



The Tower

Pastor's Message

In his devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers writes, ***“All effort of worth and excellence are difficult”*** quoting Matthew 7:13-14. Oswald continues by stating ***“if we are going to live as disciples of Jesus, we have to remember that all efforts of worth and excellences are difficult. The Christian life is gloriously difficult, but its difficulty does not make us faint and cave in- --- it stirs us up to overcome. Do we appreciate the miraculous salvation of Jesus Christ enough to be our utmost for His highest-our best for His glory?”***

Having considered Oswald's statement, I am thankful for the first two months of being part of the Miami Shores Community Church and School Community and for the excellent work being done among the staff and members to make this community of excellence all it can be. My question to the “transition team” has been: what is the purpose of this community of faith for the twenty first century? The response has been very positive and as a result, we have met to discuss how to go forward with this question among others, including the voices and ideas of the entire community. Meanwhile, I have been privileged to observe a great deal of work being done to transform the physical plant and operations of the business aspect of MSCC.

Regarding the office and its daily operation, Dalila has been a tremendous help in providing the orientation I've needed during my entry into the responsibilities of serving as Interim Pastor. She has also proven to a very thoughtful person when planning Sunday School classes for the young people and during her “Children's Message” at the 10:30 service, for which I am grateful.

Diego has proven to be one of the best Maintenance persons I've ever met. His work ethic is beyond reproach and his ability to get the job done is exceptional. He continues uncovering things that need attention while carrying on with his daily tasks. Making the stem lab and library a beautiful environment where students can learn without un-necessary distractions in amazing.

Celeste, on the other hand, has worked with the E & F Committee and the BOT, bringing the finances back where they need to be for the school and the church. Her hard work is paying off in so many ways.

Leilani is doing an excellent job of getting the school ready for the upcoming academic year and is also working with Celeste, making sure those who are delinquent in their obligation to their children and the school, take the necessary steps to correct their behavior in this matter. Finally, I want to thank the E & F Committee and the BOT for their hard work towards making MSCC and my work a smooth and enjoyable venture. I also want to thank all of you who make Sunday service a joy to all who enter the doors of MSCC. You really are a welcoming community. Praise be to the Lord.

Pastor Brown

President's Message

Greetings! Summer is upon us, I hope all are enjoying quality time with family and friends. It is wonderful to have church services in the chapel once again during the summer months, a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Brown for leading us in worship and Andrew for his gift of music! I am so pleased to see first and second time visitors in the chapel these past few Sundays, let's all be sure and extend an extravagant welcome to all - each and every Sunday. May God bless each of you!

In Christ's love,
Drace Langford
President, MSCC

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee will be meeting within the next two weeks to go over our lists of Board and Committee members. As of now, at least two more members are needed for the Executive and Finance Committee and for the Board of Christian Education. We also need more help on the Membership and Endowment Committees. Of course, you are also welcome to join any other committees that you would like. Please consider sharing your talents with your church community. It takes all of us to build a strong community of faith! If you would like a description of our boards and committees please see either Mike Dodds or myself.

Marilyn Coronado

Facilities Report

Besides the day to day tasks of maintaining the church and school buildings, Diego has been working on much needed repairs. The choir room ceiling has been painted to cover stains. In the chapel, the carpet has been given a thorough shampoo and the windows have been sealed and repainted. We are now working on fixing the curtains in the library as well as organizing the space to reflect our stewardship of all that has been entrusted to us. The projector in the Social Hall, which had been out of commission for quite a while, has been connected to a computer and is in now in working order. We now have Bluetooth capabilities in the Social Hall, which will be a great for meetings, rentals, and events.

From the Choir



It's hard to believe that it has been one year since I came to MSCC as a substitute for a few Sundays in July. Time flies. It is now my privilege to serve a church that has made it clear that music is a priority and an essential part of the worship experience. While the United Church of Christ is different from the Episcopal Church (where I have served for the past 15 years), it is the same in so many ways. I continue to seek out new and current music that is inspiring for the congregation. The New Century Hymnal is a resource that is relatively new to MSCC and me. I look forward to exploring the musical treasures in this hymnal.

During these slow summer months, while the choir is on break, I have been busy sorting through our choir's extensive library of anthems. It's safe to say we have well over 300 pieces of choral music in our library. Unfortunately, due to humidity and moisture, over the years, several older pieces of music from the 40s, 50s, 60s, have become moldy and have mildew on them. I am trying to clean up a bit and save what can be saved.

We were planning to have our entire set of handbells sent out to be professionally polished, tuned, repaired and regulated this summer. Unfortunately, it costs a little more than we anticipated, so we will be holding off on this project until next summer. Until then, we will have a few fundraisers in the coming season, with your support, to make the bell refurbishments possible for Summer 2020. Speaking of fundraisers, be sure to mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 24 for "Raising Cain", an evening of music and entertainment in memory of the late, Terry Cain, starring Electra!!!!**

As I familiarize myself with the music library here at MSCC, I am also planning music for 2019-'20 choir season. **Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4th at 7:30 in the sanctuary.**

Have you thought about joining the Chancel Choir or Handbell Choir? Do you know a young person who loves to sing? Would you like to learn more about the Music Ministry? The choir has four functions. They are to lead and enliven the congregation's song, to sing music that the congregation cannot, to serve as a small-group within the church for faith formation, and to sing beautiful and challenging music to glorify God and to edify the congregation. If you feel called to serve God and lead the church in the musical portion of our worship, please speak with me after service or email music@miamishoresucc.org.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Andrew Krystopolski,
Director of Music/Organist



WE NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

Saturday of Service

Our first **Saturday of Service** is here! Come by on **Saturday July 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** as we work on refreshing our butterfly garden and do much needed weeding of the church grounds. Several members will be donating some plants for the garden. If you are able to donate a few it would be greatly appreciated. Plants can be dropped off by Church Office door, just send Dalila an email so they can be brought inside. The following plants are particularly needed:

**Milkweed or Giant Milkweed Coontie Red Firespike Pentas
Pineland Croton Native Porterweed Lantana**

Refreshments and a light lunch will be served. A sign up sheet will be available in the Social Hall or simply contact the church office at **office@miamishoresucc.org**.

School Supply Drive

We are once again participating in Ocean Bank's Back to School Drive this year. Next time you are shopping for school supplies, make sure to add one!

- Backpacks
- Calculators
- Compasses & Protractors
- Composition Books & Notebooks
- Pencils, Pens, Washable Markers, Crayons
- Lined and blank paper
- Binders, Dividers & Three-ring binders
- Folders
- Scissors, Glue Sticks & Tape
- Large Pink Erasers & Regular Erasers
- Hand Sanitizers
- Rulers
- Office supplies
- Containers and storage boxes
- Arts and crafts materials
- Pictures, posters, maps



From the School

Here is what's happening at MSCCS this summer. We had a great start to summer camp program enrolling fifteen students from ages 4 through fifth grade. Our preschool summer enrollment is at fifty students and continues to grow as we approach our fall term. Our weekly themes have been full of exciting activities and events. We visited the Brockway Memorial Library and had a visit from Yoyi the clown. Yoyi put on a spectacular show along with face painting during Circus week.

We are expecting a visit from our Miami Shores fire department next week for Community Helpers Week and much more. The children have participated in water day and arts and crafts with Mrs. Cassandra. Our prek-3 and up students began using our brand new Library and Stem Lab. Mrs. Brown was our first stem lab volunteer, as she joined our students in recreating Jurassic World out of Legos for Jurassic Adventure Week.

Some of our cooking projects include pretzel butterflies, jello fish aquariums and marshmallow Martians for space week. It's been quite an eventful couple of weeks and we look forward to a couple more before starting the new school year. **If you are interested in signing up your child for the last few weeks of summer camp you make call the school office at 305-757-5866.**

Leilani Destephan, School Director



Mrs. Brown in the new Stem Lab.

Our Church Family



Welcome Baby Warren Benjamin!

Drace Langford and Don Sadler are Grandfather's...and my mom Karen Jensen and my dad Donald Langford are first time Great-Grandparents! Our son William Minard and his wife Bernadette welcomed Warren Benjamin to this world February 17th, 2019. May their blessings be bountiful always!

Brad Lutz is still serving as Designated Term Pastor (a type of interim pastor) at Church of the Palms in Delray Beach. After serving there for more than 3 years he is anticipating finally retired completely in the near future and returning on a regular basis to MSCC.

Happy Birthday!

July

Retta Wilson 4, Michelle Lampedusa 7,
Charlie Calli 8, Sarah Mourer 10,
Joan Ojala 11, Don Sadler 14,
Angela Caselle 15, Saied Taie-Tehrani 20,
Dr. Stephen Mourer 20, Roia Taie-Tehrani 24,
Daphne Stewart 25, Lisa Gittner 26,
Marlenis Smart 28

August

Jack Fischer 7, Daniel Sheridan 8,
Sara Merrill 15, Gemma Pressinger 18,
Doreen Curtis 19, Ruben Paredes 25,
Leiyani Rosa 26, Dennis Fruitt 27,
Sandra Gasnier 27, Jean Francisco 30

Our Church Family

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters
to dwell together in unity.”

Psalm 133:1



Olivia Cruz

Olivia Cruz auditioned and was accepted into the New World School of the Arts Musical Theater Program, Class of 2023. Her parents, William and Dena, and her brother Liam are very proud of her. Olivia has often sung in church and we wish her the best.

Congratulations Olivia!



Linda Brumfield, Rally, and Hope

If you want to share any news (new births, graduations, achievements, etc.) for our next newsletter, please contact Dalila at office@miamishoresucc.org