



Celebration News

May, 2016 Volume 26 - Issue 4

No Re-Do! A Tribute to My Mother

One of the greatest pieces of advice my mother gave me when my daughter was little was not to "redo" what she had done in helping out. My daughter decided that she was going to help me by folding the clean clothes; needless to say, they did not come out very well and when I started to redo them my mother stopped me. She explained that if I went back and did it again that would send the message to Jamie that what she did wasn't good enough! It did not have to be perfect; her heart was in the right place! I never looked at it from that perspective. What a valuable lesson!

Self esteem is one of the most important gifts we can help our children develop and one that they will need to make their way through life. We hear lots of stories about little ones trying to help out with something and only making a mess. Sometimes they are chastised and all a parent can see is that they have to clean it up. Now look at it from God's perspective. How many times does He have to clean up our mess? We make the mess but because our heart was in the right place, God cleans it up and never says anything about it.

I got the chance to practice this lesson again this March when I visited our youngest grandchildren in Maryland. They were on spring break and Grandma was there to spend precious time with them while Mom and Dad were at work. I decided that before any play we needed to do at least one thing around the house to help out and laundry was on my list. First I took them to the store and let them pick out their own laundry basket. I brought up all the clean clothes and had each one pick out their own clothes, fold them and fill their own basket. Maryn did a pretty good job, Mackallyn wanted me to help a little, but Quinn insisted that he could do his own. Well, his clothes definitely needed a redo but as I started to reach out, my mother's words came back to me gently reminding me of the importance of self-esteem.

When your heart is in the right place, that is what's important and that is what matters to our Heavenly Father. Thanks, Mom!

Carolyn Deering

Remember World Conference, June 4 - 11, in your prayers.

Invite People to Christ

The worth and diversity of all is important to *Community of Christ*. Join **Invite People to Christ** mission group as we discuss plans for community outreach programs. Programs that include, but are not limited to, our local neighborhoods. We meet on the second Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm.

Look for the *Community of Christ's* Welcome Tent in our church parking lot on **May 15**. Your prayers and support for our outreach programs are requested, and, of course, we need you and your ideas.

Jim Brouger,
Invite People to Christ team

Table Talk

Join us for **Table Talk, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Table Talk is not about a measured service but more about prayers and discernment on what matters most to you. Jesus said whenever three or more are gathered in his name, he is there. All are welcome; please come.

Family Fun Night

Wednesday, May 4th, 6:00 pm.
Come join us for a light supper,
preparing Manna bags, and games.



Yard Work

Mark your calendar - there will be a
Yard Work Day on Saturday, May
14th at the church!

We have a wood chipper reserved
for that day. The main focus for
this work day will be tree trimming.

If enough people come out, we can
do more outdoor and some inside
tasks.

Let **Brad Martin** know you can
make it.



Mark Your Calendars

We are planning to have a congregational
Beach Party on Saturday,
July 17th at Lido Beach. More
information will forthcoming in the
weeks to come.



Please Add to Your Congregational Directory:

Sam and Cathy Nichols
4923 SW 2nd Pl, Cape Coral 33914
Phones: S's: 641-891-2043
C's: 641-891-5707
e-mail: Snichols1304@comcast.net

AND

Bona Lee
new e-mail address:
3bonalee@gmail.com

Welcome the Nichols

Sam and Cathy Nichols both were
born and lived in Knoxville, Iowa, all
of their lives. They were married
January 28, 1978, and have been
married now for 38 years. They
have four children, two girls and two
boys, 12 grandchildren, 10 girls and
two boys, and three great-grandsons.

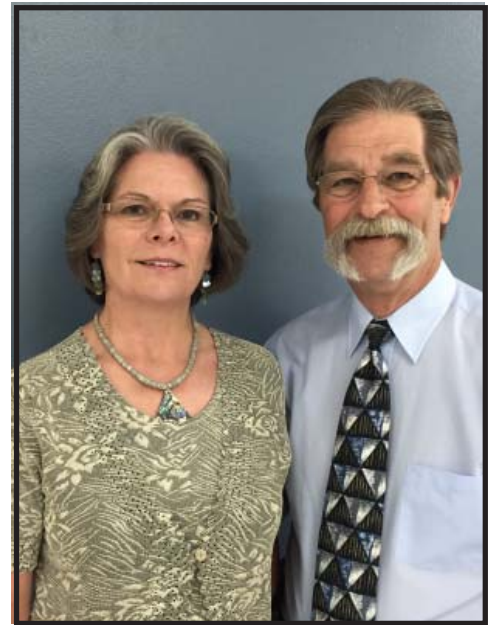
Cathy attended Iowa Methodist
School of Nursing and received her
RN license and later attended
Graceland University and received
her BA. She worked in the local
hospital for nine years, and then
went to work at the Veterans
Hospital for the next 30 years
holding numerous positions and titles in her nursing career. Cathy raised horses
while growing up and still loves horses. She also enjoys writing, reading,
boating, and baking.

Sam attended Des Moines Area 11 Community College and studied to become
a Tool and Die maker. He worked for the Maytag Company and Vermeer
Manufacturing but after a couple of years decided factory work was not what
he wanted. In 1975 he went to work for the Knoxville Police Department as a
patrolman and later worked in narcotics and as the school liaison/DARE
officer. He then was promoted to Assistant Chief for the remaining seven
years. He retired after 30 years and went into politics. He was twice elected
as a County Supervisor and served for eight years. Concurrently he served as
a director on his local REC board for 24 years, later added his service on the
Generation and Transmission board of directors, and was then elected to
represent all the Rural Coops in Iowa on the National Board of directors in
Washington, D.C. and served for six years until retiring this past December.

Sam and Cathy are both members of the church. Sam was born and raised in
the church by parents who were very involved in the church all their lives.

Sam was baptized at eight and later was called to the priesthood as a deacon.
He was then called to the office of Elder during which time he served as pastor
for five years. Cathy became a member of *Community of Christ* after they
were married.

They both like to ride their Harley Davidson motorcycles, enjoy boating, and are
looking forward to their retirement years in Florida.



**CHRIST'S
MISSION**



**OUR
MISSION**

We Move Forward to Pentecost

We have been participating in the One in Christ Moment each Sunday at the beginning of the worship service along with other congregations of *Community of Christ*. We have been dwelling in the words of the counsel given to the church in 2013 and spending some time in prayerful reflection. These moments will continue throughout the month of May to help us prepare for the World Conference in June.

As we move forward from the Easter season toward the celebration of Pentecost, we look forward to the following worship opportunities.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - May 1

In the 14th chapter of John, Jesus offers three promises of presence - the presence of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus will return, and that we will have peace as we live and love as Jesus. The theme on this Communion Sunday is *Holy Spirit, Dwell with Us* and Elders **Dan Willetts** and **Charyn Walker** will offer their ministry.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - May 8 - Ascension Sunday

We are encouraged to *Proclaim Jesus Christ*. We are challenged to listen to the stories and testimonies of those who have gone before us. Teacher **Jo Willetts** and Priest **Megan Chlebina Gonzalez** will remind us that we are called to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations.

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - May 15 - Day of Pentecost

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven..." High Priest **Nanette Dizney** and Elder **Andrea Cooper** will share about *God's Spirit Poured Out* and the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals and the church.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - May 22 - Trinity Sunday

Guided by the Spirit the early disciples found strength in Jesus' promise to continue to communicate with them through the Holy Spirit. This promise of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit brings comfort to us today. Evangelist **Al Mount** will share his guidance on this theme with Priest **Vera Kramer** presiding.

ORDINARY TIME - May 29

What does faith look like? Would you *Recognize Faith, Wherever It is Found*? Priest **Charlie Walker** and Deacon **Leah Jones** help us learn to identify faith as they share in ministry on the last Sunday in May.

Have you experienced **Table Talk** yet? The group meeting on Wednesday nights (except for the first Wednesday of each month) invites you to join them for a relaxed, but meaningful time of worship starting at 7:00 pm.

Jo Fenn-Martin for the Worship Team



Thank You, Lynn and Wade!

On behalf of the volunteers who put in countless hours to keep our *Community of Christ* food pantry, Our Father's Cupboard, always ready to serve the people of Manatee County, I would like to thank **Lynn** and **Wade Bryant** for hosting a fun gathering at their home this month. We all enjoyed delicious food, laughter, and fellowship. Lynn and Wade have dedicated many years to the food pantry, unloading and shelving food, packing bags, and helping with distribution. We have all been blessed by their dedication and support. Thank you both for your love and hospitality!

Ginger Robertson, Coordinator



Picture taken at recent Food Pantry work day when 95 bags of food were filled for distribution by this group of willing workers.



We offer our condolence to Joan Wooderson and family at the death of her husband Ray Daniels on April 25th. Please remember Joan in your prayers for the decisions that are ahead of her.

"Nothing is too great and nothing is too small to commit into the hands of the Lord."

--A.W. Pink

"We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful."

--Mother Teresa



May BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Dale Morgan
- 08 Liliana Rodriguez
- 08 Charlie Walker
- 09 Bettie Chlebina
- 14 Jackie Prevey
- 17 Jacob Rodriguez
- 18 Cole Van Beek
- 28 Tobin Cooper

What Are the Youth Up To?

With summer camps at Deerhaven just around the corner, it is time for a fundraiser. On **May 15th**, after church, the youth will be hosting a **Soup and Salad Lunch**. The money raised will go toward camperships. Please plan to attend and help our youth have the opportunity to attend camp and make new friends while learning about God.

The youth are also planning a trip to the Holy Land Experience in Orlando sometime this summer. This past February we had a fund-raiser for this trip and raised over \$500. The youth would like to thank you again for coming and supporting this activity.

Many are probably aware that the youth have been participating in a **Shoebox Project** for several years. We are in need of items again to fill the shoe boxes. Deodorant for boys and girls are needed as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste, brushes, and combs. You can put your donations in the green container in the Information Center. At present we have plenty of soap, shampoo, and conditioners.

If you don't know about our **Shoebox Project**, we would like to bring you up to date. Shoeboxes are filled with personal hygiene items for teens. Our youth have been donating them to a local teen shelter for several years now. Many of the teens who come to the shelter have no personal items with them. The teens are allowed to stay at the shelter for no more than two weeks. The shelter has run-aways from home or conflicts at home. Their parents have made arrangements for them to stay in the shelter. While the teens are in the shelter they receive counseling and the help they need to go back home. The shelter we chose to contribute to does not receive the same funding that other local shelters receive. The shelters have people who sponsor teens and donate money, but everyday personal hygiene items are something the shelter has to provide. When we go to the shelter with our shoeboxes, there is much excitement from the staff. We have been told that it is like Christmas day. This project is one that I know personally that our youth enjoy doing and lets them feel like they are making a difference in other teen's lives.

Thank you to all who have given items to the Shoebox Project and all other fund-raisers.

Heather Devine, Youth Leader

Summer Camps

Junior	3rd - 6th graders	June 19 - 23
Senior High	10th graders - recent grads	June 26 - July 2
Junior High	7th - 9th graders	July 10 - 16
SPEC	Entering 10th grade - recent grads	July 22 - 30

Registration and health forms are available on the bulletin board in the Information Center.

The Parables of Jesus; What do They Mean?

Several years ago I asked a group of middle school children to share with the group something they knew about Jesus. Most shared the obvious: Jesus is the son of God, Jesus died for us, Jesus arose from the dead, Jesus performed miracles, and so on. One young man told that Jesus liked riddles. When pressed to elaborate he said, "Jesus told riddles and people had to figure them out." I knew then he was referring to parables.

How often have any one of us read a parable of Jesus and found ourselves reading it over a few times to fully understand what Jesus wanted his listeners to know. Sometimes they do seem like a riddle. When Jesus preached before a crowd or even his disciples, he was speaking to ordinary people. He wanted his lessons to be relatable to people of that time and place. The English word *parable* is Greek in origin. It is from the Greek words that puts together two words: bole (to throw) and para (alongside). A parable is then a comparison of an obvious (understood) truth and a truth that is not so easily understood.

For the next several weeks the Adult Sunday School Class will be studying the Parables of Jesus. Did you know there are 41? Through this study we will discover how we can apply the lessons within Jesus' parables to our lives today, and hopefully solve a few "riddles" along the way!

Ginger Robertson,
Church School Director

Prayer Shawl

by Nancy Peters

Our **Prayer Shawl Group** had special guests at our April meeting. **Bettie Chlebina** and **Andrea Cooper** came to demonstrate hat making with yarn and loom. Many in our group were curious about this method of making hats for the homeless that Bettie created for the Manna bags. She has been very productive and her hats are unique and attractive.

After Bettie's demonstration, some of our ladies actually started a hat. We all appreciated this opportunity to learn something new. We thank Bettie and Andrea for their efforts and patience. We plan to join Bettie in this worthy project for the coming winter using our yard and either the loom or traditional knitting needles. All are welcome to fellowship with us on the 2nd Saturday in May at 2:00 pm.

Prevent Human Trafficking

We often read frightening stories of human trafficking in third world and underdeveloped countries and question why more isn't being done to protect the innocent victims of this unspeakable crime. The sad truth is, human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes worldwide. Even more disturbing is the harsh reality that our own Bradenton and Sarasota communities have not been immune to the perpetrators of human trafficking.

Fortunately, through the efforts of law enforcement, dedicated citizens and legislators, the Church Women United are taking a forceful stand against this inhumane and unjust evil. Dr. Brooke Bellow, Founder of More To Life Champion Leadership Academy, a co-ed school for at risk children from ages 10 to 18, has traveled throughout the country meeting with law enforcement agencies, legislators, intervention and when necessary, restoring lives of human trafficking victims.

Church Women United Manatee has committed to actively participate in the education and prevention of human trafficking. On Saturday, October 8, 2016, we will host a conference and invite all women including middle and high school age girls to come and learn how we can prevent, protect and be aware of human trafficking. All sessions will be age appropriate. Guest speakers are Dr. Bellows, representatives from Selah Freedom, an acclaimed organization that works with survivors, and Linda Daniels from the Manatee County Sheriff Department.

This conference will take place on **Saturday, October 8, 2016, at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church**. More details will be released in the late summer. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. There will be no charge for this event. This is your opportunity to take a stand for justice and preservation of human dignity. Mark this event on your calendar now so you can plan to attend.

Ginger Robertson



Gerri Bernadic, Sally Melchert, & Bettie Chlebina enjoying making "hats".