



celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

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You Preach a Message

The following is printed with permission from Dr. Roger Kunkel, Parish Associate, First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

A good deal of attention is focused on the sermon/message preached each Sunday. However, the first sermon received by those who enter the church for worship is the sermon you, the members, preach.

YOU preach a **MESSAGE** of good cheer and the Ta-Da! of the gospel when you say, "Good Morning," to those you meet as you are parking, or walking, or gathering in a classroom.

YOU preach a **MESSAGE** of "Welcome!" when you sit in a different place or when you slide over in the pew, rather than forcing others to squeeze past you, indicating you are glad for the presence of everyone.

YOU preach a **MESSAGE** of hope and joy when you sing enthusiastically during the service.

YOU preach a **MESSAGE** of love when you smile, say hello and introduce yourselves to visitors.

YOU preach a **MESSAGE** about the importance of scripture when you open the pew Bible to the day's scripture, and you preach a message about faith when you give your offering cheerfully, out of perpetual gratitude.

Many **MESSAGES** are preached before and after the minister delivers the sermon. If **YOUR MESSAGES** are positive and from the heart, then the message from the pulpit will be better received.

YOUR CHALLENGE is to come each Sunday morning ready to **PREACH YOUR BEST SERMON**. When you do, you will leave heartprints of love.

The Cupboard Has a Revolving Door!

Our Father's Cupboard has always been a wonderful outreach ministry of our congregation. Over the years it has helped hundreds of individuals and families in times of great need. This year so far has been no different; in fact, we have reached into areas that are new to us. With the leadership of **Pat Bovee** and **Mark Bee** we now have an opportunity to take a new step. We would like to work in two areas: one would be to continue with a red wagon food drive once a month, and the second would allow us, in conjunction with local food pantries to be able to purchase food, much of it at 18 cents/pound, from the government and then make it available to those in need. This would be done in partnership with the United Way and the local food pantry.

In order to take this next step it would mean an increase in our current budget of about \$2,500 to cover food expenses and a slight alteration inside our current storage building. Please be sure to give this prayerful thought and consideration.

We will have a short **Special Business Meeting** to consider a budget increase and vote on it at **10:30 AM, June 8th.**

Jim Deering,
Administrative Pastor





Father's Day Poem

It's hard to look you in the eye,
And say what's on my heart;
My throat gets tight, and tears well up,
Before I even start.

So Pop, I'll try to tell you,
In this simple line or two;
Just what my heart is saying,
When my lips say, "I love you..."

It says, "Thanks for all the hard work,
That you've done throughout your life;
To be a good provider,
For your children and your wife."

It says, "Thanks for all the fun we had,
When I was just a kid;
For Indian Guides and Little League,
And all the stuff we did."

Your fierce determination,
Has helped me set goals high;
And know the only ones who lose,
Are those who never try!

Your love for other people,
And compassion for their needs;
Has shown me that, to follow Christ,
We must be sowing seeds!

Your steadfast love, through thick and thin,
Has helped me understand;
How much our Father loves us,
As He holds us in His hands...

So, on this day, when Dads are Kings,
And we give them all their due;
There's one more thing you need to know,
My heart says "I love you!"

Written by Joe Masek, brother of **Carolyn Deering**

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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

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Let's Get Together

SUMMER IS HERE!! Let's get together for some fun nights!! Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 28th if you are interested in attending a play at the Asolo Theater in Sarasota. We will be seeing "Menopause, the Musical." This is a wonderful presentation of music from the 60's, 70's, and 80's and an evening of laughter you will not soon forget.

A group rate of 20% off the ticket price if there are 10 or more people going. Balcony tickets are \$22.00 and \$30.00. Anyone who would like to go and have a fantastic time, please call **Carolyn Deering** as soon as possible so we can have a count and hopefully be able to take advantage of that 20% group discount rate. Call Carolyn at home (371.3741) or on her cell phone (539.3633.)

Ladies, I promise you will not be sorry to spend the night at the theatre, and men, you will find it hilarious!! (Note from Carolyn: "I dragged Jim to this play a few years back, and he can't wait to go see it again; he loved it!")

Carolyn Deering, Pastoral Pastor

Congregational LIFE Workshop

The focus of the **Congregational Life Workshop** this year will be "Reviving and Equipping Faithful Communities." Through classes, worship, formation experiences, and fellowship, many of the issues important to healthy and faithful congregational life will be explored. This event will be held at **Graceland University, July 27 - August 1**. If you would like to be a part of the week's activities and expand your capacity to receive the blessings that God has for you, go to www.CofChrist.org/clw/

Notice:

As of this time, Vacation Bible School will not be held June 9-13. It is hoped that it will be able to be scheduled later this summer. If you have any further questions, please contact **Melinda James** or **Heather Cosgrove Manfull**.



The weather is turning warmer, and there are fewer worshippers in the pews as our winter members have retreated to the north. However, each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening we gather to worship and give praise and thanks to God.

The Communion Service will be on June 1 when we begin our month long study of faith. Faith requires that we take action. Action requires us to have faith. Priest **Ginger Robertson** and Elder **Beth Slasor** will share scriptures with us to support the theme "*Build with Faith.*" Would you say Noah built with faith?

When you think of faith, another figure in scriptures probably comes to your mind. Abraham's story, his response to God in all things, is an example to all people. Elder **Carol Law** will preside on June 8, and Priest **Stuart Skene** will speak on the theme "*Journey in Faith.*"

How would you answer the question, "*Is Anything Too Wonderful For God?*" Evangelist **Karen Palko** will share her answer on June 15 with Teacher **Nancy Skene** presiding over this service. Do we, like Sarah, limit God by our understanding? Or are we open to the wonderful, awe-inspiring activity of God all around us?

The theme for June 22 is "*Alive to God.*" Elder **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** and Priest **Charyn Walker** will share with us about the new life in Christ available to us. We must be willing to let go of the old in order to receive the new.

Elder **Elaine Gregg** will speak on the theme "*Be a Living Sacrifice*" on June 29. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice? Is it easy? Once again the example of Abraham and the teachings of Paul will be used to bring us this lesson. Elder **Jim Deering** will preside on this Sunday.

Although the summer months bring vacations, camps, and outside activities, make a commitment to support the Sunday morning worship services by your attendance. The Wednesday evening **Pray and Praise** service offers another opportunity to worship. See you in church this summer.

Jo Fenn-Martin, Worship Coordinator

Celebrated National Day of Prayer

Marcia and Jim Brougher, Charyn and Charlie Walker, and Nancy Skene attended the Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast at the Bradenton City Auditorium on May 1st, National Day of Prayer. They enjoyed the guest speaker Sheriff Brad Steube, Cops for Christ choir, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the prayers offered for community and country. Those attending the breakfast were lead in the reciting of 2 Chronicles 7:14, *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

May we all continue to pray for God's blessing individually and corporately.

Charyn Walker, Outreach Pastor

Reminder: you can get the color version of **Celebration News** on our web-site: cofchristbradenton.com

If you prefer to receive your newsletter via the website, please let Elaine Gregg know. It's always good to save paper and postage!



Shown enjoying the gathering at the Beach Breakfast held on Holmes Beach are from left to right: Jeanette Harris, Lee Peters, Larry Bell, Bob and Beth Slasor, Cheryl Tack, and Nancy Peters. The weather was beautiful, the food good, and the company great. Those who stayed around for awhile were entertained with a Salvation Army youth band from out of state.

June

- 05 Bill Williams
- 07 Jonathan Robertson
- 16 Bob Beers
- 16 Carolyn & Jim Deering (anniv)
- 17 Jacob Rodriguez
- 18 Charles Palko Jr.
- 25 Megan Chlebina
- 25 Betty & Louis Willetts (anniv)
- 28 John Batdorff
- 28 Lisa & Joel Rodriguez (anniv)
- 29 Karen & Charles Palko (anniv)

July

- 02 Nancy Peters
- 03 Heather & Tim Devine (anniv)
- 03 Jeanette & Oscar Dean (anniv)
- 06 Zoe Van Beek
- 07 Coral Blackmore
- 09 Ken Simpson
- 11 Bill Jousma
- 11 Emily Vaughan
- 11 Fred Wenzel
- 12 Jessie Benjamin
- 15 Brad Martin
- 15 Jean & George Botelho (anniv)
- 16 Lisa Rodriguez
- 17 Esther Bender
- 19 Amy Smeralda
- 25 Genevieve & Fred Wenzel (anniv)
- 26 Dani Cosgrove
- 26 Stephen Morgan



August

- 01 Amber Cooper
- 02 Nancy & Stu Skene (anniv)
- 05 Joan & Brad Martin (anniv)
- 08 Bona Lee
- 14 Ryan Hollenbeck
- 15 Linda & Dale Morgan (anniv)
- 16 Lil & Bill Caudle (55th anniv)
- 18 Larry Bell
- 20 Mervin Smith
- 22 Jo Fenn-Martin & David Martin (anniv)
- 24 Basil Long
- 24 Melinda James
- 27 Bill Manfull
- 29 Oscar Dean
- 29 Tim Devine
- 29 Carey Chaney
- 31 Ginger & David Robertson (anniv)
- 31 Rosalee & Basil Long (anniv)

Writing the Next Chapter

Many memories were revisited during my recent trip to Missouri. I was there to share important events with my grandsons. Gregg, the oldest, and his bride-to-be were being given a wedding shower by friends in his congregation. I watched him be so gracious in a room of women and thought about the little toddler who was constantly on the go. Soon he will be married and a high school teacher. How quickly the years have gone. Another chapter is beginning.

Jered, my youngest grandson, was not only graduating from high school but also having his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. I also attended his graduation party which he had with five other friends, three of which, along with Jered, make up a band. The band played at the party, and I saw Jered perform. And perform he did! Again I thought back over years and wondered where the years had gone. He too is entering another chapter of his life.

This is the time of the year when many are experiencing graduations, weddings, etc. The *Did You Know* column mentions some who are graduating and wanting to share this accomplishment with us, their church family. There are many chapters that make up our lives. These events along with birthdays and anniversaries often let us stop our daily living to celebrate.

While driving this week I heard on the radio that it would be beneficial for people to take the time to stop and write 'chapters'. It was recommended that we do this to enable us to make changes in our life. One is to go back through your life and name the chapters lived so far. Give them titles just like in a book. Then ask yourself what title you would like to give the next chapter. To help you with your next chapter consider what you love to do, your natural talents, what contribution you want to leave at the end of your life, and what people, places, timing and physical conditions bring out the best in you.

At this time of the year, we are half way through 2008, it is a good time to analyze where we are. Maybe it is time to make changes. What title will we give the next chapter? Where has our discipleship shown up in our chapters, and is it included in the next chapter? We aren't given a diploma which says we have completed the discipleship course and have graduated. Traveling the path of a disciple isn't easy. There is no course to complete. The path is different for each of us. As we write our next chapter may it include graduations, etc. as well as ways to become the best disciple that we can be.

Elaine Gregg, Editor

Enjoy a Cool Evening

Calling all bowlers....or would-be bowlers....or anyone just wanting to fellowship and have some fun on a hot evening in August. Come spend an evening together at the bowling alley and then to the church for some dessert. We will head to the Bradenton Lanes on August 23rd. A potluck dessert will follow to finish off the night with fellowship and a treat. Look for updates in the bulletin this summer and on the e-mail messaging or telephone tree. Our lives get so busy in the summer, but let's endeavor to carve out this time to enjoy each other. **Carolyn Deering** would like you to call when the date draws closer so there can be a count.

Last month in the *Did You Know* column there was mention of **Nancy Peters** helping students learn to quilt in an after school enrichment program. Shown in the photo are the quilts. Can you find **Zoe Van Beek** in the middle of the front row with her quilt?



Danielle Johnson, daughter of Joan and Brad Martin, graduated from the University of South Florida College of Arts and Science with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education. Danielle is hoping to teach in an elementary school in Sarasota County.

Joel Rodriguez, husband of Lisa and father of Hailie, will be graduating from the Police Academy in Manatee County in June.

Ryan Hollenbeck, son of Charyn and Charlie Walker, received his Associate Degree from Jefferson Community College in Watertown, New York.

DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Kayla Smeralda** graduates from elementary school this year, has been on the Honor Roll three times this year, and was part of the 5th graders and staff members at Bayshore Elementary who built a roller coaster with over 6,000 links of chain in the lifts and an estimated 40,000 pieces in the entire structure?
- ◆ **Hailie Rodriguez** will be graduating from preschool and plans to attend kindergarten in the fall?
- ◆ **Gloria Chaney**' granddaughter, Leslie Taylor, graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Central Florida?
- ◆ **Amy Smeralda's** efforts have resulted in her being on the Dean's List at Devri University once again?



*To the Editor - I would like to commend you for the 2008 issue of our Directory, complete with pictures and information. It truly helps to place a name with a face and enables us to know each other better! The fact that you were the main photographer and tried to make us look good is also quite an accomplishment! I feel we take you for granted and do not often recognize your many talents, your desire to help us become a true Christian community, and your love of God. Elaine Gregg, thank you. With love, **Bona Lee***

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Address Correction Requested



Lillian Wade and Roberta Hamilton enjoy an Italian meal of spaghetti with all the trimmings.

Many enjoyed the **Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction/Karaoke** held in May. Dale Morgan headed up the kitchen crew and Heather Cosgrove Manfull was in charge of the auction. Karaoke had some pleasurable moments!



Scott Cramer and Esther Bender join together for a karaoke duet.

Dani Cosgrove, Zoe and Cole Van Beek, and Matthew Devine give their karaoke rendition.