

The Communiqué

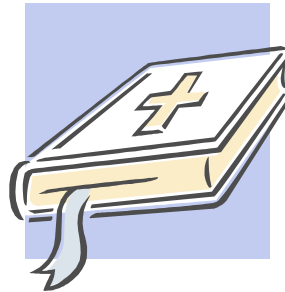


From Pastor Ken's Pen (UH....PC!)

“Happy Next Year!”

Notice the title? For some, it won't be a “happy” *new* year. It will simply be the next year that rolls around on the calendar. Tragic, but true, there are a lot of people who are not happy with their lives; they can't seem to look at 2012 as a fresh start because they have so much baggage being carried over from 2011. Happiness seems to be an elusive emotion that ebbs and flows with circumstance. Favorable circumstances equals happiness; however, throw in a few heartaches, a dash of disaster, a pinch of feeling “pinched,” and a couple cups of uncertainty and/or doubt, and you've got a recipe for just another year of stress and disappointment. Happiness always seems for some to be on the horizon – next year! I can recall some of those times, and you probably can, also. I am determined, though, to not be in bondage to bad times. The economy, the absence of the Divine in society, the uncertainty of the future for the Christian Church as it pertains to its well-being, they're all bummers!

NEWS FLASH!! God is alive and well, still seated on Heaven's throne, and in charge! A time of trial is better viewed as a time of refinement and purification. The Christian Church seems to flourish best during a time of great persecution. We, as individuals, need to learn life's lessons to make us stronger. If you are just welcoming the next year that overtakes and replaces 2011, take heart. “The joy of the Lord is our strength!” “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” These are biblical truths that demonstrate that our well-being is not dependent upon circumstance – but rather, our Creator. God has chosen to enter time and space to relate to His creatures and demonstrate His great love. We are the beneficiaries of such great things. It may not put more food on the table, it may not free us from sickness, calamity and the like, but it gives us a hope that makes us unashamed!



On behalf of Pat and myself, I wish you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR (Emphasis on “happy”). We love you and want to thank you for all the ways you made our holidays special – the cards, the gifts, etc. The best of presents has been your presence in our midst. God bless you and keep you.

See you in Church,

Ken

JANUARY 2012

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Elders 2012

Diane Burden
Donald Burke
Les Deatherage
Bill Dixon
Wallace Hoffman
Dave Hoffmeyer
Marvin Pool
Anne Preston
Barbara Primm
Jim Reasor

Deacons 2012

Janice Armstrong
Julie Fulks
Jill Hembrough
Cecelia Ingraham
Pat Polit
Russ Spitzer

OFFICE HOURS



**Monday—Thursday
9:00 AM—1:00 PM**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Jack & Jackie Chase
- 18 Jim & Sharyl Kidd
- 22 Tom & Sallyann Astaldi



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Bill Hempsted
- 14 Henry Schurman
- 15 Dorothy Lippincott
- 16 Wallace Hoffman & Carla Ward
- 19 Russ Spitzer
- 25 Pat Folmsbee & Doris Schuring
- 26 Peggy Tracy
- 28 Robert Olsen



THANK YOU

To our lay readers, ushers, greeters, communion servers and flower arranger for the month of December:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Pat Allcorn | Patricia King | Anne Preston |
| Lauren Preston | Molly Bod | Dirk Bod |
| Marvin Pool | Rosie Hawthorne | Scot Fulks |
| Julie Fulks | Sallyann Astaldi | Tom Astaldi |
| Holly Gailey | Rich Gailey | Diane Burden |
| Lloyd Burden | Linda Dixon | Bill Dixon |
| Doris Schuring | Janet Schuring | Joan Waite |
| Rupert Waite | Pricilla Burke | Jim Brate |
| Karla Medina | Jim Reasor | |

BITS FROM BETTY

Please call the church office for the following changes/ corrections/ additions to your Church Directory:
 Dr. Sandra Fox
 Correction - Dorothy Bridges (Dottie)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We thank you – and sixty five children in foster care thank you! Your response to the Guardian ad Litem Christmas Angel Tree project was absolutely amazing, and we hear that a lot of you really had fun shopping -- so, everybody wins. All gifts were in the hands of the children before Christmas. Some of you also provided “miscellaneous gifts” which were used for children just recently removed from their homes. Some of you provided cash for gift cards. We even had an anonymous elf mysteriously leave gifts in our car at the church (see Matthew 6:4). Thank you all for your overwhelming generosity. God bless you and **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**



Murray and Marilyn McMahon

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 4

8:00 — 10:30 AM

Come and enjoy the food and fellowship and bring a friend or two



**\$1.00 OFF
COUPON**



THANK YOU S

Thank you very much for your prayers, cards, e-mails and other expressions of sympathy when our mother passed away last month. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.

In Christian love, Don Burke and Tara Toomey

Thank you to all who prayed for me during my hospital trip to the heart unit of Leesburg Hospital. Two main arteries in the front of the heart were functioning but only at 90+% blockage. The back one is the third one at 78% which the doctor did not stent hoping medication will take care of it. Should it not, he'll put a stent in that after the first of the year some- time. My, I do notice quite a difference in my breathing! The cards and prayers did wonders for my morale and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your caring words. Marti Brooks

The Food Pantry would like to thank the residents of The Springs subdivision in Yalaha for the generous contribution of 300 pounds of canned goods and \$185 cash donated in December for our pantry. They not only contributed and collected the food, they delivered it to our door in time for the Christmas food delivery/pickup. We appreciate all their efforts. Linda & Bill Dixon

FINANCIAL RECAP

as of 11-30-11

Operating Account

Beginning Balance	\$61,628.53
Disbursements	-\$17,639.45
Deposits	\$21,346.00
Ending Balance—Operating Account	\$65,335.08

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget 2011</u>
Pledge Receipts	\$6,352.00	\$93,877.50	\$101,200.00
Non-Pledge Receipts	\$6,132.00	\$63,307.24	\$ 60,000.00

Capital Campaign Contributions—

Current YTD	\$ 43,834.65
Current month	\$ 2,572.00
Total	\$205,070.02
Balance Land Purchase Mortgage	\$287,748.13

P & L Recap YTD

Year-to-Date Operating Income	\$163,830.19
Year-to-Date Operating Expenses	\$167,666.52
YTD Income (Loss)	- \$ 3,836.33

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Well, it's January and I pray that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's and that together we will share a productive 2012. This month I am going to use this space to do something a little different. I am going to share with you a "pet peeve" of mine, because it deals with something that I see a lot during the Christmas season.

But first let me tell you that the Stewardship & Finance Committee met last month and put together a budget proposal for 2012 that was based on your pledges, or lack thereof. Based on the information that we had, we cut over \$10,000 from the 2011 budget and will present our proposal for 2012 to the Session for their approval at the January meeting. This was not an easy task, as we have many fixed expenses that must have an increase to allow for inflation. So, after taking those into account we had to decide which of our programs could make do with less. This causes us to continue to shrink our outreach efforts instead of expanding them, which is the exact opposite of our purpose as a church.

Okay, one of my "pet peeves" deals with holiday greeting cards. First, I am not a big purveyor of greeting cards though I will send a few during the Christmas season to people that I rarely see. But, it amazes me the number of cards that I receive that wish me "Happy Holidays" or Seasons Greetings" or even "Happiness in all the Traditions of the Season". Then I look at the sender and know that many of these come from professing Christians. This trend irritates me more as I watch the Christians in our country pull back from our beliefs and move more and more to a politically correct or secular position. I saw an article recently that said that a study showed that Christianity is still the largest religion in the world with Islam as a close second. If that is the case, why are we the ones to be afraid of offending someone with our beliefs? And, why should we be bothered if they are offended. If we aren't willing to profess our faith to the world, to let people know about our belief in Christ Jesus and His promise of eternal life, will He be willing to fulfill that promise? So, if you are going to send a Christmas greeting card, make sure that it has "Christmas" on it, and that it depicts the real reason for the season. And don't be afraid of what the recipient might think of you, for I am reminded that in Matthew 10:33 Jesus said, ***"But if anyone denies me here on earth, I will deny that person before my Father in Heaven."*** So, don't lower yourself to the politically correct position, instead wish people a "merry Christmas" and invite them to join you in church.



Dave Hoffmeyer, for the
Stewardship & Finance Committee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As we all look forward to a wonderful new year, we can also look forward to many more fellowship luncheons and chances to enjoy each other's company. January's fellowship luncheon will be a pulled pork BBQ dinner. We overestimated the crowds for the Howey Christmas Festival this year and prepared too many dinners. David and I will make fresh coleslaw and baked beans to go with the pulled pork. Instead of bringing a dish to share, we will be asking for monetary donations only. The pulled pork and buns are in the freezer awaiting their big day on January 8th.



Although the main event at our fellowship luncheons is always great food, it is also a venue for celebrations which means another opportunity to eat cake! Buzz Paulson celebrated his 90th birthday on December 22nd, and his very good friend Linda Dattler reminded me that was cause for celebration at our fellowship and she was right – anyone who reaches that pinnacle in life should have his church family share the occasion and we were glad to do so!

We also had a book signing at the December fellowship as Doctor Dan sold and signed copies of his new book "The Idea of Divinity". His next seminar (as part of the cultural enrichment seminar series) begins on Monday, January 9th through April 9th. All proceeds from the book will be donated to the Capital Campaign. The seminars will run from 7 to 9 PM. If you want to attend but don't have a ride, please give me a call at 742-4528. One last bit of information: you are welcome to just buy a book for your own reading pleasure and not attend the seminar OR you can just attend the seminar on a night when the subject is particularly appealing to you.

Dear friends, I receive many thank yous at our luncheons, but you deserve all the credit. Thank YOU for always being so willing to bring in a dish to share. I want to thank Pat Folmsbee for the candy cane centerpieces we enjoyed at the last fellowship. I look forward to seeing you at all the fellowships this New Year, and I send my best wishes to you for a healthy and blessed 2012.

Rosie Hawthorne,
Fellowship

OUTREACH

January — the beginning of another year! The holidays are done, the C & E Christians have gone back into the woodwork, and we, as Presbyterians, are entering an interesting time in our faith. January 18—20 will find some of us at The Fellowship meeting in Orlando. We're hoping that after attending that, we'll have a clearer picture of the path God has chosen for us. Many of us know the problems within PCUSA at this time. These problems make it difficult to do outreach; however, if we don't continue to try to grow our church—our church will wither and die. So let's keep trying to bring people in, and welcome those who stumble past our doorway.

Now on a more mundane note, the December breakfast was a success. We served over eighty breakfasts, and hopefully have attracted some new people to our church. On January 7, we will have our first breakfast of 2012. Please bring a friend, neighbor, relative or anyone else who might be hungry for pancakes and/or the Word.



On a more serious note, our next committee meeting is Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 PM in Grace Place. If you are looking to be more involved in YOUR church in 2012 and have some ideas on how to bring more people into the fold, please come to the meeting. We welcome all new ideas and help.

If you made it this far and are still reading, you should be rewarded! See me for an additional dollar off your breakfast. Can't wait to talk with you.

Don Burke,
Outreach Chair

Community Church's Living Nativity & Choir 2011



"Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace to men on
whom his favor
rests."

Luke 2:14

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Let's start off the new year by bringing a guest to our next meeting on Thursday, January 12. We will begin with refreshments at 10:00 followed by our meeting at 10:30. We will also have registration forms for anyone who wants to attend the 24th Annual Gathering of Central Florida Presbyterian Women in Cocoa on Saturday, January 28. The cost is \$12.00 per person which includes lunch. We will leave from the church parking lot at 8:00 AM, and I will be able to take six others with me.

As you begin adding meetings and appointments to your new 2012 calendar, please enter our annual Thrift Sale dates, March 9 & 10, and start packing a box of items to donate to this annual charity project. Sale hours will be from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM on both days this year

Our next *Beatitudes* class will be held on Wednesday, January 4, from 10:00—11:30 AM in Grace Place. We will be discussing the third beatitude, "Blessed are the meek," and welcome all to join us.



Pat Polit, Moderator

UPDATE ON AMENDMENT 10A

Due to the controversy created by PCUSA adoption of Amendment 10A to its constitution (permitting ordination of homosexual pastors, elders, and deacons, etc.), your Session for Howey-in-the-Hills Community Church has taken the following two actions at their regular monthly meeting on December 15, 2011:

1. In response to Amendment 10A changes to PCUSA's constitution in the Book of Order, your Session adopted by unanimous vote a statement that reflects the Session's avowed beliefs. The complete text of the Session's statement is as follows: "That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the only way of salvation; that Holy Scripture is the triune God's revealed Word, the church's only infallible rule of faith and life; and that while Christ's grace and participation in his Church are open to all, and we invite all to taste and see that the Lord is good, we also affirm that Jesus, out of love for us and for our own good, calls us to holiness in all facets of life. This call is comprehensive in scope, touching all aspects of the ways we love God, ourselves, and others. It also includes honoring the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, the only appropriate sexual relationship".
2. Your Session also formed an ad hoc committee to guide the process of educating the congregation relative to the status of Amendment 10A, the ultimate goal of which is to preserve the unity of our local church. To this end, the five-person committee, composed of three Session members and two at-large members from the congregation, will engage in fact-finding and investigation of viable options that will be prayerfully presented to the congregation for their consideration. The responsibility of the ad hoc committee is limited to explaining what decisions the congregation will be asked to make, based on possible courses of action to be taken, and possible repercussions of those actions, and not dwell on taking sides of this controversy. In short, we anticipate the committee will formulate a question and answer format of material for dissemination by shepherds to their sheep in the congregation, in preparation for a congregational meeting in the near future, as requested by Central Florida Presbytery, to discuss our various options.

During this season of discernment, a number of our members will be attending a covenanting conference in Orlando on January 18, 19, and 20, 2012 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, sponsored by the Fellowship of Presbyterians, and hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. Others who are interested in attending are invited to register on line by going to this web site: <<https://www.arrowheadregistration.org>> and copying and pasting in your web browser.

Findings of interest to HITHCC at this conference will be disseminated to the congregation, along with any other significant developments in our search for a solution to this vexing situation.

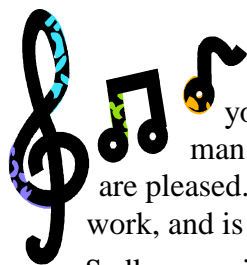
Your Ad Hoc Committee

JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 Communion Sunday</p>  <p>Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>2 Office closed</p>	<p>3 Office Closed Men's Breakfast 8:00</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH</p>	<p>4 Mom's Morning Out 9:00 DH <i>Beatitudes</i> 10:00—11:30 GP Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Bible Study 7:00 DH</p>	<p>5 Finance 2:00 GP Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Pancake Breakfast 8:00—10:30 AM DH</p>
<p>8 Fellowship Luncheon</p> 	<p>9 Dr. Dan's seminar begins 7:00—9:00 PM DH</p>	<p>10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Membership 10:00 GP Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH</p>	<p>11 Mom's Morning Out 9:00 DH Outreach 6:30 GP Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Bible Study 7:00 DH</p>	<p>12 PW 10:00 DH Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16 Dr. Dan's seminar 7:00—9:00 PM DH</p>	<p>17 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH</p>	<p>18 Mom's Morning Out 9:00 DH Food Pantry 9:30 GP Deacon Mtg. 6:30 GP Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Bible Study 7:00 DH</p>	<p>19 Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23 Dr. Dan's seminar 7:00—9:00 PM DH</p>	<p>24 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH</p>	<p>25 Mom's Morning Out 9:00 DH Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Bible Study 7:00 DH</p>	<p>26 Newsletter Deadline Bible Study 3:30 DH Session 7:00 GP AA 7:00 DH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30 Dr. Dan's seminar 7:00—9:00 PM DH</p>	<p>31 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH</p>				

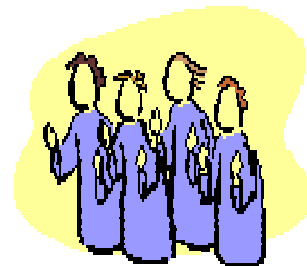
NOTES FROM NORINE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



I want to say how very proud I am of our choir for the excellent job they did singing the Christmas cantata, "Love Has Come." I have heard so many compliments from our members this year, and all your compliments are passed on to the choir members. Some of you took the time to mail me beautiful notes of praise, and for that I am so grateful. It is human nature that if someone does not like something, we hear about it more often than when they are pleased. So, thank you so much for the kind words of praise, as that is our reward for our hard work, and is also very gratifying to all of the choir to know when you are pleased.

Sadly, we will be losing Rosie, for at least a year, as she feels she is just stretched too thin with other commitments. We will miss her very much; both her voice and her dedication to the choir. We hope the Lord will send a replacement for her, as we can never have too many sopranos. This is the year we sing a cantata for Easter, so we will be, once again, working hard to learn new songs for Sunday mornings, while learning the Easter Cantata, which I promise you, is beautiful. Hal Phillips, from the bass section, is having hip replacement surgery this month, and Rupert Waite is having knee surgery, so if any of you guys would like to step up and help the choir out for a few months, it would be greatly appreciated. Please just call and let me know you will be there on Wednesday night at 6:30 to practice with us, and I'll have a choir book all ready and prepared for YOU !



A special thank you to Connie, for her beautiful accompaniment, and to Jean for narrating the cantata, filling in for me in my absence when I had to leave for family gatherings, and for accompanying the choir when Connie was not here. The musicians are such a crucial part of the choir and should know how very much they are appreciated. final thanks to the media guys for helping us to sound like many voices, when we are not really a large choir. That would be Dave Hoffmeyer, Don Burke, and Tom Astaldi. It is becoming more difficult to find volunteers to sing at the 9:00 service. I am still trying to have special music for you early-birds. Thanks to Amanda Fulks for playing for both services last month, and to Linda Poole for singing, and Jeff Burgard and Joyce Falk. Please let me know if you can help provide special music for January or February.

Many Thanks to all,
Norine

Divinity Seminar to Begin January 9

The "Idea of Divinity" seminar will be held Monday evenings in Deatherage Hall from 7 to 9 PM beginning January 9. Dan Crowder, author of the text, will serve as moderator/facilitator for the course. All persons planning to participate should obtain a copy of the text before the seminar commences.

Remember, all proceeds from the purchase of the book go to the Capital campaign fund of Community Church.

For further information, contact Dan before or after the 11:00 service or at home (242-2633).



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Looking to make a New Year's resolution?
Why not join one or more of the several Christian Education classes available on a weekly basis?
Participate in interesting discussion and fellowship with your church family and friends.**

Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM GP

Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM DH

Women's Tuesday Bible Study 6:00 PM DH

Pastor Ken's Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM DH

Pastor Ken's Thursday Bible Study 3:30 PM DH

We look forward to you joining us!

COMMUNITY CHURCH

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“The Heart & Soul of Hills & Lakes”

352-324-2639

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www.hithcc.org



The Communiqué

A monthly publication of
Community Church

Worship Services	Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School (Adults & Children)	Sunday 10:00 AM
Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday (2nd) 12:00 PM
Women's Bible Study	Tuesday 6:00 PM
Choir Practice	Wednesday 6:30 PM
Bible Study	Wednesday 7:00 PM
Presbyterian Women	Thursday 10:00—noon (2nd)
Crafters	Thursday 9:30—noon (4th)
Bible Study	Thursday 3:30 PM