

# CELEBRATION NEWS

## Start Your Spring Cleaning Now!

It is time for our annual fund-raiser - the ever popular **Church Yard Sale Plus**. The Plus includes baked goods, car wash and lunch. Also coming back this year is **Charlie Walker's** very popular smoked brisket sandwiches. He has promised to make extra this year because those sandwiches always go fast! There will also be hot dogs and sodas. Look for the sheet on bulletin board in the Information Center to sign up to donate baked goodies. Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, March 27 from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM**.

As always, volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. We will need help the week before the sale to categorize and price items. Again, a sign-up sheet will be in the Information Center on the bulletin board. Add your name and watch the sheet fill up.

Any donated items need to be clean, in working order and ready to sell. The area in the garage where we can store items is smaller this year so we ask that you **collect items and bring them to the Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, March 21**. If you need help getting large items such as furniture to the church, please contact a member of the Fund Raising Committee as these are the items that will be kept in the garage until the sale. **NO clothing**, please. It is just too hard to keep clothes sorted, stacked and off the ground.

If you have any questions, contact **Nancy or Stuart Skene, Karla Van Beek, Tim or Heather Devine, or Dale Morgan**. And...happy "spring" cleaning!

**P**rayers have been asked for the **2010 World Conference** being held April 10-17 in Independence, MO. Every Wednesday evening there will be a prayer offered at the Wednesday Evening Service for the World Conference and for leaders, delegates and all attending from around the world.

If you aren't able to join us on Wednesday evenings, please take a moment each Wednesday evening to offer your own prayer of discernment for all. Better yet, offer a prayer every day for World Conference!



## Lenten Restoration

It is pointed out in the scriptures found in the record of ancient history (Amos 5:21-25) that God hates worship by people who go through the motions only for show. If we are using religious rituals and traditions to make ourselves look and feel good, God will despise our worship and not accept what we offer. He wants sincere hearts, not praise from hypocrites. When you worship at church are you more concerned about your image or your attitude towards God?

Is your Lenten season all about a time of feeling good? Are you feeling good with new clothes, all the right things (lot of stuff), plans for Easter, looking spiritual, the big meal with family and friends, and then put it away until next year? Or is it a time for deeper reflection and restoration? The choice is yours to make.

If you choose reflection and restoration, then you can immerse yourself in the Easter heritage that Jesus offers each of us. For when Christ died upon the cross, he died a horrific and painful death for the sins of mankind. On the third day he triumphantly defeated death and rose again!

Through Christ's death, we receive mercy, forgiveness, and immeasurable grace. If we accept Christ as our Savior, the restoration that we gain not only makes us good as new, but better than new. For when we accept Christ as our Savior, we advance way beyond our previous life and become spiritually conscious and connected with the Holy Spirit.

For Christians, the restoration that can occur during Lent and Easter follows the Christian Life that is outlined for us in the Bible. Our restoration rests in the One who is both the root and the offspring of David (Revelation 22:16). Lent and Easter can restore us, make us better than new. Zion is near when we meet Jesus at the foot of the cross and renew our commitment to him. For our house, we choose to serve Jesus Christ.

This year as we journey through 40 days of Lent may the Lord's peace and restoration fill our lives with the joy and purpose of Easter.

**Jim and Marcia Brougher**

## Our Father's Cupboard

Thank you all who have helped to unload boxes of food on Thursdays and hand out food to clients on Fridays: **Mervin and Barbara Smith, Bob Slasor, Charlie and Charyn Walker, Jonathan Robertson, Bill Williams, Kathy Parks, Karen Palko, Roberta Hamilton, Elaine Gregg, Don Fant, Glenn Day, Shirley Clow, Scott Cramer, Lynn and Wade Bryant, Nancy Brougher, Jim Brougher, Larry Bell** and Jackie Craig. If your name is mistakenly missing, please know that your time and energy is appreciated.

The Cupboard has been very busy. There is an average of 20-30 new clients each week! Most of those represent a family of at least four. The clothes have been a blessing for many families as well as other small items. In the month of January the Cupboard spent \$847.02 for food. Food was distributed to 268 families which means on an average that 909 adults and children were fed.

The clients have learned to ask for help through prayers and look forward to the ministerial blessing they get from our people each time they come. Your donations for the Cupboard are greatly appreciated and needed. Food is the mainstay of our ministry. Your support is needed every month.

There is a great need for size 3-4 extra large diapers, large size pull-ups, shampoo, soap of all kinds and toilet paper. These items cannot be obtained through the Manatee Food Bank, but are needed each and every day. The Manatee Food Bank has been a blessing when it comes to the free produce and bread as well as some meat. This helps to stretch the \$\$\$\$.

All are welcome to come and see the Cupboard in operation. Please come and see what is going on. We unload food on Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:00 PM and on Friday food is handed out from 10:00 AM until Noon. This takes place in the rain or sunshine and in cold or hot weather. We are there to serve others. We are there!

Thank you again for your support through time and contributions.

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

**...AND THANK YOU, PATTI AND MARK, FOR YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF OUR  
FATHER'S CUPBOARD.**





Worshippers at the Worship Service on Sunday, February 21, witnessed and were a part of **Jo Willetts'** baptism and confirmation. There were also relatives of the Willetts family who came from Texas to be part of the celebration. The relatives were Ray and Doris Jackel, brother and sister-in-law, and Nina Klingaman, sister, of the late Betty Willetts. We rejoice with the Willetts family and welcome Jo into our faith movement, *Community of Christ*.

Pictured are Doris and Ray Jackel, Melinda Creel, Nina Klingaman, Jo and Dan Willetts

## Taking the Path to the Cross

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Each Sunday morning in Lent, the Evangelist Team is giving us scripture references to study and information to read. If you will follow their prayer suggestions and study the material offered, your Lenten experience will be enriched. Open yourself to the Spirit and be prepared for Holy Week.

March 7th is the third Sunday in Lent. *Seek, Thirst and Listen* is the theme for this Sunday when we will celebrate Communion as well as World Hunger Emphasis Day. Elder **Marcia Brougher** will preside with Evangelist **Karen Palko** bringing the message. The scripture lesson is from Isaiah and invites all who are thirsty and in need to come and listen to God and make a covenant with him. You are invited to share in this service of commitment and communion.

Sin makes us miserable. We go to great lengths to avoid even thinking about it. But moments of confession of our sins can bring us to the joy of receiving God's forgiveness. On March 14th, the fourth Sunday in Lent, High Priest **Nanette Dizney** will speak to us on the theme *Confess to the Lord* with Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** presiding.

Teacher **Fay Beers** and Bishop **Fred Keenan** will bring the morning worship on March 21st centered around the theme *Formed in Christ*. The scripture lesson comes from Isaiah and Philippians and reminds us to put trust in God rather than ourselves. This Sunday is the fifth Sunday in Lent and prepares us for the beginning of Holy Week on March 28th.

*Proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord* was the focus for those greeting Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on a young colt. The cheering crowd of followers proclaim him as the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Priest **Charlie Walker** will preside at the March 28th Palm Sunday service with Elder **Charyn Walker** bringing the message.

On Friday, April 2nd, A Good Friday Service will be held at 7:00 PM. Join us as we remember the events of Good Friday. The next Sunday we will *Delight in New Life* as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Hallelujah! Christ has risen!

The place to be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings is the Fellowship Hall. There members and friends gather to share together in praise, prayer and testimony. It is an uplifting way to help you through the week. Join the Wednesday evening group.

**Jo Fenn-Martin**, Worship Committee

## Men's Retreat

Men from around the Florida area will be gathering at Deerhaven Retreat Center for the **Men's Retreat** the weekend of **March 5-7**. The theme for the retreat is *Strength for the Journey*. In these tough economic times, it is good to look to our faith to encourage us and to each other for support. Gary Logan, a retired field minister for *Community of Christ*, will lead two classes plus there will be a variety of activities. Men are encouraged to bring their teenage sons or a teen to mentor. There are brochures on the bulletin board. Register at [www.cofchristfmc.org](http://www.cofchristfmc.org).

## What Are the Youth Up To?

The next project for the youth will be a **Car Wash** during the Yard Sale on March 27th. All money raised will go toward full camperships for summer camp at Deerhaven Retreat Center. Being able to experience camp at Deerhaven is such an awesome opportunity for our youth, but it can be an extra financial expense, especially right now during these hard times.

The youth are also working on an ongoing project with local teen shelters. They will be filling shoe boxes with personal items and will distribute them to the teens. This will also give our youth time to share their ministry with others. Many of these teens are taken to these shelters with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. The youth are excited about this project, but will need help collecting items to fill the shoe boxes. There will be more information later on how you may be able to help with this project as to items needed to fill the shoe boxes.

We are looking forward to a year full of fun and ministry, and sharing our gifts and talents with all those we come in contact with.

**Heather Devine**, Youth Coordinator

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Those attending the *Chili Cook-off* and *Bingo Fun Night* at the church February 13th, were treated to an array of chili offerings. To all those who brought their chili to be judged and eaten, thank you. There were hot chili, white chili, thick chili and everything in between. The judges for this year's Cook-Off were **Pat Moore-Hall**, **Larry Bell** and **Jim Deering**. By the response of those attending when the winners were announced, they did a pretty good. The prizes were awarded to **Scott Cramer** - first place, **Dan Willetts** - second place and **Jason and Karla Van Beek** - third place. Congratulations to all of the winners and those who participated in the 'friendly' competition.

## EGG-Citing

Easter is coming, and you know what that means, right? Our annual Egg-Citing Egg Hunt. Not real eggs, of course, but the colorful plastic ones filled with a variety of goodies. This event is FREE and takes place on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

The Hunt will require volunteers to fill eggs before the hunt and hide eggs or assist in a variety of activities Easter morning. Can't wait to volunteer? Sign up to help with the morning's activities. Look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Information Center or see me (Jerilyn), call (941.792.5572) or e-mail ([djchlebina@hotmail.com](mailto:djchlebina@hotmail.com)). If you are a middle or high school youth who would like to help fill eggs or assist in activities, I am willing to sign for your volunteer/service hour(s). You will need to get the appropriate form from your school. I will happily sign for your time!

Hope to see you filling eggs and at the Egg-Citing Egg Hunt!

**Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina**,  
Children's Sunday School Coordinator

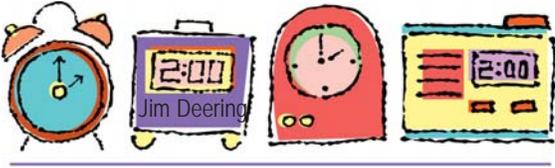
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### AN IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please remember in your **PRAYERS** our children and youth who will be taking the FCAT and other State Wide Assessment tests (in Mantee County the 2nd graders also take the Stanford test) **Tuesday, March 9 through Friday, March 19th**. This is a very stressful time for them.



Representing the winners are: Zoe and Cole Van Beek, Brittney Morgan, Jonathan Robertson, Richie Creel, Dan Willetts, Penny Cramer



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - MARCH 14

## Back to the Future with Jesus

“Jesus Christ, Superstar, who are you? Do you think you’re what they say you are?” Thus begins the title song from the very radical musical, *Jesus Christ, Superstar*. Having just given a sermon about finding beauty in discomfort based on Jesus’ experience in the wilderness, the harshness and temptations he encountered, and how we have all benefitted from that test of Jesus’ faith, I feel compelled to share with you what time constraints prevented me from saying in the sermon. Had time permitted, we would have watched the clip from *Jesus Christ, Superstar* where the devil, dressed in full Las Vegas gold lame and expensive sunglasses comes to tempt Jesus. Within that clip, as well as throughout the entire movie, you see Jesus placed in scenes not just in old Galilee and Jerusalem but in modern settings as well. Some of you are probably grateful that you did not have to watch such an uncomfortable juxtaposition of the Jesus we know and love then and now. But remember, Jesus was and is radical. If you are disturbed that Jesus is the subject of an edgy modern day rock musical, how then do you tell our youth that Jesus is here with them today? Being human, Jesus no doubt laughed, danced and probably had young women falling in love with him. Does *that* disturb you?

At a recent Presbyterian Spiritual Growth Retreat one of the facilitators shared a journal entry she penned: “as Christians, we don’t know what to do with the sinner, and we don’t know what to do with the Savior.” There is much insight in her thoughts. No one really knew what to do with Jesus. His followers and disciples loved him but as the song implied, they and we “don’t know *how* to love him” Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin didn’t know what to do with Jesus so they roughed him up a bit, and sent him to Pilate, the governor. Pilate even liked him but still did not know what to do with him. Can you just imagine Jesus in that situation today? Given the current tone of partisan politics, God’s plan would never be fulfilled. Now that should make you uncomfortable. We live in turbulent times and need Jesus more than ever before. We need his love. We need his wisdom. We need his cross. Jesus is our hero, our superstar. Worship him. Praise him. Pray to him. Find the beauty in discomfort.

**Ginger Robertson**, Outreach Ministry

It is hoped you are enjoying the *Who Am I?* column. Have you found the names without a problem? Are you learning more about those that have been featured? Remember the names are hidden in the newsletter somewhere! Good luck finding the two names for this month’s *Who Am I?*.

If you would like to be featured next month, list up to 10 facts about yourself and give or send to **Elaine Gregg** at [efgregg@msn.com](mailto:efgregg@msn.com).

### (A) *Who Am I?*

- 1 - Love cucumbers, my favorite vegetable
- 2 - Gobble up mac-n-cheese with chicken nuggets
- 3 - Have one cat, one dog and one sister
- 4 - My birthday is May 18
- 5 - Favorite vehicle is a Monster Truck
- 6 - Favorite book is The Aquarium Book
- 7 - Have relatives in California
- 8 - Friends are Mason, Jacob and Mason
- 9 - Sometimes my cat sleeps with me
- 10 - I am four years old



### (B) *Who Am I?*

- 1 - Wore a buzz cut until age 14
- 2 - Delivered milk for a living
- 3 - Caddied for pro-golfer Gary Player once
- 4 - First car was a “Bug”
- 5 - First plane trip was at age 32
- 6 - Favorite cake is Applesauce
- 7 - Favorite drink is sweet tea
- 8 - Favorite singer is Andy Williams
- 9 - Would love to have been a “cultural geographer”
- 10 - First NEW car was a Toyota...\$1,950.00!

## Interested?

Our congregation is interested in starting a Men's Group. We are in the process of gathering information of those and from those that may want to participate. This would not be a golf club or a fraternity. Instead it would provide an outlet for the men in our congregation to enjoy the fellowship of other Christian men.

The group could experience prayer breakfasts, group cookouts, trips to baseball games, golf scramble and assist others in our community who need help. Friends and family would be invited to some of the activities. Men may also be able to help some of our seniors with needs around their homes. In other words, recreate with Christ in mind.

If you are interested or have ideas pertaining to a men's group activity, please e-mail me at [jfbrougher@msn.com](mailto:jfbrougher@msn.com) or call me at 941.752.5856. Thanks.

**Jim Brougher**

Answer to last month's *Who Am I?* people:  
(A) Jonathan Robertson and (B) Penny Cramer



**Bill Williams'** e-mail address  
[wgw112@verizon.net](mailto:wgw112@verizon.net)

**Jim Deering's** e-mail address  
[james.deering@moffitt.org](mailto:james.deering@moffitt.org)

**Bob Beers'** e-mail address  
[bobbeers75@msn.com](mailto:bobbeers75@msn.com)

### **Correction:**

**Karen Palko's** phone number  
on page 7 should be:  
941.321.7364

## Assessing Haiti

The general destruction of buildings that were witnessed will have a big impact on the Haitian people for many years to come. The destruction of housing means people are, and will continue to be for the foreseeable future, living in makeshift accommodations. A coming concern is the rainy season beginning at the end of March followed by hurricane season. The rains and storms will make the housing situation worse and more dangerous.

As the Assessment Team, comprised of Apostle Bunda Chibwe, David Waring and Steve Graffeo, met with church people there was a universal welcome and appreciation that they had come to visit with them. The people saw this as confirmation that they were indeed part of a larger community. Concerns of the whole *Community of Christ* were shared with the people. Some initial oblation aid was spent on temporary shelters for worship, food, water and medical care.

Some of the things that will stay on the minds of the team were: The sight of the Haitian people, not just sitting back and losing hope, but working to improve what little they still had - people starting to rebuild homes that had been destroyed - the Sunday morning worship at the Petionville congregation, with the damaged church building and destroyed school as a backdrop to vibrant praise and worship - 600 people gathered for not only a time of prayer, but also praise, at the Friday national day of prayer at the Petionville congregation.

The faith of the people that were met can be expressed best in the words that kept being repeated, "due to the grace of God". In this the people of Haiti are giving thanks to God for their survival and for the ongoing blessings that God brings them.

Taken from a letter to the church regarding the Assessment Team's recent visit to Haiti.

## Ink Cartridges Needed

This is a reminder that if you don't have any use for your empty ink or toner cartridges, please donate them to the church.

This month the church needed paper and ink, and it was great to be able to purchase the paper and then hand the cashier the rewards 'check' for a credit of \$15.00. Thanks to the two people who donated their empty cartridges, the total due that day was reduced which lessens the strain on the budget.

Place your old cartridges in a plastic or paper bag and give them to **Elaine Gregg**. Our budget will thank you.

**Elaine Gregg**, Communications



## Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

- 01 Charyn & Charlie Walker (anniv)
- 04 Fay Beers
- 07 Amber & Lonnie Cooper (anniv)
- 08 Brittney Morgan
- 08 Joan Wooderson
- 12 Fay & Bob Beers ( anniv)
- 15 Karen MacDonald
- 16 Jason Van Beek
- 17 Beulah Wilkins
- 18 Bill Manfull & Heather Manfull-Cosgrove (anniv)
- 20 Lil Caudle
- 20 Marilyn Wonsitler
- 26 Sydney Evans

## Wow

, does our church property need attention! This winter has been brutal to many of our bushes and trees. As the very cold winter is, hopefully, a thing of the past, we are inviting everyone to the church on **Saturday, March 13, from 8:00 AM to noon** to help spruce up our church property. Bring any garden tools you may have that will help in the outdoor cleanup.

For those who are unable to do a lot of pruning and lifting, there are less strenuous jobs that need to be done. Hopefully it will be a beautiful, sunny day, but if you don't want to work outside, there will be housekeeping duties that need to be done inside. In other words, ALL are needed. We know for many of you that your Saturdays are precious, but please consider donating a few hours of your day to help give our church property a loved and caring look. Thank you for considering this opportunity. We hope to see March 13th. Now, go put "work day at church" on your calendar - please!



## DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **A basket is set out** for donations for those who wish to help defray the cost of fellowship food weekly?
- ◆ **Over \$364,000** was collected through the Oblation Fund in a matter of weeks which will go directly to our brothers and sisters in Haiti to rebuild lives, homes, schools and communities?
- ◆ **Aluminum cans** are still being collected, and the proceeds go to Our Father's Cupboard? Bag the cans and place them in the containers on the porch outside of the kitchen.
- ◆ **The black spiral binders** from your "old" church directories, if in good condition, can be recycled? Bring them to the church and place them in the Suggestion Box which can be found left of the Church Family picture board in the Information Center.
- ◆ **A \$3,000 Grant** (to be received in two installments) has been granted from the Florida Mission Center for Our Father's Cupboard?
- ◆ **Jim and Carolyn Deering's** daughter, Amanda Deering Jones, worked on the new movie, *How To Train Your Dragon*, coming out this month in a theater near you?

## Seize the Day!

A **Young Adult Retreat** will be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center **March 19-21** with the theme *Seize the Day: Be Vulnerable to Grace*. Young adults age 18 to thirty-something are encouraged to bring their friends and reunite with old friends at a weekend of music, classes, fun and worship. Child care will be provided for young families. Register now by going to [www.cofchristfmc.org](http://www.cofchristfmc.org) or contact Cindy Campbell, director, at [campbecs@bellsouth.net](mailto:campbecs@bellsouth.net),

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

Address Correction Requested



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- |          |  |   |            |
|----------|--|---|------------|
| 10:55 AM | Palm Sunday Worship                      | - | March 28th |
| 7:00 PM  | Good Friday Service                      | - | April 2nd  |
| 9:00 AM  | Easter Sunday Breakfast                  | - | April 4th  |
| 9:45 AM  | Children's Activities                    | - | April 4th  |
| 9:45 AM  | Adult Activity                           | - | April 4th  |
| 10:45 AM | Communion and Easter Celebration Worship |   |            |