



Celebration News

June 2016 Volume 26 - Issue 5

What is Compassionate Ministries?

Matthew 9:35-38 (MSG)

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

Do you want to reach out and help the tired, poor, hungry, hurting, and those who need to know their sins are forgiven because Jesus rose from the grave and ascended into heaven? He forgave our sins on that cross and gave us everlasting love and forgiveness when he left us with the Holy Spirit and rose to heaven to be with his father. All he asks is that we share the message of his love and "take care of his sheep".

Come and join us **Thursday, June 24, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall** for the monthly meeting of the **Compassionate Ministries team**. Our charter is to take care of Jesus' sheep and help spread His love by taking care of the poor, hungry, unloved, invisible, and downtrodden in our communities.

Jo Willetts, Compassionate Ministries

A Journey Into the Wilderness

I did not grow up in a family that went to church on any kind of regular basis. It seems we tried going to a Baptist group that was trying to get organized, but after about six months that fizzled out. Even at the tender age of eight, the irony was not lost on me, that we were meeting in an armory! Somehow even then, the message of Jesus surrounded by artillery seemed somehow "off".

When I discovered *Community of Christ*, I was seventeen. I learned fairly quickly that people my age had grown up attending week-long camps with kids of their age group. My family didn't camp, so the concept was new to me. Families also went to church camp together at least one week a year. Again, I was curious and apprehensive. My very first senior high camp experience took care of those feelings. It replaced them with new fun ones!

As this summer unfolds, I hope that as many of us as possible have the opportunity to take advantage of the camp experiences made available. Church camp means a million different things to each of us. In my experience, it is centered in **peace**. In addition to all of the active, crazy, fun-filled activities that provide an outlet for our need to have fun, it provides us time to experience the peace of Jesus in brand new ways.

It is no accident that Joseph Smith found his God in a grove of trees so many years. It was also not a surprise that Moses found God while out tending sheep. It will also not be accidental that you might also find God during your *journey into the wilderness*. Even if the camping experience cannot be yours this summer, find your own time and place to draw apart from the noise of the world. Many of you will not believe it until you have tried it. Do not be afraid of silence and seclusion. It may just be your new best friend. Have faith that God loves you without all the trimmings and the doing "thing".

Meet Jesus as you *journey into the wilderness!*

Jim Deering, Peacemaking Ministries

Lost and Found

When I was in college, I enjoyed checking the bulletin boards for lost and found items. Most were found items but those not claimed were sold at a student auction. Only students could buy the goods at a fair price. Funds raised went to the student union. We realized that no matter what, the goods were worthy of a fair price.

Sunday, May 15th, our team *Invite People to Christ Ministries* placed a table under a shelter by our church sign out in front of the church. After a lot of horn blowing, waves, and shouts of encouragement from passing cars, a person stopped. He had many questions about *Community of Christ* and our mission. He is searching for a place at the table. It was not a revival that happened but a rejuvenation of the Spirit within me. For God knows all are worthy.

Like the song "Everyone has a place at the table", *Community of Christ* welcomes all. What matters most is Christ's mission. I pray our visitor feels he is truly worthy and welcome.

Jim Brouger, Invite People to Christ team



The Deerhaven Board of Directors is planning a celebration of the **50th Anniversary of Deerhaven Campground**. The event will take place **September 3-4** at Deerhaven and will include family fun for all ages. There will be swimming, hiking, games, a collection of memories and memorabilia from the years, live music, a picnic lunch, and much more. This will be a **FREE** event! Mark your calendars now, and plan to reunite with camp friends for this celebration.

If you have photos, logs, old camp t-shirts, or other memorabilia that you would like displayed in "Memory Lane" at the anniversary celebration, please forward to Bill Wegner, 8600 Spyglass Loop, Clermont, FL 34711 or wwegner68@gmail.com.



Don't Take It for Granted! A Tribute to My Father

I recently travelled to Maryland to visit some of our grandchildren. At the airport for my flight back home, I experienced a beautiful thing. My flight time was 12:50 pm and I thought my "son-in-love" could just drop the kids off at school and then me at the airport on his way to work. I would spend the wait time reading a magazine. Most times this would have worked out fine but unfortunately he had a 9:00 am meeting. Even though he offered, I did not want him to have a problem being late.

A friend of Jaime's offered to take me later in the morning so I wouldn't have to wait so long. On that day she got called in to work as well. She picked me up sooner than originally planned so I was going to be at the airport 2-1/2 hours before I needed to be. I sat at a table and had some lunch even though it was only 11:00 am, but I knew I would be too hungry if I didn't.

When I was getting up from the table, it was announced over the loud speaker that an "Honor Flight" was arriving at Gate B2 with 17 World War II veterans, and everyone was welcome to be at the gate to greet them. I had never heard of this and was so curious I immediately headed in the direction of Gate B 2.

Well, I could not even get close to the gate. There were so many people already there. There were many flags and the news people were there with their cameras rolling. As each one came through the door, most in wheelchairs, the crowd began to clap, yell, whistle, and salute. The applause was tremendous, and we clapped so hard and long that my arms began to itch. I won't forget the looks on those faces and especially one man who could not hold back his tears. I was so proud to be a part of that welcoming crowd. What a blessing!

I know God allowed my schedule to work out so that I could partake of that experience and pay tribute to my own father who would have been in that group if he were still with us. The freedoms in our EARTHLY life that we so many times take for granted, are ours because of the sacrifices of our veterans.

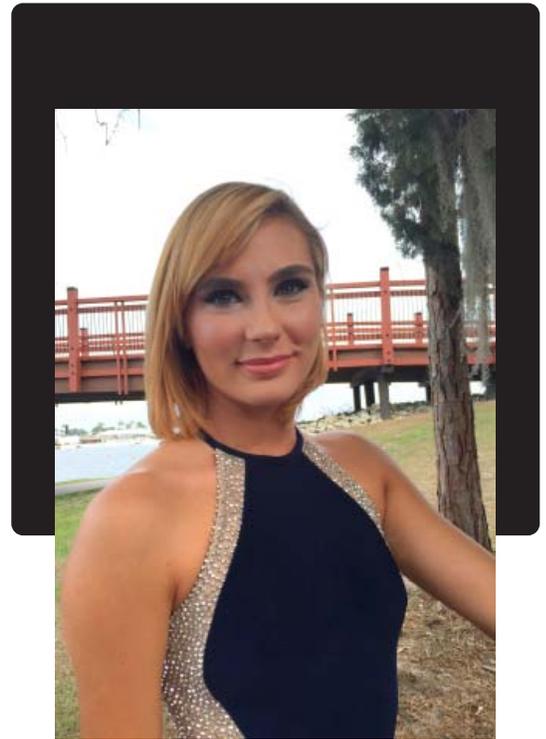
Take a moment to think about a sacrifice like no other! Christ made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could enjoy a precious ETERNAL life with our Heavenly Father. Let us NEVER take that for granted!

Carolyn Deering



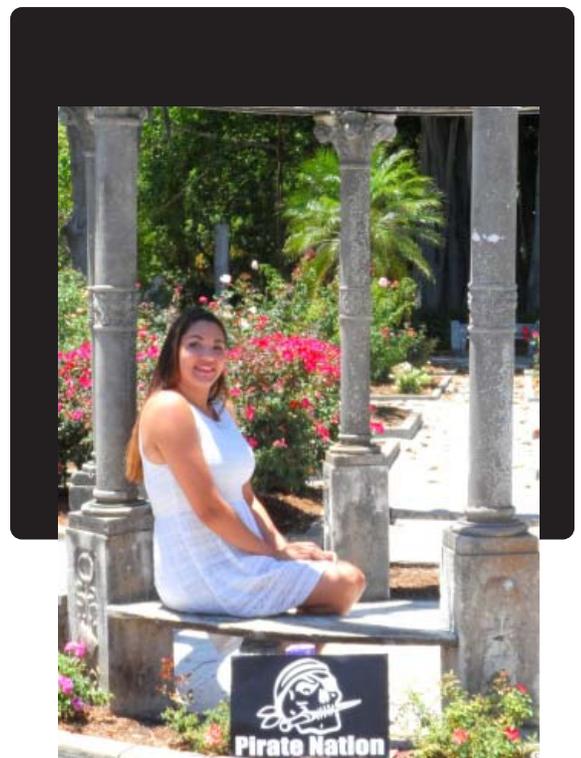
Congratulations, Graduates!

I, **Kaitlyn Creel**, will graduate from Braden River High School with the class of 2016 on June 4th. I have participated in multiple extra curricular activities including dance, cheer, drama, chorus, and wrestling. Most recently I did receive the Herald Tribune PREPS Above-and-Beyond Awards for Determination and Courage 2016. I have also had the opportunity to attend camps at Deerhaven as a camper and as a Counselor-In-Training. I aspire to be a history teacher one day. My next move will be to Virginia to attend Ferrum College and to join their Women's Wrestling program.



India Eaford graduated May 6th with a Masters of Science in Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences from USF Morsani College of Medicine. She will be continuing at Morsani College of Medicine as a medical student in the class of 2020. Her aspiration is to become an orthopedic surgeon. D Johnson is shown in the picture with India.

As high school comes to an end, I, **Liliana Rodriguez**, look back at all the things I have accomplished in my time in high school. One of my biggest accomplishments was joining the Braden River Color Guard. Being part of this program helped me find what I love doing. I also met friends that are more like sisters. Braden River has not only taught me not to step on the grass but to also show leadership skills and how to prepare for my future. As graduation approaches, I look back at all the amazing people I have met and all the things I have accomplished. Thank you, Braden River High School, for teaching me all the life lessons that will help me get through my life as an adult.



What's Up?

We are all part of Compassionate Ministries. You have helped us raise well over \$1,000 each quarter to give to our various communities. In addition, your pennies, nickles, dimes, and quarters allow us to fund the additional needs of the Manna bags. After your generous donations, we have been able to provide bus cards, food cards, and other help to those in need that come to us throughout the month.

What are we doing with this quarter's donations to the **Reach In/Reach Out** bucket?

We plan to donate our proceeds to Outreach International. We will have a fund-raising meal on **Sunday, July 10** directly after church. Join us for a simple meal of beans and rice and help us choose how we will spend our money with Outreach.

We will split up into three to five groups and each group will get a dollar figure to spend and an Outreach Catalog. You can increase your donations based on what your table decides to do. Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and help take care of His sheep!

We are also looking into a literacy program here in the Fellowship Hall. Many adults in our community are unable to read or can't read well enough to understand their bills, banking processes, and other necessary information. Help us help those in need! If you would be interested, please contact Jo Willetts at the e-mail and phone number below. We need to know how many are interested in this project before we can commit!

For information or suggestions on the Reach In/Reach Out bucket, Manna bags, and Compassionate Ministries, please contact **Jo Willetts** at jo_dan_us@yahoo.com or call 941.724.4220

It Takes a Village

As June quickly approaches, I have been trying to enjoy the moments. You see, my oldest daughter is getting ready to graduate from high school and move off to the next chapter in life (college). The very same week my youngest will graduate from PreKindergarten and move on to her next chapter in life (elementary school). As students and parents, this is a very exciting and scary time. Are they ready for that next chapter? Will they be okay? Will I be okay?

As I ponder these questions, my friends, family and most importantly my church family come to mind and I know the answer. The answer is yes, yes, they will be okay. You see it does take a village to raise a child. What wonderful role models my children and I have.

We will do just fine in this next chapter of our lives, because we have had guidance and will continue to have guidance from each one of you. Thank you for being part of our village.

Melinda Creel

World Conference

June 4 - 10

Each day Webcasts will be available for us to view different gatherings during the week. Check www.CofChrist.org/live-webcast.

CONGREGATIONAL BEACH PARTY at
LIDO BEACH on **SATURDAY, JULY 16th**
starting at **4:00 PM.**

Come and join in the fun and fellowship. Bring your beach chairs, blankets, coolers, canopies, etc., and most important **FOOD AND BEVERAGE** - whatever you would like. We will plan to stay for a beautiful sunset (hopefully). Don't forget your sun-screen. If you have questions, contact Vera Kramer.





Each Sunday for the past three months, we have been participating with congregations around the world in the One in Christ Moment to help us prepare for the coming World Conference. We will continue to remember World Conference in prayerful reflection as it convenes on June 4. Many of the worship services at Conference will be available by live-webcast. You can find the schedule at www.cofchrist.org or look for the schedule in the bulletin on May 29th.

The following are the services available here during the month of June. The scriptures we will be studying are from the seventh, eighth, and ninth chapters of Luke.

Reach Out in Compassion is an idea that is always on our minds. As a congregation, we are constantly searching for ways to minister out of compassion. That sometimes means we have to take risks if we are going to follow the example Jesus set before us. Priest **Carolyn Deering** and Evangelist **Karen Palko** will help us discover ways we can show compassion as we worship on this Communion Sunday, June 5.

The parable of the debtor delivers a strong albeit confusing message to Jesus' disciples. God's grace is generous and unconditional. Elder **Charyn Walker** will speak on the theme *Your Sins Are Forgiven* with Priest **Heather Devine** and the youth of the congregation participating in the service on June 12.

When we experience the grace and love of God in our lives, we want to *Declare God's Goodness* to all who will listen. On June 19, High Priest **Rick Jones** and Priest **Melinda Creel** will share with us the importance of sharing our story and witnessing to others.

There's no question about it, *Discipleship Is Demanding*. Jesus Christ calls us to proclaim God's kingdom as the highest priority. We will be reminded on June 26 that God's reign on earth is one of joy, hope, love, and peace when Elder **Ginger Robertson** brings the message. Teacher **Jo Willetts** will preside at this service.

The group meeting on Wednesday nights (except for the first Wednesday in June) invites you to join them for a talk around the table starting at 7:00 pm as they explore different topics.

Jo Fenn-Martin for the Worship Team

Please Note

Jim Deering will be the person designated to do the announcements each Sunday. Please give any announcements to him **prior** to the morning worship service. Thank you.

Knitting - A Blessing to Others

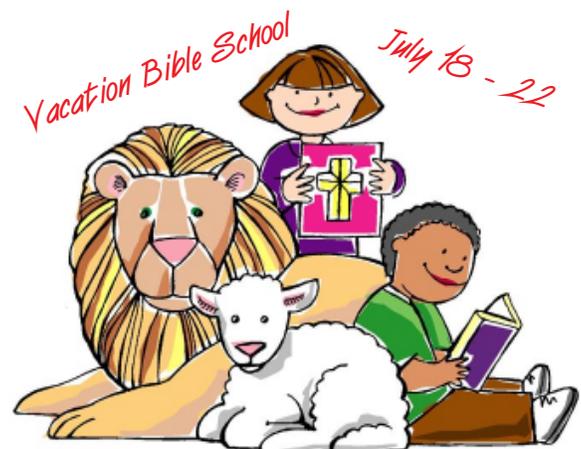
Al Mount, in his recent sermon, mentioned the continuing need for more "prayer cloths" for the New Port Richey group.

The thought/inspiration came to me that there are persons who have expressed interest in learning to knit. These very simple little "cloths" are perfect for beginning knitters. With a little desire, some yarn and needles, we could be a blessing to others while experiencing the blessing of fellowship for ourselves. If interested in learning to knit, please contact **Nancy Peters**.

Update Regarding FMC

A letter has been received from Apostle Barbara L. Carter stating that there are four individuals in the **Florida Mission Center (FMC)** who have entered into a time of service to us and the church as Mission Center leaders.

Effective May 24 the Florida Mission Center Presidency is High Priest Ken Campbell, High Priest Mark Dixon, and High Priest Chuck Petz. The FMC Financial Officer is High Priest Debbie Bartlett. These leadership individuals will be presented at the Fall Mission Center conference for sustaining.





Anniversaries & Birthdays

June

- 05 Bill Williams
- 06 Addison Creel
- 07 Jonathan Robertson
- 09 Patty & Glenn Day
(anniv)
- 14 Dick & Vera 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
- 08 Phyllis Hallman
- 15 Brad Martin
- 15 Jean & George Botelho
(anniv)
- 16 Lisa Rodriguez
- 19 Amy Smeralda
- 22 Al Perrin
- 28 Rick Primrose



Thank you **Nancy Peters** for sending cards to us for birthdays and condolences, Your loving messages are appreciated.



Dick Kramer "feeding" the mighty chipper.



Dick Chlebina "cooling off" at the cooler.

A Look at the Recent Work Day



Margie Boettger and Jeanette Harris "cleaning up" the landscaping.



Cole Van Beek "clipping" the grass on the mower.

The Value of One Member

Ten little members standing in a line.

One disliked the minister, then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late.

One forgot her promise, then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven.

One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix.

They quarreled over projects, then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive.

One moved away, then there were five.

Five steadfast members wished there were more.

One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagree,

'til one complained of meetings, then there were three.

Three eager members! What did they do?

One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done.

One joined a sports team, then there was only one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue,

met with a neighbor, and then there were two.

Two earnest members each enrolled one more,

doubling their number, then there were four.

Four determined members, just wouldn't wait,

'til each one won another, then there were eight.

Eight excited members signed up sixteen more.

In another six verses, there'll be a thousand twenty-four.

Have a good summer!

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Coming Soon - Four Camps

Junior June 19 - 23
3rd - 6th graders

Senior High June 26 - July 2
10th graders - recent grads

Junior High July 10 - 16
7th - 9th graders

SPEC July 22 - 30
Entering 10th grade - recent grads

On Vocation?

Many vacationers rely on a global positioning system to get them easily to a destination. But in every season of life, God sends us on *vocation* -- following his call to both feed our passions and serve others. Our "Calling," Frederick Buechner said, is "where (our) deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

But is there a GPS for *vocation*? It's not as detailed or predictive as we'd like. It doesn't name our destination at the outset, and it offers general instructions rather than specific directions. And we may end up "recalculating" our life route more often than our vehicle GPS recalculates our vacation route.

Even so, we travel in safety. This "GPS" might stand for *God's Peace and Strength*, or *Gospel Promises Sustain*, *God Provides Salvation* or *Go! Proclaim! Serve!* The GPS guiding our vocation speaks to us through scripture, worship, trusted Christian friends, life events and the silence of our heart. Listening, we hear our Guide's calm voice and continue on vocation.

--Hedi Mann

