



# celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

March, 2008

Volume 19 - Issue No. 2

*Alleluia!*  
HE IS ALIVE!

The Early Easter Morning Service will feature the *Path to the Resurrection*. Walk a "path" and pause to contemplate the last week's events in the life of Jesus from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the tomb from 8:15 to 8:30 AM. At the end of the path you will participate in the worship celebration of the risen Christ.

The Annual Easter Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM. A menu featuring a variety a good breakfast choices will greet each one coming to fellowship together.

The children will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt as well as other fun activities at 9:45 AM in the classroom area. The children will be in age appropriate groups.

The Easter Worship Service will begin at 10:45 AM. Come and celebrate the Easter message that "*Jesus Lives!*"

## Be Childlike

It was the children on Palm Sunday who cheered the loudest. They loved Jesus simply because they knew how much he loved them. If by chance your faith has lost its childlike simplicity, it is hoped that joining in worship during the Lenten season will restore it to you.

## seize the day...and reconnect!

**Young Adults** are encouraged to attend the weekend event to be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center **March 28 - 30**. Go and reconnect with God, with other young adults, and with the spirit of camp. Go and share in fun and fellowship and enjoy dynamic interactive classes. Go to seek new experiences with the Holy Spirit by experimenting on God's word: *Seek me and you will find me* (Jeremiah 29:13 and Luke 11:10-11). Go and leave the world behind for a weekend of rejuvenation. **Go and seize the day!**

There are interesting classes being offered for young adults. If you take your children, you won't have to worry about them as there are activities planned for them as well childcare for the little ones, too.

Early registration cost for the weekend event is \$45 for individuals or \$80 for couples. Children under 12 are free with an adult. If you register before March 21, you will receive a free "Seize the Day t-shirt. Financial help is available. The church will pay up to 1/2 of the early registration fee for all those attending. Please contact **Carolyn Deering** (371.3741) and let her know you are going, and she will make the financial arrangements.

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We welcome **Mark Bee** into our church family.

Mark was baptized January 20th during the Sunday Morning Worship Service by **Bob Slasor**.





Special "thank you" to those who worked so hard to make *"An Evening in Paris"* a success. Special thanks go to **Nancy and Stuart Skene** for the creativity in planning *"An*

*Evening in Paris"* for so many to enjoy. Nancy even enlisted the help of four of her friends to help cook and what a great job they did. That is really true friendship!

The Fellowship Hall and Information Center were turned into a French restaurant through the decorating touches of **Suzanne Grimmer** and **Heather Devine**. **Dale Morgan** was in charge of the drink table while **Nanette Dizney** headed up the waitstaff which included **Frankie Scholl, Jonathan Robertson, Kayla Morgan, Brittney Morgan, and Daryl Quinn**.

The hor d'oerves made by **Jo Fenn-Martin** were a hit with many trying some unusual delicacies with **Heather Quinn's** encouragement. People smiled and looked great having their picture taken by **Karla Van Beek** at the little bistro table before dinner was served.

Another feature before dinner was the "Kissing Booth" from which roaring laughter was heard! **Suzanne Grimmer** gave out many h-u-g-e kisses that were accompanied by much laughter. **Tim Devine, Jim Deering, Nanette Dizney,** and Judy Hamilton Schultze serenaded special sweethearts after dinner followed by a special solo by Judy. **Scott Cramer** led a game of French trivia.

There were many others who probably worked on the dinner, and they are thanked also. In mentioning some of those that helped, it is evident that it takes many people to make such a project a success. So the next time you are asked to help in a church related activity, remember saying "yes" will make it easier for everyone!

## 2008 Church Directory

The 2008 Church Directory is still in the works. Pictures have been taken and names and addresses entered. The remaining pages of information are being assembled. No definite publishing date is being given at this time. Please be patient. You will have your directory in 2008!

## Annual Yard and Bake Sale

It's time to look for unused articles around your home and, if possible, around your friends' homes. Things that may be cluttering up your space may be a "find" for someone else. Any household items, tools, toys, and such are needed for the church's **Annual Yard Sale to be held Saturday, March 8th, from 8 AM to 3 PM**. Your help is needed in the gathering of items to be sold as well as sorting and pricing donated items and being a super salesperson.

Please bring your donations for the yard sale to the storage building between now and Sunday, March 2nd. After everything is cleaned up after Sunday's potluck, you may bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall through the next Friday. If you need help or have questions regarding getting your donations to the church, please call **Suzanne Grimmer** (493.7861). Please **NO** clothing. However, last year many young mothers were looking for baby clothes. We feel it is important to make this effort to support young families in the neighborhood who have made this special need known to us. So this year we will be accepting baby or toddler size clothing which is clean and in very good condition.

**Sign-up sheets** can be found on the bulletin board in the Information Center for workers to sort and setup on the Friday before the sale and volunteers to setup starting at 7 AM Saturday morning to complete the setup and to sell!

The **Bake Sale** will run along with the Yard Sale. A variety of delicious baked goods is needed to entice people! We have many great bakers, our recent cookbook attests to that, and we are hoping the table will be laden with an assortment of yummy baked goods. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who are willing to help with the bake sale.

Please note that **Charlie Walker's** fabulous brisket sandwiches will be available at the sale also. The sandwiches have a very high tasty rating. (Editor's note: In order to avoid being disappointed, one needs to be on location to purchase this sandwich before 11:30 AM, because they are usually sold out by that time.)

To sum up this very profitable adventure, the **Yard and Bake Sale Plus**, will be held on **Saturday, March 8th**. But to make it a success, it will take many people to volunteer. Please sign your name on one or more of the sheets on the bulletin board in the Information Center and bring your donations to the church as soon as possible.

**Suzanne Grimmer**, Fund Raising Committee Chairperson



The season of Lent prepares the church for Easter. The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday which was celebrated on February 6th this year. Our time of preparation will continue until Easter morning, March 23rd, when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. The Lenten season is a time for reflection and self-examination. It is a time to recognize our need for repentance and forgiveness.

Holy Week, the last week of Lent, begins with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We recall the events of the following days leading up to Easter. These events include the anointing, the betrayal, the washing of the disciples' feet, the giving of the New Commandment, the praying in Gethemene, the arrest and trials, and the crucifixion.

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus and his disciples share a meal together. It was there that Jesus humbly demonstrates his love for the disciples by washing their feet. He then commands that the disciples do the same for one another. Jesus taught that he came not to be served but to serve, to share the hospitality of God and the intimacy of breaking bread together. On March 20th we will celebrate a Maunday Thursday service beginning at 7:00 PM. Share with us in a time of remembrance and the sharing of communion together.

Good Friday is remembered as the saddest day in history. It is traditionally a somber day, and perhaps the most important part of the Good Friday remembrance is its closure. Easter Sunday is coming. Hallelulah!

There will be two services on Easter morning. The Early Service will start at 8:15 AM, and the Easter Worship will begin at 10:45 AM. The Sunday morning worship services between now and Easter morning are planned to help you on your Lenten journey. Include as many as possible in your preparation for Easter.

**Jo Fenn-Martin**, Worship Coordinator

# MARCH WORSHIP

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	
March 2nd	Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina	Scott Cramer	Communion Service
March 9	Ginger Robertson	Nancy and Stuart Skene	5th Sunday of Lent
March 16	Bona Lee	Jim Deering	Palm Sunday
March 20	Beth Slasor	Bob Slasor	Maundy Thursday
March 23	Elaine Gregg & Jo Fenn-Martin	The Path to the Resurrection	Early Easter Morning
March 23	Marcia Brougher	Nanette Dizney	Easter Morning Worship
March 30	Fay Beers	Karen Palko	Baby Blessing

## Renewal and Rebirth

New spring clothes, soft baby bunnies, marshmallow candies, chocolate, jelly beans and baskets carefully, but barely hidden. For many of us, these are memories we have of Easters past. But for all of us, Easter is more than these symbols of new beginnings. It is the story of what a young man did for us when he rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed colt many years ago.



He knew in His heart that He was about to make the greatest sacrifice in all the world. Even those closest to Him did not fully see. Only He and His father knew what would be required in many ways when He entered the city alone in spite of the crowd. They saw the man, but did not see the gift that He was.

As we enter this season of thankfulness and celebration of this gift, let us find new ways to share our own testimony as to how that gift has changed our lives. For those of us who find ourselves so abundantly blessed, let us challenge ourselves to find ever new ways to be a blessing in this world around us. Jesus kept His ministry simple by loving those who were in His path and chose to be around Him. In a world that constantly strives for sophistication and leads us into complications, let us seek the example He gave us and be the light and the love that he chose us to be.

The young man who rode into Jerusalem on a colt and left for heaven on a cross asks us to share the gift of life He gave us.....can we do less?

**Jim Deering**, Administrative Pastor

## Fundraiser Magnifique

An **Evening in Paris** Valentine Dinner was enjoyed by all who attended. From Hostess **Jo Fenn-Martin** and Greeter **Scott Cramer** to the Hors d'oeuvres graciously served and the allure of the *Kissing Booth!*, all were warmly received. All this led up to the delicious french cuisine dinner that was absolutely "tre bien beaufou". A medley of exquisite desserts topped off the evening meal which was followed with musical serenades for those who dedicated their affection through song.

"Merci" to all who worked and supported this most enjoyable fellowship.

**Stuart Skene**, Stewardship Pastor



## March

- 01 Charyn & Charlie Walker (anniv)
- 04 Fay Beers
- 05 Brittney Morgan
- 08 Joan Wooderson
- 12 Shirley & Howard Jousma (anniv)
- 12 Fay & Bob Beers ( anniv)
- 13 Arthur Curtis
- 15 Karen MacDonald
- 16 Jason Van Beek
- 17 Beulah Wilkins
- 17 Esther and Henry Bender (anniv)
- 18 Bill Manfull and Heather Cosgrove-Manfull (anniv)
- 20 Lil Caudle
- 20 Marilyn Wonsitler
- 26 Louis Willetts
- 28 Tobin Cooper
- 29 Taylor Snow

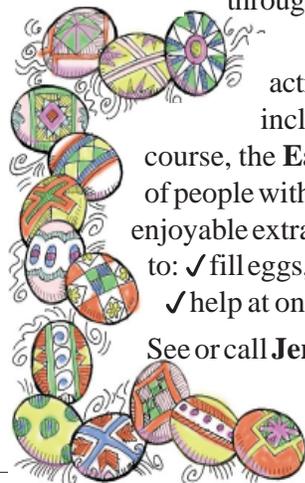
## Calling All Candy Eating Children...

Children are needed to explore the property behind the church structure searching for multicolored plastic elliptical shapes filled with indulgences!

- Where? The Church School Hallway
- When? Easter Morning from 9:45 - 10:30 AM
- What? The Children's Church School Easter Activities
- Who? All Candy Eating Children from toddlers through 5th graders

We hope to have three stations of activities. Our activities should include: Easter stories, crafts, and of course, the **Easter Egg Hunt**. We are in need of people with all types of skills to help with this enjoyable extravaganza. We will need people to: ✓ fill eggs, ✓ hide eggs, and ✓ help at one of the activity stations

See or call **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** (792.5527) if this is something you would like to support.





The Rodriguez families enjoy being "waited on" by Frankie Scholl.



Pictures from "An Evening in Paris".

Heather Quinn, right, encourages Heather Devine and winter visitors, the Colburns, to try some delicious hor d'oeuvres.



Head Cook Nancy Skene is shown with a couple of her happy cooking friends.

## DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **DaniLee Cosgrove** was Stewart Elementary School's Kindergarten Star Student for the month?
- ◆ **Carol Law, Karen MacDonald, Bettie Chlebina, Lillian Wade, Bill Williams, Nanette Dizney, and Elaine Gregg** all attended the Florida Mission Center's Winter Reunion?
- ◆ **Jonathan Robertson, Frankie Scholl, Brittney Morgan, Kayla Morgan, and Patrick James** as well as four of their friends and adults **Dale Morgan and Ginger Robertson** attended the Youth Retreat at Deerhaven Retreat Center in February?
- ◆ **Kaitlyn James**, as a member of Ellen Meade Dance Studio, has been entering competitions for tap, hip hop, ballet, jazz, and circus?
- ◆ **Patrick James** is playing in the Major Middle Division of the Little League Baseball?
- ◆ **Matthew Devine** recently answered the question, "What are you doing?" while playing the piano, "I'm playing for Jesus."?
- ◆ **Kayla Smeralda** was on the Honor Roll for the second time this year as a fifth grade student at Bay Shore Elementary School?
- ◆ **Amy Smeralda** was on the Dean's List at Devri University where she is working towards a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems?
- ◆ **Zoe Van Beek** is collecting Nestle bottled water and Campbell soup labels as well as box tops for a fund raiser for her school, Rowlett Elementary?

## Reaching Out to Children

*Our Father's Cupboard* has been reaching out to those who have special needs. We have been working closely with Manatee Children Services, and they are very thankful for the help we are giving them. We are endeavoring to update those who are interested in donating items with a monthly flyer. There has been a good response to new underwear and socks for kids 8-17 years of age. Our old tables and chairs have been donated to the Manatee Children Services who really appreciate them. Thanks to those who donated their oranges for we are told the kids really like to have fresh fruit. And also thanks to two church families for donating freezers which will help keep food items a little longer.

Tours are available to those that may want to visit the Manatee Children Services facility. Call **Patti Bovee** (739.7716) if you are interested.

It is hoped that we will be able to keep up the good work. This is an ongoing project to help many children and generations to come in the name of the church. Our church name is getting out in the community. Let's keep it going by opening our doors and arms to those in need.

**Mark Bee** and **Patti Bovee**, Our Father's Cupboard Coordinators

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

**Address Correction Requested**



## Events to Come

Saturday, March 15, is **Game Night!** Please come and bring your favorite games as well as a snack to share. Our attendance has gone down, and we will give it one more try to keep the activity going. Mark your calendar now and come spend the night with others and have some fun.

In the planning for April is a fun night out at Pizza and Pipes in Ellenton. Watch for more information regarding this great outing with music and laughter.

## Men's Retreat Coming

A great weekend is being planned for the **Men's Retreat, April 11-13**. Guest Minister will be Danny Belrose who is an accomplished author, speaker, and has served in numerous church leadership positions since 1981 including Presiding Evangelist.

The retreat is for males 14 years of age and up. Fathers are encouraged to take their sons. The theme for the retreat is *Vulnerable to Divine Grace*. Make plans to attend.

## Ecumenical Women's Gathering

It is hoped between 2,500 to 3,000 Community of Christ women ages 15 to 100 from Canada and the United States will join with Christian women from 20 more denominations for an ecumenical women's gathering being sponsored by Church Women United. Visit [www.gathering08.org](http://www.gathering08.org) for more information. Community of Christ women will have the opportunity to further explore how to apply what they have learned and experienced during a lunch and closing following the final worship of the ecumenical gathering.