

# CELEBRATION NEWS

## Have a Voice

Have a voice in the future of the Bradenton/Sarasota congregation by being present for the **Congregational Conference** (business meeting) to be held **November 8 at 9:45 AM**. At this time you will be able to nominate and vote for officers for 2010 and vote on any other business matters that may be presented. Enclosures are being put in the Sunday bulletins of the offices that need to be filled. This is to help you be better prepared. Now is the time to look toward the future. Come and be a part of it.

**Children's Sabbath** was observed on October 18. Matthew Devine, Zee Fant, Tobin Cooper and Zoe Van Beek provided the prayer response music by playing the bells.



## Celebrate Mission

A **November 13-15 MissionFest** will be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center. The MissionFest is what formerly was known as the Fall Training Conference. It has been renamed to better express the purpose of the event. This year the focus will be on *The Hope of Zion*. All are invited to come and celebrate mission - the mission of Christ, the purpose of the Florida Mission Center and each individual's calling in that mission.

Three guest ministers from the International Church will teach and share with all in attendance. Apostle Linda Booth will respond to *Communities of Peacefulness*, Bishop Steve Jones will respond to *Communities of Generosity* and African American Specialist Derrick Williams will respond to *Communities of Justice*. Come gather and share ideas, spend time in worship and share in God's love. Prepare to further the cause of Zion in your own communities. Register on-line now at [cofchristfmc.org](http://cofchristfmc.org).

*Thanksgiving was never meant to be  
shut up in a single day!*

*-Robert C. Lintner*

## Is Your Christmas Stocking Filled?

The **Christmas Stocking** you were given at the beginning of 2009 should be getting pretty full by now. This fund raising project suggested that you put the same number of coins or paper currency in the red Christmas stocking each month as the number of that month - two for February, seven for July, 10 for October, etc. Do you know how much you have in your stocking thus far?

For your information, you may turn your stocking in during December or January. This project will be completed by December, 2009. We now have only two months, November and December, to complete this fund raising project.

If you have been putting your monies in each month, you are well aware of how quickly the year has gone. Another lesson learned may be how much is accumulated when we give regularly. Happy 'stuffing'!



# THANKSGIVING DINNER

### Answers to Church School Quiz:

1. Kindergarten Class
2. Middle and High School Class
3. Primary Class

## Good News!

No, I am not asking for a Church School teacher! Currently we have three children/youth classes. We do have room for more so keep the children coming! We are blessed to have some remarkable teachers for our classes. Those remarkable teachers are **Nancy Peters, Nancy Skene, Beth Slasor** and **Ginger Robertson**.

This fall we experienced some major changes. After several years of teaching our nursery children, Beth and Nancy P. have been 'promoted' to the kindergarten class! Nancy S. is now teaching our primary class after numerous years of teaching the junior class. The Middle and High School classes have merged, and Ginger is leading this awesome group. The Middle and High School class can be seen enjoying the comforts of a living room. They have a comfy couch and pillows and small tables in their classroom. Stop by and you will see them all quite relaxed each Sunday.

If you have considered teaching a class but don't feel ready, this may be the perfect opportunity for you to ask to be mentored by one or all of these dedicated teachers. The goal of our church school is to provide all children/youth with a safe place for learning about and growing closer to God.

**Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina**, Children's Church School

Take this church school quiz: (see answers below)

1. Which class is made up of only boys?
2. Which class has sibling groups in the same class?
3. Which class has moved to a new side of the hallway?

## Share Thanksgiving Dinner

You are invited on Thanksgiving Day to share in a **Thanksgiving Dinner** 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 26th in the Fellowship Hall and serve dinner at 12:30 PM**. There is a sheet posted in the Information Center on the bulletin board where you can sign up to bring suggested food items and to help with needed tasks. 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.

## A Christ-Centered Mindset

During the past few months I have been involved in some discussions that have involved church 'mechanics'. These incidents involved problems such as why hasn't something been done about certain equipment, why didn't someone follow through on what they had proposed and why does it take so long for us, the congregation, to get things done. My answer to all, and probably many more questions we have as a congregation, is because we function with lay ministry or as we call them, volunteers.

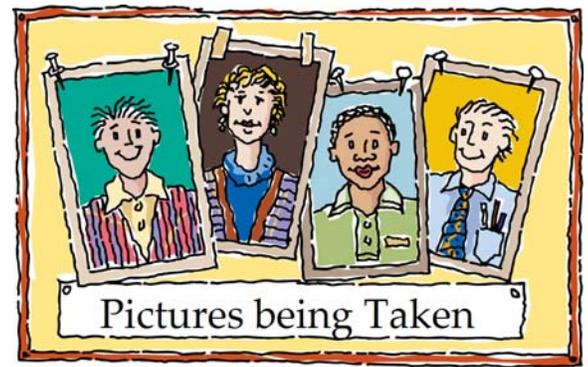
Lay ministry is playing a more important role than ever in many religious denominations today. There are websites, resource materials and conferences available to those interested in widening their base of ministry and for churches desiring to incorporate lay ministry. One lay ministry author states there is a difference between a volunteer-management mindset and a Christ-centered mindset. She says "The volunteer mindset is fixed on church needs and finding the people to fill them, often without consideration of individual gifts or talents. The Christ-centered mindset begins with skills and passions and encourages each person to serve 'when God has equipped him or her to do so'...A Christ-centered church trusts that there are people with skills and passions to meet the needs of the congregation. Supporting these people honors gift-based ministry and fulfills the Great Commission." The Bradenton/Sarasota congregation is blessed with so many willing Christ-centered persons who have served and are serving in various capacities.

Our faith movement has always counted on people with skills and passions to fulfill its mission. Not many of those serving in positions of responsibility feel fully "equipped", but they are willing to use their skills to meet the needs of our congregation. Many of these people hold full-time employment and/or have other responsibilities. Those serving in leadership responsibilities and on committees are very conscious of their time limitations and, of course, of the budget restraints of the congregation. In other words, they can't always do what they would like to accomplish.

The next time the lights don't go on in the fellowship hall, there are typos in the bulletin, there's no nursery for the little ones, or the microphone squeals during a worship service remember that lay ministry is involved. Our volunteers will continue to develop their skills in a desire to meet the needs of the congregation as best as they can at this time. With everyone's help they will continue to grow in their service. Thank those giving of their time and talents once in awhile, because the congregation as a whole is blessed as the giver and the receiver.

Remember our people aren't being paid to do the many jobs that need to be done in our congregation, but they are making an offering, an offering with a Christ-centered mindset.

**Elaine Gregg**, Communications



If you are new to our church family or just want to update your photo for the **Our Church Family** board in the Information Center, please contact **Elaine Gregg** after church **November 8, 15 or 22**.

## Welcome Always Needed

I have had the opportunity over the past few months to travel to other congregations of our faith. During those trips, I began to realize the importance of what happens at the entrance of the church both inside the doors and outside. In one congregation I walked past a few people outside the church and my presence was not acknowledged. Once I stepped inside the building, no one was there to greet me. As I started walking through the building, no one paid any attention to me except one older lady who was busy getting communion ready. I stepped into the sanctuary and sat for awhile. I finally got up and walked up to a man that I know and told him that I was tired of being ignored. He made some kind of remark, but I don't think he realized how serious I was. If I had been a new person to that congregation, I probably would have never gone back.

We are so very fortunate to have the dedicated people that meet and greet us every Sunday. **Patty Day** puts the greeter schedule together, and she has found some friendly, willing participants. If you know how to smile, hug, shake hands, or speak words of welcome, I am sure that she could find a place for you to serve. Thank you to all of you who make me feel so welcome every time I am in your presence. It is the responsibility of all of us to make everyone feel welcomed and loved.

**Nanette Dizney**, Missionary Coordinator

## Young Adults to Share

All young adults are invited to meet with Community of Christ President Steve Veazey for VisionProject 2009, November 20-22 in Columbia, South Carolina. Go share your thoughts concerns and ideas. For more information or to carpool, contact Cindy Campbell [campbecs@bellsouth.net](mailto:campbecs@bellsouth.net) or 352.373.3932. Be a part of this historic event.

## Winter Reunion 2010

If you are looking for a good way to start out the year 2010, no need to look further. Plan now to join others from around our area and even further. The **Winter Reunion** will be held from **January 23-29 at Deerhaven Retreat Center**. Brochures are out and can be found on the bulletin board in the Information Center.

Besides the usual meals, fellowship services, classes, song services, and worship, the schedule includes many choices for afternoon classes, i.e. Bird House Making, Cake Decorating, Pine Needle Weaving, and Computer Power Point Class. Guest ministry will be provided by Stassi D. Cramm, a member of the Council of Twelve. The theme for the reunion is *Vulnerable to Grace*.

## Speaking and Listening

Do you expect others to believe or agree with what preachers say? Why should preachers have any more inherent authority than, say, Rush Limbaugh?

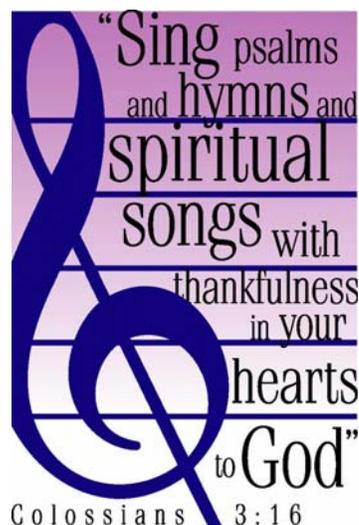
Clearly, if the authority of the preacher resides solely in the person, then the words they speak occupy no unique space and can be embraced or discounted. What makes preachers unique is that they are not rehearsing their own clever ideas to impress an audience. They are, rather, seeking to represent and explain the scriptures. The preachers' message is grounded in scripture, and we need to believe that.

To think this way has huge implications for the humility of the preacher. It has implications as well for those who hear the message. When we hear a message whose roots are in scripture, we are not hearing a mere person speaking mere words. We are, in a very real sense, listening to God speak to us. When those bringing the message believe this, they are very careful about what they say. And if we believe this, we, as listeners, will be very excited about getting to church on Sunday!

(The above has been paraphrased from "Does a Sermon have Authority?" by Rev. Randy Greenwald published in Bradenton Herald's Accent section on 5/09/09)

## Pace One's Self

- P** Pray for others regularly
- A** Avail yourself to others
- C** Contact others regularly
- E** Exemplify Christian living daily



The question asked this month was: *If you were to write a poem or song about being thankful for this year's blessings, what would the title be?* Here are the answers that were received:

Washed in the Waves of God's Love by **Penny Cramer**

Let Go and Grow by **Patty Day**

How I Know God Loves Me by **Bob Beers**

Needs Filled, My Life I Yield by **Nanette Dizney**

My Life Seems to Have Gone to the Dogs, but at Least Tails are Wagging! by **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina**

My Blessings Runneth Over by **Heather Devine**

Let My Light Shine Forth with My Blessings by **Carol Law**

This Liturgical calendar year we have explored in depth the risks, the challenges and the sacrifices that Jesus and his disciples faced as they traveled throughout Galilee, Samaria and Judea. It was during that time that Jesus tried to teach his disciples about the cost of following the one who would preach the gospel of God's love and salvation, His plan of redemption



## November's Worship

for all humankind. We, like the disciples of Galilee, were instructed to love like Jesus, to be humble but speak boldly, and to find joy in the journey. It is not easy to imagine that a baby, born of God was intended as the ultimate

sacrifice for the sins of humanity, but the joy comes from within the truth that Christ lives in each one of us today. We as a people of God have much for which we can be thankful. Not only do we have His Truth, we have His continuing revelation to lead us into the future. *“Lift up your eyes and fix them on the place beyond the horizon to which you are sent. Journey in trust, assured that the great and marvelous work is for this time and for all time.”* Doctrine and Covenants 161:1a

*Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Self.* This, according to Jesus, is the most important commandment. Based on the great affirmation at the heart of Judaism known as the *Shema*, loving God was first and foremost in their faith. Jesus expanded on that rule to include loving your neighbor as you would love yourself. Priest **Charlie Walker** will share his thoughts on this message, during the November 1st Communion Service. Priest **Patty Day** will preside over the worship.

You will be encouraged to *Give Your All* in the service of November 8th. Priest **Don Fant** is planning this service of challenge with Elder **Charyn Walker** speaking on the theme. How much do you have to give of your time, talents and money? How much more?

Provoke. What does that word really mean? Can we *Provoke One Another to Love*? Yes, according to Priest **Stuart Skene**. This November 8th theme may sound like a contradiction, but sometimes we need to be *provoked* to make conscious choices. Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** is planning this worship service.

God is the Beginning and the End, the *Alpha and Omega*. God is with us always. Evangelist **Bob Slasor** will teach us how this applies in our lives today as he preaches this sermon of God's sovereignty. High Priest **Nanette Disney** will preside over this November 22nd worship.

On November 29th we enter the season of **Advent**. As we look forward to the Nativity, we heed the prophesy of the fulfillment of God's promise that redemption will come to His people. High Priest Bob Watkins, our Mission Center President and Bishop Jane Watkins, will share their ministry with Priest **Ginger Robertson** presiding.

We continue to invite everyone to join us on **Wednesday Evenings** in the fellowship hall where we meet to pray, praise and sing. Light refreshments are available and love and laughter is always present.

## Hangings of the Greens

All are invited to gather at the church on **Saturday, November 28th at 6:00 PM** for our annual **Hangings of the Greens**. Crafters of all ages can meet in the fellowship hall to make ornaments, while others can decorate throughout the church. Refreshments will be available to keep us motivated. At 7:30 PM we will gather in the Sanctuary for a short worship service. Let's celebrate the beginning of Advent with all the fun and fellowship of community.

This year our Christmas Eve Service, which begins at 7:00 PM will bring us together in song, word and prayer as we celebrate the birth of our living Savior. In the midst of all the busyness of the season, this is an opportunity for us to spend time in communion with



Christ. May we be filled with the spirit of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace.

**Ginger Robertson, Worship Team Leader**



- 01 Jolene Gregg
- 03 Charyn Walker
- 09 Jane Kelley
- 23 Gloria Chaney
- 23 Shirley Jousma

## Spiritual Growth

Experience a weekend devoted to wholeness of body, mind and spirit and to spiritual growing, understanding, renewing and blessing. Bring your hurts and have them healed. Bring your hopes and have them clarified. Bring your commitment and have it sanctified. This can be experienced at the **Spiritual Growth Retreat, October 30 - November 1** at Deerhaven Retreat Center. Bring the scriptures, journal or notebook and lawn chair (optional). This is a weekend where Christ is the Focus, Zion the call, and empowerment the goal. Register on-line at [www.cofchristfmc.org](http://www.cofchristfmc.org) or contact **Bob Slasor** (941.756.3678) or [rslasor2@verizon.net](mailto:rslasor2@verizon.net).



A small group of about 12 people enjoyed breakfast together at Cafe on the Beach last month. It was a beautiful day to be at the beach, and those attending enjoyed the great food and company. We were pleased to have the Florida Mission Center President and Bishop, the Watkins, come from their home in Lakeland to join us.



We extend deep sympathy to the family of **Jessie Benjamin** who passed away on October 4. She is survived by her daughter **Joan Wooderson**, two sons, 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. She was loved by all and devoted to the church.



**Betty Willetts** passed away on October 12. Betty is survived by two daughters and two sons, 24 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren and a brother and sister. We extend our sympathy to son **Dan and Jo Willetts**, granddaughter **Melinda and Richard Creel** and great-grandchildren **Patrick and Kaitlyn James** and all her family. Betty provided a quiet, loving ministry to those who came in contact with her.

Our church family will miss these two women whose lives testified to us of their love for God, church, and family.



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

**Operating Budget** for 2009 is \$60,031:

Income through September 2009	\$39,437
Expenses through September 2009	<u>37,251</u>
Balance ending September 2009	\$ 2,186

Through September we should have 75% of our budgeted income in or \$45,023. This is a short fall of \$5,586. October is a large expense month for our congregation due to our Outreach International Partners pledge and our yearly insurance bill.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

**Bob Beers**, Congregational Financial Officer

## Want to be a Delegate?

The **Florida Mission Center Conference** will be held **December 5th** at the Lakeland congregation. The conference will start at 9:30 AM with lunch provided by the congregation for a freewill offering.

At this conference delegates' names and any proposed resolutions for the 2010 World Conference will be considered. If you would like to be a delegate or have any questions, call Debbie Bartlett at 800.900.5070.

## We Thank You, Lord

We thank you, Lord, for ordinary things,

A roof, a couch, the sun so warm and bright,

Enough to eat and clothes and shoes to wear,

And when nightfall comes, a light.

We've taken these for granted; and we're thankful for our homes

And the safety they give us each day and night.

We thank you, Lord, for ordinary things,

A school, a church, and the many places we may go,

A book to read and music to be heard,

And every day some useful work to do.

We thank you, Lord, for ordinary things,

A prayer, a hope, a word of love and cheer,

A song to sing, a letter to be read,

And days that pass without a breath of fear.

May we appreciate them, Lord; and may we give thanks

For these and the many things we have so near.

--Unknown

## DID YOU KNOW ???

◆ **Beth and Bob Slasor** celebrated Bob's sister's 80th birthday in Missouri where his brother and three sisters were also in attendance; went to Oregon and Washington to see and bless their great-grandson and visit with their four grandchildren, son and daughter-in-law, and also went back to Missouri to help a daughter and her family move the first part of October?

◆ **Jacob Rodriguez** is playing T-Ball this fall?

◆ **Hailie Rodriguez** is playing soccer?

◆ **Nancy and Marcia Brougher** had a very good time at the Women's Retreat and were blessed with the ministry that the Miami women brought to the retreat?

◆ **Lee and Nancy Peters** traveled to New England to attend Nancy's 50th High School Reunion, then visited family and friends from Cape Cod to New Hampshire and on to the Berkshire Mountain area of Massachusetts where they viewed beautiful fall foliage? Two weeks later they attended Lee's 50th Reunion in New Jersey where he presented each of his classmates with a CD of pictures they submitted on-line.

◆ **Carolyn and Jim Deering** are in London, England, with daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Jay Jones, for a two week holiday where they exchanged homes with a couple from Wimbledon?

◆ **Kathy Park** is visiting friends and family in Indiana?

### Change of Address:

Joan Wooderson and Ray Daniels  
1010A 59th Avenue Dr. W.  
Bradenton 34207  
Cell phone: 941.704.2858

Address Correction Requested



## Join Us This Month in Thanksgiving

*Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once  
a year; to the honest man it comes as  
frequently as the heart of gratitude will  
allow.*

*Edward S. Martin*

*He who thanks but with the lips  
Thanks but in part;  
The full, the true Thanksgiving,  
Comes from the heart.*

*J. A. Shedd*

