

# Celebration News

November, 2013, Volume 23 - Issue 6

## A Hymn of Praise

The familiar hymn often called *The Doxology* or *The Common Doxology* was written by Thomas Ken in 1674 as the concluding verse of a hymn. The lyrics are appropriate for any time of giving or thanksgiving. Consider using this hymn as your Thanksgiving dinner prayer.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him, above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

How profound to know that these words are still very meaningful to Christians around the world for nearly 440 years!

**YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT  
THE CONGREGATIONAL  
CONFERENCE TO ELECT OFFICERS  
FOR 2014 TO BE HELD SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 10TH AT 9:45 AM.**

## New Hymnals Arrive!

The new hymnals, *Community of Christ Sings*, are here! There are 23 boxes waiting to be opened and placed in the hymn racks in the sanctuary. If you ordered a copy for your personal use, you will be notified soon when they will be available for you to purchase.

## A Thankful Heart

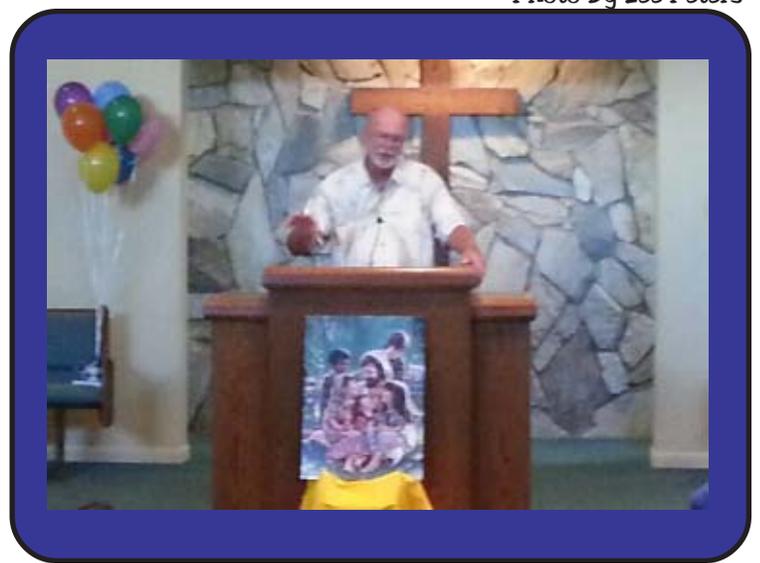
Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness. First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? *Dear God, thank you for my daily bread.* Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body -- even the oft-forgotten parts? *Thank you, God for creating and sustaining me.*

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests. Finally, I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. *Lord, help me not grow weary of the interesting "spices" that fill my life.*

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix.

Mary Ann Sundby

Photo by Lee Peters



Evangelist Glenn Day gives a Prayer of Blessing for our children during the worship service on Children's Sabbath, Oct. 20th.

## We Look Forward to November

November is here already, and we look forward to what comes with it: cooler air, return of northern friends, Thanksgiving, and anticipation and preparation for the Christmas celebrations.

On Sunday, November 3rd, the story of Zacchaeus will be our scripture focus. Elder **Ginger Robertson** and Evangelist **Glenn Day** will share with us how Zacchaeus learns to *Respond to Grace*. You are invited to be present at the table and participate in the Communion service.

In Psalm 145, David is praising God when he wrote, *Bless God's Name Forever*. Evangelist **Bob Slasor** will bring the message on November 10th with Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** presiding.

*Rejoice in God's New Creation*. The scripture from Isaiah for this Sunday is filled with hope, promise, and good things. Priest **Patty Day** is the presider on November 17th with Evangelist **Al Mount** bringing the message.

November 24th is the final Sunday in this Christian year. Before we turn toward the manger, we take one more glance at the cross, to consider its meaning and to help put the next four weeks of Advent in context. *God's Chosen One* is the theme with Teacher **Fay Beers** and Evangelist **Bob Slasor** leading us in worship.

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday and look to the month of December with special celebrations, be present at these worship services as well as the Wednesday night Prayer and Praise services and use them to grow your relationship with God. There will be **NO** service on Wednesday night, November 27th.

Sunday, December 1st, marks the beginning of a new year in the Christian calendar. It is the first Sunday of Advent when we turn our thoughts to the coming of the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with us.

**Jo Fenn-Martin** for the Worship Team

## Join in A Great Experience

Join with others from the Florida Mission Center, Southeast Mission Center and many other locations at the **2014 Winter Reunion** to be held **January 25-31** at Deerhaven Retreat Center. Dick and Barbara Howard will be sharing as guest ministers. There will be optional classes as well as the usual worship services, song services, talent show and good food. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Information Center.

## Opportunity to Share

The next time you go to the supermarket or clean out your pantry, please remember the needs of **Our Father's Cupboard Food Pantry**. Cereal, peanut butter, and powdered milk always seem to be in short supply when filling the food bags. If you could help out by purchasing food items, bringing them to the Information Center, and placing them in the 'red wagon', it would be much appreciated. Money is also welcome at any time. Just put it in your church envelope and mark it "Pantry".

Thank you for your support.



## Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, November 30th, the Christmas decorations will

come down from the attic, and a crew of eager decorators will make our church home a sight to behold. You are invited to be a member of that crew! The first group will arrive at **9:00 am** and get down the heavy boxes and set up the tree. The next group will arrive at **10:00 am** and put on the finishing touches.

December 1st is the first Sunday of Advent, and with your help, the church will sparkle in anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth. Decorating our church home for the Christmas holidays is a big job, but it can be a fun job when many hands help.

Please lend your hands and your creative spirit and join us on **November 30th** for the **Hanging of the Greens**. Your efforts will be enjoyed and appreciated by all who enter our church home during the holidays.

**The Worship Team**

## How Are We Doing?

Financial Update through September, 2013

Budgeted Income	\$ 45,524
Actual Income	<u>34,962</u>
Difference to Budgeted Income	<u>\$( 10,562)</u>
Actual Income	\$ 34,962
Actual Expenses	<u>(38,812)</u>
Balance on Hand	<u>\$ ( 3,850)</u>

### Our Father's Cupboard

Income	\$3,474
Expenses	<u>(1,388)</u>
Balance	<u>\$2,086</u>

### Labyrinth Fund

Income (No Expenses)	\$1,359
Carry over from 2011 & 2012	<u>2,105</u>
Current Balance	<u>\$3,464</u>

Thank you for sharing your blessings with both local and World Church needs.

**Bob Beers**, Congregational Financial Officer

## Wishing for More

Have you ever been somewhere that is so exciting that you don't want to leave? That is how I felt when attending the **Peace Colloquy**. I just didn't want it to end. The people that were there and the workshops we were able to attend were outstanding. We all received our copy of the new hymnal, *Community of Christ Sings*. We continually perused it and sang from it the rest of our time together. Rev. John Bell, the recipient of the 2013 Peace Award, was full of knowledge and wisdom about hymns that promote justice and peace in our world. There are approximately 14 of his songs in the new hymnal.

Many friendships were renewed and new relationships were added to the list. Approximately 1,100 people attended the Colloquy which produced lots of warmth for a few cold days in Missouri.

We have some challenging times ahead to learn how to sing new exciting songs. It may take us a while, but so did our thirty-five year old *Saints Hymnal*. I look forward to the kinds of worship experiences we will be able to have learning together.

**Nanette Dizney**

## Sing as One in Faith, Love and Praise

*The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning* was sung at the opening worship experience which introduced our new hymnal, *Community of Christ Sings*. It was one of the many old and new hymns that was sung during the three day Peace Colloquy held in Independence, Missouri, October 18-20. Hearing over 1,000 voices sing this hymn while being accompanied on the Temple organ was just one of the times that I felt "goose bumps". The old familiar hymns touch us with a spirit of history that unites us in mission through our singing. With the new hymns in our new hymnal, we will be on a journey of discovering words and tunes that will bring new "goose bumps". Many of the new hymns express so beautifully the *Community of Christ* today.

This Peace Colloquy was different than past ones, but with the theme "Peace - Justice - Song", it reminded me of the direction our faith movement is moving and what a wonderful way to go on that path - singing! Rev. John Bell, a hymn writer, author and ordained minister, was the recipient of the 2013 International Peace Award given by our church Friday evening.

It was such a great opportunity to go through many of the new hymns in workshops facilitated by Peter Judd, Jan Kraybill, David Bolton, Jane Gardner, Jack Ergo, and Don H. Compier as well as guests John Thornburg of the Hymn Society and John Bell. It was wonderful to learn and sing for three days!

I am looking forward to discovering with you, the Bradenton/Sarasota congregation, new hymns that will touch us, challenge us, and inspire us on our journey as disciples of Christ. As a pianist/organist (this will be the fourth hymnal I have had the opportunity to play from), I will be challenged by new tunes; as one planning worship services, I will be challenged by the many choices; and as one of those singing, I will be challenged in learning something new, but I am looking forward to the journey. Quoting from the refrain of the hymn entitled, *Summoned by the God Who Made Us*, "Let us bring the gifts that differ, and in splendid, varied ways, sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise."

**Elaine Gregg**

# God's Great Generosity Equals Thankful Disciples

Part of our witness as disciples is sharing the news of God's great generosity. God provides "enough and to spare". God shares in abundance, "good measure, pressed down...shaken together, and running over." All that we have and all that we are is a priceless gift to us from God. What then is our response as disciples of Jesus Christ? In simple terms, we respond with thankfulness and share with others as generously as God has shared with us.

Generosity is one of the ways we can both honor our heritage and our call to live as prophetic people who help shape the future God has envisioned for all creation. A Disciple's Generous Response is a whole life commitment we choose to make in response to God's wonderful generosity. We express our gratitude to God with each breath of life we take as we share generously, save wisely, and spend responsibly. Understanding our stewardship at the personal, congregational, and denominational levels will bless us spiritually and grow us as a community, so that we can respond "more fully and joyfully".

All things were created by God and are to be used for God's purposes. As disciples of Christ, we explore the scriptures to understand our stewardship of time, giftedness, and financial resources in response to God's grace and love expressed to us in the life of Jesus Christ. Our stewardship is

- a personal response to God's grace and love;
- a means to meet the needs of a growing church; and
- a way to provide more fully and joyfully for Christ like service and ministry, locally and globally.

Agency is one of the generous gifts God gives to us. Agency is our ability to choose freely how we respond to God's infinite love and grace. Using our agency wisely allows us to manage our time, giftedness, and resources to benefit our personal, family, congregational, and community life. More specifically, our stewardship of financial resources defines the extent we can generously share, wisely save, and responsibly spend. The following six principles of **A Disciple's Generous Response** guide us in living out our stewardship of resources:

1. A disciple practices generosity as a spiritual discipline in response to God's grace and love.
2. A disciple is faithful in response to Christ's ministry.
3. A disciple's financial response, while unique to individual circumstances, expresses love of God, neighbor, creation, and oneself.
4. A disciple shares generously through tithing so that others may experience God's generosity.
5. A disciple saves wisely in order to create a better tomorrow for self, family, the church's mission, and the world.
6. A disciple spends responsibly as a commitment to live in health and harmony with God and the world.

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 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. - Romans 12:1-2 NRSV*

Taken from the Church's website and submitted by **Dan Willetts**



## A Message

I, **Larry Bell**, have made a decision to not have my name submitted for pastor in 2014. I support the nomination of Nanette Dizney.

I received excellent counsel from the membership, plus my own counsel to myself of which age is a factor and other personal reasons.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

**Bring the family to Deerhaven for  
MISSIONFEST: LIVE CHRIST'S MISSION  
Nov. 8 & 9  
Guest Minister: Linda Booth  
Note: FL Mission Center and Deerhaven  
Conferences at 1:00 pm Saturday.**



Photos taken by Bob Beers.

# Looking Back at the Church in the Park

Gathering under the pavilion.

Our annual **Church in the Park** was held on the second Sunday in October. We gathered at Longwood Run Park at 10:00 am and were blessed with wonderful weather enjoying a nice breeze through the pavilion. Approximately 60 people were able to come together for a beautiful day of worship and fellowship. **Nanette Dizney** led us in some camp songs and **Jo Fenn-Martin** led us in worship. Everyone participated in a worship service exercise depicting the Parable of the Ten Lepers and a scripture word puzzle. Following our worship, the children participated in activities while the adults enjoyed a time of fellowship.



The chefs give last minute instructions.

Our cooks, **Dan Willetts** and **Richie Creel**, grilled our hamburgers and hot dogs to perfection while **Jo Willetts** organized the picnic items. A wonderful time was had by all.

A special thank you to all who helped organize this worship and fellowship day.



A group re-enacts the Parable of the 10 Lepers from Luke 17.

Look forward and be hopeful, look backward and be thankful, look down and be helpful, look up and be humble.

## Community of Christ Hosts Church Women United

Each year, after a summer break, Church Women United of Manatee County meets in October to begin a new season. On October 4, 52 women from 21 area churches met at our church for a morning of fellowship and worship. We gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a beautiful and bountiful continental breakfast. During this time, we renewed old friendships and welcomed new ones. We then convened to the sanctuary where we sang, worshipped and listened to the guest speakers share testimonies of the work that is happening in our community on behalf of peace and justice, and the worth of all persons who receive help. Adell Erozer, Executive Director of Turning Points, the coalition for the homeless in Manatee County presented a program that gave us a better understanding of what is needed to break the chains of poverty and homelessness in our community. Other guests shared insights on mental illness and the plight of our migrant workers.

Each year our local chapter donates over \$1,700 to local agencies that offer services to the marginalized in Manatee County. When you consider that Church Women United (CWU) is an International organization, the amount of money that is generously shared throughout the world is making a huge difference in the lives of innumerable people globally. Those of us who have been attending members of this local chapter of CWU have experienced firsthand the power of Christ-like mission.

Currently we are involved in an ongoing project lovingly called "Soles for Little Souls". We collect new shoes for children from kindergarten through high school age. The shoes are then distributed to needy children throughout our community by way of agencies and schools. Thus far, over 300 pairs of shoes have been distributed to children in Manatee County. On November 15, we will all gather at Manatee United Methodist Church for the annual Migrant Tea. Throughout the year many churches make quilts, collect clothing, toys and other gifts that will be distributed to migrant families. Last year women from *Community of Christ*, made several newborn baby baskets filled with items needed for new babies. We also brought new socks and underwear for the older children. This is your call to generosity on behalf of the needy in our community. If you would like to help, please contact **Ginger Robertson** or **Nanette Dizney**. If you haven't taken advantage of the opportunity to worship, fellowship and work with other faithful women in our community who share our passion for peace and justice ministries, the time to join is now!

**Ginger Robertson**, Outreach Ministries

*O Lord, there are not enough words of thanks for all your blessings. Our hearts overflow in praise and ...*



**THANKSGIVING**

## Happy Birthday!



**to those celebrating  
in November**

01 Jolene Gregg  
03 Richie Creel  
03 Charyn Walker  
09 Jane Kelley  
19 Kinsley Roehl  
23 Gloria Chaney  
23 Shirley Jousma  
25 Johnathan Morgan

**Cornucopia**, A Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stand on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.

Children receiving treats.



Ready to serve the Swamp Juice.



## Everyone Wins

The best expression I can think of to share the experiences of our **Halloween Party** was the reaction of **Liam Quinn** when **Suzanne Grimmer** explained to the children that everyone would be getting a prize. His eyes and mouth opened wide, and he exclaimed "**WOW**" with so much excitement!

Suzanne and her team provided an excellent Halloween Party for our congregation. From her "witch" costume to her enthusiasm, she gave her all. The decorations were outstanding, and the food was scrumptious. We ate pulled pork sandwiches, ham and cheese sliders, beans, cole slaw, pineapple stuffing, veggies and fruit trays, deviled eggs, cake, Halloween pudding and brownies, and swamp juice with gummy worms!

There were many games for all ages. The one game that everyone enjoyed was "Spooky Musical Chairs". I think the older people enjoyed it more than the little ones. They could use more energy pushing someone aside to get a chair for themselves. The children played Halloween Candle Shoot Out, Air Bobbing for cider donuts, Pin the Hat on the witch and decorated cookies. At the same time the adults did a Halloween Word Search Puzzle.

All this took place after the children had gone from car to car "Trunk or Treating." Even our youngest, four month old "skeleton" **Zander Scholl**, reached into the cauldron and pulled out a bag of M&M's and didn't want to let them go.

Thank you to all who participated in decorating their cars, treating the children and joining in with the Halloween fun. A special thank you to Suzanne and all who helped her organize such a fun activity for our congregation.

**Fay Beers**



A family enjoying the decorations and food.



Our loving witch checking to make sure everyone is having a good time.

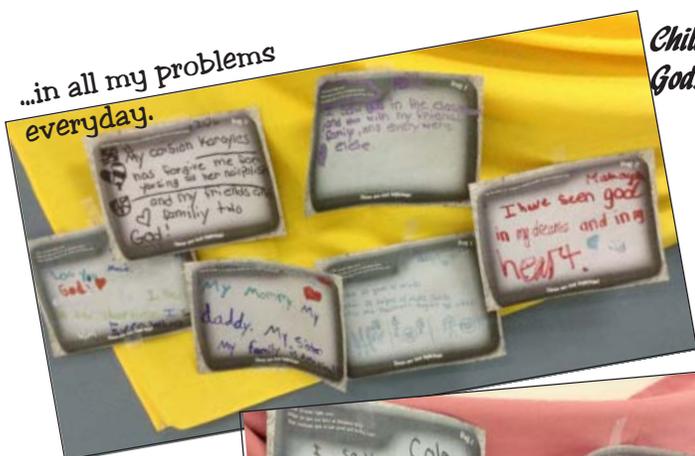
Photos taken by Bob Beers.

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



Children were asked during Vacation Bible School "where do you see God." Some of the answers are printed below.

...in all my problems everyday.



...every year and (he's) always in my heart.

...in the classroom and even with my friends and family and everywhere.

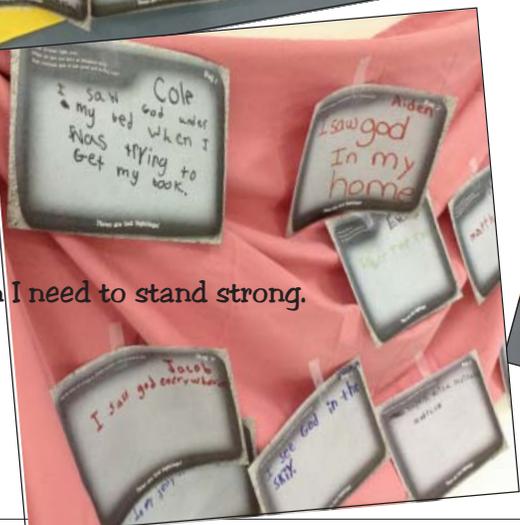
...in awesome teachers and families  
 ...when my cousin forgave me for using her fingernail polish.

...in my mommy, my daddy, and sister.

...in my home.

...in the sky and also in my heart.

...when I need to stand strong.



...have seen God under my bed when I was trying to get my book.

...in my dreams.



...in my heart and every place I look.

...in music.