

# CELEBRATION NEWS

## Quotes on Love

“I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.” Mother Teresa

“The love that lasts the longest is the love that is never returned.” Wm. Somerset Maugham

“Laugh as much as you breathe and love as long as you live.” Unknown

“Love is saying ‘I feel differently,’ instead of ‘You’re wrong’,” Unknown

“I would rather have eyes that cannot see; ears that cannot hear; lips that cannot speak, than a heart that cannot love.” Robert Tizon

“We must endeavor to love all people even if we are not loved by them. We don’t love to be love; we love to love.” Leo Buscaglia

“We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love.” Mother Teresa



## Chili Cook-off and Bingo Night

Join us for the now famous **Chili Cook-off** on **Saturday, February 13th at 5:00 PM**. In the past there have been some really good variations of chili. **Jonathan Robertson** has been the chili champion two years in a row. Let’s give him some competition. Sign-up if you would like to enter your chili creation.

Tickets for the event are now on sale, \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages three through 10. Your ticket purchase includes bingo cards for exciting games which will follow dinner. There will be prizes for each game.

What a great Valentine Event; so bring your sweetie and/or bring your friends! This is always a fun evening. This is one of the fund-raising events put on by the Fund Raising Committee. If you have any questions, see **Heather** or **Tim Devine**.

Pancake Breakfasts are a hit! **Hailie Rodriguez** flashes a satisfied smile as she enjoys herself at the January 17th breakfast. More smiles and satisfied customers can be seen on page 5.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, except for May through August, **Morgan Family** members serve up a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs, and sometimes biscuits and other surprises. The Morgans have been preparing breakfasts for us for quite a few years.

We extend a big **THANK YOU** to the Morgans for their service and a warm **INVITATION** to each one of you to come and enjoy a great breakfast!



This year we are doing a *Who Am I?* column in an attempt to learn more about each other. You will be asked to list up to 10 facts about yourself which will be printed in the newsletter. If you would like to participate, contact **Elaine Gregg**. The names of our *Who Am I?* for this month are printed somewhere in the newsletter. Good luck!

### (A) *Who Am I?*

- 1 - Enjoy helping out in the kitchen
- 2 - Broke my elbow when I fell crossing the monkey bars at the age four
- 3 - Am a certified scuba diver
- 4 - Have been to World Conference twice
- 5 - Took Taekwondo for four years and got my black belt
- 6 - Baptized by my grandma when I was eight years old
- 7 - Favorite movie is "Transformers"
- 8 - Hair is a brownish color
- 9 - Favorite subject is Marine Science
- 10 - Am a junior in high school

### (B) *Who Am I?*

- 1 - Grew up on a farm but never learned to drive a tractor
- 2 - Was in the marching band in high school
- 3 - Did not know until the night they were born that I was having twins
- 4 - Visited the Grand Canyon more times than Disney World
- 5 - Climbed to the top of the Rock of Gibraltar once when traveling in Europe
- 6 - Earned a Master of Arts degree at the Community of Christ Seminary
- 7 - Moved 24 times during my life
- 8 - Almost all of the cooking, cleaning and grocery shopping is done by my husband
- 9 - Am a scrapbooking fanatic
- 10 - Favorite food is dessert!

## Together in Love

At the last two Sunday worship services we have sung the hymn *Weave*. One can hardly sing this hymn without swaying in tempo with the person standing or sitting next to you. The music flows, and the words inspire. When you face the congregation as this hymn is being sung, you will see smiles and movement. It is a motivating experience.

The first time I ever heard or sang *Weave* was at the International Women's Conference in Independence, Missouri, in 1993. *Weave* was sung at a service by women from around the world swaying with clasped hands or arms wrapped around each other. The worship center for the service was a tapestry of ribbons that each woman had woven through wire at an earlier activity. My ribbon couldn't be found as it was combined with other ribbons to make this beautiful tapestry of love. As the hymn says, *Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together, together in love*. At that time I realized how God sees us - a tapestry of beauty and potential. The whole week was definitely one of the mountain top experiences of my life.

The words of this hymn cover so many aspects of our lives. It talks about many textures and colors being entwined - different instruments playing our own melodies but playing in harmony - the unity that makes us one great family in Christ. And it talks about love. Isn't this what our every day life should be?

The tune of *Weave* is one of those you hear that plays over and over in your head. Soon you are humming it. The refrain is easy to remember. This hymn could be a theme song. When we sing the words and sway to the tune, it may be just the impetus we need to keep moving, to keep moving toward reaching out with Christ's message. The message that every one deserves is joy, hope, love and peace. This is our mission as a congregation and as individuals who are so blessed to personally know and experience the Christ that *weaves us together in love*.

Since this is February, the month when we celebrate Valentine's day, we are reminded how important love is in our lives. We need love, and it feels so good to know we are woven *together in love* each and every day.

I hope we sing this hymn again and again in future worship services. Don't you?

**Elaine Gregg**, Administrative Ministry



## February Ushers in Lent

We are now into the second month of the new year, and we are approaching a very important season in the Christian calendar. The first Sunday of Lent falls in the month of February, and we will be learning more about the observance of Lent each Sunday starting on February 14.

The following themes lead us into the Lenten season. Sunday, February 7, is the observance of the Lord's Supper with Elder **Jim Deering** leading us in worship. Elder **Beth Slasor** will bring the message centered on the theme, *Called to Go Deeper*. The book of Luke tells us that Jesus is proclaiming the good news to normal, everyday people. Jesus is challenging the disciples, his followers, and us today to go deeper.

*The Spirit Brings Freedom* is the theme on February 14. The Evangelists, **Glenn Day, Karen Palko and Bob Slasor**, will remind us of the freedom that comes with a new life in Christ. We are free to be who we were created to be under God. Youth Ministries Day will also be celebrated on this Sunday.

With the study of Luke 4:1-13, we are invited into the season of Lent. February 21 the theme *The Beauty of Discomfort* will be explored. Deacon **Melinda Creel** and Priest **Ginger Robertson** are planning this service which will include the sacrament of baptism.



One of our constant challenges is to live lives that model behaviors in tune with the principles of God's peaceable kingdom. We are called to decide *What Matters Most* in our relationship with God. As the speaker on February 28, Priest **Scott Cramer** will give us some guidance as to how to fulfill our calling to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ as we are challenged by Doctrine and Covenants Section 163. Elder **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** will preside on this Sunday.

The sharing of testimonies and the lifting up in prayer of those in need continue to be the focus of the Wednesday night **Praise Services**. If you haven't given it a try, join the group on **Wednesday at 7:00 PM** and participate in a service of Prayer and Praise.

**Jo Fenn-Martin, Worship Team Member**

## Thanks for Helping

The **Worship Team** would like to thank those that came to take down the Christmas decorations and put them in storage on Saturday, January 9th. With so many people helping, the work was completed in one hour. We would like to recognize the following for being such willing workers: **David and Ginger Robertson, Kathy Park, Bob Slasor, Jim Deering, Marcia and Jim Brougher, Karla, Zoe and Cole Van Beek, Jo Fenn-Martin, Nanette Dizney and Bob and Fay Beers.**

Shown below are Sydney Evans, Ishamel Neely and Zoe Van Beek members of the Primary Class along with their teacher, Nancy Skene. They are getting ready to make scrolls as part of their lesson.



## Are We Ready?

In his *Defining Moment* address to the International Community of Christ, President Prophet Stephen Veazey reminded us that when we become disciples in *Community of Christ*, we do not become “just members of a local congregation. We become members of a worldwide faith community. The church is an international body that God has called into being to fulfill define purposes related to the coming reign of God on earth.”

It is through this calling that we are to be engaged with matters that effect not just what is of interest in our home country and state, but with issues that are of importance throughout the world. We have been reminded that as our World Conference approaches in April, we are to set aside time each day to prayerfully consider where God is calling us as a people who believe in the hope of Zion. As this Conference follows the Easter season, it would seem fitting that we each make a personal commitment to fast and pray during the upcoming Lent.

God has much work for us to do. He is preparing us for what He has in store for us. This is an important time in the history of the restoration movement. We are all called to take the gospel of Jesus Christ into a world that yearns to hear the message of his love and peace. We are called to be a global community that works together for the good of all people of all races, genders and cultures. Are we ready?

**Ginger Robertson**, Outreach Ministry



*You live in a world with new challenges, and that world will require new forms of ministry. Be not overly concerned with method as you go forth to witness in my name. There are many techniques for proclaiming my word which may be used as needs and circumstances dictate. Counsel to the Church, Doctrine and Covenants 162: part of 2c and Section 155: part of 7*



We extend an invitation to you to come and experience another form of worshiping our Lord known throughout all the nations of the world, especially the Christian Community, as Taize Worship. This beautiful meditative worship is known as *worship of the heart*.

Taize Worship once again reminds us of the counsel in the scripture, *Be still and know that I am God* (Psalms 46:10). It is a time for us to come and rest in the healing presence of God, where we move in and out of prayer, song, scripture and the Gift of Holy Silence. We live in a world that is constantly pulling for our attention and energy. For many of us it is difficult, and sometimes uncomfortable, to remove ourselves from the constant busyness of our lives to rest and be blessed by the sacredness of God's Holy Silence. Through this worship, God helps us to quiet our minds so that we may become more aware of God's presence with us, within us and in all creation. We are reminded in the scriptures that Jesus knew the necessity of quieting his mind by withdrawing at times from the demands of his life and ministry to be alone with God for strengthening and guidance. And so it is for us, too.

We invite you to come, rest, listen and worship in the beauty of the lighted candles representing the Light of Christ that is with us. This service is very meditative and offers a wonderful opportunity to be centered in the Lord. Join others at the **Taize Worship** at the church **Sunday, February 21st, at 5:00 PM.**

In the Bonds of Christ's love, The Taize Worship Team,  
**Karen Palko**, leader

## The Worth Of All People

For this year's 2010 Florida Winter Reunion, Marcia and I are Co-Hosts. There are over 100 senior citizens from all over the U.S.A. and Canada attending this event. On Saturday, the opening evening for the reunion, a mixer was scheduled. A mixer is where the attendees are introduced to each other and to their individual 16 person teams. After the evening was done, Marcia and I realized the *Worth of All People* was never more evident than that evening.

The following statements ring true for those who were present: all people are different - have different names - different states of residences - different sizes of families - and ties. All people have different talents of singing, music, leading, Christian skills, and church skills. All seniors are different: great-grandparents - parents - empty nesters and some are still children at heart! All attendees are from different journeys but have one common theme. They believe in the love of Jesus Christ and ascribe to the principles of our church and Christian living.

As the week unfolds, we will see many differences but one commonality. All are the same in God's eyes. They are people of "worth" and are loved by Jesus Christ in a never ending love. During this week, we will see the miracle of faith and feel the touch of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This miracle of faith draws us back yearly for one week in the winter to Deerhaven Campgrounds in Florida.

**Jim Brougher**

Attending the 2010 Florida Winter Reunion from our congregation are **Bill Williams, Kathy Park, Pat Moore-Hall, Nancy Brougher, Ginger Robertson, Nanette Dizney, and Marcia and Jim Brougher.**

## What Does It All Mean?

A second class is being offered by the adult Sunday School. This class will be for those of you who wish to use the Sunday paper as a starting point to look at our place as Christians in the world today. It will be the kind of class you can just drop in on when it suits you or one you can make a weekly thing.

I hope you will join us beginning **March 7**, the first Sunday in March, for fun and lively discussion. The location of the class will be announced later.

**Jim Deering**, Adult Sunday School Director



**Scott and Penny Cramer** look pleased with their pancake breakfast choices.



**Pancake Breakfast**



**Lili Rodriguez** enjoys the Sunday morning breakfast with her uncle, **Joel Rodriguez.**

## Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to **Lila Masterson and Betty Simpson**. Their son/brother, **Gene Masterson**, passed away January 23rd in Washington.

### 2010 Directory is Available

**Bradenton/Sarasota Congregational Directory** is hot off the press. They will be distributed at church the next two Sundays. It is hoped that most of the directories will be given out during that time. If you don't receive your copy, call **Marcia Brougher** (941.752.5856) to make arrangements to receive a directory.

## Yard Sale

This year our Community of Christ **Yard Sale Plus** is scheduled for **March 27th**. This is a good time to clean out your attics, garages and closets to find those gently used items. If you have larger items like furniture, bicycles, etc., please contact **Stu and Nancy Skene**. They will arrange for someone to meet you at the storage building to unlock the door. Please watch for more information in the March issue of *Celebration News* and in Sunday bulletin inserts.

The Facilities Management Team has a list of items that need to be addressed this year. Painting the exterior of the church building will be our most costly project. Our fund raisers are a vital means to ensure that the funds for this and other projects are available. Supporting the fund raisers can be fun and profitable.

## Scriptures About Love as found in *The Message, the Bible in contemporary language*

Psalms 57:3 - God delivers generous love, he makes good on his word.

Psalms 89:1,2 - Your love, God, is my song, and I'll sing it! I'm forever telling everyone how faithful you are. I'll never quit telling the story of your love.

Proverbs 15:17 - Better a bread crust shared in love than a slab of prime rib served in hate.

John 3:16 - This is how much God loved the world: He gave His Son, his one and only Son.

John 15:9 - I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love.

Galatians 5:13,14 - ...Use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.

I John 4:17,18 - God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us...There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life - fear of death, fear of judgment - is one not yet fully formed in love.



## February

- 1 Carolyn Deering
- 2 Jasmine Rodriguez
- 7 Penny Cramer
- 11 Dan Willetts
- 12 Nancy Brougher
- 14 Barbara & Mervin Smith (anniv)
- 19 Christopher Morgan
- 19 Karla & Jason Van Beek (anniv)
- 22 Mason McReynold
- 23 Brenda Haskins



# DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Denise Chlebina** punched and bound over 100 of the 2010 congregational directories?
- ◆ **Amanda Deering Jones**, and her husband Jay, are moving to Berkley, CA where she will be working for PIXAR on one of their new film projects?
- ◆ **Jeanette Dean** was visited by her daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter from Illinois and Michigan who also visited their aunt **Genevieve Wenzel**?
- ◆ **Stuart Skene** will be baptizing his granddaughter, Annalea Parham, on Valentine's Day in Greenville, SC?
- ◆ **Seven Youth** will be going to the Jr/Sr High Retreat at Deerhaven Retreat Center the last weekend in January? Five of them are from our congregation and two are friends!
- ◆ **Ken Simpson** is a banjo player?

We welcome **Rebecca Bayley Creel** born January 21st. Rebecca is the daughter of **Melinda and Richie**, the sister of **Patrick and Katilyn James** and granddaughter of **Dan and Jo Willetts**.

## Loaves and Fishes

The first Sunday of the month is **Potluck** Sunday. In the winter months we invite our guests to join in this time of fellowship and good food. Most of the time there is enough food to go around without any problem. But there are times when food isn't quite as plentiful and those preparing are hoping for the 'loaves and fishes' miracle. It was suggested this should be brought to our attention. So, here goes - when you prepare your food to share, please be mindful that your offering will be feeding more than the two or four people that you usually prepare to feed. Thank you, and we look forward to more and plentiful potlucks in the months to come.

## Help for Haiti **T**

All contributions made to the Oblation Fund until February 7th go directly to relief efforts to help families, schools and churches in Haiti.

## God's Tug

An old man saw a child holding on to a piece of string that went high up into the sky. "Son," he asked, "why are you holding that string? The kite is out of sight." The boy answered, "I know it's there. I can feel the tug of it."

That's how we know God is active in our lives. We can feel his tug on us.




## A Banjo Bash

Enjoy an evening of banjo music on **February 19 and/or 20 at Charlotte Harbor Event Center** at 75 Taylor St, Punta Gorda. Performances will be by some of the best banjoists around. This event is sponsored by the Gulf Coast Banjo Society. Tickets cost \$8 at the door or \$5 in advance, and kids under 12 are free. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact **Ken and Betty Simpson**. The event begins at 6:30 PM both nights. Each night's show is totally different. All profits benefit youth bands and scholarships.

Community of Christ  
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**Address Correction Requested**



*...seek joy, hope  
love  
and peace...*