



Celebration News

June, 2015 - Volume 25 - Issue 4

Summer Sunday School Schedule

- May 24 at 9:30am** Extended Fellowship
May 31 at 9:30am Pancake Breakfast and Extended Fellowship
June 7th - August 9th:
 9:30 - 10:30am Light Snacks will be available
 9:45 - 10:45am Congregational Sunday School
 10:55am Worship Service

The Congregational Sunday School will be based on the church reunion material themes:

- ▶ *Live, Love, Share...A Divine Vision*
- ▶ *Live, Love, Share...Generously*
- ▶ *Live, Love, Share...As One*
- ▶ *Live, Love, Share...Our Calling*
- ▶ *Live, Love, Share...Liberating Disruption*
- ▶ *Live, Love, Share as Zion: Visibly One in Christ*

If you are interested in facilitating one of the Sunday morning Congregational sessions, please contact **Dan Willetts**. This will be a great opportunity for us as a congregation/church family to grow together and have some great fun and fellowship.

Florida Mission Center Youth Camps

Senior High	June 21 - 26
Junior High	July 5 - 10
Junior	July 12 - 16
Spectacular	July 17 - 25

Please remember to register prior to the camp date. All details can be found under Events at the FL Mission Center website {www.cofchristfmc.org}.

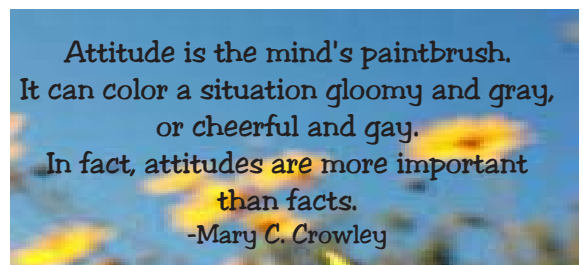
Summer Rejuvenates

Summer is almost here. Where did spring go? I'm not sure it even arrived this year. We seemed to go from winter to summer in a flash. This is the time of the year that we see people gone from church for vacations to many different places, church camps at Deerhaven, family camping trips, and exciting things to do.

The children are not in school; so according to statistics, they are forgetting a small percent of what they learned this year while many of us older ones are forgetting a lot of what we learned in school! And then some of us will be staying home enjoying our air conditioned homes, cars and malls, and visiting the beach for nice evening walks and the sunsets.

There is something about summer that seems to rejuvenate the spirit. Summer, for me, represents many of the good family times. We will miss you when you are not at church, but we will be with you in spirit. We wish all of you safe travel, even when the travel may be only from the living room to the kitchen. May God speed this summer.

Nanette Dizney, Pastor



Peace in a Hurry!

I know. The ideas of peace and hurry don't seem to go together. But let's see if they might. I know that it seems like the old joke between God and me...God, grant me patience, right NOW! But if we try, we may be able to achieve peace quicker than we think.

Spring is here, and it might just be time to unclutter our lives and our minds. We all know that a peaceful world begins inside ourselves or at least we should. We must begin with putting our own house in order and maybe that begins with our actual house!

I know that for me, I find it difficult to have peace in my heart and mind if I am living in a chaotic space. Spiritual practices just seem to yield better results if I engage in them surrounded in an environment free of excess.

There seem to be times in our lives that are naturally better suited to cleaning; spring, moving day, buying new to replace something worn out. I know that nothing ever puts our own "stuff" in better perspective than having to decide what to do with a loved one's possessions after their death. Passing from this life, where we seem desperate to collect things, to the next where we go unburdened by those same things, seems awfully freeing.

Perhaps we can take some time to reflect on the purposeful peace we might attain if we unclutter our spaces. It might go a long way to giving us peace in our hearts....peace in our world.

Oh!...and recycle.

Jim Deering, Peace Ministries

Don't Forget

As summer winds down, please remember that we will be having **Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 3 - 7**. The theme will be "Everest" where young ones can learn to overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. Plan to invite children from your family and neighborhood. VBS takes many willing workers to do many different tasks. If you are interested in being a part of this adventure, please be ready to volunteer. Watch for announcements from the director **Melinda Creel** to volunteer to be a part of our VBS.



Elders Jim Brougher and Larry Bell confirmed Rick Primrose as a member of the Community of Christ during the Worship Service on April 26th. His wife, Randi, shares with him in this celebration.

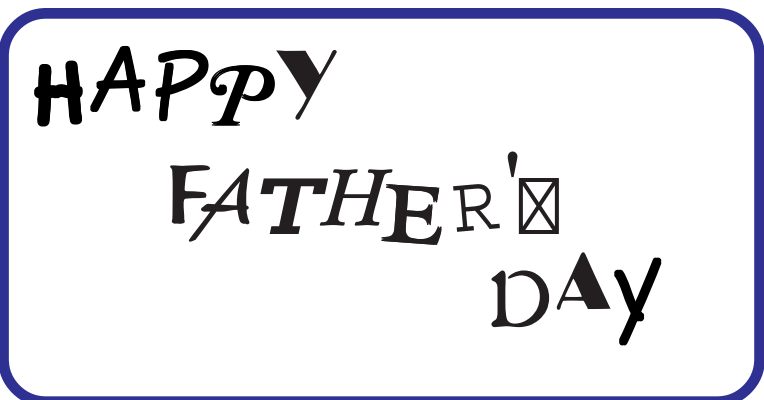


Soles for Little Souls

Soles for Little Souls is a program sponsored by Church Women United, a multi-denominational group of women from various churches in the area. The program is a continuous fund raiser that provides shoes to local children of all ages. New shoes are provided at the beginning of school, in the winter, and again before school lets out.

Have you ever felt like you need new shoes because the ones you have are getting a little worn or out of style? Imagine that worn out pair of shoes has holes in the soles, broken backs and is too small AND they are the only pair of shoes you have. Will you feel good about yourself in a social setting wearing these shoes?

If you want to help increase a child's self-esteem and ensure they have shoes that fit and look nice, please see **Ginger Robertson** or **Nanette Dizney** with your donations or questions.



Summer Worship



This year the month of April was filled with several beautiful, meaningful, and spiritual worship experiences. Remember the Maundy Thursday service when the emphasis was on love? A handmade, cloth heart went home with you as a reminder of the love Jesus demonstrated to his disciples as he washed their feet and ate the Last Supper with them.

This was followed by the joyous celebration on Easter morning with the choir singing, "Allelulia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He's Alive." Those words and many others still sing in our ears. We continued our worship together with themes such as *We Believe*, *Hope Is Fulfilled*, and *Hear Christ's Voice*.

During the May communion service, we learned to say the South African word, Ubuntu. We learned that it means "We Are One," and we were inspired by the words of great leaders who shared the ideas of Ubuntu with us. We explored what it means to *Love One Another*. During the first worship services in May, a gardener shared a meditation about bearing fruit, about the need for pruning to get rid of the suckers, and about being strongly connected to the vine. We were encouraged to rest "By Streams of Living Water" to renew our spirit and to help us see what is really important.

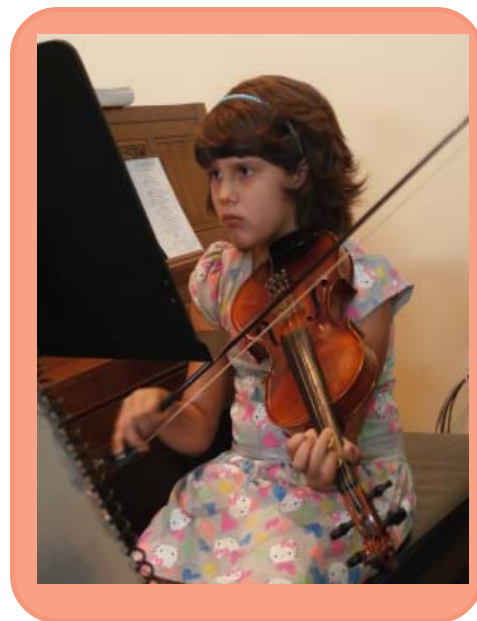
On May 24 the word "Ruach" will be introduced. Do you know what it means? Here's a hint. This word is used in the description of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew Bible. This Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost when we will hear about the strange and wonderful event that occurred when friends and disciples of Jesus were gathered. The following Sunday is Trinity Sunday when we celebrate the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

As we move into the months of June, July, and August, the following themes will be explored during the Sunday morning worship time: *Who Shall Reign?*, *See with God's Eyes*, *Called to Mission*, *Live in Love*, *Sing to the Lord* to name only a few. These themes and their supporting scriptures will offer many opportunities for vibrant worship experiences. Since our congregation is somewhat smaller during the summer months with our northern members gone and people on vacations and attending camps, your attendance is particularly important to those who prepare and present the services.

Worship is an important time for us to encounter God through the various elements of the worship service. These elements include songs, words (in prayers, scriptures, testimonies, and lessons), and sacraments. We are encouraged to reflect on our lives and seek forgiveness for actions we might regret. Worship brings us to a point where we are better able to hear God's call to be Christ-like servants. Make attendance at our weekly worship services a priority in your summer plans.

A small group of faithful worshippers gather on Wednesday evenings to pray and praise together. They meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall and would encourage others to join them. There are many opportunities for worship during the summer months of June, July, and August. Use them to enhance your journey. You will be blessed.

Jo Fenn-Martin, for the Worship Team



During the April 26th Worship Service, everyone was given the opportunity to chose a 'musical' instrument to play when we sang. The triangles, tambourines, drums, and such added to our celebration. It was a wonderful experience. During that service, Makayla Cheyenne McDonnell-Motes played during the offertory. She made the statement shortly before she played, "I never have played for more than four people." It was a joy to share with Makayla as we all praised God that Sunday morning.

Church or No Church

I have heard it said that you can worship God without going to church, and I am not 100% sure I agree with that statement. I am sure you can talk to, pray to and worship God on your own time, and I am confident that you can read and study about him on your own time.

However, as for me, I do choose going to church. I choose going to church so that I can grow in Christ with like-minded individuals. When I am at church, I get to hear different viewpoints. I get to experience those moments when I say to myself, "I never thought of it that way." That is just one of the reasons I choose going to Church over No Church. I could not list all the reasons such as the friends, the support systems, and the fun.

Our congregation has a lot to offer such as weekly fellowship, monthly potlucks, and periodically planned activities where we can grow as a church family. I look forward to seeing how we grow. The friendship, however, is much larger than the planned activities.

I love to watch the adults in our congregation take an interest in the children's lives. This interest could be small by simply asking them how their week was or big things like showing up at a school football game or a school play. These friendships don't stop with the children; it is always nice when I am having an off day to hear "Melinda, I love you. I am here if you need me." It is even better when each Sunday morning I get a "Good morning, it is nice to see you. How are things with you?"

Again I choose Church over No Church because of all of you. I look forward to the growth in each of us, you and me, as we join together each week in worship and praise.

Melinda Creel, Congregational Ministries

FUN(d)-Raising

Thanks to so many of you for making our 2015 Yard Sale a wonderful success. Such a big event always presents challenges, but this year's event seemed to run as smooth as we could possibly have hoped for. The weather, always a concern, was very comfortable, no rain or high winds to deal with. It was a joyful abundance of our great Florida sunshine.

Much fun was experienced and shared during the preparations and the day of the sale. As far as total funds raised, it was one of our best in recent memory with \$2,700 raised! Thanks again to all who contributed items to be sold and to

those who worked in preparation for and in the cleaning up after the sale. Thanks to all who worked in the car wash, all who prepared food and drinks that were delicious and nourishing,

and all who worked in the bake sale which made our sweet tooth more than satisfied. Oh yeah, one more thing to give thanks for - we only do one yard sale a year! Its time to recuperate as well as begin preparation for another successful yard sale for 2016!

We also had a nice turnout for our Mexicali Lunch fund-raiser. Tacos, burritos, and all the fixings were available. Great food, good music, and lots of wonderful fellowship were experienced. Muchas Gracias to all who participated as we were able to raise \$462.00! Muy Bueno!!

Stuart Skene for the Fund-Raising Committee



Pictured above - Smiling youth workers at the car wash.

Yard Sale workers take a lunch break!

The Accomplishments that Some of Our Youth Have Obtained Lately

Kinsley Roehl has been learning how to be a big sister!

Lennon Quinn doesn't know it yet, but he is going to learn how to swim this summer! He loves riding his bike and playing with tow trucks. A recent Tuesday evening quote to his parents - "I want to go to Sunday School tomorrow!"

Addison Creel finished Preschool and will start PreK in August. She took ballet this year and enjoyed it so there will be more dance classes to come. She also mastered swimming with no floaties.

Liam Quinn has been going to VPK (Voluntary Pre Kindergarten). He enjoys learning how to read, playing with his friends and putting puzzles together. He recently enjoyed a trip with his Mimi and Papa Skene to Providence Canyon State Park in Georgia where he met up with 11 of his South Carolina "kins" for two days of hiking and playing. Then he had a wonderful two days at what he calls "OUR" Georgia cabin!

Rebecca Creel completed PreK and enjoyed taking jazz/ballet. She expanded her swimming skills this year and is now a master of touching the bottom of the swimming pool.

Meah Rodriguez completed one year in gymnastics and graduated from VPK.

Cole Van Beek entered a fishing tournament and earned 3rd prize in his age group and won a fishing pole.

Jacob Rodriguez sang in the Manatee Elementary Music Festival and as a Cub Scout became a Boy Scout in the Cross Over Ceremony.

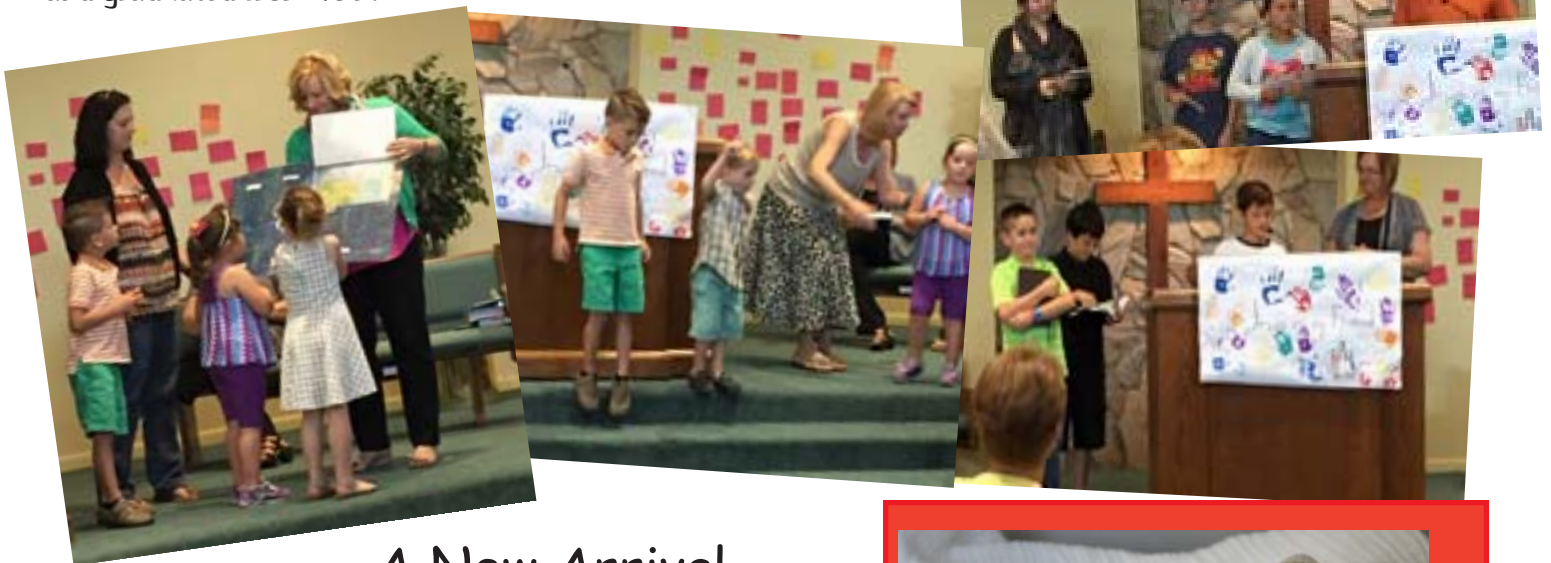
Tobin Cooper has successfully passed the fifth grade at Manatee Charter School and will be entering the Middle school program next year.

Hailie Rodriguez played her cello in the Lee Middle School orchestra's end of the year recital and her softball team won it's championship.

Matthew Devine's art teacher at his school picked several of his artwork for the school's art exhibit.

Zoe Van Beek was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society and has had a 4.0 grade point average all year.

Kaitlyn James just finished her junior year of high school and will be taking her remaining high school courses at State College of Florida next year as she is in a dual enrollment program. She has also made the Braden River Varsity cheerleading team.



A New Arrival

Corbin Baden Roehl arrived April 23rd. He is the son of Denise and Nick, brother of Kinsley, grandson of Jerilyn and Dick Chlebina, and the nephew of Megan Chlebina and Santi Gonzalez. They, along with many other members of the Gregg and Chlebina families, welcome his arrival. Congratulations to all!



Congratulations to High School Graduate!

High School graduation is finally here!!! I can't believe it is 2015, and I will be leaving my high school days and starting college.

As I prepare for my graduation from Bayshore High School, I feel the spirit with me, guiding me through every major decision I have made throughout my high school years. I have been blessed to have a supportive and loving family at home and at church. I am thankful for everyone that has nurtured and encouraged me throughout the years to do my best.

For the last couple of years I have enjoyed helping our youth group participate in the shoe box project. The shoe box project is shoe boxes filled with personal hygiene products that we took to shelters for runaway teenagers.

I have been fortunate the last couple years to have the opportunity to dual enroll at State College of Florida for college classes. This has allowed me to earn enough credits to have half of my Associates Degree done by the time I graduate. I am registered at Keiser University and will be pursuing a nursing degree starting this summer.

I want to thank you all again for your continued support and prayers.

God Bless, Kayla Smeralda



Kayla Smeralda's family invites you to celebrate with Kayla at her Open House to be held at the church 12:30 - 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations to an University Graduate

Ryan Hollenbeck recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of South Florida. Ryan's major is in math for Middle School grades.



Superannuation is an honor in recognition of long and faithful service.



In a recent Worship Service we shared with three priesthood members in their being Superannuated. **Bona Lee, Bill Williams, and Lillian Wade** (who was unable to be present) received certificates after a short video of each of them was shown. The videos summarized three devoted people who have loved and shared the message of Jesus Christ with many people throughout their years of service.



Compassionate Ministries

Compassionate Ministries was formerly known as Abolish Poverty, End Suffering. We changed our name but not our mission. We were using our mission as the name of the mission initiatives team and realized that was a big mouthful so we changed the name of the team to **Compassionate Ministries**. Same group, same mission initiative of Jesus, just a new name.

So what are we up to now? After our success with the **Reach In Reach Out** bucket and our Outreach International Fund-raiser dinner, we decided to continue with the Reach In Reach Out bucket. There is so much need around us, we just couldn't stop!

This quarter we will be taking the money we raise and donating it to the Greenville, South Carolina congregation. Our very own JaAna Skene Parham-Schwartz is the pastor of this congregation. They are experiencing a growing ministry that provides a safe place for area kids. The ministry started as a one night a week event during the school year as a place to go to get help with homework and a safe place to stay. The number of children involved has grown. The congregation continues to provide food, games and a place to feel safe and loved. They have expanded the program to continue through the summer. The congregation is in a very depressed area and with school out for the year, many of these kids will be hungry when the school lunch program stops. They still need a safe place during the summer as well.

Rick Schwartz wants to build a Gaga Pit for the kids to enjoy. Gaga is a type of dodge ball played in an octagonal or hexagonal pit using a foam dodge ball. It has been determined the cost of the pit to be \$900 and lots of sweat equity. Any money over the \$900 needed can be used to help offset the cost of the meals that are provided for these children. Even pizza can become expensive when you are providing it out of your own pocket. Help us help one of our own congregations as they do the work of Christ in their community and provide a safe place, a warm meal, and a hug for the children.

Want to help us raise money and awareness and to decide where to spend our Reach In Reach Out money for the next quarter? Join us for our meetings the fourth Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. We have fun and just want to make a difference.

Jo Willetts, Compassionate Ministries



Love makes our friends a little dearer.

Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.

Faith makes our paths a little clearer.

Hope makes our lives a little brighter.

Peace brings us all a little nearer.



June

- 05 Bill Williams
- 06 Addison Creel
- 07 Jonathan Robertson
- 09 Patty & Glenn Day (anniv)
- 14 Vera & Dick Kramer (anniv)
- 16 Bob Beers
- 16 Carolyn & Jim Deering(anniv)
- 25 Megan Chlebina Gonzalez
- 28 Lisa & Joel Rodriguez(anniv)
- 29 Karen & Charles Palko(anniv)

July

- 02 Nancy Peters
- 03 Heather & Tim Devine (anniv)
- 06 Zoe Van Beek
- 13 Mark Bee
- 15 Brad Martin
- 15 Jean & George Botelho (anniv)
- 16 Lisa Rodriguez
- 19 Amy Smeralda
- 22 Al Perrin

August

- 01 Amber Cooper
- 02 Nancy & Stuart Skene (anniv)
- 05 Joan & Brad Martin (anniv)
- 05 Bona Lee
- 06 Christina LePage
- 15 Linda & Dale Morgan(anniv)
- 18 Larry Bell
- 20 Mervin Smith
- 24 Basil Long
- 24 Melinda Creel
- 29 Carey Chaney
- 29 Tim Devine
- 30 Jeanette Harris
- 31 Jo Willetts
- 31 Rosalee & Basil Long(anniv)
- 31 Ginger & David (anniv)