



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

*“Thinking Openly, Believing Passionately, Serving Boldly”*



SEPTEMBER 2011

## THE MESSENGER

WWW.RIVIERAUCC.ORG

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 25, 2011**  
**at 11:00 AM**  
*directly following a*  
**10 AM**



**“Gathering as One” in worship service.**



**Discussion of Revised By-Laws, new pledge & budget options, & disbursement of the \$25,000 community fund.**

A new set of bylaws is finally ready for vote by the congregation at the congregational meeting on September 25, 2011. The bylaws are the result of two and a half years of exhaustive discussion, study and modifications and re-modifications by committee and council, as well as workshop meetings for the congregation. Thanks to all who worked on this process.

Please read over a copy of the final version of the bylaws (they are available in the church lobby and on our website). The most substantial change in the final draft is the establishment of three elected members to each of the five ministries (Outreach, Education, Spiritual, Resources and Buildings and Grounds) to plan and coordinate at the ministry level with a chair from each ministry serving on council. The hope behind these newest changes is to get more people involved outside of council and to encourage and empower decisions by the committees and teams that operate outside of council. The present system has council and the elected ministers carrying far too much of the workload, bogging down decisions and actions.

Also on the agenda for this special meeting are: new ideas for Operations Pledging and the Capital Campaign (see pg. 5), as well as the final disbursement of the Community Fund (\$5K to Back Bay Mission, \$5K to UCC Florida Conference, \$4K to Riviera Elementary School, \$4K to Daily Bread, \$4K to Sharing Centers of Brevard).

Please make sure to read the proposed bylaws before the vote on September 25, 2011. The meeting will follow the 10:00 AM Gathering as One in worship service.

### 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: Billy Lane  
Vice-Moderator: Dick Rhinehart  
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,

I recently received an e-mail from someone in the area who saw a UCC television commercial advertising that UCC churches accept people that other churches reject. Like many, the person was surprised and impressed that such churches exist.

A lot of people have this notion that Christianity is primarily a religion that focuses on excluding those who do not fit into a narrow spectrum. Since most people in America favor the inclusion of a broad spectrum of people and think negatively about rejection and exclusion, churches often end up being perceived in the negative. It's something we are up against every day in our efforts to let people know about Riviera United Church of Christ.

Rainbows literally include a broad spectrum of visible light. Indeed all visible color of light is included in a real rainbow. So the rainbow is a great symbol of inclusion, which is why civil rights movements have used it to stand for the acceptance of all manner of people.

Of course the rainbow in the Bible is used as a symbol of the peace promised by God to ALL people. It's the bow of the warrior God of old, who, while once understood to side with some, is now understood to have hung up the war bow on the wall of the sky as a sign of the promise that never again will God be experienced as wanting anything but peace on earth for ALL.

Moreover, a rainbow of people is certainly who Jesus welcomed and embraced into his ministry and so a rainbow of people is what Jesus calls us to welcome and embrace as well. Which is why we have a rainbow on our popular bumper stickers and buttons (people who do not attend RUCC proudly display them as well as us!).

On our rainbow sticker we have added to the visual message that the rainbow symbolizes about inclusivity and peace, the very Biblical idea of inclusion i.e., that God's love has no strings attached. This bumper sticker can now be seen across Brevard county on cars (it is also in other states including on a TV star's apartment door in New York!).

A visitor to our church a week or so ago told me seeing our bumper stickers got her looking into our website and visiting us. We have gone from being the best kept secret in Brevard County to the church with the great bumper sticker, the church of inclusion and unconditional love. People are learning about RUCC. People are impressed with RUCC. People are interested in RUCC. And it is not just those who are oppressed. It's those who oppose oppression and want to attend a church that preaches and teaches inclusion.

In other words, the rainbow stickers are attracting a broad spectrum of interest and visitors. So too are our pro-inclusion pamphlets, website, sermons and community. Sometimes I hear about worries that the rainbow idea RUCC is communicating may have a narrow appeal. But that does not seem to be the case. Not only does it proclaim both the Old and New Testament theology of inclusion to those who have been rejected, but it proclaims a theology that is more in line with what the majority of what Americans favor, the inclusion of a broad spectrum of people. Since that is exactly what Christ favors, it's fair to say that it's a win-win bumper sticker *and* theology we've got going with the Spirit here at Riviera United Church of Christ.

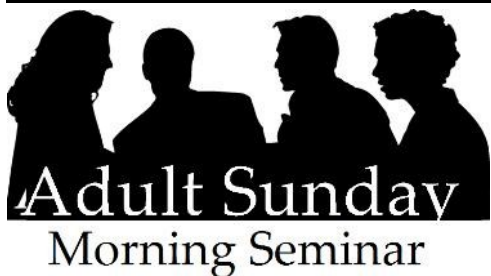
Your Brother In Christ,

**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&catid=Religion~Scott+Elliott> to read and rate the articles.*



*Rev. Elliott has recently been appointed as a member of the Board of Directors at Brevard Family Partnership (BFP)! BFP is a local non-profit that manages Brevard County's child welfare system alongside the Florida Department of Children & Families. BFP and its community partners provide child abuse prevention, foster care and support, adoption, independent living and community outreach services to the children and families of Brevard County.*



## Adult Seminar Discusses the Roots of Congregationalism September 11 – October 2, 2011

Riviera United Church of Christ 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 services from 10:10-10:50 AM.

The first selection (September 11–October 2) of the 2011-2012 year is "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.

You are invited to attend any or all sessions, which will be conducted as discussion seminars. See last month's MESSENGER Newsletter for a summary of the entire 2011-2012 adult seminar selections. Sign-up for the September discussion (The Wordy Shipmates), which will begin on September 11th. The books are available from Nancy Cook for \$5.00 or by scholarship if needed.

*Submitted by Nancy Cook*

## Justice Ministry Group Wednesday September 14, 2011 10:00 – 11:30 AM

In 2009, General Synod of the United Church of Christ approved a resolution to establish the Economic Justice Covenant Program. A Task Force recently presented a nine-part program principally for local churches.

Let's take a look at this resource. It is a guide to study economic injustices, to pray and discern God's will for economic justice ministry, to draft and adopt an Economic Justice Covenant, and to engage in actions to promote economic justice.

### Big International events in September:

September 21 : International DAY OF PEACE. This date was established in 2001 by the United Nations General Assembly although the idea took root in 1981. Many organizations and communities around the world celebrate with events both large and small. Giant Peace Dove puppets supported by four or more people are frequent enhancements in the parades. On this day join the celebrants around the world with your prayer for peace.

September 24: Another big, bold world-wide action day, MOVING PLANET, sponsored by the "350.org" crowd. Most of the countries of the world have already scheduled events involving moving without using fossil fuels. These public displays of concern for reducing the greenhouse gases to 350 parts per million puts governments, communities and individuals on notice that the need to work toward a clean energy future has not diminished. Learn more by checking [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) or [www.moving-planet.org/video](http://www.moving-planet.org/video).

*Submitted by Carol Robinson*



## WOMEN IN THE UCC! SPEAK YOUR MIND

Resources, programs, groups, meetings, ministries with, for and about women of all ages in the UCC.

Go to: <http://www.ucc.org/women>. Take the survey and help the national and regional offices in their preparation of resources for the women of the United Church of Christ.

### The Spiritual Ministers would like to thank:

Opal Houghton, Bettilou Mowery, Jeanne Hillenbrand and Mary Beth Moseley for their help in preparing the Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings!!

We are low on cookies & powered drinks if anyone would like to donate. Homemade cookies are a big hit, but bought ones are also much appreciated!

### Children’s Ministry Updates

“Playing and Living Joyfully” A new program year and new resources upon which to draw.



For children ages 12 and under *Playing and Living Joyfully* is the title of the Faith Practice, or unit of activities, that will guide the class experiences for the months of September and October. Other Faith Practices will follow.

Leaders, teachers, and class assistants will find it easy and a delight to use. The door is open to those who would be willing to serve in any of these capacities: men, women and older youth. Consider your calendar and see where you might fit into our staffing chart. Orientation will be provided.

The foundation of the program is the UCC Statement of Faith and other affirmations or beliefs of the UCC denomination. Riviera UCC has taken a one year subscription to this gold mine of ideas for growth in understanding of and living our faith. The material comes via the internet and speaks to groupings by age levels, interests or concerns. As the year progresses, groups other than the elementary classes may wish to explore the offerings in Faith Practices.

*Submitted by Carol Robinson*



#### In My Daily Life

Through playfulness and joy we increase our awareness of God’s presence in our individual lives, in our circles of families and friends, at work, at school. Take some moments from the busyness of life and create a poem of joy.

- When I (we) \_\_\_\_\_, there is joy.
- When I (we) \_\_\_\_\_, there is joy.
- When I (we) \_\_\_\_\_, there is joy.
- When I (we) \_\_\_\_\_, there is joy.

Where joy is, there is God. Where God is, there is joy. Help us to remember to be aware of this.

*Submitted by Carol Robinson*

#### Collection for Riviera Elementary



Thank You! A hug and a handshake to all who have helped to support the collection of school supplies for students at Riviera Elementary School.

These are truly our neighbors in need. In addition to the material supplies we were able to send along a check for \$100 for specific unmet needs. Your generosity will be appreciated by many.

*Submitted by Margaret Ann Eisenmenger*

#### Next meeting for RUCC Teen Group is on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 from 4 PM - 6 PM.

Once a month during the school year, area teens (ages 13-19) are invited to gather in fellowship and fun with games, snack and informal discussions that cover everything from their daily joys and concerns to a wide range of current topics which they select and tie into their own lives, community living and faith. Those students requiring community service for scholarships, school, etc. are offered outreach experiences at least once a month.



#### The “Green Team” Sez RECYCLE!!

One (1) aluminum can creates enough energy to run your TV for 3 hours. Everyone knows recycling is the way to go, not everyone does it!!

*Submitted by Margaret Ann Eisenmenger*

#### 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:**

**Treasurer 's**  
 Paul Lucas  
 RUCC Treasurer  
**Corner**

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

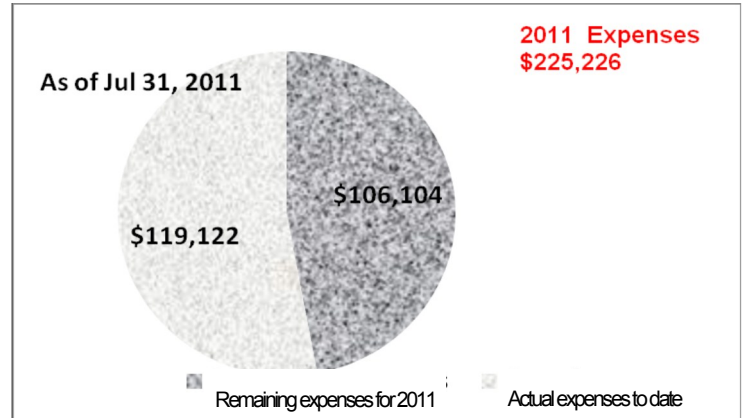
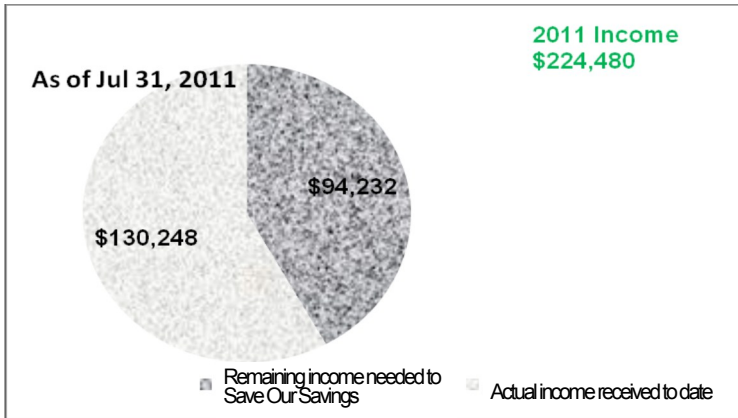
Income for July was: <b>\$15,769.47</b>	Expenses for July were: <b>\$13,325.37</b>
Year To Date projected income: <b>\$139,841.54</b>	YTD projected expenses: <b>\$121,615.61</b>
Year To Date actual income: <b>\$130,247.62</b>	YTD actual expenses: <b>\$119,129.61</b>
Per Capita Owed to UCC: \$2,276.50	Per Capita Collected: \$1,311.50

At the completion of July 2011 the expenses are \$2,465.03 under the budget projection. This is a result of the continued management by the staff and council.

The Actual Income to Date is \$11,118.01 higher than the Actual Expenses to Date. August is projected to be a month when the income should be slightly higher than expenses. However, the projection for September 2011 is the expenses will be \$13,000 higher than the income. This is due to quarterly expenses and three pay days during the month.

**Save Our Savings** effort as of July 2011: **\$3,429.03** 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.

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



**Special Pledge Workshop on September 10, 2011 at 10:00 AM** – The Stewardship Committee and Church Council is holding a workshop or open meeting with any interested members of the congregation to discuss future pledge drives. The current Capital Campaign ends March 2012. Based on the advice from UCC National continued Capital Campaigns are not recommended once the building project is completed. The building was completed in 2003 and has been operational for almost nine years. Therefore the recommendation from UCC National is to have one budget that includes both operational and mortgage expenses combined. However, before a final decision is reached by the Church Council on how to present the 2012 budget and run the 2012 Pledge Campaign, inputs from the congregation are welcomed. This is your opportunity to voice your opinions and discuss with the Stewardship Committee and representatives from the Church Council related to future Pledge Campaigns and budget development. Please attend to present your view.

**The 2011 Pledge Campaign** - The 2011 Pledge Campaign through July remained at 62 pledges for \$129,000.00. To date we have a \$7,000 budget gap between the projected Pledge Income and Actual. ***Our pastor extends a hearty ‘Thank You’ to all who have provided offerings to the church in 2011. Your gifts have mattered!!!***


**Sunday News CD** – To date there have been enough CD’s sold to cover the production cost. The CDs are still available for \$10.00. All proceeds from this point will go to the Save Our Savings (SOS) fund.

*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.*



# SEPTEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>4</b> Worship Services:                      Traditional - 9 AM                      Contemporary - 11 AM                      Kids' Sun School 11:10                      New Member Info                      Lunch 12:30 PM                      RIC 3 &amp; 5 PM</p>	<p><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</p>			<p>1                      RIC 6 PM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3                      Home Base 6-9 PM</p>
	<p>5                      OFFICE CLOSED                      Home Base 6-9 PM                      Labor Day</p>	<p>6                      Riviera Key Home-Owners 7 PM</p>	<p>7                      'Green' Team 6 PM                      Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<p>8                      RIC 6 PM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10                      Pledge Workshop 10:00 AM                      Finance Meeting 1:00 PM                      Home Base 6-9 PM</p>
	<p>11 Worship Services:                      Traditional - 9 AM                      Adult Sun School 10:10                      Contemporary - 11 AM                      Kids' Sun School 11:10                      Council 1 PM                      RIC 3 &amp; 5 PM</p>	<p>12                      Home Base 6-9 PM</p>	<p>13                      Teen Meeting 4-6 PM</p>	<p>14                      Justice Min 10 AM                      Bible Study 12 Noon                      Choir Practice 7 PM                      TNET 7PM</p>	<p>15                      RIC 6 PM</p>	<p>16                      Home Base 6-9 PM</p>
	<p>18 Worship Services:                      Traditional - 9 AM                      Adult Sun School 10:10                      Contemporary - 11 AM                      Kids' Sun School 11:10                      Planning Mtg 1 PM                      RIC 3 &amp; 5 PM</p>	<p>19                      MESSENGER Article Deadline                      Home Base 6-9 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21                      Bible Study 12 Noon                      Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<p>22                      RIC 6 PM</p>	<p>23</p>
	<p>25 Worship Services:                      Gathering as One                      Congregation meeting to follow                      RIC 3 &amp; 5 PM</p>	<p>26                      Daily Bread 10-2                      PFLAG 6 PM                      Home Base 6-9 PM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28                      Bible Study 12 Noon                      Choir Practice 7 PM                      TNET 7PM</p>	<p>29                      RIC 6 PM</p>	<p>30</p>

**Campus Ministry Dinner:** We're on Rev. Darice Dawson's schedule to do it again. Look for the signup sheet to participate in providing a meal for students and some staff at the All Faith Center at Florida Tech on Monday, October 24, 2011. Needed: menu ideas, cooks, serving supplies and servers. See Carol Robinson for more information.



**Adult Sunday Seminar** begins for fall on Sunday, September 11th at 10:10 AM.



**Wednesday Bible Study** reconvenes on Wednesday, September 14th at 12 Noon.



**Chancel Choir** rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM for Sundays at 9 AM.



The “Green” Team will meet again on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 PM.



The Justice Ministry Group will regroup on Wednesday, September 14th at 10:00 AM.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 451 Riviera Drive NE  
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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](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)