

Greetings from Dale

From the first contact with members of the Interim Pastoral Search Team, under the able direction of Mike Vargo, I felt a keen sense of excitement about the possibilities of ministry in your fine congregation. Ultimately, when the invitation was presented to become your Senior Interim Pastor, I was both thrilled and humbled. The Sanibel church has a fine history of service and mission in the local community and the church at large. You enjoy a far reaching reputation as a solid, progressive and happy congregation. It will be a joy and privilege to share with you this interim time of rediscovery and adjustment to change.

In preparation for our beginning together on September 1 my wife, Dorie, and I have secured a rental home in the Fort Myers community of Kelly Greens. Also, we've had the wonderful opportunity to renew a long term friendship with Sandy and Jim Boler and to meet the Acting Associate Pastor, Denise Terry along with her husband, Russ. I felt an immediate connection with Denise as we shared common pastoral interests and views. The office staff, Judy Palaia and Darby DeFonzo, have been highly supportive and resourceful. It is my firm conviction that we can build upon the wonderful strengths of your church while happily and confidently moving toward the future.

My wife and I are originally from the western states of North and South Dakota, respectively. We met in college and knew early on that we did not want to spend life without each other. So, we've been married for 47 years. I'm a master's degree graduate of United Theological Seminary in Minnesota and have a Doctor of Ministry from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. My ministry has taken us to Minnesota, Ohio and FL. I've held senior and associate positions and also have interim ministry training. My most recent position was pastor of Jensen Beach Community UCC in Jensen Beach, FL for over 21 years, retiring in 2006.

We enjoy our three daughters and four delightful grandchildren ages 5, 4, 3 and 3. We are blessed that they all live here in Florida. Our oldest daughter and husband are in the cold hearty palm tree nursery business. Our middle daughter is an OB/GYN physician and our youngest daughter is an occupational therapist specializing in hand therapy. We all love water sports, travel and a host of other activities. Since you will soon discover by sight, sound, or both, I will confess that Dorie and I are the proud riders of a fine late model Harley Davidson motorcycle. We ride respectfully so you won't be embarrassed!

I can't wait for September and this opportunity of ministry with you. I trust that the spirit of God will actively work in our midst as, together, we embrace the present while moving toward the church's bright future.

Peace and joy,
Dale

