



celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

May, 2009

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Looking Forward to Summer

Summer brings new opportunities to worship together, have fun together, and learn together. In past years we have sometimes changed our summer Sunday schedule. This year we are going to stay the same but offer a bit of a blend of the past.

Our hours for **Fellowship (9:30 AM)**, **Sunday School (10:00 AM)** and **Worship (10:55 AM)** will remain the same. We will however be offering a break for the Children's Sunday School teachers. While they take the summer to refresh themselves, we will offer two children's classes and allow four new people to teach for just three months. The new recruits will take on their responsibilities after Vacation Bible School. So bring your children, grandchildren, and friends to Sunday School and expect some new experiences. The adult classes will remain the same.

Come, join the fun and fellowship of fellowship and worship this summer!

Jim Deering, Administrative Pastor

Journey to Wholeness

Come for a weekend and focus on deepening your relationship with God. Guest minister Edith Gallaher serves as an Evangelist and Spiritual Formation Specialist for the Community of Christ. See flyer on the bulletin board in the Information Center. Remember, you can always register on-line at www.cofchristfmc.org.

It's Working!

Beginning last December we have experimented with a new format for the 7:00 PM Wednesday Evening Fellowship Service. We meet in the Fellowship Hall around tables, have snacks and drinks available on arrival, during and for visiting afterwards. The attendance has been in the 15 to 22 person range which is larger than it had been for some time.

What folks have really appreciated is the informal sharing, going with the spirit's direction each time as to whether prayer or testimony or personal sharing of needs, etc. is the direction for the evening. Anointing and administration, or blessing prayers are available and offered each week. The openness of the group each evening allowed the Holy Spirit to touch each one in a way most needed.

Thanks to all who have been a part of the Wednesday fellowship. Your presence, your prayers and your being there has added to the blessings God has been pouring out on us. Thanks to **Larry Bell, Glenn Day, Bob Slasor** and **Scott Cramer** for being the facilitators these past few months. We look forward to continuing with this openness of fellowship each Wednesday Evening in the months ahead.

Bob Slasor, Evangelist



A few of the Rainforest creatures pose before packing up their belongings and heading for Bradenton/Sarasota to be part of our Vacation Bible School. See more information on page 8.

Making for a Better Earth

And I, God, said, Let them have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth..." Genesis 1:27-28

As the school year ends and summer approaches, an exciting adventure will begin in June as we will be blessed to have our Vacation Bible School. The program chosen for this year is designed to help kids experience the importance of stewardship and how everyone can care for God's creation. As the above scripture says, God gave us dominion over all the earth. Each one of us has the responsibility to do what we can to take care of our precious planet in God's stead.

This year, the month of June brings an exciting time for me as well...it marks the fifth anniversary for me as a cancer survivor!! One of the many parts of my treatment has been an endless trail of medications, therefore, an endless trail of prescription bottles. In our home I take great pride in recycling as much as I am able to help protect the environment. For five years I have gathered prescription bottles and bagged them up because I could not bear to throw them away, particularly since they do have a recycle logo on them. To my dismay, they are not accepted in my area with the regular recycling and attempts to locate a pharmacy that would use them proved fruitless.

In an effort to help close this chapter of my life and rid myself of these reminders, I decided to use the internet to see if anyone out there could use the bottles. I am happy to report that one response claimed that Whole Foods has equipment that recycles them! I phoned the store and was assured that bottles that have the number "5" in the recycling triangle can be taken to their store. As a part of my efforts, I am making the commitment to collect prescription bottles at church to take to Whole Foods once a month for recycling. Please help me in this cause of making the earth a better place by removing labels and rinsing out your used prescription bottles and bringing them to the church. I will provide a container for storing them and take them to be recycled.

The Lord has provided us with such a beautiful place to live, let us do all we can to keep it that way and honor him.

Carolyn Deering, Pastoral Pastor

Travel Back in Time

On **Saturday, May 23, at 6:30 PM**, we will travel back in time for an evening at a **Fifties Diner**. This 'experience' is being sponsored by the Fund Raising Team. The prices of tickets are \$8.00 for all except for children five and under which will be \$4.00. There will be great 50's diner food, music, trivia, games and, of course, prizes.

Everyone will receive a free raffle ticket with their paid entry, but additional raffle tickets will be available for \$1.00 each. The raffle tickets go towards a chance to win the grand prize of the evening!

Please mark your calendars now so you won't forget and miss the fun - and we would really miss seeing you at the diner. If you have questions, see or call

Heather Devine
(941.378.9945).



The Cost to Stay Informed

Isn't it nice to receive the Herald from our World Church Headquarters every month? It is loaded with information and stories about what the church is doing in the United States and throughout the world. We hope that you enjoy this very informative publication.

Did you ever wonder why your family receives the Herald, and where it comes from and who pays for it? The answer is your local congregation sets up the Herald in Every Home program. We distribute this publication to 60 families monthly. The cost per family is \$24.00 a year. That makes a yearly total of \$1,440. If you would like to donate to this cause, just write "Herald" and the amount on the left side of your offering envelope. Any contributions to offset the cost to the congregation are greatly appreciated.

Bob Beers, Financial Officers



May is a month when we see visible changes from spring to summer here in Florida. Have you ever made paper baskets to hold flowers on the first day of May? Also, on the fifth day our Hispanic brothers and sisters celebrate Cinco de Mayo with food, singing and dancing. Then on the tenth of the month we honor our Mothers, and we close May with a tribute to those who have served in our country's armed forces, giving their lives to uphold democracy and freedom. With so much to celebrate and honor, it seems fitting that our worship this month centers on LOVE.

Abide in Love will be our theme for the communion sacrament worship on May 3rd. Our Pastor, **Jim Deering**, will preside over this service with **Melinda James** sharing her ministry of the spoken word. It is through God's love for us that we can extend His love to others.

We will welcome a guest minister and a guest musician to our worship on May 10th. Peter Smith of the Clearwater Congregation will preach the command that Jesus taught was the most important; *Love One Another*. If we cannot love our brothers and sisters who we can see and touch, how can we love a God who is invisible? Dr. Mark Dixon, also of the Clearwater Congregation, will bless us with his music giftedness. Some may know Mark as the volunteer M.D. at many of our Deerhaven events. **Ginger Robertson** will preside.



How has Christ transformed your life? By what authority do we proclaim him? These are some of the questions that will be explored by **Heather Devine** as she talks to us about *Victory through Love*. We have all heard the expression that "love conquers all", but do we fully understand the power of love through Jesus Christ that we can experience? **Patty Day** will preside over this worship service on May 17th.

Nanette Dizney, our Missionary Ministries leader, teaches us how we can *Testify of Love* in her sermon on May 24th. **Bona Lee** presides over this service that reminds us how important it is to be a living testimony and tell others how they can be empowered by the love of Jesus Christ.

The Contemporary Praise and Worship service on May 31st is being planned by **Larry Bell** and the Praise and Worship team. A praise band consisting of Diane and Denny Miller, Tom Hentz and Amy Cleveland from the Orlando congregation will be here to help us celebrate in song and praise.

We continue to extend a warm invitation to everyone to come and see what is happening on Wednesday nights. With light refreshments and an abundance of love and sharing, we gather in the Fellowship Hall to sing, pray and share whatever is on our hearts and minds. Administration is always available to those who request this sacrament. Remember: All are welcome here!

Ginger Robertson, Worship Coordinator

Just a Friendly Reminder

Don't forget to "feed" your **Christmas Stocking** during the summer. This fund raising project suggests you put the same number of coins or paper currency in your stocking each month as the number of that month - four for April, five for May, six for June, etc. It wouldn't be good to get behind during the summer months because, as you noticed, the number of coins is increasing each month!



Five young ladies are seen in their Easter finery at the end of the Easter Egg Hunt. Left to right: Dani Cosgrove, Frankie Scholl, Brittney Morgan, Zee Fant, and Kenyata Evans. Photo submitted by Heather Manfull-Cosgrove.

QUARTERLY REPORT

Local Mission Tithes through March 2009

Operating Budget (3 months)	\$15,009
Operating Income	\$13,601
Operating Expenses	\$(8,662)
Balance Income to Expenses	\$ 4,939
Balance Income to 2009 Budget	\$(1,408)

Our Father's Cupboard through March 2009

Income, including \$1,000 Grant	\$ 2,525
Expenses (food)	\$(1,601)
Balance Income to Expenses	\$ 924

Our Father's Cupboard needs your contributions to carry us through the summer months so that we may continue to feed needy families.



Bob Beers, Financial Officer



Registration forms and more information can be found at www.cofchristfmc.org.

Various financial assistance is available. Please contact your youth director or the camp director for more information.

Junior Camp	June 14 - 18	Entering Grades 3-6
Senior High Camp	June 21 - 27	Grades 10 - 12 & graduating seniors
Junior High Camp	July 12 - 18	Entering Grades 7 - 9
IYF (International Youth Forum)		
Independence MO	July 21-24	Entering Grades 10 - 12 & graduating seniors
Spectacular	July 24 - August 1	
Graceland University, Lamoni, IA		Entering Grades 11 & 12 & graduating seniors
High Adventure Camp	August 8 - 15	Entering Grade 9 and older

I Believe...

- ...you can keep going long after you think you can't.
- ...we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.
- ...either you control your attitude or it controls you.
- ...it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others.
 Sometimes, you have to learn to forgive yourself.
- ...two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

Remember to visit our web site to keep up with what is happening when you go back north or go on vacation. You will be able to "hear" Sunday worship services and "see" the order to worship and things that are going on while you are gone.



cofchristbradenton.com

Resting in the presence of God.

"Know, O my people, the time for hesitation is past. The earth, my creation, groans for the liberating truths of My gospel which have been given for the salvation of the world...Be not overly concerned with method as you go forth to witness in my name. There are many techniques for proclaiming my word which may be used as needs and circumstances dictate."

Counsel to the Church, Doctrine and Covenants 155: part of 7

Over the past couple of months, I have been blessed to have traveled to different parts of our world and have been moved "within" my spirit to a greater awareness of God's spirit working among all God's children. It has been a humbling experience for me, and I come away with a greater sense of "oneness" with all people and of God's "divine love" that transcends any barriers such as language, ethnicity, time and distance to name a few. As I visited the homes of our sisters and brothers in Brazil, I was not only a recipient of a warm reception but also was "gracefully" received into the openness of their hearts.

On one of my visits, not only was I greeted with a warm embrace but also by the sacred music of the Gregorian chants of the Books of Psalms. As I encountered God's presence with us, our Brazilian sister shared that her reason for playing this music was for her continued prayers for peace and reconciliation in our world. I explained that this was also my desire, my church community's desire, and also the desire of the United States. In the quiet sounds of the melodious psalms and silence, we both felt God's presence and healing working in our world. This was a sacred worshipful moment.



Through this experience I was reminded again of God's precious gift of "holy silence", or as I would say "holy listening" - "holy being" - resting in the presence of God. It is in these moments we find the gift of holy rest, the healing of our minds and spirits, and the awareness of God enveloping us and all creation in God's arms of eternal love. This is prayer and worship. It is through these times of prayer and worship experiences that we hear God speaking to us. As a plaque hanging in my home states, *Make time for quiet moments as God whispers and the world is loud.* This is so true.

We, the Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ, have experienced God's presence with us through different forms of prayer and worship. These forms of worship are traditional, praise and worship (contemporary worship) and on occasion through the worship of holy silence, melodious prayers and meditation known around the world as "Taize" worship. All these forms of worship are pleasing to God and fulfill the words of Counsel of the Church quoted above.

As we move together into the future with God, through prayer and worship, may we continue to become the Community that bears the name of the one we serve and in whose image we have been created, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Let us invite the Holy Spirit in these sacred moments to breathe in us and open us to a deeper understanding of the vision and mission of Christ....the Peaceable Kingdom of God, Zion.

During the coming months, in our times of holy silence, prayer and worship, may we seek to discern the words given to us through President/Prophet Stephen Veasey, "what matters most for the journey ahead?" May God continue to enlighten us and fill us and our community with greater hope, joy, love and peace. This, I believe, is the Peaceable Kingdom of God, Zion, for which we yearn. Wouldn't you say so, too?

Karen Palko, Evangelist



Everyone is invited
to share in the marriage ceremony of
Scott Cramer and Penny Strauss
on Friday, May 15th, at 7:00 PM at the church.
Cake and ice cream will follow in the
Church fellowship Hall.



Keeping in Touch

The following was received from Lisa (Vrana) Booker:

Thank you for keeping in touch and sending the Celebration News!!! I enjoy reading about my Bradenton/Sarasota family. I also enjoy listening to the sermons online!!! You are doing some wonderful things and ministering in so many ways. Hi and hugs to all!



Dick Chlebina is shown putting the finishing touches on one of the classroom doors. The storage building's door and all five classroom doors are being replaced with new fiberglass doors. The classroom doors do not open from the exterior as a matter of safety.

Photo submitted by Megan Chlebina

Following God to VBS

My dishes went unwashed today,
I didn't make the bed;
I took God's hand and followed him
To Vacation Bible School instead.

Oh, yes, we went adventuring
The children and I;
Exploring the whole Bible
For truths we can't deny.

My house was sure neglected,
I didn't sweep the stair;
In twenty years no one on earth
Will know, or even care.

But that I've helped a boy or girl
To noble adulthood grow,
In twenty years the whole wide world
May look, and see and know.

--Author unknown

Workers Wanted

A few more good adult workers are needed for our **Vacation Bible School**. Join others in an adventure to the rainforest the week of **June 8-12 from 6:00 - 8:30 PM**. If you can help out, please sign-up on the designated sheets on the bulletin board in the Information Center. Thanks!!!

There will be NO POTLUCKS for the months of June, July & August. Save up those great recipes, and we will meet around the tables again in September.

May

- 01 Rachel Fant
- 02 Aaron Stevens
- 04 Dale Morgan
- 08 Liliana Rodriguez
- 08 Charlie Walker
- 09 Bettie Chlebina
- 14 Brandon Morgan
- 15 Betty Willetts
- 17 Jacob Rodriguez
- 18 Cole Van Beek
- 19 Kay Budd
- 22 Laura & Bob Vaughan (anniv)
- 23 Joan Wooderson & Ray Daniels (anniv)
- 25 Wanda Fenn
- 28 Tobin Cooper



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES!

June

- 05 Bill Williams
- 07 Jonathan Robertson
- 09 Patty & Glenn Day (anniv)
- 16 Bob Beers
- 16 Carolyn & Jim Deering (anniv)
- 25 Megan Chlebina
- 28 John Batdorff
- 28 Lisa & Joel Rodriguez (anniv)
- 29 Karen & Charles Palko (anniv)

July

- 02 Nancy Peters
- 03 Heather & Tim Devine (anniv)
- 06 Zoe Van Beek
- 07 Coral Blackmore
- 09 Ken Simpson
- 11 Emily Vaughan
- 11 Fred Wenzel
- 12 Jessie Benjamin
- 15 Brad Martin
- 15 Jean & George Botelho (anniv)
- 16 Lisa Rodriguez
- 17 Esther Bender
- 19 Amy Smeralda
- 20 Rachel & Don Fant (anniv)
- 25 Genevieve & Fred Wenzel (anniv)
- 26 Dani Cosgrove
- 26 Stephen Morgan

DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Matthew Devine** raised \$110.00, with the help of his church family, and won a prize in Tatum Ridge Elementary School's Jog-a-Thon?
- ◆ **Nancy Peters and Bettie Chlebina** both got hit by a bat (the same bat) at a Pirates' spring training game at McKechnie field?
- ◆ **Megan Chlebina** and her Portugese Water Dog (name dropping as the new dog of the Obama family is the same breed) Carter participated in a Walk-a-Thon for the Humane Society?
- ◆ **Zee Fant** recently took part in a bowling tournament and finished pretty good?
- ◆ **Fred Wenzel** has a new great-granddaughter named Cailin who is eight months old and was recently adopted from China?
- ◆ **Bill Manfull** brought the palms that decorated the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Service from his offices? Thanks, Bill!
- ◆ **Larry Bell** repaired our broken down picnic table so that it can be used again without risking one's life or limbs although it does need a new coat of paint - or two?
- ◆ **Jonathan Robertson** is planning on attending the International Youth Forum in Independence and Spectacular which is held at Graceland University this summer?

Directory Change:

Betty Willetts
College Park Club
5612 26th St W
Bradenton 34207

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Community of Christ
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Address Correction Requested



Vacation Bible School's Rainforest Adventure is almost here!

June 8 - 12, Monday through Friday - 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM



Children in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade (ages 4 through 12) are wanted for Canopy Crafts, Rainforest Rhythm Music, Skyhigh Storytelling, Fun Snacks, Bible Study and More!

During our Tree Top Bible Blast week we will learn about Sharing, Giving, Growing, Love and Praise.

Please fill out a registration form to attend by contacting **Bona Lee** at 941.378.5607 or bona.lee2@verizon.net

And don't forget to invite a friend!