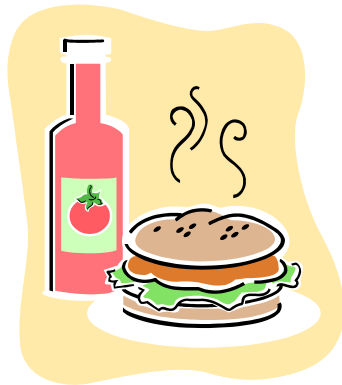
### "Gathering as One" in worship at 10 AM on July 10, 2011

Scott was ordained to the ministry on July 8, 2006. That makes July 2011 the fifth anniversary of his ordination. The Pastor Relations Committee (PRC) is sponsoring entertainment and a pot luck lunch (with cake for dessert, naturally, provided by the PRC) on July 10, 2011. Get out your salad, vegetable, or casserole recipes (or bring something from the store) and join us after one service on July 10, 2011. Watch for details in the bulletin and in the July issue of The MESSENGER Newsletter.

*Submitted by Nancy Cook*

## June Fellowship Fun

Each third Saturday of the month, a group gathers at Chekmars in Palm Bay at 9:00 AM for breakfast. Chekmars is a locally-owned favorite and is located at 2162 Harris Ave. Palm Bay, FL 32905. The next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, June 18th. All are welcome!



### Fellowship Dinner Hosted by RUCC's Stewardship Team

Burgers and sides! Based on the success (and fun!) of last month's fellowship dinner and a movie night, the invitation is once again, extended to everyone to join together on Friday, June 17th at 6:00 PM. The comedy "Folks" will be shown (even if just a few stay to watch). Tickets are available at \$8 per person or \$20 per family, to benefit the SOS ("Save Our Savings" campaign). See Pat Lucas to purchase yours.

- RUCC Stewardship Team

## Justice Ministry Group

Next Meeting Wednesday June 8, 2011

10:00 – 11:30 AM

On Mother's Day, May 8, we were pleased to dedicate twenty-two letters to three members of Congress (Sen. Rubio 9, Sen. Nelson 8, Rep. Posey 5) in support of the 2011 Bread for the World Offering of letters. The campaign this year asks that, Congress when addressing foreign aid for 2012, reform and strengthen how we deliver the aid while avoiding cuts particularly to the already small amount given to poverty stricken nations such as Haiti and Liberia. It is principally the mothers and children in these nations in dire need of help. Thank you, letter writers.

*Submitted by Carol Robinson*



### "Tools for Habitat" and Church World Service, "Tools for Hope" on Father's Day, June 18th.

Please bring your gently used or new tools which will be given to "Habitat for Humanity" to be used to build houses for, or given to, the new owners who will inhabit these houses.

If you would prefer to give cash; this money will be donated to Church World Service where tools will be bought to be given to the many refugees throughout the world. Some of these tools may even be given to the flood victims in our own country.

REMEMBER FATHERS on June 18th! Bring Tools to Church to honor Fathers throughout the World!

*Submitted by Margaret Ann Eisenmenger*

## COOKIES - UCC General Synod - COOKIES

Needed for Synod in Tampa Bay: "10,000 dozen cookies." Fill a plastic shoe box or boxes. Our goal is to contribute several hundred dozen.

Make them now and freeze them for collection in late June. We will store them in the church freezer if you do not have space at home. Questions? Contact Joni Isaman or Margaret Ann Eisenmenger.

THANK YOU!



## Strengthen the Church: Next Special Offering

On Sunday, June 12 – Pentecost – we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it aids the God is Still Speaking Ministry to spread our message of inclusivity.

Directed to local Conferences, Local Church Ministries and the Still-speaking Ministry, Strengthen the Church gifts help to create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome. To learn more about how your "Strengthen the Church" offerings are used, go to: <http://www.ucc.org/stc/> and read about how the UCC and its conferences use the funds.

-From the UCC Strengthen the Church promotional materials



### Stewardship Newsflash

**The 2011 Pledge Campaign** through March increased to 62 pledges for \$129,000.00. The budget predicted a total of \$136,000 in pledges based on 2010 actual income from pledges. To date, we have an \$8,000 budget gap. If we don't make this up, we will have to use our savings to operate the church, which is why we are keeping up with the SOS drive (see below). If you would like to pledge or change your pledge, please submit a pledge card anytime at the office or on any Sunday by placing a pledge card in the offering plate. You may also give a 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.

**Save Our Savings Campaign** - As of the end of April, \$801.00 has been received toward the SOS campaign prediction of \$15,000. Any shortage below the \$15,000 projected budget income will be supplemented from our savings to meet the budgeted requirements. If you are able to donate extra towards RUCC's operating budget, please identify it, if possible, as for the SOS campaign. However, any extra offering you can give will be well-received no matter how it is identified.

**2011 Per Capita Campaign** – Per Capita is \$14.50 per member and is paid annually by RUCC to the national UCC Conference. As of April 2011, \$1239.50 have been received, or 84% of our goal of \$1480.00. Envelopes are available at the office or near the sound booth. Members, please place your Per Capita amount (\$14.50 each) in the provided envelope, add it to your offering and place it in the collection plate on any Sunday or give it to one of the Financial Secretaries.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering** – The total collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is \$1,324.00. This amount was sent on to the Florida Conference of the UCC office.

**Strengthen the Church Special Offering** – The next special offering that will be starting in June is called, 'Strengthen the Church.' This offering supports new churches, lay and pastor leadership, youth and young adult programs, and God is Still Speaking Ministry. There will be inserts starting in late May. The offering will be collected in mid-June (see article above).

*The Stewardship Committee of Paul and Pat Lucas, Nancy and David Cook, and Amy Lewis normally meet on the last Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM to discuss ways raise funds for RUCC. The committee is always looking for fundraising 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.*

-RUCC Stewardship Team

## RUCC Financial Health Report:

Treasurer's  
Corner

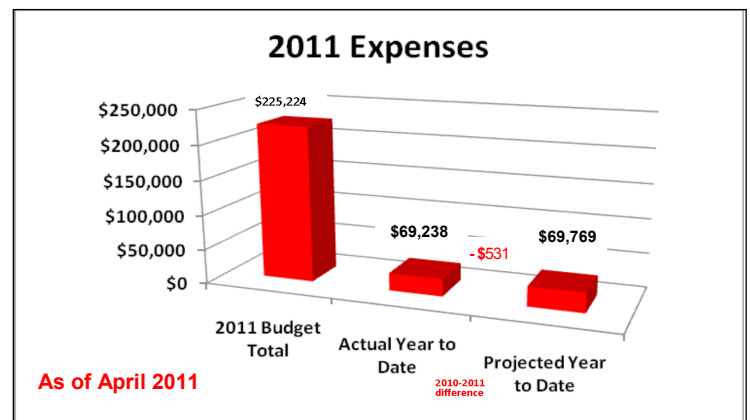
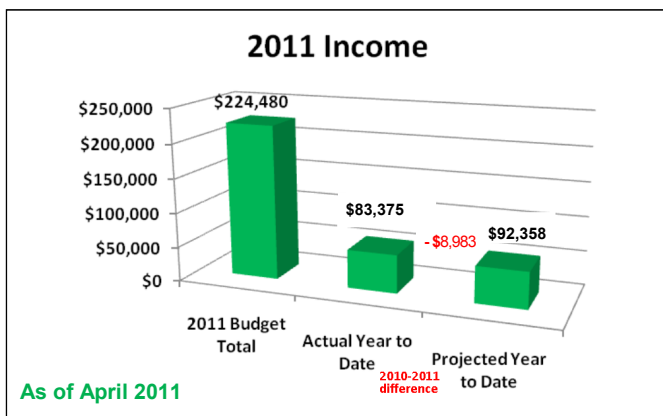
The financial report for RUCC through the end of April 2011 is as follows:

Income for April was: <b>\$14,330.00</b>	Expenses for April were: <b>\$13,630.23</b>
Year To Date projected income: <b>\$92,358.40</b>	YTD projected expenses: <b>\$69,769.43</b>
Year To Date actual income: <b>\$83,375.28</b>	YTD actual expenses: <b>\$69,237.96</b>
Per Capita Owed to UCC: <b>\$2,276.50</b>	Per Capita Collected: <b>\$1,239.50</b>

As of the end of April the actual income is \$8,983.12 under the budget projection, and the expenses are \$531.47 lower than the budget projection. The effort to reduce operational spending by our staff and volunteers continues. This year the projected income from giving is calculated differently than in past years by distributing the Deficit Reduction (savings) amounts prorated over the 12 months of the year instead of one large figure at the end of the year. This new method of distributing the Deficit Reduction (savings) amounts we have is helping us keep track of our savings more efficiently.

Save Our Savings as of April 2011 is \$801.00, which equals 5% of the YTD projected amount of \$15,000. The good news is that we are seeing an increase of the SOS giving in early May! Watch next month's MESSENGER Newsletter for the updated numbers.

Paul Lucas  
RUCC Treasurer



## Church POLICY UPDATES Council



The following policies were discussed and passed by vote at the May 2011 Council Meeting:

- ✓ **Alcohol Use on Church Property:** Alcohol shall not be permitted on the church premises without prior approval of Council.
- ✓ **Gambling on Church Property:** Gambling and games of chance shall not be permitted on the church premises without prior approval of Council.

- ✓ **Safe Child Policy:** There must be at least 2 adults present at all church functions where there are children under the age of 18.
- ✓ **15 seat passenger vans:** Currently under investigation with the Church's insurance company. Updates to come.

- RUCC Church Council



# JUNE 2011

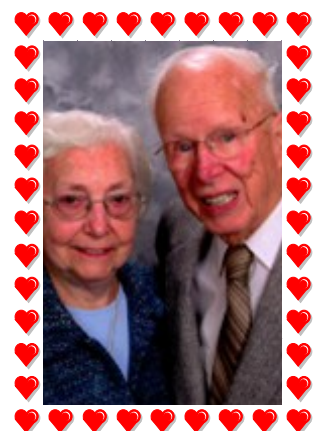


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> 9:00 AM - Traditional Worship 10:10 AM - Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM - Contemporary Worship 11:10 AM - Kids' Sunday School			1 "Green" Team 6 PM HomeBase 6-9 PM Choir 7 PM	2  RIC 6 PM	3	4  HomeBase 6-9 PM
5 Worship Services: Traditional - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10:10 Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 New Member Info Lunch 12:30 PM CFP 3 PM RIC 7:30 PM	6  CFP 6 PM Finance 7PM	7  CFP 6 PM	8 Justice Min 10 AM  TNET 7-9 PM HomeBase 6-9 PM Choir 7 PM	9  RIC 6 PM	10 Wedding Rehearsal  Mateh Chaim 7PM	11  Cressman Wedding 5:00 PM
12 Worship Services: Traditional - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10:10 Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 Council I PM CFP 3 PM RIC 7:30 PM	13  CFP 6 PM	14  CFP 6 PM	15  HomeBase 6-9 PM	16  RIC 6 PM	17 June Fellowship Dinner 6 PM	18 Fellowship BFast @ Chekmars 9 AM  HomeBase 6-9 PM
19 Worship Services: Traditional - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10:10 Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 CFP 3 PM RIC 7:30 PM	20 MESSENGER Article Deadline Ladies Evening Group 6:30 PM CFP 6 PM	21  CFP 6 PM	22  HomeBase 6-9 PM	23  Stewardship 4PM RIC 6 PM	24  Mateh Chaim 7PM	25  HomeBase 6-9 PM
26 Worship Services: Traditional - 9 AM Adult Seminar - 10:10 Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 Planning Mtg 1PM CFP 3 PM RIC 7:30 PM	27 Daily Bread 10A-2P PFLAG 6:00 PM CFP 6 PM	28  CFP 6 PM	29 TNET 7-9 PM HomeBase 6-9 PM	30 RIC 6 PM		
	VBS : "Peace Heroes" Summer Camp 9am - 12:30pm					



**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.

*Congratulations Newlyweds !  
 John and Grace are both former educators and John has attended Riviera since 1981.  
 We wish them a long and happy marriage.*



Grace & John Fuller



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 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)