

**Faith United Methodist Church**  
**The Faith Connection Newsletter**  
**November 2013 Edition**



*From the Pastor's Desk*

Some time ago a preaching contest was held at Yale Divinity School. The winning sermon dealt with the three attitudes towards possessions demonstrated in Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 20:25-37. The three attitudes were:

*Thieves: What's yours is mine and I'll take.*

*Levite & Priest: What's mine is mine and I'll keep.*

*Good Samaritan: What's mine is yours and I'll share.*

With such good three points, it's easy to see how that sermon won the contest. But someone's attitude is missing in this sermon. What about the attitude of the innkeeper?

The Good Samaritan entrusted the care of the wounded man to the innkeeper, and, as well as giving the innkeeper some money when he handed over the injured man, he promised to pay the innkeeper for any future expenses.

Perhaps the fourth attitude towards possessions, as reflected by the innkeeper, is most important of all:

*Innkeeper: What's mine has been given to me to use in service to those for whom God cares.*

When we think about our possessions, no matter how hard-earned, we have to realize that we would have nothing if not for the combine blessings of health, education, upbringing, and social structure which have allowed us to succeed. Hopefully none of us have the attitude of the thieves or the Levite or Priest concerning possessions. When given the opportunity, I trust that we will all express the attitudes of the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper.

As the month of Thanksgiving comes, let us be thankful for all that God has blessed us with in the past which have enabled us to have the money and possessions we have today. Using what God has blessed us with to serve those for whom God cares makes our lives full of meaning, joy, and peace.

God cares for those in the world who have little of this world's goods and services. Our tithes and offerings to the church are important because this enables the church to meet pressing needs among "the least of this world." May we be like the Good Samaritan by empowering the innkeepers, the church, to help the truly needy.

With you in God's great grace,

*Pastor Gary*

**Faith United Methodist Church**

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## Financial Report for November 2013 Newsletter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have been very blessed to have received a bequest from Marge Cox. The total amount is \$381,458.25. About half of that was received in the month of October, so doesn't show on the end of September financials. Your Church Council voted to use this money for tithing first, and then were allocated of the remainder to various committees within the church for them to specifically allocate. Except for some prudent uses the funds to cover essential facility needs and retaining some for very rainy days, the intent is to use the funds mostly for ministries and outreach missions to do what God commands us to do in the place He has put us. We have excluded these funds from the Operating Budget and put them into a special category called "Board Restricted". In this way, we can track the usage of the funds and the remainder can be reallocated if the Church Council chooses.

The Board Restricted (Marge Cox Bequest) funds status:

**Faith United Methodist Church  
YTD Board Restricted Fund Status  
(2013-01-01 Through 2013-09-30 - unaudited)**

<u>Temporarily Restricted Fund</u>	<u>Starting Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Tithe Fund (10%)	\$0	\$20,000	\$19,437	\$563
Finance Fund (15%)	\$0	\$30,000	\$10,059	\$19,941
Trustees Fund (20%)	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Discipleship Fund (10%)	\$0	\$20,000	\$41	\$19,959
Ministries Fund (10%)	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Missions Fund (10%)	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Staff Parrish Fund (25%)	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$29,537</b>	<b>\$170,463</b>

The Tithe Fund was used to pay off the unbudgeted apportionments. The remainder of this fund plus the receipts in October will be allocated evenly among the Russo Prison Ministry, Manatee Religious Services (MRS), and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund – this will be a little more than \$6,000 each. The first two are missions that we routinely support with our quarter drills and with other giving from time to time. MRS provides a valuable service for churches in Manatee County by vetting people who are in deep need of short-term financial support. They then ask a church in the vicinity of the people to step in and help financially – maybe pay an electric bill or a monthly rent bill – and, most importantly, to minister to the people showing them God's great love for them through His church. Our Pastor will use his discretionary fund to help those MRS sends our way and to help those in need in our congregation also. The use of these funds is discretionary by the Pastor, but he has voluntarily asked that two others act as a team with him so that a vote of two out of three will be needed for disbursement. The Finance Committee approved this arrangement and it will be added to our procedures.

The Finance Fund was used to pay off the copier lease which had been rolled-over a number of times in the past so was exorbitant relative to the value of the copier. We now own the copier. The remainder of this fund plus the additional receipts in October will be held in reserve for a rainy day.

For the quarter drill in September, \$289 was received which is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

The Temporarily Restricted (designated) funds status:

**Faith United Methodist Church  
YTD Temporarily Restricted Fund Status  
(2013-01-01 Through 2013-09-30 - unaudited)**

<u>Temporarily Restricted Fund</u>	<u>Starting Balance</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Apportionments	\$50	\$799	\$849	\$0
Board of Trustees Fund	\$3,547	\$0	\$0	\$3,547
Children's Home	\$0	\$903	\$775	\$128
Children's Ministry	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Flower Fund	\$301	\$271	\$482	\$90
Hospitality Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lay Speaker Fund	\$504	\$0	\$0	\$504
Men's Ministry Fund	\$1,623	\$964	\$709	\$1,878
Missions Fund	\$30	\$132	\$160	\$2
Pastor's Fund	\$1,881	\$1,177	\$2,396	\$661
Russo Prison Ministry Fund	\$0	\$439	\$439	\$0
Tucker - Camp Fees Fund	\$1,413	\$1,646	\$1,280	\$1,779
Youth Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mortgage	\$0	\$274	\$274	\$0
UMCOR	\$0	\$170	\$170	\$0
Manatee Religious Services	\$0	\$399	\$399	\$0
Non-cash Fund	\$0	\$234	\$234	\$0
Music	\$40	\$0	\$0	\$40
Habitat for Humanity	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,389</b>	<b>\$7,407</b>	<b>\$8,167</b>	<b>\$8,629</b>

Faith United Methodist Church desires to honor preferences for gift distribution; however, any contributions received in excess of the amount needed for the designated project will be used to respond to areas of greatest need.

Now for our Operating Budget status...

Please remember, that the Marge Cox bequest is **not** meant to be used to cover the Operating Budget. We, the church, are called to support our operations by our prayers, our presence, **our gifts**, and our service. We are behind in our pledged giving a little and behind in our extra giving to cover the budget SHORTFALL, but ahead in non-pledged and loose plate giving. Coupled with lower expenses than expected, our actual income is \$6,674 above our actual expenses.

Here is where we stand at the end of September:

**Faith United Methodist Church**  
**2012 Approved Budget & YTD General Fund Status**  
**(2013-01-01 Through 2013-09-30)**

	<u>Status</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Favorable Difference</u>
<b>Income</b>	✓	\$226,806	\$170,105	\$172,891	\$2,786
Envelope (Pledged & Non-Pledged)	✓	\$192,006	\$144,005	\$151,565	\$7,560
Pledged (Envelope)	⚠	\$166,006	\$124,505	\$122,915	(\$1,590)
Non-Pledged (Envelope)	✓	\$26,000	\$19,500	\$28,650	\$9,150
Other (Shortfall)	✗	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$8,806	(\$6,194)
Loose Plate Cash	✓	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,562	\$1,562
Building Use Donations	✓	\$9,000	\$6,750	\$7,251	\$501
Coffee Bar	✓	\$800	\$600	\$707	\$107
VBS & EGGS	✗	\$1,000	\$750	\$0	(\$750)
<b>Expenses &amp; Liabilities</b>	✓	\$225,004	\$168,753	\$166,217	\$2,536
Staff Expenses	⚠	\$132,462	\$99,347	\$99,712	(\$365)
Pastor & Parsonage	✓	\$79,847	\$59,885	\$59,280	\$605
Other Staff & Payroll Taxes	⚠	\$52,615	\$39,461	\$40,432	(\$971)
Operating Expenses	✓	\$86,643	\$64,982	\$61,885	\$3,097
Office, Insurance, Equipment, & Services	✓	\$31,650	\$23,738	\$23,049	\$688
Mortgage (Interest & Principal)	✓	\$30,243	\$22,682	\$22,408	\$274
Utilities & Maintenance	✓	\$24,750	\$18,563	\$16,428	\$2,135
Ministry Expenses	✗	\$1,780	\$1,335	\$1,531	(\$196)
Worship & Music	✗	\$580	\$435	\$1,255	(\$820)
Children's	✓	\$200	\$150	\$135	\$15
Discipleship & Leadership	✗	\$0	\$0	\$141	(\$141)
Outreach, Celebration, & Hospitality	✓	\$1,000	\$750	\$0	\$750
Apportionments	✓	\$4,119	\$3,089	\$3,089	\$1
Clergy Support & Episcopal	✓	\$4,119	\$3,089	\$3,089	\$1
<b>Balance (Income - Expenses &amp; Liabilities)</b>	✓			\$6,674	
	<u>Status Legend</u>		<u>Favorable Difference</u>		
	Good	✓	Income >= Budget	Expense <= Budget	
	Watch	⚠	Within 10%		
	Needs Improvement	✗	More than 10% away		

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or even positive comments about how we are serving you.

With you in Christ's great Love and Service,

Rich Sidley, Chair, Faith UMC Finance Committee

(941) 504-5419 cell

(941) 794-2072 home

[RSidley@SRS-Engineering.com](mailto:RSidley@SRS-Engineering.com)

# Church Chatter

**Annual Church Conference** - All members and participants of the church are welcome to our Church Conference on **Thursday, November 7th at 7:00pm**. All who attend are free to speak about decisions to be made, but only church members may vote. Rev. Jim Rosenburg, pastor of Trinity UMC, will preside over the meeting.



**Daylight Savings Time Ends** Sunday, November 3rd, at 2:00am. Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour.



## **For What, or for Whom, are You Thankful?**

Please write your thanksgivings down on our autumn leaves and post them near our "Gratefulness Tree" which is on the north wall of the sanctuary. The more leaves on our "Gratefulness Tree" there are, the more cheerful our sanctuary becomes.



As a way of expressing solidarity in Thanksgiving, **Rev. Gary Eldred**, President of Manatee County Ministries Association, has issued a call to all the churches and religious organizations in Manatee County to join in the annual joint Thanksgiving Service by presenting symbolic gifts of non-perishable food to be distributed to local food banks. A procession of representatives of the various congregations, "united in our differences" will be part of this year's annual service to be on **Sunday, November 24th at 6:00 PM** held at **Christ Episcopal Church**, 4030 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton, FL. United through giving thanks and presenting gifts will symbolize the efforts of coming together to do good through the ministry of Manatee Religious Services. All are invited to participate. For more information, call 752-4850. From, **Lexie O. Taylor, Director, Manatee Religious Services, Bradenton, FL 34205**

## **Faith Church Choir Robes**

Our Worship Committee has recently donated our unused choir robes to a needy church in Virginia. The congregation of Millboro Christian Church extend their deepest thanks and gratitude for this 'blessing of the robes'!



## **Disaster Recovery Co-ordinator Needed for Faith Church**

The director would help us organize and prepare ourselves for a natural disaster, such as a hurricane. The church provides training for this position. Please see Pastor Gary (201-4352) for details. This is a volunteer position.

## **Shepherds**

Please contact Mitz Damstra at 761-4648 for more information and to volunteer.



### **Homebound Visitation Ministry**

Thank you to all who have been so faithful in keeping in touch with our homebound members. Whether it is a visit, greeting card, email or phone call, these simple acts show Faith Church's love and concern for those who are not able to join us for worship or other church activities. Please remember to mark your contacts on the Visitation board located in the hallway opposite the office. Updated contact info such as addresses and phone numbers can be found in the Visitation notebook located in the office window. Make a difference in someone's day and join us in this important ministry.

**Rev. Jean French Russo** went home to the Lord on October 24, 2013. Our Christian sympathies are extended to her family and friends. She was a genuine, kind spirit who lived her life to the fullest and was loved by all. A celebration of her life was held Friday, November 1st at Trinity United Methodist Church. Memorial gifts can be made to Jim Russo Prison Ministries & Development Center.

**Steve Rees** passed onto the Lord October 19th. Our Christian sympathies are extended to his wife, Winkie Rees and family. A memorial service was held on October 30th at Camp Flying Eagle in Bradenton. Please consider contributions to Camp Flying Eagle at: Southwest Florida Council (SWFC), Steve Rees Memorial Fund, 1801 Boy Scout Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33907 and Faith United Methodist Church.



### **FUMC Advent Devotional Booklet**

At this writing, we are receiving some wonderful meditations written by our fellow FUMC members. The children's Sunday School classes are also participating in this project, and we feel that God will use each submission for His glory, as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior. We hope to have the booklets available to the congregation on Sun Dec. 1, so if you have not yet turned your devotion in, please do so promptly so that it can be included. We ask for your prayers that this effort will truly be a meaningful gift to our congregation.

### **Churchwide Advent Study/"Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"**

Starting on Sun Nov 24- the adult and children's Sunday School classes will begin a special Advent study based on the book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday". The study will run for 5 weeks, and will encourage us to reclaim the true meaning of Jesus birth. We invite everyone to join us as we begin this meaningful study. Each Sunday, there will be 15 min DVD sessions [1 shown in the sanctuary and 1 shown in the Mixed Blessings classroom] beginning at 9:05am. The DVD sessions will be immediately followed by small group discussions which will be held in the regular Sunday School classrooms. If you would like to participate in this study, we invite you to sign up on the clipboard [marked Advent study] which will be located at the coffee bar. If you would like to order a study guide [\$8] please mark that on the clipboard or on the "let's connect" card. We do hope that everyone will join us as we look to experience the real joy and wonder of the Christmas season.

### **Faith's Food Pantry**

Please help us restock our pantry for the holidays by donating canned tuna, pasta sauces (red and white), peanut butter and anything else you would like to bring. No canned vegetables needed at this time as we have plenty. Please check the dates, we cannot accept outdated food. ~Penny Frick



A new **Hearing Assistance System** has been installed in the Sanctuary. Personal receivers offer the choice of an earphone, or a T-coil for use with hearing aids. Stop by the sound booth and try one out.

## Trustees Report Nov 2013

The trustees have a surplus refrigerator that was not working for a while, but has been repaired. They would like to sell it or donate it to a good home. If you are interested, or know someone who is, contact Pastor Gary.

The Trustee Committee has voted to remodel the men's and women's bathrooms to include installation of two handicap approved toilets in the women's and new grab rails in both bathrooms. Old wallpaper will be removed, some ceiling tile replaced, and new lighting installed.

New outdoor power equipment has been purchased to replace items stolen from the maintenance shed last year. Two wood step ladders have been replaced with fiberglass units for safety reasons. The sidewalks leading to the main entrance and to Banner Hall have been repaired after damage from tree roots.

A locksmith has been hired to repair or adjust all exterior doors to assure that they close and lock properly.

Ron Luke and several volunteers have been making repairs to the irrigation system. The "geysers" that were such a visible sign of the need for repairs, have been repaired. This work is ongoing as there a lot of sprinkler heads and it takes time to service them.



## Mama Mia's Love Train

Every time the Rev. Jim Russo talked about his Christmases in prison, big tears rolled down his face as he said "I couldn't give anything to my children." He also knew that there wasn't enough money at home to get gifts for them. That's why Mama Mia's Love Train was started. Jim believed that every little girl should have a baby doll that cried "Mama". Little boys needed a car or truck they could push along the floor while saying "varoom". Jim also knew that because of a simple toy, Christmas miracles occur. Chaplains have told us that as soon as the toys arrive a 'calm' seems to come over the prison. Then there is the love of parent and child. Because of today's economy, we know that this will probably be the only gift these forgotten children will receive. Just think of the joy of the child who had a Christmas wish fulfilled with one very special toy! Most of all, God is there, Emmanuel, God is with! We are anticipating the need for a least 7,000 toys this year! Please help us continue the wonderful tradition as we share God's love and miracles by giving a toy (not more than **\$8.00**) or by sending a check. Thank you! Toy deadline – December 9<sup>th</sup>

Please send your **checks** to: Jim Russo Prison Ministries,  
PO Box 768, Bradenton, FL 34209

**Toys to:** Jim Russo Prison Ministries,  
2106 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, East, Bradenton, FL 34208



# **Christmas Boutique**

**Saturday** ~ **November 9<sup>th</sup>**

9AM ~ 12Noon



*Craft Demonstrations*  
**One-Of-A-Kind Gifts**  
*Unique & Creative Items*  
*Great Stocking Stuffers*  
*Perfect Presents for Anyone*  
**Hand Made Items Available For Purchase**

**Proceeds to benefit Solve House of Bradenton**  
for their mission to help mothers and babies.

**Free Coffee & Handmade Cookies**

**Circle of Hope Mission Updates**

**DIY Make & Take Crafts, too!**

***Your Craft Donations are Welcome***

***Held at Faith United Methodist Church***

7215 1st Avenue West ~ Bradenton, FL 34209

Cindy 941-586-0789 or Linda 941-792-1747





# Ruth Circle

**November 2013**

The October gathering for Ruth Circle was held in the home of Mitz Damstra with Kay Glass as co-host. Elizabeth Schultz gave the devotion. After a short business meeting during which we discussed our Sock Drive for New Beginnings, we decided to bring our supplies to our November meeting so that we can stuff them and prepare them for Christmas time delivery.

After closing the meeting, Marlene Green gave an inspiring program about not comparing ourselves to others but to explore the gifts within ourselves. And to remember that we are too blessed to complain and how important prayer is to keep us on track.

Our November 6th meeting will be held at the home of Lois Maat (941-792-6035)

**Christmas Stockings**



*Sponsored by the Ruth Circle*

For the homeless at New Beginnings  
(Formerly called One Stop).

The ladies are stuffing new, long cotton tube socks with the items listed below and tying the socks off with festive ribbons.

**Here's a list of items needed:**

New, Long Cotton Tube Socks  
Large Zip Lock Bags  
Individually Wrapped Hard Candy  
Festive Ribbon (to tie ends of socks)

**Plus Travel Size Toiletries:**

Combs  
Soap  
Plastic Disposable Razors  
Tooth Brushes  
Tooth Paste (travel size)  
Shampoo (travel size)  
Deodorant (travel size)

*Please leave your donations in the Narthex collection box.*

# PrimeTimers

NOVEMBER 2013

By Sheila Rapavi



## **Aargh Mate – T'was A Mighty Party!**

Where to start? So much to enjoy – from food to prizes to surprises – everything was great! But that's what we have come to expect from the PrimeTimers Team. This year's costume party left party goers wanting to know when the next big PrimeTimers party will be. Rumor has it the *Puttin' On The Ritz* extravaganza may return again this year due to popular demand. It's the perfect time to play dress up and socialize in the Sactuary that is always transformed into a very different and beautiful venue. The team needs to re cooperate, so keep an eye out for future announcements. *Back to the pirates...*

## **What's Stewin'?**

Lots of good things, of course. This year's cook off featured twelve Faith groups and their Top Chefs: Café Connection (Ruth Ann Klein), Circle of Hope (Cheryl Gaynor), Faith's Men (Pastor Gary Eldred), Faith's Children & Faith Place (Cindy Sidley), Meals On



Wheels Plus Friendship Dining (Bill & Elma Sample), Mixed Blessings (Lee Wetzel), Music Ministry (Bunny Klein), Prayer Team (Mitz Damstra), PrimeTimers (Shirley Johnson), Ruth Circle (Lynda Bellows), Trustees (Linda & Karl Hasbrouck) and Tuesday Night Bible Study (Val Carlson). The entries were so good it was hard to pick a favorite... everyone went back to the stew competition table several times – just to make sure!



## **Two Top Chefs Win Top Prizes**

Taking home first place in the People's Choice award category was Elma and Bill Sample, representing the Meals On Wheels Plus congregante dining group at Faith. Sheila Rapavi and Pat Black used a blind taste technique to ensure a fair and impartial outcome for the Judge's award. The entries were judged on five categories: aroma, color, consistency, taste and aftertaste. After tallying the total scores, the Judge's first place winner was Shirley Johnson, representing the PrimeTimers. Compliments of the Lazy Lobster Restaurant, the Top Chef winners received \$25 gift certificates for their dining pleasure at either location. All chefs got accolades, Top Chef

Certificates and wood oven pulls – an ingenious tool!

Complimenting the stews was Mitz's handmade creamy coleslaw, baskets filled with specialty crackers and fresh Italian bread, plus ice tea, water, lemonade and hot cider. Cheers to Uncle Daniels for providing ten bottles of bubbly (sparkling apple cider). But it didn't stop there. Methodists know it's not done until the dessert has come! This was no exception. There were two *'walk the plank'* desserts to die for. The black sea started with triple threat chocolate cake cubes and chocolate pudding; the mediterranean version had vanilla iced pumpkin cake cubes and vanilla pudding... both topped with whip cream and a plank (graham cracker), served tableside by Pat Black. Simply *deeeeeeeeeelicious!*





### It's A Pirate's Life For Me

It's no surprise the PrimeTimers Team has great surprises at their parties. (Remember that BIG, live pig that Sheila and Pastor Gary kissed at last year's Hillbilly Ho-Down?) This year it was the Anna Maria Privateers. Although women have been very active in the Privateers since its inception in 1971, MaryAnn Zylamaz is the first female President. Who better to judge the pirate costumes? After looking over Faith's crew, Betty Robin, Karl Hasbrouck, and Shirley Johnson were unanimously selected the most authentic pirates. For their efforts, they will be honorary guests on the Privateers' Skullywag ship in their 2013 Christmas Parade on December 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Santa Open House at Coquina Beach. The parade starts at Bayfront Park then travels south along Anna Maria Island through

the three island cities. Put it on your calendar and come out to cheer them on! The Privateers website is <http://pirateinvasion.org>



Fourteen pirates from each ship (tables) had a full out battle for the silver bounty in the *Swab The Deck* challenge. In relay fashion, using brooms, they moved a beach ball from one end of the sanctuary to the other, switching mates once the ball entered the hoop. They moved like they were swimming in shark infested waters! Jan McCarthy, Val Carlson, Lois Maat, Charlene Moran, Mitz Damstra, Marilyn Lewis Pat Black, Faith Foss, Carmen Welsh (in back), Elma Sample and Shirley Johnson swept up the competition.



### 'Skullywag'

Don't mean to split hairs – we know it is scallywag, but in relation to this story, skullywag is more appropriate. You wouldn't be scratching your own skull if you were at the party because you would have already gotten it! Aargh mate, we're talking about the pirate pitch game. Having four hats to toss, you'd think it'd be a sinch, but not so my friend. It took patience, finesse and that pirate will to win this game. Many tried, but only three succeeded. Betty Robin, Elma Sample, Frank Coon and Mary Borscani each won gold (chocolate) fifty cent pieces for their accuracy skills.



### Pirate Pastor?

Party-goers were in for the surprise of their lives when they walked into the Sactuary Thursday night! Pastor Gary was posted on the wall looking back at them with the face only a mother could love. That's right, he was transformed into a pirate via the electronic genius of Karl Hasbrouck for the *One-Eye Pirate game*. It took Pastor Gary a minute or two to realize it was him, which took him by surprise, too. As always, his good nature brought out a healthy chuckle before he tried his hand at putting an eye patch on the morphed face, while wearing black-out sunglasses. The Pastor knows himself pretty well - he hit the target spot on! Enjoying the sweet victory of success, Elma Sample, Marilyn Trevethan and Pastor Gary Eldred won pieces of silver (chocolate Kisses).



## Door Prizes, Too!

One pirate said, *"It doesn't matter what the prize is – I just love winning!"* And there were plenty of chances and winners at this Pirate Party. Here's a few: Frank Coon (*'O' is for Outlaw* by Sue Grafton), Rev. Marilyn Lewis (*The Reef* by Nora Roberts), Charlene Moran (kitchen towels set), Lois Maat (*A Salty Piece of Land* by Jimmy Buffet), Karl Hasbrouck (glass mug filled with butterscotch candy, topped with silver wrapped chocolate Kisses), Cindy Sidley (*Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much'* wind chime), Jan Dart (3-piece cooking set with two smoker bags), Bunny Klein (*Swan Thieves* by Elizabeth Kostova), and Jim Dart (*The Deep End of the Ocean* by Jacquelyn Mitchard).



## Common Thread

As you were reading this article, did you realize there is a common thread throughout? Many people have noticed (and commented) that the PrimeTimers Team always pays special attention to the details. Once a theme has been chosen, everything is selected based on its relation to that particular topic. Everything from the games (Pirate Pitch, Swab The Deck, One-Eyed Pirate) to the prizes (books with titles that lend themselves to water, Lazy Lobster gift certificates, gold and silver wrapped chocolates, etc.). It's a little added challenge for the Team and a bit more fun for the party goers.

## Special Recognition

Putting on these type of large events takes a lot of dedication. It is possible under the leadership of PrimeTimers President Sheila Rapavi and the PrimeTimers Team of Elizabeth Schultz, Jeanne Stocklin (not shown), Shirley Johnson, Marilyn Woodruff, Mitz Damstra and Pat Black. They work extremely hard to provide the best experience possible, while raising funds for many projects throughout the year. 🎩 Stepping up to lend a hand behind the scenes were Charlene Moran, Debra Johnson, Elma Sample, Frank Coon, Karl Hasbrouck and Vicki Barth. 🎩 The Top Chefs who took on the challenge to support their particular groups, Faith and this PrimeTimers fund-raiser – are top rated in our (cook)books! 🎩 MaryAnn Zylamaz of the Anna Maria Privateers for making time to stop by, choosing the best costume winners, and for the generous gift of riding on the Skullywag in their Christmas parade. Doing this was especially generous as she is in the midst of final preparations for their 2013 Pirate Invasion, November 1-3, on Coquina Beach. You have the costumes, go and have fun putting them to use again! Free to the public. 🎩 Sincere gratitude to all who donated \$10 to attend the party, including the PrimeTimers Team who purchases tickets, also. Special kudos to those who purchased and donated tickets so others, who could not otherwise attend the party, had the opportunity because of your generosity.



## Without YOU

The PrimeTimers Team can certainly make the plans, purchase supplies, set tables, organize activities, provide prizes and oversee the events, BUT...

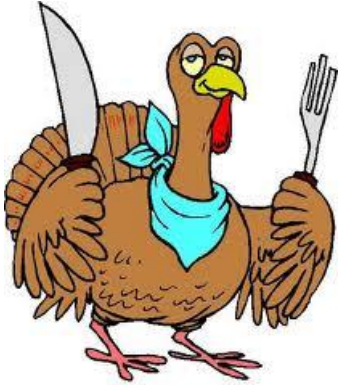
It takes people who care enough to attend, participate and/or donate tickets to those who'd love to enjoy these occasions, to truly make these events a success.

Mission accomplished.

*God bless and thank-you all.*

## Kick Off The Holidays At Faith

All children and adults are invited to join us at Faith's annual potluck dinner and kick off the holidays – family style. Simply bring a good attitude, big appetite and potluck dish. Potluck dishes are determined by last name: A-I (dessert), J-R (veggie inspired dishes), S-Z (home-style salads). See you on November 22nd. You'll be glad you did! Please direct questions about this event to Brenda Bellows (941-504-6787; [brendaLbell13@msn.com](mailto:brendaLbell13@msn.com)).



### Upcoming PrimeTimers Sponsored Event

#### ***Kick Off The Holidays***

#### **Faith's Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner**

**Friday, November 22nd ~ 6:15PM**

**Bring A Covered Dish & Your Appetite.  
Everyone Welcome!**

*All décor, turkeys and mashed potato fixings purchased with proceeds from PrimeTimers events. Thank-YOURSELF!!!*

*Volunteers needed: cook turkeys, mashed potatoes gravy, set-up and clean-up. Please call Brenda Bellows at 941-504-6787 or email [brendaLbellows3@gmail.com](mailto:brendaLbellows3@gmail.com) for more information and/or volunteer.*

## **Christmas Dinner Party**

*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All The Way*

*Oh What Fun It Is To Go To ...*

*Stonewood Grill This Day!...*

**Saturday, December 14 @ 6:00 PM**

RSVP: Pat Black 941-782-8605 [blackuofm@gmail.com](mailto:blackuofm@gmail.com)

Email: [PrimeTimersFun@gmail.com](mailto:PrimeTimersFun@gmail.com)



All adults are welcome to attend any and all PrimeTimers events, parties and outings. You do not have to attend Faith United Methodist Church, but it sure is a nice place to worship. We welcome your ideas, help, donations and love your participation.

### ***Needed***

Individual who loves making parties happen. No experience necessary, only a positive attitude and willing to do what it takes to put on the best events ever – and have fun doing it! To join the PrimeTimers Team, please contact Sheila at 941-792-1919 or [PrimeTimersFun@gmail.com](mailto:PrimeTimersFun@gmail.com) today!

What else? Almost anything! The new and gently used items donated to the PrimeTimers are used in a variety of wonderful ways by the Team or shared with others like the Circle of Hope, MOW+ Faithful Friends Social Club, Visitation Team, etc. Albeit used as prizes, transformed into incredible crafts (flowers, things from your odds drawer, broken jewelry...) or simply a wonderful way to share the love with someone in need – it is used for good. Go green... please remember the PrimeTimers when disposing of items... we can probably find a wonderful home for them.

# Dates to Remember In NOVEMBER

## Birthdays

<b>Bob Sanders</b>	<b>11/06</b>		
<b>Marlene Green</b>	<b>11/07</b>	<b>Jason Brown</b>	<b>11/19</b>
<b>Debbie Wright</b>	<b>11/07</b>	<b>Bruce Dix</b>	<b>11/20</b>
<b>Tony Dazzo</b>	<b>11/09</b>	<b>Jim Carlson</b>	<b>11/21</b>
<b>Alex Mills</b>	<b>11/10</b>	<b>Vicki Barth</b>	<b>11/26</b>
<b>Jane Metcalf</b>	<b>11/11</b>	<b>Jane Winegarden</b>	<b>11/28</b>
<b>Bill Dooley</b>	<b>11/16</b>	<b>Marilyn Woodruff</b>	<b>11/28</b>
<b>Peggy Coon</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>Jerry Crunk</b>	<b>11/29</b>

## Anniversaries

<b>Sarah Jackson &amp; Dom Petrillo</b>	<b>11/06</b>
<b>Bill &amp; Paula Campbell</b>	<b>11/24</b>
<b>Mike &amp; Sandy Pillow-Johnson</b>	<b>11/24</b>
<b>Edward &amp; Louise Daniels</b>	<b>11/27</b>



## Upcoming Events

### **Spaghetti Dinner**

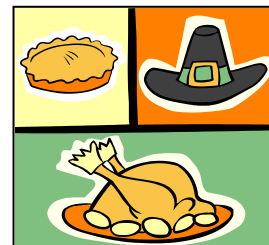
Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Christmas Boutique**

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner**

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>



Please Click on this link... [November Calendar](#)

**Faith Takes 1st**

**Place!**

## Faith Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place!

By Sheila.

Faith took home first place for the Best Overall entry in the MOW+ pumpkin contest on October 23rd. Turning two pumpkins into *Sir Faithalot*, a knight in shining armor, was a collective effort and week-long project for the Meals On Wheels Plus congregating dining program at Faith. Each 'Faithful Friends Social Club' member received a Bob Evans coupon prize. Sir Faithalot is proudly displayed in the Narthex. Congratulations on the win and for working together – the outcome is outstanding!



## Faithful Friends Social Club (FFSC)

By Sheila.

The FFSC is sad to bid farewell to Cletus Hirshy who passed on October 15th. His last year with the FFSC was a very happy one, whereby he looked forward to getting up in the morning and heading off to see all of his FFSC friends. A gentle man, Cletus was a very dear friend who is greatly missed. \* On a brighter note, the club is pleased to welcome another newcomer! Ms. Pat Seaver joined the FFSC in October and is already busy sharing her artistic training and skills with the group. Everyone is having fun getting in touch with their inner artist and it looks great! \* This month's all-friendship-dining-centers birthday party was held at Palmetto Gayle on October 23rd. October's birthday babies, including Faith's Warren Smith, were recognized with a resounding chorus of Happy Birthday! A pumpkin decorating challenge headlined the party. Faith took home Best Overall first place. Each Faith club member participated in the Sir Faithalot (a knight in shining armor) project, handmaking everything from the 'armor' and shield to painting the pumpkin body silver. \* Thanks to Hunsaiders Farms (5500 County Road 675, Bradenton, FL 34211; telephone: 941-322-2168) for donating three large pumpkins to each MOW+ friendship dining center. \* Free form painting and art has been added to monthly activities which already includes bingo, puzzles, powerword, sports events and a plethora of other activities. \* FFSC is a no cost social club with great meals for ages 60+. Stop in and see what all the fun is about, pick-up a brochure from the PrimeTimers table (pass it on), or call MOW+ for more information. \* God bless our volunteers! More are desperately needed... call Sheila or stop by FUMC (9A-12:30A Mon-Fri) and find out how easy it is to fun helping others. \* Meals On Wheels *Plus* (811 23rd Ave E, Bradenton; Telephone: 941-747-4655) provides many valuable services to our neighbors and community. Your generosity and tax-deductible donations are always appreciated – please note 'Friendship Dining' on your check or with your donation.



## Get Your Fun On, Too!

By Sheila.

When's the last time YOU were a part of a conga line? Bored? Have too much time on your hands? Tired of doing the same ole thing every day and watching the same ole depressing stuff on TV? Had enough of the same old routine? Find it hard to get out of bed in the morning and find you are going to bed later each night, flipping your schedule upside down? Maybe you are just the opposite... life is moving too fast and you're so busy you just don't know where the time goes. In any case - we can. No matter your mental, physical or spiritual

capabilities – there's an opportunity for you to make a difference in yours and someone else's life – and have fun doing it! From simply putting napkins and forks on the table, taking out the trash, playing games, talking, walking or laughing with others – we can use your help. The Faithful Friends Social Club is growing in participants and is in great need of volunteers – especially Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Come the same day each week or once a month... just come. It will be one of the best decisions of your life... and the lives of others. Your support of this valuable Faith outreach ministry is vital for it to continue. Contact Sheila in the Sanctuary, Monday through Friday (9A to 12:30) or leave a message at 941-792-1919.



## Sincere Sympathy

Retired Minister Cletus Hirschey was one of the first to join the MOW+ sponsored Faithful Friends Social Club (FFSC) at Faith. Being pushed in a wheelchair by his loving wife, Janet, Cletus rolled into Faith with his eyes lowered, head down and fingers interlocked on his lap. Before long a vibrant man emerged. Cletus was soon laughing out loud (happily, very loudly), participating 100% in all of the activities and mastered walking all the entire way around Faith - everyday. Janet threw his 95th birthday party at the club in July, where Cletus proudly announced, *"I've caught up with you, Uncle!"* Besides being an avid reader and religious researcher, Cletus excelled in winning the 'one-eyed panda pitch' and was a man of great strength when it came to the beach ball volley ball. Millie, his walking buddy, said, *"I miss talking to him during our daily walks."* Program Coordinator Sheila Rapavi shared, *"When it was time to head home, Cletus walked toward the door very slowly, until he saw me blocking his exit with my arm out stretched. He'd get that great little Cletus smile on his face, pick up the pace and stop for his hug. It always warmed my heart and is a memory I will cherish forever. I'm blessed to know him and miss him very much."* Cletus was laid to rest on October 22nd in his hometown of Trenton, IN. A future Celebration of Life service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church (3200 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, FL 34205; Telephone: 941-748-8608). In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made directly to the family to help with funeral expenses: Janet Hirschey 808 53rd Avenue East, Lot 286A, Bradenton, FL 34203.



## WWII Veterans Honor Flight II

By Sheila.

Accompanied by his son, Bruce, Warren Smith is the second WWII veteran from Faith to go on the Honor Flight from the St. Petersburg Clearwater International Airport. On October 29th, Warren was welcomed home by fellow Honor Flight honoree Uncle Daniels, plus Elma Sample, Elizabeth Schultz, Marlene Greene, Sheila Rapavi, and about 2,000 other well-wishers. Warren and Uncle still can't believe all the wonderful surprises that awaited them and enjoy swapping their WWII Honor Flight experiences. It's a fantastic program... volunteers across America honor and fly WWII Veteran's to Washington, D.C. to visit the

WWII Memorial for the day... at no cost to the Veterans. (A Guardian accompanies each Veteran; Guardians pay \$400 for this privileged.) For more information about going on an upcoming Honor Flight, sending a donation so another WWII Veteran can go, or to find out about being welcoming them home, visit Honor Flight of West Central Florida's website: <http://www.honorflightwcf.org/>.

## Another One Is With God Now



Successfully arriving together in St. Peters, Missouri around 4PM on October 25th, Glen Edward Swenson traveled there with his sister Barbara Munini (and her husband, Dan), to celebrate their mother's 95th birthday celebration the following Monday, October 28th. Sadly, Glen passed away in his sleep in the early hours of October 26th at their sister's home in St. Peters, Missouri. Glen (62) was born on August 19th, 1951 to George Edward and Ethel K. Swenson in Oak Park, Illinois. After completing high school, he continued a life time of learning. Glen obtained an Associates degree in waste management from Dona Ana College,

his bachelor's degree in Communications and Broadcasting from Western Illinois University, and his Masters from Golden Gate University in the Science of Taxation. He enjoyed golf, shooting, history, reading and ghost hunting. Glen worked as a Water Treatment Operator for fifteen years at Severn Trent, retiring in 2011. Dear father of Amanda, Michael S. Mathew R. and Michelle Swenson; grandfather of three; and loving brother of Barbara Munini, Sharon Anthony, and Janice Balli. He was a caring and hardworking volunteer at the Meals On Wheels Plus friendship dining program at Faith United Methodist Church in Bradenton, Florida. The funeral was held on October 30th at St. Johns United Church of Christ in St. Charles, Missouri. Glen was laid to rest next to his father in the church cemetery. In honor of Glen, memorial gifts may be made to the Airforce Aid Society, 241 18th St. Suite 202 Arlington, VA 22202