



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

“Thinking Openly, Believing Passionately, Serving Boldly”



AUGUST 2011

THE MESSENGER

WWW.RIVIERAUCC.ORG



ANNUAL RALLY DAY

Sunday, August 28th

“Gathering as One”
in Worship
at 10 AM

Celebration of Ministries and
Back-to-School party
to follow.

See Teaching Ministers, Carol Robinson & Kathy Hufford
for more information.

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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Teens Work and Play Results, So Too Love

Our culture has an odd approach to teenagers. We tend to treat them like they have little value. I've even seen store clerks ignore teens passing over them in line to help adults who came later. I have long heard and read laments about teens. It's really rather sad to witness such negativity about adolescents. This is especially so when you actually work with teens and know that they are not just by and large very good and hard working people, but also fun to be around and have much to offer. The Bible evidences that God "got" this and knows teenagers' worth and importance. For example, David as an adolescent was entrusted by God to take on Goliath and save Israel. And Mary as a young teen was picked by God to give birth to Jesus. And, of course, Jesus led religious discussions at the Temple when he was twelve. In short, the Bible evidences that teens have much value to God and they can do great things.

And God is right. As you know I know, I have spent many a summer working with teens as we put on full length theatre productions. Being in a play is hard work. It takes discipline and skill, smarts and bravery, creativity and empathy in order to learn lines, speak loud, develop character, interact with others and stand before crowds to weave together with others a three dimensional story.

This summer we worked on Shakespeare's comedy "Much Ado About Nothing" and performed it at our church the last two weekends of July. Fifteen adolescents and almost as many adults worked hard as cast and crew to pull together a complex beautifully poetic play written four hundred years ago.

And words were not the only beauty in this production. Watching the teens work side-by-side as equals with adults and each other is not just amazing from a technical standpoint, but, year in and year out the productions are filled with mutual respect and compassion.

This ministry's hope (and motto) is to connect youth and community through the performing arts. But you know what? More than that always occurs; youth and community end up being connected through love every year. Love of art. Love of play. Love of acting. But most of all love of one another, old and young alike.

In these productions we do not preach or require the teens to believe in anything other than themselves. They just need to show up and do the work and play. We provide a safe place, the resources and caring adult mentors. Mix all that together and without fail love shows up. Since God is love, it's very spiritual and it's very beautiful. And teens primarily generate it.

Your Brother In Christ,

Rev. Scott Elliott

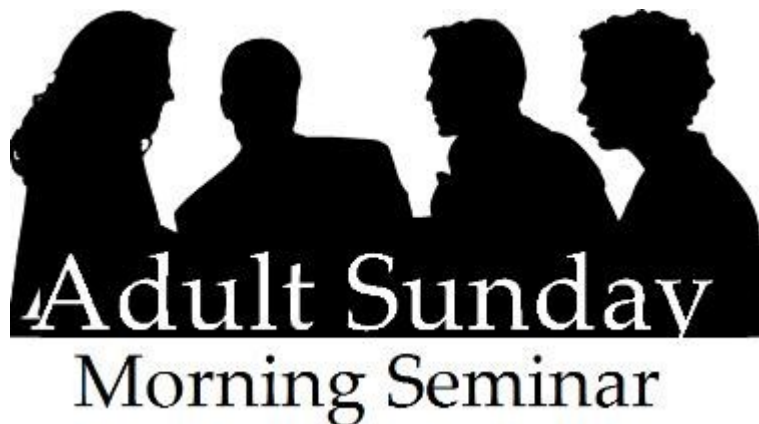
Invite Someone to Riviera United Church of Christ!

Our publicity team has been working hard the past year and we've received a lot of press. People are coming to see what Riviera UCC is all about. Visitors have been treated with kindness and a welcoming spirit that's infectious. This is great news! Good job Riviera UCC!

As Scott continues to remind us, the best way to get folks to church is not through publicity, it is through personal invitations and conversations by members with their family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances. This has always been the number one way to bring in visitors.

How can we let folks know about Riviera UCC? Well, there are a number of ways;

We have a great website; www.rivieraucc.org. If nothing else, we can email people we know telling them about the services or an event at church or a sermon we liked or a moment at RUCC that made our day a little better - and then include the website link with the note. Or we can tell someone in person or on the phone about the church: No doubt you can think up many other great things to say about RUCC to those you know. Give it a try. Get the word out and build our community!



RUCC Adult Sunday Seminar September 2011 through May 2012

Riviera United Church of Christ (RUCC) seeks to provide adults a venue for discussion of religious and philosophical topics through a weekly fifty-minute seminar that meets between the Traditional and Contemporary Worship Services from 10:10 to 10:50 AM. Below is the plan for that seminar for the next year. All selections are subject to change. You are invited to attend any or all sessions, which will be conducted as discussion seminars.

Sign-up will begin for the September discussion (*The Wordy Shipmates*) later this month. The books are available from Nancy Cook for \$5.00. (Scholarships are also available if you cannot afford the book.)

September 11, 2011 – 2 October 2011 (4 sessions): *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell

Explore with us the roots of the UCC in this fiction book about the Puritans who followed John Winthrop to Massachusetts colony in 1630. Vowell is an author known for her lively writing of history.

October 9, 2011 – December 18, 2011 (12 sessions including Thanksgiving Sunday): *An Alter in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Taylor writes about how to see the holy in everything. Her chapters "mine the potentially sacred meaning of simple daily activities and conditions, like walking, paying attention, saying no to work one Sabbath day each week."

January 8, 2012 – March 11, 2012 (9 sessions): *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan

Crossan discusses the Lord's Prayer and concludes it is "a revolutionary manifesto, proclaiming nonviolence and distributive justice."

March 18, 2012 – May 27, 2012 (10 sessions): **Muhammad** (introduction and 9 sessions) from the Teaching Company

Course: *Confucius, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad* taught by Professor Mark W. Muesse

Muesse, an award-winning professor, covers the lives of four of the greatest men in history both separately and comparatively. The series explores the history, culture, and "pivotal moments of transformation" for each subject.

September – October 2012: **Jesus** from the Teaching Company Course: *Confucius, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad* taught by Professor Mark W. Muesse

Muesse, an award-winning professor, covers the lives of four of the greatest men in history both separately and comparatively. The series explores the history, culture, and "pivotal moments of transformation" for each subject.

Submitted by Nancy Cook

New Member Info Meeting September 4, 2011

A New Member Informational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 4th at 12:30 PM (following the 2nd Worship Service).

This is a great time to chat informally with the pastor, learn about RUCC, and how to become a member of Riviera United Church of Christ.

RSVP on the green sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Pizza and drinks will be provided.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Children's Ministry Updates

Peace Summer Camp: We did it! It was joyous fun, games, crafts, singing and learning. Only ten or eleven months until we can share another Peace Summer Camp. On the last day, the consensus was that we should do it again. Planning will begin in January using the program 'Making a Village.' It was our pleasure to work and play with a great group of campers: Donovan Aschenback, Mia Aschenback, Haley Brown, Sebastian Brown, Anthony Campbell, Samantha Leslie, Ryan Rabidou, Kyle Rabidou, Samantha Reusch, Nicole Youmans, and Dezzy Wood.



Summer Sunday School for grades one through six will continue until Rally Day on Sunday, August 28. In September, regular Church School classes will resume with a new UCC Faith Practices curriculum.



School Supplies Collection for Riviera Elementary: Since we became neighbors of the Riviera Elementary School in 2003 we have collected school supplies to be given children in families on very tight budgets and there are many. These supplies include mostly basic materials for the fundamentals of education. Look for the garden cart as you arrive on Sunday where you may deposit your contributions. Attached to the cart will be samples of lists of expected family-supplied materials. Many stores are having sales in the weeks before school. Take advantage of them so that you can help out as much as possible. Specific schools have their own lists in the stores, but following is a list of some of the general supplies that are needed:

Submitted by Carol Robinson

lined paper
pens and pencils
erasers
highlighters
dry-erase markers
paperclips
binders

report covers
staples and a stapler
construction paper
glue sticks
markers
tape
boxes of tissue

GOD'S
green team



The "Green Team" Sez that many household products, particularly cleaning products, can cause mild to severe health problems and are bad for the environment. Did you know? Green household products do not use the chemicals found in traditional products. These products rely on natural ingredients and as a result do not cause health problems or environmental damage with proper use. The volatile organic compounds in air fresheners can lead to breathing problems like asthma. Fragrances added to laundry detergents can cause difficulty breathing, eye irritations, and headaches. The chemical ingredients in drain cleaners and dishwashing detergents can irritate the lungs, eyes, and skin. Green household products use natural alternatives to chemical ingredients and work just as well. You can purchase green products or make your own out of household items like vinegar, baking soda, and lemon juice. For more information, search "green" and "household" on the internet.

Submitted by Dennis Sullivan

RUCC's Shepherd's Fund

You can easily help our neighbors in need by donating loose change, cash or check to RUCC'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. Thank you!



RUCC Financial Health Report:

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

Income for June was: \$13,570.84	Expenses for June were: \$22,313.27
Year To Date projected income: \$126,446.54	YTD projected expenses: \$107,308.78
Year To Date actual income: \$114,478.15	YTD actual expenses: \$105,804.24
Per Capita Owed to UCC: \$2,276.50	Per Capita Collected: \$1,268.00

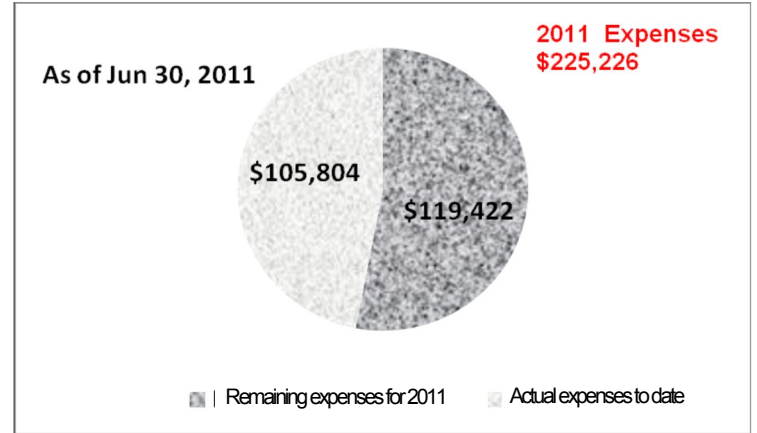
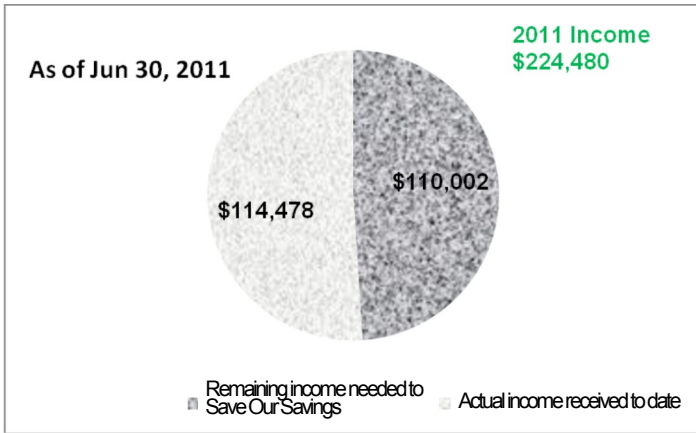
Treasurer 's
 Paul Lucas
 RUCC Treasurer

Corner

At the completion of June 2011 the expenses are \$1504.54 under the budget projection. The savings is a result of a reduction in the medical cost for this quarter along with continued energy and supply management by the staff. Also the garden now has a sprinkler zone connected to the well to provide water and no longer requires the use of city water, so we expect that additional cost reduction should result.

Save Our Savings effort as of June 2011: **\$3,057.03**. This equals 20% of the projected \$15,000. As of the end of June 2011 the actual income remains under the budget projection.

Here are the charts for the Income and Expenses to date - As of June 2011:



Paul Lucas
 RUCC Treasurer



The 2011 Pledge Campaign - The 2011 Pledge Campaign through June remained at 62 pledges for \$129,000.00. To date we have a \$7,000 budget gap based on last year’s predictions. 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.

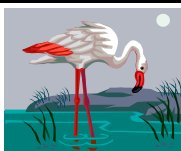
Strengthen the Church Special Offering – This is the second of the four special offerings each year. We collected \$349.00 for this special offering, which was sent on to UCC National offices.

2011 Per Capita Campaign – As of June 2011, \$1,268.00 has been received, or 86% of our goal of \$1480.00. This is great news! Thanks to all who completed their 2011 member dues to UCC national. Again, envelopes are also available at the office or near the sound booth. Members, please place your Per Capita amount (\$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.

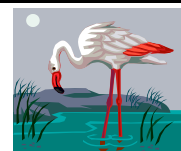
Community Family Players (CFP) – The Stewardship Team is selling t-shirts for RUCC’s ministry group, Community Family Players. All proceeds will benefit CFP. Shirts are \$10 each and available in sizes medium through extra-large.

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



AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Finance Mtg 7PM Home Base 6-9 PM	2	3 Green Team 6PM Home Base 6-9 PM	4 RIC 6 PM	5	6 RIC 6 PM
7 <u>Worship Services:</u> Traditional - 9 AM Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 Planning Mtg 1 PM RIC 3 PM	8 Home Base 6-9 PM	9	10 Home Base 6-9 PM TNET 7-9 PM	11 RIC 6 PM	12	13
14 <u>Worship Services:</u> Traditional - 9 AM Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 Council 1 PM RIC 3 PM	15 MESSENGER Article Deadline Home Base 6-9 PM	16	17 Home Base 6-9 PM	18 RIC 6 PM	19	20 Fellowship Bfast Chekmarcs 9AM Rev. Elliott on vacation
21 <u>Worship Services:</u> Traditional - 9 AM Contemporary - 11 AM Kids' Sun School 11:10 RIC 3 PM	22 Daily Bread 10-2 PFLAG 6 PM Home Base 6-9 PM	23	24 Home Base 6-9 PM	25 RIC 6 PM	26	27 Rev. Elliott returns
... Rev. Elliott's Vacation ...						
28 <u>Worship Services:</u> GATHER AS ONE 10:00 AM -RALLY DAY- RIC 3 PM	29 Home Base 6-9 PM	30	31 Home Base 6-9 PM			

Nursery is available for both services.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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



Thank you to **Judy Busch and Joni Isaman** for making cookies for the UCC General Synod in Tampa and to **Scott** for delivering them. Word has it that there were over 11,000 dozen home-made cookies provided! Good fuel for good fellowship.



Justice Ministry Group
The JMG will take a summer break during July and August.
Next Meeting:
Wednesday September 14, 2011
10:00 – 11:30 AM

Chancel Choir
Thank you for the blessing of music, and enjoy your summer!
Ken will let you know when the autumn start-up rehearsal will be.

Reconvening in September:
Adult Sunday Seminar
Next Meeting:
Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 10:10 AM
Wednesday Bible Study
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, September 7th at Noon.



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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

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