

Celebration News

April, 2015 - Volume 25 - Issue 3



Maundy Thursday

You are invited to attend the Maundy Thursday service on April 2 at 7:00 pm. There will be no Wednesday night service this week; instead we will gather on Thursday evening for a special service remembering the events of the night when Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall where we will celebrate communion and share in a hand washing service. This will be a very meaningful evening that you will not want to miss.

Easter Egg Hunt

Spring is such a wonderful time of the year and there are so many fun things to do this time of the year. One of the great things we get to do at church is have an Easter Egg Hunt. All children through 5th grade are welcome to join us at 9:45 am Easter morning in classrooms 5 & 7 where we will start with decorating our Easter Egg Hunting bags.

Our Easter Egg Hunt is open to church members and friends. The more the merrier. Please invite children you know to participate in this activity. The youth are invited to come outside to assist us with setting up for the hunt. There will be enough goodies for all that participate in the hunt and in setting things up.

We are looking forward to a great turnout.

Melinda Creel

The Happy News Headline

When Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome head to the tomb on Easter morning, they aren't expecting to be uplifted. They are bringing spices to anoint the stone-cold, dead body of Jesus, a dismal and depressing task, and as they walk in the early-morning light they are worrying about how they will manage to muscle the heavy stone away from the entrance to the tomb.

What a surprise it is to see the stone already rolled away.

They enter the tomb and spot a young man, dressed in white, sitting on the right side. Who is this guy? A guard? A gardener? A grave robber? Not knowing who he is, they feel alarmed.

"Do not be alarmed," says the mystery man; "you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here."

There's happy news and there's Happy News. This was capital letter Happy News. He is risen!

But that's not all. "But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee," continues the white-robed messenger; "there you will see him, just as he told you". Jesus is going ahead of them, always ahead of them, and he will be waiting for them in the future. That's a second piece of truly upbeat information.

Jesus is alive. Jesus is ahead of us. That's the HAPPY NEWS headline for the story of Easter!

Easter Morning Schedule:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Easter Breakfast | 9:00 am |
| Children's Activities | 9:45 am |
| Easter Morning Worship | 10:40 am |

Excerpt of Letter from Florida Mission President

"Dear Friends, I really enjoyed meeting many of you on my first visit to the Florida Mission Center. Thank you to those who took the time to visit with me while I was in the area. It was very beneficial for me.

I want to provide an update on where we are currently. We envision a shared leadership team for FMC. During my visits and since, several folks have stepped forward to offer their leadership support to the mission center as part of a team. As a result, we are forming the FMC Mission Support Team. Current team members are: Tim Klocko, Debbie Bartlett, Ken Campbell, Nanette Dizney, Karen Palko, Brenda Cummins, and me. I thank members of the support team for their willingness to serve, and for the gifts they bring to the team. We will now begin the process of our work as a team in providing leadership and support to the congregations of the mission center. We don't have all the answers. As one person suggested to me, we may not even know the questions yet! Our team will need to be organic in nature; being fluid enough to respond in ways that best provide support mission. We are simply continuing on the journey, and inviting you to join with us. More will be shared on April 11th at the conference of how we will enlist your feedback and support."

In Christ, Craig Lenfestey, Mission Center President

One Didn't

Three men were tried for crimes against humanity. Two committed crimes. One didn't.

Three men were given government trials. Two were given fair trials. One wasn't.

Three men were whipped and beaten. Two had it coming. One didn't.

Three men were mocked and spit at along the way. Two cursed and spit back. One didn't.

Three men were nailed to crosses. Two deserved it. One didn't.

Three men agonized over their abandonment. Two had reason to be abandoned. One didn't.

Three men knew death was coming. Two resisted. One didn't.

One, two, three men died on three crosses. Three days later, two remained in their graves. One didn't.

Alleluia!

HE IS ALIVE!

"Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He's Alive." The choir will be joyfully singing these words on Easter Sunday morning as we join in worship to celebrate the risen Christ. After enjoying breakfast together and watching the children hunt for eggs, the **worship service will begin at 10:40 am** in the Sanctuary. *Resurrected!* is the theme on **April 5**, and Elder **Ginger Robertson** and High Priest **Rick Jones** along with the children will share their ministry during this uplifting and joyous celebration.

As we all come together to worship each Sunday, there are some doubters and some believers in our midst. The scripture for Sunday, **April 12th**, can be found in the 20th chapter of John. We read that Jesus appeared to his disciples and shared these words with them, "Peace be with you." Whether we are a doubter or a believer, these words fill us with hope and peace. Come and hear the other words in this comforting scripture as shared with us by High Priest **Nanette Dizney** and Evangelist **Jim Slauter** on the theme *We Believe*.

God continues to be present in our lives even when we have doubts and fears. The disciples experienced this as the rumors about Jesus being alive spread. They were confused; how could it be? Luke records Jesus' response to their doubts and fears. This message will be given by Elder **Stuart Skene** on **April 19th** with Priest **Vera Kramer** presiding over this service. *Hope is Fulfilled* as Jesus talks to the disciples about a new concept of life after death through Jesus.

April 26th is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. *Hear Christ's Voice* is the call for this Sunday. To hear Christ's voice and his invitation, we must listen. To recognize Christ's voice and invitation, we must be in relationship with him. Elder **Andrea Cooper** and High Priest **Nanette Dizney** will guide us as we explore this theme.

The joy of the Easter season remains with us as we continue with the worship opportunities in April. The **Wednesday evening Prayer and Praise services at 7:00 pm** can be an uplifting time in your schedule. Join those who make it a priority in their lives and attend this informal and meaningful time.

Jo Fenn-Martin for Worship Team

An Easter Egg Question?

The following question was asked of members of our congregation. Read their answers and then think how you would answer.

What is the best treat you could ever hope to find in an Easter egg? (No limit on the size of egg).

Bill Williams - In the center of my chocolate, creamy peanut butter egg, I would love to find two straight days of being pain free. What a great treat.

Zoe Van Beek - Free plane tickets to go anywhere, free meals for Chiptoles and Anna's Sandwich Deli for life.

Patty Day - At this point in my life, the best treat I could find in an Easter egg would be early retirement with health benefits. Social Security and Medicare would be a nice bonus! Easter is all about new life, and I am looking forward to spending more of my lifetime with my wonderful husband, Glenn.

Bonnie Colburn - All of my children and grandchildren serving the Lord.

Andrea Cooper - For this Easter it would be a wonderful family who would fall in love with my home on Pine Island. That would be the best "treat" ever - of course, chocolate and flowers are a close 2nd!

Carol Law - My three children and all my grandchildren.

Cole Van Beek - a new controller for my Xbox, free Subway sandwiches for life, and I would buy a bigger church for my church family.



Wade Bryant - I would like to find a chemical that spreads across the earth which would help make all people ready for world peace and antidiscrimination. This chemical would have a lasting effect.

Nancy Peters - Waking up to find my whole family in a very huge Easter Egg would fulfill my heart's desire on Easter Sunday. They would all be ready to go to church with us for our special Easter Celebration. Our family of 4 children used to ride to church in our car. Now we would need a bus to carry all 36 of us! Alleluia!

Reaching Out to One Another

The following is a letter received from Dutch Miller, a member of Lee and Nancy Peter's family.

Dear Lee and Nancy and Community of Christ Congregation,

In my mail yesterday I received the most thoughtful gift. The Prayer Shawl is a constant reminder of people reaching out to one another for healing and comfort. I love it! So very timely as I am contemplating additional treatment for my bout with prostate cancer.

God has blessed me with good health for 15 years since my operation and radiation treatment in 2000. Unfortunately, the beast of cancer has no boundaries and can invade one's body and well being at will. God has been with me on this journey and your gift was a reminder not to forget that others are cheering for you. I believe that the Christian community provides encouragement and intervention on one's behalf by prayer and love. I thank you all.

The journey ahead is unknown and uncharted waters for me. However, while I, at first, learned that the tumor was devastating and didn't know how it will affect my quality of life...I do know the power of modern medicine and more importantly, the power of God.

Your concern, outreach and prayers for me do not go unappreciated. I know that God works with his people and touches lives with love and hope.

May your ministry to me be a blessing to you as well.

Please feel free to share this letter with your congregation.



- 3 *Jim Deering*
- 5 *Hailie Rodriguez*
- 6 *Meah Rodriguez*
- 7 *Jo Fenn-Martin*
- 8 *Lillian Wade*
- 12 *Patty Day*
- 20 *Frankie Scholl*
- 25 *Denise Chlebina Roehl*
- 30 *David Robertson*



Megan Chlebina and Santiago Gonzalez were married March 7th at the Bradenton/Sarasota church. The reception was in an outdoor garden setting. We wish Megan and Santi many happy years ahead.

Coming: Men's Retreat

The theme for the **Men's Retreat 2015** is "Living Missionally - Sensing God's Call in Our Lives" will be held **April 17-19 at Deerhaven Campground.**

All men ages 18 and older are invited to bring a friend, a relative, or a young man to mentor. Come join the fun. Enjoy a weekend away with the guys in the great outdoors. Join in a game of billiards or horseshoes, swim in the pool, complete a service project, go fishing, watch a movie, sing, learn and make new friends. Guys younger than 18 are welcome with a chaperone 21 years or older. The guest minister is David Anderson from Independence, MO. David spent 15 years living in Belgium, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Sweden.

The cost is \$85 and campership funds are available on a need basis. Register on-line at www.cofchristfmc.org or contact Terry O'Leary 904.217.4785 or rldsguy@verizon.net.

Florida Mission Center Conference

On April 11th the Bradenton/Sarasota Congregation will be hosting the Florida Mission Center (FMC) Conference. Apostle Linda Booth will be here with us. You will have the opportunity to honor Bob Watkins for his years of service as our mission center president.

Craig Lenfestey will be here to be set apart as our new mission president. Tim Klocko from Tallahassee will be sustained and set apart as the FMC Financial Officer. The vision Craig is setting up for the FMC is a shared leadership team. At this conference, more of this vision will be shared by Craig and Linda, his wife. Please plan to attend.

