



# celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

November, 2008

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## A Change

During the month of October and continuing on through November, the **Wednesday Evening Services** have taken on a little different format. We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall and sitting around tables. Coffee and some sweets are provided before the meeting as well as during. The atmosphere is very relaxed as we sing praise songs and share in prayer. We have sung along with CD's where the words are shown on the television screen, and we have sung our favorite songs accappella from the *Sing New Songs* hymnal. We have laughed, and we have shed tears. All this is probably not that important except that we find that the Spirit blesses us no matter what structure our worship takes. It doesn't really matter as long as we gather and are open to receive the blessings of not only the Holy Spirit but of our brothers and sisters.

Come and see if this break in the busyness of the week meets your needs. Join us at **7:00 PM on Wednesday Evenings** as **Bob Slasor** and **Larry Bell** guide us through a time to sing, pray, share, and be blessed.



**Brittney Morgan** is shown as she lights the Peace Candle at the beginning of a recent worship service. Each Sunday the candle is lit to remind us of the need for peace in the world and in our lives.

## Let's Gather Together in Thanksgiving



You are invited to dinner on **Thanksgiving Day** at the church. Bring your family and friends, and we will praise God as we share our abundance with one another.

We will gather at **12:00 PM, Noon, November 27th in the Fellowship Hall and serve dinner at 12:30 PM.** There is a sign up sheet posted in the Information Center on the bulletin board with suggested food items and help that is needed. Beverages will be provided.

Share your favorite family recipes as we gather in fellowship and thank our God for his generous provisions.

For more information, contact **Nancy Peters** at 756.7370 or **Carolyn Deering** at 371.3741.

## Giving Thanks

We read in Ephesians 5:30: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

What a wonderful time of the year....Thanksgiving!! The song *Give Thanks* came immediately to my mind. "Give thanks with a grateful heart." We have so very much to be thankful for.

I work in an environment where people are suffering through sickness, injuries, and surgeries; some are elective and some are brought on by circumstances or other's unfortunate actions, but all of my patients face obstacles. I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with one gentleman who already has a prosthesis for his right leg and just underwent an amputation of his left leg. The other day he said to me, "I am so blessed." He was looking around the gym at some of the other patients and seeing what they were going through. We commiserated that we were both indeed, most blessed.

There are hurdles in each of our lives but all it takes to put them into perspective is to look around you. I thought this gentleman had some huge obstacles in his life, but he didn't. His attitude was a beautiful testimony to me. We have a choice when we wake up each day. I choose to be grateful that I woke up and try always to count my blessings.

Let us enter into this month with Thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord has given us and do our best to share them with others is my prayer.

**Carolyn Deering**, Pastoral Care Pastor



## Financial Update

2008 Operating Budget -- \$66,600.00

Income through September	\$40,143.44
Expenses through September	<u>39,955.13</u>
Net Income left through September	\$ 188.31

Thank you for your contributions to our Lord's work. Your contributions afford us the opportunity to minister to others in so many ways. May we continue to share what the Lord has graciously given to us, that others may know of His love for them.

**Robert Beers**, Congregational Financial Officers

## Congregational Conference

This is a friendly reminder that there will be a **Congregational Conference** (Business Meeting) to elect Congregational Officers for 2009 on **Sunday, November 2nd, at 10:00 AM**. For the last few Sundays a slate of officers to be elected has been made available in Sunday's bulletin for your convenience. Please refer to this list. When you decide who you would like to nominate for an office or offices, please talk to those persons and make sure you have their permission to place their name in nomination.

Please remember that at present we have a four person Pastorate leading our congregation. If you feel a Pastor, Co-Pastor, or different persons to make up a pastorate of three or four people would be more beneficial for our congregation, please contact the necessary person(s) and be ready to make the nomination. If more than one person/group is nominated, the congregation would then vote on the nominations. Remember this is when your voice can be heard.

Begin to pray and prepare for the meeting now.



Pictured above at the October Leadership Meeting is Bradenton/Sarasota congregation's 2008 Leadership Team.

## New Arrival Coming

Good news from our librarian **Beth Slasor**. She is announcing the arrival within the next three weeks of a 12 volume set of the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*. This is a great resource tool for Bible students, sermon presenters, and others who may have questions. Will you be among the first to use it?



## Change is in the Air!

November brings changes, good changes. The weather starts to change finally. Our winter visitors return. We take time to give thanks in our celebration of Thanksgiving. The Advent season begins, and we turn our thoughts to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Change is in the air!

On November 2 Evangelist **Bob Slasor** will help us explore what it means to *Lead a Life Worthy of God* when we come together to celebrate Communion. As disciples we are called to live lives like Christ. **Charyn Walker** will be ordained to the office of Elder during this service.

Memories of stories of the past, whether family stories or Bible stories, have the capacity to inform, shape, and remind us of who we are and who we are called to be. *Remember God's Promises* is the theme on November 9. Elder **Marcia Brougher** will preside and Elder **Charyn Walker** will deliver the message.

*Be Faithful Stewards* is the challenge for November 16. Elder **Larry Bell** will lead us in a Praise Service on this Sunday.

Where do you see Jesus? In your neighbors? In children? In the Scriptures? Priest **Ginger Robertson** will preside over this service of Thanksgiving when we *Recognize Jesus among us*. Many will share their insights during this service on November 23.

The first Sunday of Advent is on November 30. As we begin our preparation for Christmas, it is important to *Keep Awake!* Priest **Carolyn Deering** and Elder **Jim Deering** will share their ministry as we enter into the season of Advent. Have you started your Christmas list yet? What about giving the gift of LOVE!

Evangelist **Bob Slasor** and Elder **Larry Bell** will continue leading the Wednesday evening Prayer and Praise services during the month of November. Come and worship with us on all these **Sundays at 10:55 AM** and all the **7:00 PM Prayer and Praise services** during the month. Your presence is needed.

**Jo Fenn-Martin**, Worship Coordinator

## Please accept our heartfelt thanks -

from Dan and Jo Willetts and families

"Thank you for all your support and prayers, the food, the dinner, the strength to remember and feel Louis' presence. The overwhelming support from the entire congregation reminded us of why Louis enjoyed you all so much."

## Adult Sunday School Class



**Romans 2:** *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**Doctrine and Covenants 87:5b:** *...and from time to time, as shall be manifest by the Comforter, receive revelations to unfold the mysteries of the kingdom, and set in order the churches, and study, and learn, and become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues, and people.*

We can see by the words of these two scriptures that we are called to study and learn, expanding our understanding of God's will for our lives and also to learn about other people in God's vast world. And what a better place to do so than in the company of your brothers and sisters who are of like mind? Is there such a group of people, and if so, where do they meet?

Each Sunday morning in the Adult Class we strive to do these very things. Our discussions cover a wide range of topics (not always on point with the lesson!). Questions are asked and discussed, and we are always blest with the Spirit's presence. You may even hear a joke or two!!

Please consider joining us, we would love to have you. Your input is welcome!

**Scott A. Cramer**, Adult Education Facilitator



## The Holidays are Coming

Join in the fun of decorating our Church home for the Christmas holidays. Come at **4:00 PM on Saturday, November 29**, and put your special touches on the decorations. Working together, we will prepare our church home for the Christmas season.

When we have finished the decorating, we will enjoy the beauty we have created by singing carols and hearing scriptures to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of God's son. And to finish off the festivities, refreshments will be served!

Don't miss out on the fun!

## Our Father's Cupboard

**Our Father's Cupboard** has been very busy! 76 families were given food in the month of September. When all the numbers are in for October, it will be up there as well as more people are in need.

Thanks to **Larry Bell** for getting the necessary electrical work done for the inspection that will coming up soon. A big thank you to all the volunteers for their help each week. They make everything go much smoother.

If anyone is willing to help out on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, please let Patti know. Call her at 739.7716; this is a great opportunity to get to know what the church is doing in the community and to meet and talk to the people we are helping.

Please continue to remember your donations for **Our Father's Cupboard's Red Wagon** on the **2nd Sunday** of every month. They are very much appreciated.

**Mark Bee and Patti Benjamin-Bovee**

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## Are YOU Qualified?

Are YOU qualified to be a Sunday School Teacher? In all honesty, it may be difficult for you to decide whether or not you have what it takes to teach a Sunday School Class in our congregation. Many people feel that they do not have the expertise to minister to our children and youth in this way, but you do not have to be perfect or know every last detail about God, religion, scriptures, or current events to teach. It helps to feel comfortable with where you are on your faith journey and be willing to guide and share with others. There are opportunities for shared teaching responsibilities, mentoring or being the mentor.

There are no degrees or certificates that qualify someone as a Sunday school teacher. There are, however, great rewards for teaching. You can be certain that those in your class will truly appreciate both your time and your effort. Please give prayerful consideration to this need.

Positions are open at this time! The openings in order of importance are: Senior High - Middle School - substitute teachers for all levels.

Respond soon, these opportunities, unlike God's love, won't last forever. See, call or e-mail me, Jerilyn, to submit your application or ask questions (792.5527 or [djchlebina@hotmail.com](mailto:djchlebina@hotmail.com))

**Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina,**  
Children/Youth Education Facilitator



## Bells! Bells! Bells!

There are green bells, yellow bells, red bells, purple bells; seven different colors of bells. If you can shake a hand, you can play a bell. We are hoping to get people from 2 years to 90 years of age involved in the bell project. It is hoped that there will be many enthusiastic "ringers".

Christmas may be more joyful and exciting at church this year with the bells playing songs of praise. We look forward to the sound!

**Nanette Dizney, "Head Bell Ringer"**

## November

- 01 Jolene Gregg  
02 Henry Bender  
03 Charyn Walke  
09 Jane Kelley  
09 Barbara & Bill Jousma (anniv.)  
23 Gloria Chaney  
23 Shirley Jousma  
26 David Martin



Birthdays &  
Anniversaries  
This Month!

## Wanted: Unused, Unloved "Leggos"

Lee and Nancy Peters are collecting "Leggos" for their daughter, Julee. She is organizing a class in "Leggo" Art for children at the Onset Creative Arts Association in Massachusetts. Please contact Lee or Nancy if you have large or small "Leggo" pieces that you wish to part with.

## Traveling the Yellow Brick Road

Nancy Skene shares her thoughts on the recent Women's Retreat held at Deerhaven Retreat Center.

Each year that I go to Women's Retreat I am so happy to have gone and have never come away disappointed. This year was no different. We followed the yellow brick road (the theme was *Our Journey Down the Yellow Brick Road*) and remembered and shared parts of our life journey down our own path. We looked at the scarecrow, the tin man, and the lion who searched for intellect, heart, and courage as they accompanied Dorothy on her journey to find her way back home. We took time to examine ourselves at different times in our personal journey,

I drove to Deerhaven with my mom, **Bettie Chlebina**, and **Lillian Wade**. The trip up and back is always a lot of fun - we spent an hour at the Russell Stover Outlet store!! I shared a cabin with **Rachel Fant** - what a good time we had, and, by the way, those seamless caps she diligently "weaves" for orphans in Afghanistan are a tiny portion of her amazing journey.

Next year the women from the Orlando congregation will host the Women's Retreat. I am already looking forward to it!

## DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Lillian Wade, Nancy Skene, Karen Mac Donald, Carol Law, Rachel Fant, Nanette Dizney, and Bettie Chlebina** attended the 2008 Florida Mission Center's Women's Retreat at Deehaven Retreat Center?
- ◆ **Zoe Van Beek** will be doing a Triathalon (runs, swims, bikes) at the YMCA? Go Zoe!
- ◆ **Jolene Gregg** attended a continuing education in Las Vegas and invited her mother, **Elaine Gregg**, and aunt to enjoy a long weekend that included two great highlights: a helicopter ride and Cirque du Soleil's "Love"?
- ◆ **Denise Chlebina**, and a friend, drove out to Iowa to be a part of Graceland University's Homecoming?
- ◆ **Bob Slasor** says that plans are now being made to begin a Men's Group after the first of the year so congregational men can share hopes, dreams, concerns, and good news that are important to men? Watch for more information in the near future.



The above group enjoyed going through hymn books and giving a 'thumbs up or down' as to their choice of songs to be included in the new hymnal to be published in 2013.

## NOTE:

**Day Light Savings Time Ends  
November 1.**

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Address Correction Requested



**Thanksgiving 2008** is only a few weeks away. Below are the responses of those that responded to the question:  
*What one or two things are you thankful for this year?*

**Patti Benjamin-Bovee** - I am thankful to be able to help those less fortunate by distributing food from *Our Father's Cupboard*. It is especially true during these hard times and during the Thanksgiving season.

**Bill Williams** - I am thankful for my health and being able to recover from my recent surgery.

**Bona Lee** - I am most thankful at this time in my life to know that I am chosen by the one who created me, who loves me unconditionally, and with an everlasting love that will last through all eternity. I certainly have not earned this gift and that makes it even more precious to me.

**Kathy Park** - I am thankful for Our Father guiding me through each day and for both my family and church family.



**Charlie Walker** - I am thankful to have my health back and be involved with the Youth.

**Ginger Robertson** - I am thankful that I came from a family that placed love of God and others highest in priority. Because of this, we understand how God's presence in our lives gives us the strength and compassion to overcome problems and share real love and appreciation of one another.

**Jim Deering** - I am so thankful for all my past experiences, both difficult and wonderful. Together those events make me the happy person I am today. I am so glad God is in charge!