

Pilgrims' Progress

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Pilgrims' United Church of Christ • Fruitland Park, Florida • February 2012

Duesing Day

[Ed. Note: A number of people have requested a copy of Jane's tribute to John on Duesing Day, Jan 15. This is the text of her tribute.]

Dear Friends at Pilgrims' Church,

I share your joy today as you celebrate the faith, fellowship and stewardship of my father, John Duesing.

When I was asked to share some biographical data with you, it became apparent that a list of dates and places, education, and employment are the things that belong in a resume, or worse, an obituary. It is far more appropriate to celebrate the real fabric of a living person who has become part of this faith community and the world it ministers to. With that in mind, I ask you to give thanks for several aspects of John's long and fruitful life:

John attended Allegheny College where he received his engineering degree. There, he also met my mother, Ruth Stafford. Following their marriage in 1939, our family grew as my older brother, Michael was born; I was the little sister, and ultimately, the middle child when brother David arrived.

We called many different places "home" as John's work took him from New York, to California, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Massachusetts and ultimately, to frequent business trips to Europe and the Middle East. While John and Ruth ultimately retired to Florida, they watched the generations increase as they were visited by five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Four generations gathered in this church to celebrate Ruth's life this past March and we gave thanks for the seventy-one years of marriage that God had blessed and provided for our parents.

John was an active and competitive sportsman beginning with his college football days. Golf was more appropriate for engineers and business people, so the

choice of a new home or community was often driven by the proximity to local golf courses or the quality of the courses themselves. Ironically, Ruth usually came home with the trophies and hardware for winning the club championships. After moving to Montreal, John found a world-class country club in Beaconsfield (where the Canadian Open had been played.) The down side was the weather north of the border; with only 90 growing days each year, he was forced to find a second outlet for his energy during the nine months of winter in Canada. John convinced Ruth that they should take up curling. This became another love for John, and of course, a chance for Ruth to collect some more championship honors. More recently, back problems curtailed John's golfing but did not prevent him from a regular regimen of swimming and walking, even to this day.

As you are aware today, John's other great love is his church. As a child, I was impressed that MY FATHER was the superintendent of the Sunday school. As we moved from place to place, the choice of church we worshipped at was had equal importance to the home we would be living in. Although he was raised as a Lutheran, the majority of John's early life was centered in the Presbyterian tradition, he worshiped with the Anglicans in Massachusetts, and was introduced to the United Church of Christ through the United Church in Canada. In each congregation along the way, John seemed to provide a new dynamic tension for the minister as he used his engineering mindset to suggest ways to streamline, strengthen, and focus the liturgy, policies, and resources of the church to accomplish God's work.

(Continue on Page 6)

Lent Begins Wednesday, Feb 22
Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 22, 5 p.m.

Ministers	All Members of the Congregation
Phone	352-365-2662
Email	office@pucc.info
Web site	www.pucc.info

STAFF

Pastor	Ronal K. Freyer-Nicholas, OSL
Pastoral Associate/Visitation	Robert Van Valkenburg
Church Secretary and Custodian	Mary Cavanagh
Groundskeeper	James McArthur

ELDERS

Moderator	Carol Dodd
Vice Moderator	
Clerk	Bill Marcoux
Financial Secretary	Dorothy Cheney
Assistant	Anne Zulauf
Treasurer	Alice Pilger
Assistant	Peg Lindsay
Caring	Dorothy Sullivan
Communications	Jelenne Wimmer
Fellowship	Joyce Foster
Missions	Bobbi Polhamus
Spiritual Formation	Ginny Stiles
Worship	MaryAlice Morris
Resource Board	Jane Bradley
Trustees	Ken Owens

Pilgrims' United Church of Christ is a welcoming, inclusive, biblically responsible, theologically progressive church. Our members worship joyfully and grow intellectually and spiritually as we express Jesus' love and concern to our community and the world.

Pilgrims' Progress is published, usually monthly, though some summer issues may be combined, and distributed by or before the 1st of the month. Copies may be transmitted by email, regular mail, Sunday pickup following worship, or the News page on the website at www.pucc.info.

Items submitted for publication should be sent by email to news@pucc.info no later than the 15th of the month preceding publication (as, the 15th of April for the May issue). Inquiries should be directed to Pastor Ron or Jelenne Wimmer.

February Birthdays

- 11 John Faulstich
- 13 Dan McKinney
- 17 Carmen Jaynes
- 20 Jim Green
- 24 Kay Martin
- 25 Dick Jean

Sunday Events

- Choir/Musicians meet at 8:30 a.m.
- Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Fellowship Hour follows Worship, except for the Brunch on Feb 26.

Other Events in February

- 17 Spaghetti Dinner
- 18 Gator Day, The UCC at the Villages
- 19 Installation of David Wild at Marion Oaks UCC.
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service 5 p.m. (Lent Begins)

Missions

Bobbi Polhamus

While football fans everywhere are eagerly awaiting Super Bowl Sunday on February 5th, Pilgrims will be having its own SOUP-ER SUNDAY. Members are encouraged to bring soup items on February 5th to be distributed to the Leesburg Food Pantry. Let's get the food cart over-flowing with soup!

Once again, it's time for the annual **CROP WALK**, feed the hungry mission. February 26th is the Sunday for the Walk at 2 pm in Leesburg's Rogers Park. Please consider walking or sponsoring members who plan to walk. Dick Zulauf will have all the details for the Walk. Please sign up at the Narthex table.



Who's Who in the Pew

Ginny Stiles

Jane Bradley

I was born in Weymouth, MA. I left there in 1959 and moved to Miami, FL. I lived there until 1984 when Will and I moved to Oxford, FL. I like Florida the best even though I cried all the way to Washington, DC on the way to Miami.

Of my childhood memories, I loved most going to Maine where my dad's extended family lived. They lived in Spruce Hotel (right on the water) and they were all fishermen. We stayed with them when my dad went hunting. My mother would get our school-work and we would go to the two-room schoolhouse with our cousins.

When my youngest son went into middle school, I went to a large apartment complex where I met Will. I worked there 7 years. Then my older son told me of an opening for a one-girl office where he was working. I took a week's vacation to see if I would like the job (which I did) and I ended working there 10 years until Will and I moved to Oxford.

Will and I were married in 1976 and I have two boys and a girl and he has one boy and one girl. I have 4 grandsons and 6 granddaughters and 8 great-grandsons and 3 great granddaughters plus 3 granddaughters-in law and two great grandsons-in-law. (2 deceased grand daughters). Will has 4 grandsons and 2 great grandsons and a granddaughter. Our family lives in MA & TX and FL and CA and CO and GA!

Here's a rather interesting story...when I was 28 I had a man come to my door (in Miami) and tell me he was my father! My father passed away at 50 years old right in my living room when he had come to see my new baby.

My shock at hearing this new information caused me to call my mother and she told me that this man WAS my biological dad but that they had finally been able to adopt me when I was 17 years old. Previously they had me as a ward of the state since I was 18 months old. After much thinking, I decided I did not want to be involved with this man.

My church history is that I grew up in a Pilgrim's Congregational church, which was founded in the late

17th century in Weymouth, MA. My daughter and her family still go there. I started here with Pilgrims' UCC at the very beginning before the church was fully formed. I was treasurer of Building Fund for 10 years. I was head of kitchen committee for 15 years.

I set up the craft group here at Pilgrim's for about four years. I knit and used to sew. I made my daughter's clothes and even her wedding dress!

Fellowship Ministry

Peg Lindsay

We held our annual "Thank You" luncheon on Friday, January 13, 2012 and introduced Bruce Mason as our new lead chef to the members of our ministry. Bruce kept us laughing. Following the luncheon, we planned the kitchen schedule for calendar year 2012 (see page 5). His comment to us was, "It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you." We are honored and pleased to welcome him to our fellowship.

We've included a few changes for the coming year.

Bruce is not comfortable with the organization of the kitchen (where plates, silverware, tools are placed within the cabinets). So after our annual clean-up in March, we'll put everything back where he prefers.

We all like the idea of a monthly brunch but we're tired of pancakes. So more of our brunches will be something quick and easy to fix and clean up after, but not necessarily pancakes. Menu will vary at the whim of the cook(s). As before, we ask the ministry assigned to coffee hour for any given month to help with the set-up and clean-up.

Our historical date is the third Sunday of the month for a served dinner. However, Bruce and I both have third-Sunday conflicts so we've moved dinners to the second Sunday of the month.

Where possible, we will include fresh, local produce in our menus.

I am personally relieved that Jane Bradley and Annabelle Jungbluth continue to be part of the ministry. Their many hours lovingly and graciously serving our congregation have taught them what works best in our kitchen as meals for our congregation. I will continue to rely on their knowledge and experience.

HAVE A LITTLE FAITH

Ginny Stiles

Book Study/Discussion: A Lenten Adventure sponsored by Spiritual Formation Ministry.

When: Thursdays, beginning March 1

Time: 11-12:30 Discussion at church, Lunch out following

Who: Everyone!

Leaders: We will be taking turns leading the book sections

How: Sign up is on the table in the Narthex

Book: *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom

You can order your own through Amazon.com or your favorite book store online...or you can ask me to order it for \$11.00. Check that on sign up sheet. I need to have book order requests by Feb 15.

Spiritual Formation Ministry has been getting requests from the membership for a book group this winter/spring. So we are going to try a different format combining this with our usual Lenten activity of getting together to discuss and learn.

Have a Little Faith is Albom's first nonfiction book since he wrote *Tuesdays With Morrie*. The book begins with an unusual request: an 82-year old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy.

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Mitch observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival. Mitch and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times.

Have a Little Faith is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

***Have A Little Faith* debuted at #1 on the New York Times Bestseller list. It was chosen by Oprah.com as the Best Nonfiction Book of 2009.**

Wider Horizons

Ginny Stiles

On January 8th during coffee fellowship about 15 people met in the library to listen to and interact with Rev Ron as he presented a discussion on The UCC Book of Worship and on how our Sunday morning worship services are laid out and planned and why. Since we all come from so many denominational backgrounds this discussion was VERY informative!!! After the discussion many of us went out to brunch together for fellowship!

Wider Horizons is a general "term" that is given to all subject matter of interest to the congregation in a wider social context. In the past it has involved discussions and presentation from various people on wide topics such as health care reform, prison ministry, the court system, etc. Spiritual Formation would like to sponsor at least one or two more Wider Horizon presentations this winter but we need the congregation to help us find speakers and topics.

You can talk to Ginny, Greg, Marjorie Hart, Carol Dodd, Dottie and Strait Hollis, Barb Neilson, Carrell McNulty or Rev Ron.

Caring

The women who remake the greeting cards are in need of the following used cards:

BIRTHDAY
GET WELL
ANNIVERSARY
SYMPATHY

We would like to have the inside of the card's greeting....you don't have to give that to us if you don't want to. We will also accept just the front of the card. Please give the cards to Jane Bradley or leave them in the box under the card rack. The money from the cards will go towards buying supplies to make the Prayer Shawls and Bears.

Thank you for your in advance for your help.

CROP WALK ALERT

Please mark your Calendars: February 26, 2012, 2:00pm, Rogers Park, Leesburg. Any questions? Call Kathleen Barr, 352-787-6117, or Dick Zulauf.

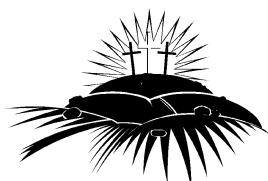
Christmas Ornaments Dee Armstrong

Many thanks to PUCC's members for their generous donations of over \$700.00 towards our Christmas Church Ornaments this year.

A big thank you as well to Dee Armstrong, Mary Cavanagh and Jack Cheney for their time and help in the making of these ornaments.

Donor's Name In Memory/ In Honor Of:

Dee Armstrong	William Armstrong Jr.
Dee Armstrong	William & Gladys Armstrong/ Grandchildren
Dee Armstrong	Carl & Nellie Strickland
Dee Armstrong	John Black
Dee Armstrong	Carl & Janet Strickland/ Great Grand Children
Jane Bradley	Lucy Sholes
Jane Bradley	Harriet Sweet
Jane Bradley	Lyia & Catlin (Great Grand Daughters)
Sherry Brinkman	Loved Ones
Jack&Dottie Cheney	Kathy/Jimmy
Carolyn Dunne & Cathie Thiedt	Loved Ones
Brad & Joyce Foster	Our 17 Grand Children
Donna Fielding	Grandparents Frank&Essie Johnson/ Husband, Paul Fielding
Dottie Hollis	Aunt Tussie Galloway
Shirley Lamb	Shirley's Mother,Father,Brother
Jelenne Wimmer	
Peg Lindsay	Loved Ones
Bob Putman	
Jim & Pat McArthur	All Loved Ones, Who have gone before us.
Jean Marra	Charlotte Russell and Vera Benham
Ken&Dottie Owens	Our Parents
Greg&Ginny Stiles	All the angels at Pilgrims Church
Dorothy Sullivan	Ralph
Barbara Turner	Jim Turner
Willa Ward	Arthur Ward
Jim&Dottie Woller	Our parents:
Mark & Lucille Jackson and Henry & Rose Woller	
Anne & Richard Zulauf	Our Parents



LENT

KITCHEN SCHEDULE 2012

Brunch, Dinners and Other Events

Jan 22	Sloppy Joe's	Peg & Doreen
Feb 15-16	Spaghetti Dinner prep & dining set up	Bruce, Peg & ALL
Feb 17	Spaghetti Dinner	ALL
Mar 7-8	Annual Kitchen Cleanup	Everyone
Mar 11	Dinner (Jungbluths furnish cake)	Bruce
Mar 25	Brunch	Bruce
Apr 8	Easter Brunch	Annabelle
Apr 22	Cook Out Eat In/Spring Picnic	Bruce
May 13	Mothers' Day Dinner	Bruce
May 27	Pancakes	Peg
Jun 17	Father's Day Luncheon	Bruce
Jun 24	Brunch	Bruce
Jul 8	Potluck	Peg
Jul 29	Brunch	Bruce/Peg
Aug 12	Potluck	Peg
Aug 26	Brunch	Bruce/Peg
Sep 9	Potluck	Peg
Sep 30	Brunch	Bruce/Peg
Oct 14	Dinner	Bruce
Oct 28	Brunch	Bruce/Peg
Nov 18	Thanksgiving Dinner	Bruce
Nov 25	Hanging of the Greens	Peg
Dec 16	Christmas Dinner	Bruce
Dec 30	Brunch	Bruce/Peg

Consultation Report

Jean Marra

The report of the Gulf Coast Church & Ministry Committee was presented to the Church Council on Jan 9. The report was presented by Conference Minister Jean Simpson and Committee Member Jeanette Sherrill.

This report covered the analysis of the 38 interviews made by the committee and offered recommendations concerning strengths and challenges for church and pastors. Recommendations focused on communications, bylaws, exit interviews, job descriptions, and realistic expectations for our (now) half-time pastor. Copies of the report are on the Narthex table. Members are invited to read the report, then bring questions to Carol Dodd, Ginny Stiles, Jean Marra, or Pastor Ron.

Duesing Day (continued from page 1)

As John became involved in the design and building of the Pilgrims' Church, our family visits to Florida became strange, to say the least. I believe that most families share pictures of relatives and stories about trips when they gather. We, on the other hand, discussed the specifications for rebar and concrete, saw slide shows of the construction process, and were treated to field trips to the site to envision the final edifice. During this time, John delivered passionate monologues about the potential of this worship space. He even recruited his son-in-law as a visiting tenor to sing with the choir.

May God continue to bless your congregation as you strive to live out your covenant and biblical charter:

You are the people of God. God loved you and chose you for God's own service. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, hu-

mility, gentleness and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make: for, it is to this peace that God has called you together in one body. And be thankful. Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs. Sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. Everything you do or say, then should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God. (COLOSSIANS 3:12-17, Today's English Version)

I give thanks this day that God has placed my father in your midst.

Jane Duesing Miller

Pilgrims' United Church of Christ
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