



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

"Thinking Openly, Believing Passionately, Serving Boldly"



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2008

RIVIERA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOMING OUR NEW PASTOR...



Riviera United Church of Christ's Congregation is excited to announce the installation of our new Pastor, Rev. Scott Elliott, on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 3:00 PM.

Rev. Elliott has served RUCC as assistant pastor and has taken more responsibilities in light of our former senior pastor's leave-of-absence. He was elected by an overwhelming majority, and we know he will continue his Good Work at RUCC for many years.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate Rev. Elliott's installation officiated by Florida UCC Conference representative, Rev. Dr. Raymond Hargrove. Rev. Tom Golladay will lead us in worship with a sermon entitled, "When We Just Don't Get It."

A wonderful reception hosted by the Pastoral Relations and Pastoral Search Committees will follow.

For directions or more information about this blessed event, please contact the church office at (321) 723-3963.

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: David Cook

Vice Moderator: Holly Yolles

Clerk: Lisa Leslie

Treasurer: Chris List

Assistant Treasurer: Judy Klug

Financial Secretary: Nancy Cook

Asst. Financial Secretary: Kay Martin

Asst. Financial Secretary: Bonnie Hankins

Finance Minister: Pat Lawson

Finance Minister: Paul Lucas

Finance Minister: Janet Valley

Teaching Minister: Anita Knapp

Teaching Minister: Margaret Ann Eisenmenger

Teaching Minister: Cathy Carnes

Spiritual Minister: Kenneth Noah

Spiritual Minister: Wesley Main

Spiritual Minister: Mary Beth Moseley

From Our Pastor

The Reverend Scott Elliott



Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

As I write this, we are still basking in the glory of three amazing days in a row at Riviera UCC. First, on September 6th the Justice Ministry Group, headed by Carol Robinson, put together a five-star forum on health. Nearly three dozen people attended. Van Gogh’s Creative Café provided a scrumptious catered lunch. There was a lot of information on clever wall posters and time lines, and a fun game about myths and facts in medicine. The topic of the forum was “Seeking Solutions: Health Care” and the speakers, Dr. Peter Weiss, Dr. Andrea Miller, and Dr. Stephen Blythe were all articulate, thoughtful and very knowledgeable on the topics. In short, this was a first rate afternoon of valuable information and discussion on health! Many thanks (and a round of A+ s) to Carol, Margaret Ann Eisenmenger, Janet Valley, Virginia Cannon and the rest of the Justice Ministry team for an excellent job — and to the speakers for their valuable time and their very enlightening words on health care.

Second, on September 7th we had our 2008 Rally Day. WOW! Was it ever an exuberant time of worship, fellowship and fun! First, we had a joyful blended worship service with marvelous music led by Shelle Waller (our exceptionally gifted music director) along with the fine sounding band comprised of Shelle, Lisa Leslie, Stuart Nicholson and Rafael Olivera. Of course, I am biased, but I have to say that we were treated to an uplifting sermon about loving your neighbor moment-to-moment. The funniest part of the service, however, had to be the “Who’s in Sunday School” skit, a spoof on Abbot and Costello’s “Who’s on First” routine. Thanks to Cathy Carnes for rehearsing and reading with me (she gets an A+ too). There was also wonderful communion time together as folks from all walks of life came forward to share the Lord’s Table with all who wanted to partake. After the service, Daryl Hankins very ably led the auctioning off of desserts (which brought in \$225 for the youth program!). Then we joined hands and gave thanks to God before heading off to eat some of what had to be the best food ever had at a church function this side of the Mississippi. Mmmmmmm—mmmmmm?. From Ricky Richard’s fabulous A+ BBQ, to all the wondrous cover dishes and desserts, it was an absolute feast. Then, I had the pleasure of sitting in a dunking booth and being repeatedly dunked as ball after ball found its mark. (I think we have the makings a of a fine softball team!) The children played in the water on slides and in the booth and had a great time too. All-in-all it was a joy-filled day of fellowship and merriment. Many thanks (and A+s) to the Teaching Ministers who planned Rally Day and all who bid on desserts, brought food, helped set up and clean up and came to share in the gathering— you all helped to make for a great Rally Day!

Finally, on September 8th, the council gathered for the usual monthly meeting. These volunteers do so much to run the church and deal with all sorts of topics, one of which is the budget. As a result of that meeting (and news from the weekend), I was very happy to learn that RUCC received a \$5,000 refund from the Pension Board. With that, and a very generous check of \$8,000 (from an anonymous donor) to offset the deficit, we presently appear to only be \$6,000 in the red, as opposed to the year’s budgeted deficit of \$83,000. (The Treasurer’s Report for August on page 4 does not take September’s happenings into account, and so has different numbers.) This great news is due in part to the staff keeping expenses down, but it is mostly due to the wonderful generosity of members of this church offering what they are called to offer in response to God’s grace in their lives and the great things happening at Riviera UCC. So please give yourself A+s too, and keep up this great and important stewardship ministry with your continuing generosity and response to God’s grace!

Thank you all for three wonderful days at the start of the month! As this letter goes to press, I will be on vacation as my brother Darin is in town. So, let me thank you also for those days off. They are sure to be wonderful too as I am showing my younger brother all about Florida and our town.

Much Love in Christ,

Scott

PS: Nancy, Forest and Robin plan to be at the installation on October 19th. For those of you who keep missing them at church, this will be a good time to catch them.

Letter from the Music Director

Dear Riviera UCC Family,

October calls us to say "good-bye" to stifling heat and flowering plants, while we say "hello" to the brightness and crispness of fall. One of the programs RUCC is thrilled to say "hello" to is a new youth group led by Doug and Karissa Tolliver that meets each Wednesday night from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM and consists of more than a DOZEN members! It is a joy to work with these wonderful young men and women. Be prepared for a musical treat when they offer a special band offering as "One Night Band" during our own Rev. Scott Elliott's installation ceremony on Sunday, October 19th at 3:00 PM.

Speaking of our dear minister, Scott, our most exciting "hello" is the official installation of our new Pastor, the Rev. Scott Elliott. I, along with this congregation, feel honored and blessed to be led by this incredible spiritual leader and friend. Congratulations, Scott! Our love is with you as you help us to look forward to a peace and love filled future at RUCC.

As we say "hello" and "welcome back" to our faithful choir members during our traditional worship service, we extend our gratitude to all who offered special music during the choir's hiatus. These talented musicians joined us, not only from our congregation, but also from Brevard's community of professional musicians and even from as far away as the Bahamas! Please refer to your August Messenger for those who shared their talents in May, June and July, and see below for those who joined us during the month of August.

August 17 -- Jonathan Elliott, Violin and Nathan Elliott, Cello
 August 17 -- Chris Elliott, Vocal Solo
 August 24 -- Kelly Arner, Clarinet
 August 31 -- Marti Upton, Oboe

As most of you know, the contemporary service Praise Band said a 2nd "good bye" to Kimberly Watson this summer, but we are pleased to welcome Butch Litteral with a "hello" as a vocalist in the band. Our Contemporary Praise Band rocks the 11:00 service with a variety of praise and worship music each week. Thanks to Lisa Leslie, Stuart Nicholson, and Rafael Olivera for their continued service to RUCC and the band.

Finally, we had to say "good bye" to Jacob Cochenour as pianist/organist. He is enjoying the beginning of his schooling at Keiser College in the Culinary Arts program. We wish Jay the best as he follows his path. The vacancy in the pianist position has allowed us the opportunity to enjoy the music of piano stylist, Angie Parks, during our traditional service starting September 21. Angie comes to us with much experience not only as a church pianist, but also as a performer at local piano bars and even as an entertainer on cruise ships. If you have the opportunity, stop by and say "hello" to Angie!

In closing, I encourage all as children of God to recognize the brightness in the life of our church and all around as we move into this exciting new period of "hello's." It is my hope that the joy and love within each of us translates into an open, passionate and bold congregation in all we strive to accomplish.

Peace and Love,
 Shelle Waller
 Director of Music

*An excerpt from:
 October's Bright Blue Weather by
 Helen Hunt Jackson (1831-1885)*

*O sun and skies and clouds of June
 And flowers of June together,
 Ye cannot rival for one hour
 October's bright blue weather;*

*When loud the bumblebee makes haste,
 Belated, thriftless vagrant,
 And goldenrod is dying fast,
 And lanes with grapes are fragrant;*

*O sun and skies and flowers of June,
 Count all your boasts together,
 Love loveth best of all the year
 October's bright blue weather.*



Hello and welcome to the treasurer's corner.

I would like to thank everyone for sticking to their contributions since our budgeted income is very close to our actual income. There is very little this month to report and with my work schedule, I have very little time to report it. Therefore, I am just going to report the normal income and expenses. Next month, I plan to provide more detailed account information since the end of the year is approaching.

Sincerely,

Chris List



August Income: \$20,056
 August Budgeted Income: \$17,855
 August Expenses: \$18,442
 August Budgeted Expenses: \$22,398
 Year-to-Date through August Income: \$142,175
 Year-to-Date through August Budgeted Income: \$142,483
 Year-to-Date through August Expenses: \$161,777
 Year-to-Date through August Budgeted Expenses: \$187,090
 Year-to-Date Net: \$19,602.31 deficit

Treasurer's

Corner

Justice Ministry Group (A Social Issues Study Group open to all.)

Monthly Meeting; Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, Morning Star Room

Agenda: Open discussion of issues for the November voter. What justice issues are of particular concern? What are the implications of the state amendments?

Health Care Is a Justice Issue

Jesus knew that until all are healthy in body and mind, as well as spirit, we have choices to make. Better ways of efficiently providing adequate health care for all is a recognized need in the nation, in Florida, in our communities, and in our individual lives. If you read the last Messenger, you've seen this statement before. The health care delivery system is still not efficient, not adequate, and remains in need of reform at national, state, and local levels. In 2006, the Census Bureau estimated that 47 million persons in our country were uninsured. The United States has by far the highest per capita cost of health care in the world and falls short of the best outcomes. The costs of health care continue to rise, and the number of uninsured and underinsured increases. Availability and affordability of care become even further out of reach. When people are ill, unable to work, or even face certain death from a treatable condition, health care is a justice issue. The Justice Ministry Group hopes that if you attended the program "Seeking Solutions: Health Care" on September 6, or even read about it, you have been stirred to learn more and act upon your concerns. If you have individual concerns, don't hesitate to ask your care provider, the Parish Nurses, your insurance company (if you have one), or a friend for some answers. Care is the key word. Care about accessible basic medical care for all. Care about cost efficiencies and fairness. Care about yourself, your family and friends. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It's an old saw that can still sing a happy tune.



Submitted by Carol Robinson



In addition to providing checks to the Shepherd's Fund with your regular offering, there is also a loose change offering box in the back of the sanctuary for whatever you feel you can drop in during the week.

The Shepherd's Fund is used primarily to help those in need in our church and in the greater community. Our pastor has been diverting wedding and funeral fees to this fund, and folks have been making donations all year. There continues to be a steady stream of folks in need, so offerings to this fund continue to be encouraged. Please help with what you can. **NO POCKET CHANGE IS TOO SMALL!**

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule Traditional Service: 9:00 AM Adult Seminar: 10:10 AM Contemporary Service: 11:00 AM Children’s Sunday School: 11:10 AM			1 Bible Study– Noon & 6 PM Youth Group– 4:00 to 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Scott on Vacation	2 Counseling by Appointment	3	4 FL UCC Women’s Retreat 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
5 *Sunday Schedule* (See Above) World Commu- nion Sunday	6 Church Devel- opment Mtg. 2PM Stephen Ministry Mtg. 6: 30PM Finance Meeting 7:30PM	7	8 Justice Ministry Mtg 10 AM Bible Study – Noon & 6 PM Youth 4 PM No Choir	9 Women’s Fellow- ship 11:45AM Match Chaim 9AM & 12:00 PM Counseling by Appointment	10	11 Capital Cam- paign Mtg. 10AM 2nd Saturday So- ciables 6PM Progressive Fest 11AM — 4PM
12 *Sunday Schedule* (See Above)	13 Council Meeting 7:00PM	14	15 Bible Study– Noon & 6 PM Youth Group– 4:00 to 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	16 Counseling by Appointment	17	18
19 Rev. Scott Elli- ott’s Installation Ceremony 3P Guest: Rev. Tom Golladay	20 The Messenger Deadline Ladies of the Evening 6PM Family Promise 6:30 PM	21	22 Bible Study– Noon & 6 PM Youth Group– 4:00 to 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	23 Counseling by Appointment	24 Match Chaim 7PM	25 Men’s Fellowship Breakfast 9AM
26 *Sunday Schedule* (See Above)	27 PFLAG 6:30 PM	28 Riviera Key Home- owners Mtg. 7 PM	29 Bible Study– Noon & 6 PM Youth Group– 4:00 to 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	30 Counseling by Appointment	31 Halloween	

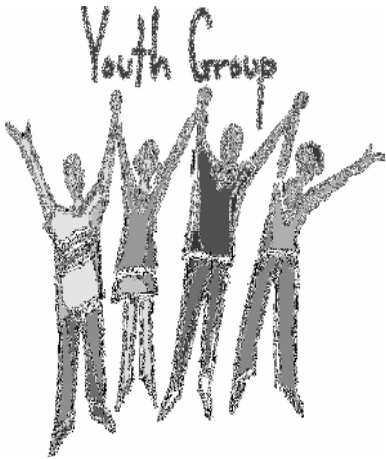
Back May Mission News:

A letter from the Rhinehart’s

Dear RUCC Family,
 We are in Biloxi and doing great! It was a time of transition for us, but we are adjusting. I don’t know if anyone knows, but there are two facets of the mission here. One is building affordable housing for people on the Gulf Coast. Dick is really involved with that. He makes sure the volunteers have the supplies, tools, and knowledge to do the work. We have volunteers from all parts of the country. Last week we had groups from Oregon and Illinois. This week it’s Iowa, and Connecticut. As you can imagine, it’s really great to meet people from so many different places, but they are bound by a common thread. They believe in the work of the mission and love to build the homes for the displaced. Almost every group has been here multiple times, and all come in to my office to book for the next year. It’s soooo cool. I am in the office making contact with the volunteers both before and after they arrive. I talk to different groups every day, and once they arrive, I try to make them happy. The last two weeks, I have done shrimp boils for the volunteers. Okay, I buy them already boiled, but I am trying to carry on with the traditions of my predecessors. The other facet that is taking place around us is the work of the mission itself. There is no

homeless shelter, and the people sleep wherever they can. The Mission provides bag lunches for the homeless, but that is only a tiny bit of what they do. There is a food pantry from which we give food for families and individuals. Last week, I went to the store with the Social Workers to buy food. Some kind souls sent checks designated for food, so we bought three full carts full of food. I have never had so much fun. We spent \$600, and our shelves were full for a time. It was so cool because the next day a woman came in with three little boys, and they were so happy to see the bananas we bought. Those bananas didn’t make it out of the building; the boys scarfed them down. Mostly, the people here are becoming desperate. The week we arrived, most people had evacuated from Gustav. It was not a choice. They had to go and they were afraid not to. But it costs money to evacuate, so when they came home, there was not enough money for food and rent. Because they know that Back Bay does provide some assistance, they were here getting very loud. My first staff meeting was so sad. The social workers were in tears because they could do so little. It’s a real eye opener, but it’s not all sad. There is so much good work being done, that you take a little bit of joy for the people you do help.

With Love,
 Dick & Phyllis Rhinehart



Youth Group has started the school year with a bang!

At the September 10th meeting, there were fourteen youth led by Karissa and Doug Tolliver. It was an evening of chatting, an episode of the Simpsons, a lively discussion about The Gospel According to the Simpsons and pizza with wings. Of course, there was a lot of fellowship mixed in. Much thanks to the youth for making the group so dynamic and to the Tollivers for leading the way!

Youth group meets every Wednesday from 4 to 7 PM. Anyone in junior or senior high is more than welcome to attend.

RUCC Adult Sunday School 2008-2009

From sessions on science and religion to inspirational readings to historical studies of the birth and death of Jesus, the adult Sunday school planning team has developed an exciting range of interesting sessions for the year. Here's the list – a brief summary of the studies follows:

- Science and Religion – lectures by Dr. Lawrence Principe on DVD
- *The First Christmas* – book by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan
- Homosexuality, the Bible and God; a discussion led by Lexi Wright, Tony Misco and Rev. Scott Elliott
- *The Last Week* – book by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

September 14th saw the beginning of a series of six lectures by Dr. Principe covering several areas of the history of the "coexistence of science and religion". The sessions of the class are intended to "promote understanding" of issues frequently in the news today, especially the topics of evolution and creationism. There is no homework and all adults are welcome to drop into this respectful forum and discussion each Sunday from 10:10 AM to 10:55 AM. Michael Ross will convene the science and religion sessions.

October 26th will see the first of six sessions discussing *The First Christmas*. The two Jesus scholars, Borg and Crossan, cover the nativity story in a way that reveals "the truth of what the gospels actually say" and the meaning behind the stories that makes them "far richer and more challenging" than most of us have imagined. The sessions will be convened by David and Nancy Cook.

Following Christmas – on January 11th - the session will be on Homosexuality, the Bible and God taught by Lexi Wright, Tony Misco and Rev. Scott Elliott.

The beginning of Lent will find us spending six weeks discussing Borg and Crossan's *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*. In this book "we not only meet the historical Jesus, but meet a new Jesus who engages us and invites us to follow him," as once again Borg and Crossan cut through history and tradition "to reveal a radical and little-known Jesus."

The adult Sunday school planning team is made up of Scott Elliott, Michael Ross, Nancy Cook, and David Cook. Check the weekly bulletin and future issues of "The Messenger" for details.

*In general, quotations are taken from book reviews of each resource.

Submitted by Nancy Cook





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The Messenger is a monthly publication of Riviera United Church of Christ in Palm Bay, Florida.

Staff Members:

Amy Aumick: editing, layout, production
Shelle Waller: editing
Joan & Bob Ebaugh: circulation, mailing

DEADLINE for material to be published is the **third Monday** of each month. All items are subject to approval and editorial changes.

Any copy not received by the deadline will not be published until the following month's issue.

Articles or information may be dropped off, mailed, or e-mailed to aaumick@rivieraucc.org.

NEED A RIDE?

Do you need a ride to Sunday worship or any other group? There is probably someone living nearby who would be glad to give you a ride! To make arrangements, call the church office at (321) 723-3963.

OUR VISION

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Believing Passionately

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Church Office: 451 Riviera Drive NE
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Hours: 9 AM to 1 PM, Monday—Thursday
9 AM to 12 PM, Friday

(Emergency Hours coincide with Brevard School District.)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship: 9:00 AM
Adult Sunday School: 10:10 AM
Contemporary Worship: 11:00 AM
Children's Sunday School: 11:10 AM