

CELEBRATION NEWS



April, 2012 - Volume 22 - Issue 3

A crown of thorns is around his brow, as if he were a king. And truly he was a king, and he never was more kingly than in that hour.

He was kingly in his bearing. He made no plea in his own defense.

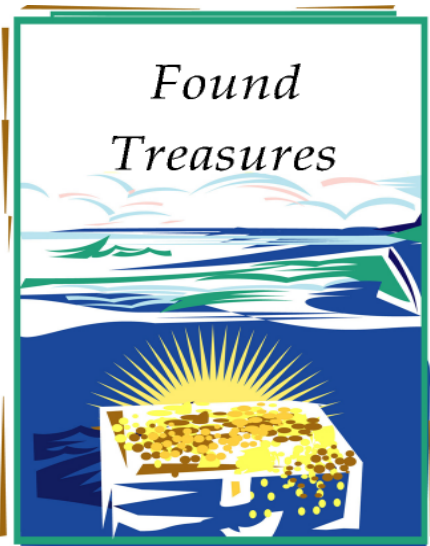
He was kingly, too, in his love. There had not been a shade of bitterness in his heart, under all the cruelties and sufferings he had endured ...

He was kingly also in his suffering. His was a crown of sorrow, for he was the Redeemer of sinners.

Thorns were the fruit of sin, and he took our curse upon him - that we might receive a crown of life. He was subjected to shame in the eyes of the world - that we might be welcomed to glory. Never was he more kingly than he was on that dreadful yet glorious day.

- J. R. Miller

CROWN
of thorns
CROWN
of glory



I found treasures at the recently held church yard sale. Not only in the items I bought, but working together with church family, witnessing God's love in action and sharing *Community of Christ* with neighbors. I realized another treasure in a young lady from the neighborhood who donated an item because she wanted to help our sale. That's an answer to the prayer for our church to be a beacon of God's spirit to the neighborhood and to those passing by. Another treasure was an afghan. I wondered why someone donated the afghan to the yard sale. As I thought about this the spirit impressed upon me that God's love is just like that. Sometimes we don't realize our true value, but God does and He loves us like a treasure.

Two quotes sum it all up: *God doesn't make junk* and *One man's junk is another man's treasure.*

Charyn Walker

Published by **Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ**

5817 33rd Street East, Bradenton FL 34203 - Phone 941-751-5441 - cofchristbradenton.com

Hearing and Being Good News



Live Webcast

Join in *Hearing Good News...Being Good News!* the Presidency's Sunday, April 15, address to the worldwide church at 7:00 pm during an inspirational worship at the Temple in Independence, MO.

President Steve Veazey will share testimony about the increasingly successful implementation of the mission initiatives. Presidents David Schaal and Becky Savage will also share "good news." Highlights will include the Young Adult Vision Project, church growth through membership confirmations, launch of the Leaders of Congregations in Mission Projects, and unveiling the "look" of the hymnal that will launch in 2013.

Be a part of *Hearing Good News...Being Good News* by going to www.CofChrist.org at 7:00 pm on Sunday, April 15.



Saturday, May 5th, 9:00 am.
Breakfast on the Beach at Anna Maria Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

A Giveaway Challenge

Every year in March and April, churches across the country are challenged to take in as much donated food and money as they can to feed the hungry in their communities. The end result will be grant money awarded to those organizations that receive the most donations. Each year the Florida Mission Center participates in this challenge and receives some of this grant money.

The Bradenton-Sarasota *Community of Christ* participates by keeping track of all donated food and money to **Our Father's Cupboard**. Each item you donate is counted, along with any money donations. We are currently in need of all nonperishable items, including cereal, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, diapers, and, of course, generous monetary donations. According to Florida statistics:

- 3.1 million people are food insecure, which means they worry about the possibility of starving to death.
- 28% of these people are children.
- Florida food banks are currently, and for the last three years, distributing food at disaster level rates.
- SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), assisted 2.6 million people with groceries last year.

Food pantries are vital to the daily existence of people here in our own community. We urge you to please make a vow to Abolish Suffering and End Poverty in our community by donating food and money to **Our Father's Cupboard**. Our pantry has been successfully feeding people in our community for over 20 years. Your support is vital to its operation. We do not budget the food pantry in our congregational budget. It is sustained by a separate, self-sustaining account. That means your donations are what keeps food coming into our pantry. We, as a congregation, can be thankful for this compassionate ministry.

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministries

Leading Congregations in Mission

On Monday evening, March 19, about 25 people attended the meeting conducted by Jim Slauter and Brenda Cummins regarding **Leading Congregations in Mission**. The acronym for this is LCIM, and you will be seeing this a lot over the next three years and hopefully longer than that. Jim and Brenda explained a little of the process our congregation will be involved in as participants in a pilot program for the World Church in North America. Eighty congregations in the US and Canada have been chosen to work with this process and experiment with efforts to become missional in all of our efforts to live out the life we feel Jesus Christ would have done. As a congregation, you will be involved in the direction and ministries that will be provided. Get ready for a fantastic journey!

Nanette Dizney, Administrative Pastor

Worship With Us for -



PALM SUNDAY - April 1

We begin the month with shouts of *Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord!* Jesus is aware of the coming events, and his journey has been heading him straight for Jerusalem. Where is your journey taking you? High Priest **Nanette Dizney** and **Dan Willetts** will be sharing the story of the beginning of Holy Week as they bring the message on this Communion Sunday.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 6

Those shouts of welcome soon turn to *Crucify him!* as Jesus is brought before Pilate. A Service of Scripture and Song will be held at **7:00 pm**. Come hear the story and sense the pain.

EASTER - April 8

The Easter celebration begins at the **8:00 am Early Morning Outdoor Service** when members of the Community Outreach Word of Deliverance Ministries join us.

The **Morning Worship Service** begins at **10:45 am** with Evangelist **Bob Slasor** speaking and Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** presiding. We join Mary in saying, *We Have Seen the Lord* as we bear witness of the risen Christ among us. The Lord has risen. The Lord has risen indeed!

and for the -

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - April 15

The Gospel of John proclaims that believing in the resurrected Christ is imperative for disciples who are called to fulfill God's mission in the world. Are we such disciples? Evangelist Jim Slauter will bring the message from John on the theme *Believe*. Teacher **Nancy Skene** will preside over this service.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - April 22

The appearance of Jesus to his disciples offers proof of the Resurrection and invites the disciples to share their witness to the world around them. We, too, need to experience proof of the resurrected Christ in our lives. We are challenged by the words *You Are My Witnesses*. Elder **Ginger Robertson** and Priest **Heather Devine** will bring ministry on this Sunday.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - April 29

We find meaning in the image of *Jesus the Good Shepherd*. It is comforting to believe that Jesus is looking out for us and has our best interests at heart. Teacher **Fay Beers** will preside as Elder **Stuart Skene** shares the message with us on this last Sunday in April.

Jo Fenn Martin for the Worship Team

Please Note: There will be no Wednesday Evening Prayer and Praise Service on April 4.

Living in Saturday

Saturday of Holy Week is a strange day for the church. It's sandwiched between Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, and Easter, when he rose.

Certainly, we know the truth and triumph of the resurrection, but until Jesus comes again, we're living in Saturday. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed, and the curtain of sin that separated us from God has been torn down. Yet we're still looking forward to -- as Jesus said -- the renewal of all things.

Although we may be battered and bruised, stumbling, limping or crawling, we shouldn't wallow in defeat. Instead, we can be confident in the victory Jesus won for us. We can shout with Paul, "Thanks, be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"! (Corinthians 15:57, NRSV)

While you look back to Friday and look forward to Sunday, live victoriously in Saturday. Jesus has won and has run the victory lap ... and he's coming around again.

--Gregg McCaslin

Patty Bell and Barbara and Mervin Smith keep things neat.



Stu Skene and Cole Van Beek try out an item for sale.



Lilliana Rodriguez and Lisa Rodriguez serve customers their lunch choices.

Thank You, Thank You

Many people gave of their time, talents, and 'things' to make the 2012 Yard Sale Plus a success. A big THANK YOU to all who contributed, sorted and priced items for the yard sale. A another big THANKS to all the bakers, cooks, servers and helpers who provided delicious sweets for the bake sale and delicious sandwiches and extras for lunch. The results of our effort gave us a net total of \$2,325.18. The following is a breakdown:

Yard Sale items sold	\$1,337.43
Luncheon items sold	282.15
Bake Sale items sold	232.60
C of C teeshirts sold *	<u>515.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,367.18
Advertising cost	<u>(42.00)</u>
Net Total	\$2,325.18

We all want to give a big round of applause to our Fund Raising Team of **Stu Skene, Karla Van Beek, Dave Robertson, Jim Brougher, Jeanette Harris, and Dale Morgan** for a job well done. Thank you to all who helped make the sale a success. Great job!!

Karla Van Beek gave the following observation after the busy day. *I thought the Yard Sale was a great opportunity for us all to work together toward a common goal. We had many laughs during the time we spent together from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm - ugh! I think many of us are still recovering! There was a lot of support shown with encouraging one another and by cleaning out the storage building. We did raise a lot of money for the church. I thank everyone for their hard work and support - pricing items - cooking baked goods - wiping down tables. It wouldn't have been as successful without everyone doing their part. What an awesome church family we have. We are truly blessed.*

* **Terrell Italianio** donated all the *Community of Christ* teeshirts that were made by her company, Teamworks, located in Tampa. A big THANK YOU to Terrell!



Charlie Walker, Jo Willetts and Dale Morgan prepare Larry Bell's choice of a sandwich.



Lillian Wade, Sally Melchert and Nancy Peters get a break from keeping customers supplied with many sweets!

Elaine Gregg receives a special Zoe Van Beek face painting at her booth.



Karla Van Beek takes a moment to check over the finances.

Blessings Received and Given

First, I, **Bona Lee**, want to let each of you know how appreciative I am of your many cards, visits, meals, phone calls, errands, and prayers.

Many of you know that I have been restricted the past five months to laying on my left or right side to keep a "gas bubble" or oil in the right place in my right eye following three surgeries. Fortunately, I have no pain or discomfort. This challenged me to find other means of helping the time go by. Reading was out as my left eyes doesn't cooperate - knitting, sewing and such activities were also out. TV became boring. Somewhere in this thought process I realized that I could use the telephone by using a magnifying glass at my left eye. I could call and talk to anyone! The time was near for preparing the monthly Prayer List, and time was something of which I had plenty!

Since I had not been to church during this time, I truly wanted to know how everyone was feeling, what they were doing and any other news. I began to learn the art of just listening. I quickly learned that the situations of many others were much worse than mine. I heard of problems they were experiencing because of their illness - loneliness in their voice - concern in their choice of doctor - and on and on. I have a deeper understanding of empathy and sympathy as well as humbleness. I have cried and prayed with my friends. I have tried to find something we possibly could chuckle about. I daily thank the Lord for a positive attitude, the many blessings I have received and ask that He use me in this "prayer list" ministry.

Recently a dear friend gave me a small CD player I can place on the bed beside me and enjoy books that are now available. I do not yet know the final results of my eyesight as the doctor wants to leave the oil in for 5 or 6 months. But, I DO know that I am in God's care and have asked Him to continue using me in His ministry to others. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve through the Prayer List.

Congregational Financial Update through February, 2012

Local Budgeted Income	\$ 9,722
Actual Local Income	\$ 8,681
Amount Short of Budget	(1,041)
Actual Operating Expenses	<u>5,962</u>
February's Ending Balance	\$2,719

Our Father's Cupboard Income	\$ 297
Expenses	<u>257</u>
February's Ending Balance	\$ 40

Thank you for your contributions to further the Lord's work. May God continue to bless you in the sharing of the gifts he has given you.

Bob Beers, Congregational Financial Officer



Celebration News is a publication of the
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 5817 33rd Street E
 Bradenton FL 34203-5413
 Church Phone: 941/751-5441
 website: cofchristbradenton.com
 Newsletter Editor: Elaine Gregg, 351-1072
 Please address suggestions and comments to:
 Elaine Gregg, 8075 36th St Cir E, Sarasota 34243

Our Renewed Covenant

When you call out *Faithful* to someone across the room in the fellowship hall, do two or three people answer? That may well be as *faithful* was the number one name people chose at the March Communion Service. The theme was *Receive a New Name*, and we were challenged to chose a descriptive name to place in front of our given name, i.e. courageous, generous, dependable. We wrote our choice on a colorful sticky note paper and placed it on the painted rainbow near the communion table as a symbol of our renewed covenant. A few of the other names chosen were *helpful, loving, caring, peacemaker, encourager, steadfast*.

For the offertory lesson we saw and heard the "moving" story "Anna's Goat". It was really moving as a variety of children, teens, and adults carried pictures from the book throughout the congregation while the story was read. This story reminded us of how our monies can change the lives of those in need as we observed World Hunger Day.

Oh, is *Joyful* in the fellowship hall?

Men's Bowling Night

A group of eager bowlers met on Sunday evening, March 11th, for a men's night out activity. Two teams were formed, and then the competition began. The *Bear Cats* team consisted of **David Robertson, Jim Deering, Charlie Walker, and Bob Beers**. **Fred Keenan**, Fred's brother-in-law Harry Henderson, **Jim Brougher**, and his friend



Richard Johnson were the *Big Leaguers*. After the first game, the *Big Leaguers* thought they would be the winners, but the *Bear Cats* rallied and came in first place!

Everyone enjoyed soft pretzels, popcorn and soft drinks while they bowled. It is hoped that this activity will be repeated again.

It was rumored that a score of 194 was made by one of the bowlers and that his initials are BB, but who is bragging!

A Note from *Celebration News* Proofreader

I have been proofreading the newsletter for a number of years, and I can say that there are very few perks that come with the job. The only one I can think of is that I get to read the news before all of you do; actually I read it about five times before you get it in an effort to "catch" any errors. But every now and then I get a good out-loud kind of laugh from something the editor has typed. That was the case this month.

When the above article was sent to me, the last line in the first paragraph read: "After the first game, the *Big Leaders* thought they would be the sinners, but the *Bear Cats* rallied and came in first place!" At first I was shocked and concerned that the *Big Leaguers* wanted to be sinners, and then why would the *Bear Cats* try to be even bigger sinners and take first place away from the *Big Leaguers*. What had happened to our men's group?

Then I quickly realized that the word "sinners" was supposed to be "winners". I sent the correction to the editor after I enjoyed a good laugh. I thought you might enjoy reading about the behind-the-scenes perks. If questioned, the editor will probably say she throws those mistakes in every so often to keep me laughing!



- 3 *Jim Deering*
- 5 *Dale Morgan, Jr.*
- 5 *Hailie Rodriguez*
- 6 *Meah Rodriguez*
- 7 *Jo Fenn-Martin*
- 8 *Lillian Wade*
- 9 *Luci Gutierrez*
- 9 *Scott Morgan*
- 12 *Patty Day*
- 17 *Jeanette Dean*
- 20 *Frankie Scholl*
- 21 *Levi Morgan*
- 21 *Debbie Stevens*
- 25 *Denise Chlebina*
- 26 *Randi Potvin*
- 30 *David Robertson*

Another Chuckle

The church bell choir director was frustrated because at least one member was missing from each Easter bell choir rehearsal. At the final practice, she announced, "I wish to publicly thank our one and only member who attended every rehearsal."

"It's the least I could do," said the honored bell ringer, "since I won't here for Easter."

DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Carey Chaney** was interviewed and performed compositions from his new CD album on radio station WSLR 96.5 recently?
- ◆ **Cole and Zoe Van Beek** are collecting box tops, Campbell soup labels and coke reward points for their school?
- ◆ **Mervin Smith** was the Featured Artist of 2012 at "Art in the Park" in March at Palmetto Mobile Home Park where he displayed jewelry he makes from agates, apache tears and other rocks?
- ◆ **Karla Van Beek** and JaAna Parham are heading up this year's Young Adult Retreat being held at Deerhaven Retreat Center April 13 - 15?
- ◆ **Our Little Ones'** pictures are featured on their own bulletin board in the Information Center as our congregation's blessings? Check it out!
- ◆ **Young Adults** are meeting Sunday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for a current events class with facilitators Larry Bell and Al Mount?
- ◆ **Fifty-six teeshirts** were sold as a fundraiser and looked great on those that wore them at the Yard Sale?
- ◆ **Celebration News** is sent to 11 people outside of Florida as well as two outside of the United States?



Lennon Patrick Quinn's parents, Heather and Daryl, and big brother Liam brought him to be Blessed during the worship service on March 18 by Elders Bob Slasor and Jo Fenn-Martin.

Dates for 2012 Summer Camps

Junior Camp	June 17 - 21
Senior High	June 24 - 30
Junior High	July 8 - 14
SPEC	July 20 - 28

Information regarding the above summer camps can be found on the bulletin board in the Information Center.

Pre-register and download forms at www.cofchristfmc.org/announce.html



Community of Christ
% Elaine Gregg
8075 36th Street Cir E
Sarasota FL 34243-6309
Address Correction Requested

Ajoyous Easter to:

