

The Communiqué



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

“A Mighty Fortress, is our God, a bulwark never failing; a Helper He amid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing!”

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to travel to Minneapolis for the gathering of The Fellowship of Presbyterians, a group of nearly 2,000 people who came together for fellowship, worship and discussion. Elder Don Burke and I flew up on a Wednesday and once registered, we prepared to attend evening worship. How blessed we were to hear so many voices in unison as we sang praises to our Lord! A full two hours went by so quickly as we praised God together and heard and celebrated the *Six Great Ends of the Church*. Thursday began with worship, a message by Rev. Dave Peterson, pastor of First Presbyterian of Houston, followed by a series of sessions with discussion. On Thursday evening, Dr. Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Seminary, brought a powerful message after thirty minutes of praise and worship. On Friday, we heard Dr. Ken Bailey who taught from three separate parables and the remainder of the day was as the day before, with several choices of workshops.

The details of our schedule, however, aren't the most important bits of information to be shared. However, it is important that we first share with the Session the information we gleaned, discuss it, and then the Session will prayerfully consider what, if any, action will be recommended to the congregation. I must tell you how safe I felt in such a gathering. What do I mean by “safe?” Well, it was a gathering of strength that was found in the Spirit's presence as so many pastors and elders, both male and female, gathered to seek God's face, with a sincere desire to know His will and eagerly carry it out. I don't know what the future holds, but we are firmly planted in the One who holds the future! Time and time again, God assured me that “It's going to be okay; I'm in charge!” I want to assure you of the same thing. No matter what the future holds for Community Church, no matter *how* and *where* God might lead you, you can be assured that God is your Mighty Fortress and He will not fail you!

Please pray for wisdom and the knowledge of His will for Community Church as we seek His face. Pray for your Session; pray for one another; pray for your pastor; pray, pray, pray!! Remember, our Helper in the midst of the flood of uncertainty will provide the lifeline that will keep us from sinking and lead us to safety. May God bless you and may God bless Community Church!

See you in Church,

Ken



SEPTEMBER 2011

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Elders 2011

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

Deacons 2011

Pat Folmsbee
Julie Fulks
Jill Hembrough
Cecelia Ingraham
Pat Polit
Russ Spitzer

OFFICE HOURS



**Monday—Thursday
8:30 AM—1:30 PM**

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Bud & Barb Kyle
- 11 Kerry & Lacy Wrobel
- 16 Rupert & Joan Waite



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Linda Dattler
- 3 Gail Edelman & Tamsin Saphir
- 5 Dorothy Hill
- 9 Anne Preston
- 12 Richard Krischan & Bud Kyle
- 13 Martha Bull
- 14 W. Glenn Bowron
- 16 Carla Ward & Linda Williams
- 18 Jill Hembrough
- 20 Diane Burden
- 28 James Brate
- 30 Bill Detert, Bob Ronna & Mary Small



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

Linda Williams	Tom Edelman	Bob Ronna
Pat Polit	Marvin Pool	Barbara Vey
Rupert Waite	Lauren Preston	Pat Allcorn
Anne Preston	Diane Burden	Don Burke
Cecelia Ingraham	Jim Reasor	Jim Brate
Rosie Hawthorne	Lois Weber	Melanie Tucker
Jean Wittmaier		Barbara Primm

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 10

8:00— 10:30 AM

FREE

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



EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The mailing address for the church and office will be:
PO Box 208, HITH, FL 34737

NEW MEMBERS

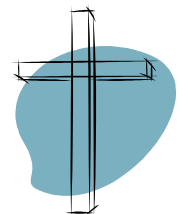
We joyfully report that Amanda Fulks was baptized by Pastor Ken on July 23rd and welcomed into church membership the following day. Amanda had participated in membership instruction and preparation with the pastor. Yes, Presbyterians can be baptized via immersion, a family tradition of her grandfather, dad Scott and stepmother Julie. Amanda looks forward to starting ninth grade at South Lake High School. She plays trumpet in the school band and is taking guitar lessons from her dad.

PW Banner Group

Your Cross for the Cross

Thank you for your response in donating crosses for the next banner, which is entitled "HOPE". We have realized that the original deadline of August 31 would not give our winter residents a chance to participate in this project. Therefore, we are extending the collection of crosses until the end of September. If you would like to help set up the Cross Banner, you only need to be a specialist in working together with a friendly group of ladies on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9:30 to 11:45 AM.

To our winter residents, please feel free to send your cross contribution, or just give us a call to discuss your desires.



Marilyn McMahon
 352-324-3426

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Grace Place

Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM DH

Women's Tuesday Bible Study 6:00 PM DH

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

Have you attended any of the above?

It's never too late to join.

FINANCIAL RECAP

as of 7-31-11

Operating Account

Beginning Balance	\$77,007.39
Disbursements	-\$14,061.71
Deposits	\$16,866.78
Ending Balance—Operating Account	\$78,537.42

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget 2011</u>
Pledge Receipts	\$10,075.00	\$67,397.00	\$101,200.00
Non-Pledge Receipts	\$ 2,910.37	\$47,666.24	\$ 60,000.00

Capital Campaign Contributions—	Current YTD	\$ 34,860.70
	Current month	\$ 2,846.00
	Total	\$196,096.07
Balance Land Purchase Mortgage		\$292,456.24

P & L Recap YTD

Year-to-Date Operating Income	\$117,783.62
Year-to-Date Operating Expenses	- \$105,671.31
YTD Income (Loss)	\$ 12,112.31

NOTES FROM NORINE

Happy September to All,

I hope you all enjoyed the surprise guest we had last month when Eirinn Abu blessed us with his saxophone. We will continue to report the progress of his ministry to you. I truly believe that God blesses those who use their talents to serve and honor Him. I am sure the Lord will bestow many blessings upon Eirinn and his lovely wife, Brandy.

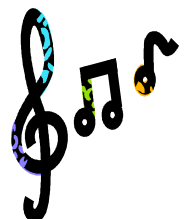
Thinking about God’s blessings, have you ever stood outside and looked at the blue sky, the blooming trees, the lakes and all the colors we are surrounded by? When I take the time to notice my surroundings, REALLY notice them, what goes through my mind is, "Oh Lord, My God, When I in awesome wonder, consider all the gifts Thy

hands have made". The song, *How Great Thou Art* comes to my mind, and it becomes a comfort to me. For those of you taking a trip to the mountains to see the leaves change this fall, remember the words to that song while you enjoy the magnificent nature surrounding you and spend a moment thanking the Lord for these precious gifts.

I am very excited the choir will be returning the first Sunday in September singing a communion hymn. I am anxious to see how many show up from the 9:00 service to help with music for that service. I had a lovely phone call from Bill Franklin who is in the mountains right now. He so very much wants to hear a quartet singing some old gospel favorites. I

told him I intend to keep nagging until some of you agree to sing just to keep me from nagging anymore. He will be back in November and is willing to participate. I am very grateful for his call and for stepping up to help . If you early service singers do not show up on Wednesdays, I will be calling you to see what we can do to get a trio or quartet started for 9:00 AM. And Bill, I look forward to a call from you when you return to Florida.

God Bless You
All,
Norine



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A considerable amount of time in my life is spent thinking about food. Not just the fellowship we have every second Sunday, but food to be prepared for a pot luck in my community, dinner for friends or a sick neighbor, or even for lunch and dinner in my own home since we seldom go to restaurants. Lately, however, I've been thinking about the important people in my life and how I often take them for granted.

Do you have someone in your life that you take for granted? If you are honest with yourself, the answer would be yes. It could be your spouse, your best friend, one of your children, or even the person who delivers your newspapers or does away with the trash every week. We all have many people in our lives that we take for granted and one of them is a member of our church. Not to take away anything from all of you who work tirelessly for Community Church – you are appreciated and the church could not survive without you. But this month, I want to show my appreciation for one very special person who works behind the scenes and would probably be the first to let you know he prefers that position to being on center stage. Here are some of the things that Jim Brate does for all of us. Almost EVERY day of the week, he is taking care of our church whether it's setting up tables and chairs for fellowship or Bible study, taking trash cans out and bringing them back again, maintaining the water fountain and keeping a sharp eye out for anything that seems amiss. Many of you get a phone call from Jim when he discovers something that needs attention. Jim also oversees the greeters and ushers, making sure people are signed up for those important duties. I can't possibly list all the many things Jim does for this church so I won't even try. The next time you fill out the "sign in" register – remember who will be collecting them after our services. The next time you sit down to eat – remember who made that place mat, table and chair available to you. The next time you see Jim – REMEMBER to thank him. Jim doesn't have transportation so he walks to and from the church. In the extremely hot weather we've been having, this is no easy task. Please don't ever take Jim (or anyone) for granted. Let them know they are appreciated and loved. Jim, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Now back to my favorite subject -- food. The September fellowship will feature casseroles but if you don't have a recipe in that department, anything will do

In God's Love,
Rosie Hawthorne
Fellowship



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On August 26th and 27th, four of our ladies (Pat Polit, Billie Ronna, Marilyn McMahon and Martha Foster) took part in the central Florida PW Bible study retreat at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park. It was an enriching two days of song, fellowship and Bible study. Even though many of you were unable to attend, there is a way to become part of the Bible study, *Confessing the Beatitudes*, right at Community Church. If you are interested in learning how to make the Beatitudes part of your journey of discipleship, come join us the first Wednesday of the month (beginning October 5) from 10:00—11:30 AM in Deatherage Hall. Books will be available for \$8.00 and can be purchased at the first meeting. Even if you are not a member of PW, you are welcome to join in this study. Please contact Pat Polit at 352-638-6139 or email teach307@email.com to sign up



Pat Polit, Moderator

OUTREACH

We will resume our pancake breakfasts beginning September 10. This one will be a **free**, so bring a friend or two or three!! Of course, if you wish to pay, all monies will be gratefully accepted. Starting with October, we will be charging \$5 as before, so this is your last chance for a freebie.



I want to thank Linda Pool for taking charge this month as well as all those who help and attend.

As I've said in the past, we are all part of Outreach. If you are sitting at Sunday service and someone you don't know sits next to you, say hello and welcome them to our church. If they are new, try to give them a visitor packet. Keep reaching out wherever you are.

Don Burke,
Outreach Chair

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Here it is September already. This summer is a little more than half over, thank goodness. It is a really hot one, so I hope that you are all making a concerted effort to keep yourselves hydrated.

As in the past, I would like to discuss sharing and our charge directly from our Lord Christ Jesus to do that. Why, you may ask, do I keep harping on the same old theme? Well, it's because I keep seeing more and more evidence that the world, starting here at our door step, is rapidly degrading into total chaos. A couple weeks ago, the riots in England were all over the news then, shortly after, were the stories about similar happenings in Philadelphia. These things caused me to consider the changes that have occurred in our society just over my lifetime. You see, I don't think that these things would have happened when I was a teenager and I firmly believe that would be due to the influence that the church had in our lives. I remember that the church was where we were taught about taking responsibility for ourselves and our actions, where we were taught about caring for one another, the 10 commandments, and the golden rule. And I also remember that because of this same influence, not only parents, but most everyone with whom I had contact expected me to live those ideals just as they lived them.

Now look at us. We have generations that believe in nothing. That a sin is only what is forbidden by civil law and that breaking a law is wrong only if you get caught. And if you do get caught it's okay to lie about it in order to either get away with it or to lessen the penalties faced. And, you need do nothing for yourself but can still expect to live as good and acquire the "things" that those that do something have.

What has this got to do with sharing? Well, your sharing is what enables us as a church to reach out, bringing more people into our midst and to provide an example of a Bible based standard of behavior from which we all benefit. Today, as I keep saying, we are barely staying afloat. We have spent \$33,000 this year just replacing and repairing the roof over the sanctuary and Deatherage Hall. This will probably put us into the red for the year budget wise. In addition, we have an estimate for reroofing Grace Place for \$12,000. Hopefully that can wait until next year. But, these types of expenses leave very little for us to use for Missions or Outreach.

Missions and Outreach, these are our main purposes for being a church. While it is important that we support one another in our faith and provide facilities for our worship, it is far more important that we provide facilities and programs that reach out to others so they can see what it means to be a Christian and how much better their lives can be as a result of that conversion. Then, once that happens, we must support their faith and their worship. And this is where we are failing. We are not bringing in those that need us. While we are successful in gaining new members, we barely keep up with those that we lose, and more importantly those that we gain are coming from other churches. We need to look for new members among those that are not currently Christian as that is where the real need is.




In addition, there are many areas where help to support disaster recovery, feeding the hungry, or just providing a warm blanket is needed. But, this is another area where we as a church aren't able to fulfill our mission. Once more it comes back to sharing. We as the people of God must share our time, talents, and possessions with the intent of spreading God's word to those who are not familiar with it. And, to do this we must give more, and not just money, but of ourselves.

See you in Church,
Dave Hoffmeyer, for the
Stewardship & Finance Committee

CHRISTIAN CLIPPINGS

- ◆ Facts do not cease to exist just because they are ignored.
- ◆ True prayer is a way of life, not just a case of emergency.
- ◆ Hands build houses—hearts build homes.

SEPTEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Finance 2:00 GP Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH	2	3
4 Communion Sunday  Food Pantry Collection	5 Office closed	6 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Worship 10:00 GP Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	7 Mom's Morning Out 9:30 DH Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Deacons' Mtg. 6:30 GP	8 Crafters 9:30—12:00 DH Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH	9	10 Pancake Breakfast 8:00—10:30 
11 Fellowship Luncheon 	12	13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	14 Mom's Morning Out 9:30 DH Outreach 6:30 GP Choir 6:30 Sanctuary	15 Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH	16	17
18	19	20 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Membership 10:00 GP Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	21 Mom's Morning Out 9:30 DH Food Pantry 9:30 GP Choir 6:30 Sanctuary	22 Crafters 9:30—12:00 DH Bible Study 3:30 DH AA 7:00 DH	23 Newsletter Deadline	24
25	26	27 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00—7:30 DH	28 Mom's Morning Out 9:30 DH Choir 6:30 Sanctuary	29	30	

I'm A Little Tea Cup....

There was a couple who took a trip to England to shop in a beautiful antique store to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. They both liked antiques and pottery, and especially teacups. Spotting an exceptional cup, they asked "May we see that? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the teacup spoke, "You don't understand. I have not always been a teacup. There was a time when I was just a lump of red clay. My master took me and rolled me pounded and patted me over and over and I yelled out, "Don't do that."

"I don't like it!" "Let me alone," but he only smiled, and gently said; "Not yet!"

Then WHAM! I was placed on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. "Stop it! I'm getting so dizzy! I'm going to be sick!" I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, quietly; 'Not yet.'

He spun me and poked and prodded and bent me out of shape to suit himself and then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I yelled and knocked and pounded at the door. "Help, get me out of here!" I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head from side to side, 'Not yet'.

When I thought I couldn't bear it another minute, the door opened. He carefully took me out and put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. Oh, that felt so good! "Ah, this is much better," I thought. But, after I cooled he picked me up and he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Oh, please, stop it, stop,' I cried. He only shook his head and said. 'Not yet!'

Then suddenly he put me back into the oven. Only it was not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. I was convinced I would never make it. I was ready to give up. Just then the door opened and he took me out and again placed me on the shelf, where I cooled and waited and waited, wondering "What's he going to do to me next?" An hour later he handed me a mirror and said 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful!!'

Quietly he spoke: "I want you to remember, then," he said, 'I know it hurt to be rolled and pounded and patted, but had I just left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurt and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life. If I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. Now you are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

The moral of this story is this: God knows what He's doing for each of us. He is the potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us and make us, and expose us to just enough pressures of just the right kinds that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will. So when life seems hard, and you are being pounded and patted and pushed almost beyond endurance; when your world seems to be spinning out of control; when you feel like you are in a fiery furnace of trials; when life seems to "stink", try this:

Brew a cup of your favorite tea in your prettiest tea cup, sit down and think on this story and then, have a little talk with the Potter.

COMMUNITY CHURCH

420 N. Palm Avenue

Mailing address PO Box 208

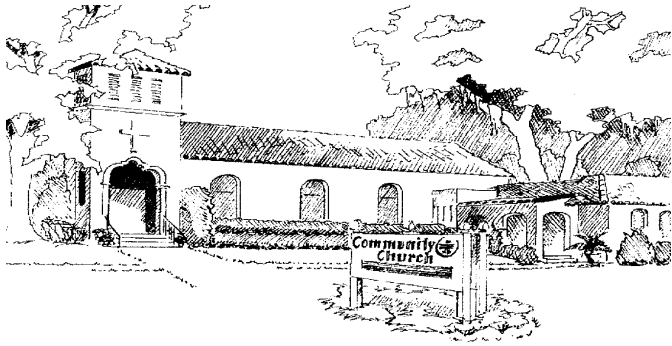
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

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The Communiqué

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Community Church

Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida

Worship Services	Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Sunday School (Children)	Sunday 10:00 AM
Pairs and Spares (Adult)	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
Crafters	Thursday 9:30—noon (2nd & 4th)
Bible Study	Thursday 3:30 PM