



# celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

October, 2008

Volume 19 - Issue No. 6

## Women's Retreat

Florida Mission Center's **Women's Retreat** will be held at Deerhaven Conference and Retreat Center the weekend of **October 10-12**. The theme for the retreat is *Our Journey Down the Yellow Brick Road* with guest minister Stacie Stickney Williams. Stacie is a lifelong member of the Community of Christ and attended Grace-land University in 1989 and then attended the University of Missouri where she graduated with her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a Master's Degree in Behavior Disorders. "Our Story and Journey" is the title of the two sessions that Stacie will facilitate.

There will also be class choices which include card making, beading, maintaining healthy relationships, beginning dance, cultural sensitivity in today's changing society, and journaling. If you have **red shoes**, please bring them! It will be a great weekend of classes, worship, fellowship, and joy.

Register on-line at [www.cofchristfmc.org](http://www.cofchristfmc.org) or take one of the registration forms from the bulletin board.



## We're No 1!

At the recent Florida Mission Center (FMC) Conference, Bradenton/Sarasota Congregation was awarded the Golden Budget Award! This award was given to the congregation in the FMC whose giving was the closest to giving 50% to World Mission Tithes and 50% to local offerings. In 2007 our congregation gave 49.9% to local offerings and 50.1% to World Mission. Congratulations to us as it is important to share our resources with those who are less able than we to "pay their own way" as well as support our local budget needs.



Each Thursday at 3:00 PM Pat Benjamin Bovee drives up to the storage building with a truck load of food that has been obtained from the Manatee Food Bank for **Our Father's Cupboard**. Stopping their unloading are (l-r) Kathy Park, Megan Chlebina, Denise Chlebina, Mark Bee, Scott Cramer, Bob Slasor, Larry Bell, Lillian Wade and Pat. They would enjoy having help on any Thursday!

## Our Father's Cupboard

Thank you for the response to the food donations and the physical help we needed. Please keep up the good work, because **Our Father's Cupboard** is growing each month. There are so many families that are in need. The Manatee Food Bank has given us a great opportunity to be able to supply food to families. The food bank has given us many free items which enables us to give the families more nutritious food to help them stay healthier.

The spirit of sharing is contagious. Family dynamics are being changed as jobs have been found and food is on the table. Attitudes get a boost when needs are met. Smiles become contagious. The world looks brighter and more welcoming. That's what a loving and helping hand will do. Our Father's Cupboard is reaching out just as Christ taught us to do.

**Mark Bee and Patti Benjamin Bovee**, Coordinators

## Getting to Know the Fant Family

Dear Friends in Christ,

We want to say "hello" from the Fant family, and we are so glad to be a part of this congregation. As many of you know, we have just moved here from Maryland where we were members of the Laurel Congregation. Donald (Don) was enjoying being close to home, as he was born and raised in Baltimore, but the Navy had other plans. Rachel is a Commander in the Navy and received orders to MacDill Air Force Base which brought us down to sunny Florida. Don retired from the Navy in 2001 as a Chief Warrant Officer after 23 years of faithful service. He started his second career as a Navy spouse in spectacular fashion by taking care of our newborn daughter Alexandra Marie Makanalani (Hawaiian for "Heavenly Gift") Fant. She was born on Halloween in 2000 at Tripler Hospital in Hawaii; we affectionately call her our "baby ghou." Don was stationed at the Marine Corps Facility in Kaneohe Bay while Rachel was stationed at Camp H. M. Smith. Two Navy people and neither one stationed at a Navy base!



Hawaii was good in another way. That is also where Don joined the Community of Christ family. He was baptized in Pokai Bay during a church reunion. Rachel has been a life long member. She is originally from Iowa; some of you may know the Silver/Snethen families from Lamoni where we continue to have a well organized family reunion each year.

Alexandra (Zee) has been a wonderful addition to the family. Sweet from day one, she is willing to try anything, a wonderful traveler, and very creative (see Zee's drawing on page 8). She has taken ballet for three years though her current interest is refining her technique in Taekwondo. She is in a Martial Arts after school program, and with her enrollment, we get to take lessons free. We just took our White belt test and will be putting on Yellow belts this Thursday. Don balances his interest in Taekwondo with many other interests

such as playing guitar, writing, and singing songs, and we both enjoy riding motorcycles. Rachel is an avid runner and is very creative with projects with Alexandra at home.

In 2007, Rachel was slated to a billet in Afghanistan. She did three months of combat training, followed up by 12 months in a combat zone where she led an Embedded Training Team directly providing mentorship to the Afghan National Army. She was also able to direct several humanitarian projects, and her contributions to the war effort were rewarded with the Bronze Star.

We are very happy to close that part of our lives and thank the Lord each day for His saving grace that brought her back home safely. We are very happy with our new home, friends, and church family. We look forward to getting to know each of you and loving our Lord together.

Lovingly yours, **Don, Rachel and Alexandra Fant**

## Red Not a Good Color!

We need your help to bring our contributions up to where they should be. Currently our income is \$33,870.00, and we should have \$44,622.00. That is \$10,752.00 less than we need. Our expenses to date are \$36,507.00. This means that we are operating in the red (\$2,637.00). I have asked our leadership team to review any and all expenditures for the balance of the year to see what we might postpone, reduce or cancel to ensure that we have monies for our fixed expenses.

May we all strive to support the Lord's work in this area with our contributions, time, and talents.

We have all been so richly blessed, and we find great joy in giving and sharing. May we all respond to the call, and may our contributions be pleasing in His sight. May God bless you in your giving.

**Roberts Beers**, Congregational Financial Officer

## Hearing of Our Rich Heritage

During the month of October, we will be hearing some stories about the rich heritage of the Community of Christ. These stories will remind us of the dedication the early Saints demonstrated as they lived out their faith.

On October 5, we celebrate Communion and remember our covenant of baptism. As we try to improve our relationship with God and those around us, we are presented the challenge to *Keep My Commandments*. Obedience is the grateful response to the gift of God's grace. Evangelist **Glenn Day** and Elder **Carol Law** will bring ministry during this service of Communion.



Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." On October 12 the theme is *Pleas for Peace*. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be passionate for peace. Priest **Heather Devine** will preside and Evangelist **Bob Slasor** will be the speaker for the morning worship.

October 19 is the observance of Children's Sabbath. It is a day for people of all ages and all faiths to learn and recognize the urgent needs of children. It is a day to increase our awareness of the need to nurture and protect children and to seek justice on their behalf. Teacher **Nancy Skene**, Priest **Patty Day**, and Elder **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** will lead us to *See through Children's Eyes*.

When Jesus answered the question, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?", he combined two scriptures. Which two scriptures did he use? Think you know the answer? Priest **Scott Cramer** will share those scriptures on October 26. High Priest **Nanette Dizney** will preside over the service with the theme *Commanded to Love*.

The services on Wednesday evening in the month of October will start at 7:00 PM and will return to the usual format of **Pray and Praise**. Join the group as they share their recent testimonies and current concerns.

**Jo Fenn-Martin**, Worship Coordinator

## Take a Moment

A **Prayer List** is included in the bulletin on the second Sunday of each month. Extras are placed in an envelope in the Information Center in case you miss that Sunday. This month this list is being included in the newsletter (see page 4) because it is so important for us as a 'family' to carry these people on our hearts in prayer.

In addition to keeping them in our prayers, I would ask that each one would consider taking that extra step with regard to those listed by remembering them with a card, or a phone call, or perhaps if the opportunity presents itself and it is possible, a visit. Any one of these acts brings great comfort. As one who has been on the receiving end of these displays of concern, I can testify that these gestures can make an unbelievable difference in people's lives. It only takes a few minutes and yet confirms to someone that they are indeed loved, remembered, and upheld. Your acts of kindness and thoughtfulness bring them comfort.

The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful, caring, and compassionate church family, and we can all be such a blessing to those who have extra concerns at this time. Please take a moment to share with one who has a specific need; you will add to their blessings and yours as well.

In Christ's love, **Carolyn Deering**, Pastoral Pastor



**Melinda James** and **Heather Devine** were ordained during the September 14 worship service. Ordaining Melinda to the office of deacon were her grandparents **Louis and Betty Willetts**. Heather was ordained by her mother **Ginger Robertson** and **Carolyn Deering**.

## Providing Worship

Our Bradenton/Sarasota Congregation provides a worship service at Arden Courts, an assisted living facility in Sarasota for Alzheimers patients, from 10:00 to 10:30 AM on the third Sunday morning of each month. If you would



like to be involved, contact **Carey Chaney** by phone (941.924.2721). We are grateful to Carey, a member of our church family who is employed at Arden Courts, for organizing this community outreach program.

**Charyn Walker,**  
Outreach Pastor



## Perks of Being a Senior

- ✓ People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- ✓ In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- ✓ You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- ✓ Your secrets are safe with your friends, because they can't remember them either.
- ✓ There is nothing left to learn the hard way!



Pictures submitted by Charyn Walker.



**Karen MacDonald** is shown above conducting one of the *Growing Experience* Wednesday evening services held during September. Those attending shared a meal together and then participated in an activity with the days theme.

## Are We Done Yet??

This presidential election seems to be much longer than any I can remember. Is it just me, or have we been hearing all of this for ever so long? Take heart...it will be over soon! But, really, aren't you glad it doesn't take as long to elect congregational leaders? I know I am.

So, along with making your presidential decisions - you need to start reflecting on leaders for our congregation for 2009. We currently have a pastorate and all four are willing to serve again next year. That being said, you may have other ideas, and they are very welcome. Our Congregational Conference is set for **November 2nd, Sunday, at 10:00 AM**. Be sure to remember that if there is someone you wish to nominate you need to discuss it with them ahead of time. This includes not only the pastor, but all congregational offices. Give this prayerful thought and consideration. Together we can make 2009 an even more wonderful year.

As good members and citizens you are encouraged to vote for congregational officers on November 2nd and national, state, and local officers on November 4th. See you at the polls!

**Jim Deering,** Administrative Pastor



## Pray for...

- Bernice Morris** - recovering from pneumonia/bronchitis
- Vernetta Skinner** - cancer diagnosis
- Jan Devine**, Tim's mother - undergoing tests
- David Martin** - needs more strength to do therapy
- Larry James**, Patrick & Kaitlyn's grandfather - cancer diagnosis
- Ryan**, Carolyn Deering's friend - strength and faith to undergo open heart surgery
- Phyllis Silvovy**, Bettie Chlebina's sister - slow recovery
- Bill Jousma** - serious blood condition
- Sue Chlebina Sova** - slowly recovering
- Linda**, Shirley Clow's daughter - now in 5th month of rehabilitation

## Your Help is Needed

Cancer patients from the community need help to get to their medical treatments and appointments. *Road to Recovery*, a service sponsored by the American Cancer Society, needs kind people to volunteer their time and use their own cars to drive patients to and from their appointments. Schedules are very flexible. Experience has shown that volunteers who come from religious communities understand how much a service like this is appreciated by those in need.

For more information, please call Marion Stuart at the American Cancer Society at 941.745.1214 ext. 5803.



Did you check the **Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ's website** last month? If not, [cofchristbradenton.com](http://cofchristbradenton.com) is waiting for you to check it out. Go to "Newsletter" to view a colored version of *Celebration News* or click on "Services" to listen to Sunday's messages. Do you need to know what is going on next week? Click on "Order of Worship" to check out the order of worship and/or Opportunities.



## Looking for More Adults

An **Adult Class** meets every **Sunday at 10:00 AM** in classrooms 5 & 7. We have been working with books by the author Max Lacado. There have been some very good discussions generated by his work. We are a small group, and there is always room for more around the table.

What's that you say - no Max for you? Well, I am open to suggestions. If there is a particular subject or author you would like to study, please feel free to talk to me about your ideas. Perhaps there is something you would like to lead the class in? By all means, talk to me.

We are told by the Word to constantly renew our minds and spirit, and the adult class is an excellent place to heed this advice. Those who attend the class are blessed. Please prayerfully consider joining us.

**Scott Cramer**, Adult Sunday School Coordinator

## A Child will Lead

It was early Saturday evening when the phone rang and a young girl's voice said, "Nana, do you want to hear my prayer for church tomorrow?" I listened attentively and then reminded **Zoe (Van Beek)** to speak loudly so everyone would be able to hear her. After a few more words of advice and encouragement, I asked to speak to her mother.

"What is she saying?" I asked **Karla**. "Is she using the word conversation when she means congregation?" Karla responded with an unworried tone, "No, she means conversation. I wrote it just as she said it."

I hung up the phone, but Zoe's words continued to stay on my mind. "During this conversation we will be washed in the peace...and spirit of your son." What conversation? What is she thinking?

A conversation is an exchange of thoughts and feelings. It is a time when one talks and another listens, and then the other talks and the other listens. Is this what Sunday morning worship service is to this six-year old girl? A conversation between us and God?

And why not? We gather together to be with God, to share with God, to listen to God, to praise and worship God. A conversation is a perfect explanation of our encounter with God in our Sunday morning worship time. And what comfort to believe that during this exchange we will be cleansed through the spirit of Jesus and his peace will fill us.

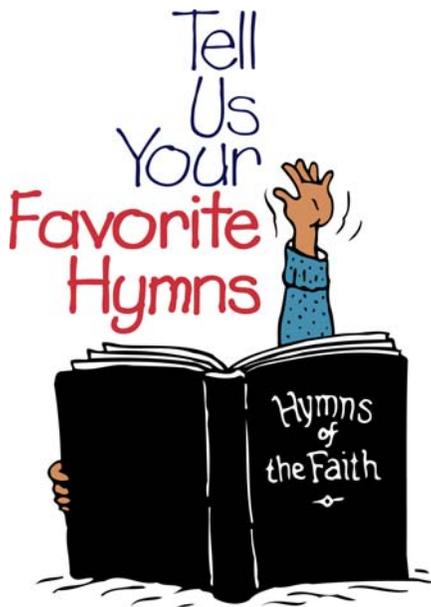
Zoe ended her prayer with, "Please be here with us today, thank you for coming to this conversation with us."

It took me some time to figure it out, but I got there. As I punched my grandmother card and my worship coordinator card, I thanked God for the wisdom of little ones and prayed that I will discard doubt and my grown-up concepts and listen more attentively to the fresh ideas of our children. Isaiah 11:6..." and a little child will lead them."

**Jo Fenn-Martin**, Grandmother/Worship Coordinator

*Celebration News* is a publication of the  
**COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**  
5817 33rd Street E  
Bradenton FL 34203-5413  
Church Phone: 941/751-5441  
website: [cofchristbradenton.com](http://cofchristbradenton.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Elaine Gregg, 351-1072

Please address suggestions and comments to:  
Elaine Gregg, 8075 36th St Cir E, Sarasota 34243



**Kayla Morgan** - *Sanctuary* because when I go to church camp we sing that song. I don't know why but I just like it!

**Howard Jousma** - I have two, *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* and *There's an Old, Old Path* because they reach back in my life so I remember my encounter and commitment to Christ.

**Fay Beers** - I have so many favorites that it is difficult to choose one. There have been so many times when I have felt burned out and when I play or sing the hymn *Freely, Freely* I again realize how much I have freely received. Therefore, I must freely give.

**Matthew Devine** - *Awesome God* because God made us and he is awesome!

**Nancy Peters** - *There's an Old, Old Path* because each time I sing this hymn I am taken back to the Onset Community of Christ campground where I spent each summer. There is a path to the summer tabernacle where we still worship. We have named it the "Old, Old Path" and feel the presence of God's spirit there on the way to worship Him.

**Brittney Morgan** - *Weave, Weave, Weave Us Together* because I feel like we are all woven together as a family!

**Larry Bell** - *How Great Thou Art* reminds me of God's greatness. In the first stanza it states that God's hands made the stars, world, and universe, and the second stanza states how God made this earth for us. God's love for us is noted by the sending His son to bear our sins in the 3rd stanza, and finally, the last stanza says our Savior will come and take us home.

**Frankie Scholl** - *Jesus is the Rock* because it was the song sung at my baptism.

**Nanette Dizney** - I have many favorite hymns. If I have to pick one it would be *I have Called You by Your Name*. This hymn speaks to me in a very personal way. It nudges me and reminds me of all the wonderful things God is doing in my life. I cannot sing this hymn without recognizing how blest I am, and what I should be!

**Jonathan Robertson** - *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* because it tells us of Jesus' dying and resurrection to free us from our sins.

**Don Fant** - *We Are One in the Spirit* because this hymn brings us together and mirrors our working together, unity, and love for one another. It is the wonderful, loving people of the Community of Christ that has brought us here.

**Carolyn Deering** - *There's An Old, Old Path* because during the singing of this hymn the Holy Spirit rested upon me and confirmed my call to the priesthood and I accepted the call in my heart. After the service I told my pastor that I accepted the call.



**Lee Peters** - I find there are several hymns I appreciate equally, however, when I use a historical event relating to why a particular hymn is my favorite, it is narrowed down to one, *God of Our Fathers*. In 1959, the new Skinner pipe organ was installed in the Auditorium and several concerts were performed by guest organists for the purpose of fine-tuning the organ. I was attending Graceland at the time and had the opportunity to travel to Independence and attend one of the concerts. At some point during the concert, this hymn was played and the horns at the back of the Auditorium were used for the fanfare parts of the hymn. The rich harmonic power of the pipe organ and the treble beauty of the horns stirred me so intensely that the experience remains vividly in my memory today.

**No name** - I have many favorite hymns but the one that came quickly to my mind is *I Would Be True*. When we would sing this song in church, the words and the spirit would be so overwhelming in me that I would be renewed to continue, not ever to give up under any circumstances because my Jesus, family, and all loved ones looked to me to carry the 'Torch of Faith' and to try to keep the path Christ trod and the hope of Zion.



## October

- 04 Matthew Devine
- 05 Kayla Smeralda
- 08 Beth & Bob Slasor (anniv.)
- 11 Stuart Skene
- 11 Dale Budd
- 11 Marcia & Jim Brougher (anniv.)
- 13 Kenny Johnson
- 19 Ovide LePage
- 22 Linda Morgan
- 24 Kayla Morgan
- 25 Dick Chlebina
- 26 Glenn Day
- 30 Ginger Robertson
- 31 Alexandra Fant

## Anointed...Filled

You are invited to a spiritual feast at Deerhaven Retreat Center hosted by the Holy Spirit under the sponsorship of Jesus Christ. Jesus invites you to please bring your struggles and hopes, confusion and fears, doubts and uncertainties, strengths and spiritual giftedness. As a spiritual community we will share our prophetic gifts, healing touch, and compassionate caring with each other *so that we can fulfill God's invitation to wholeness of body, mind, and spirit as a desirable end toward which to strive* (Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c).

The Holy Spirit will be assisted by Evangelists **Bob Slasor**, Andrea Henson, Ron G. Wood, and Jean Brown. Bring the Scriptures, a journal or notebook, and a lawn chair (optional). The theme for the **October 24-26 Spiritual Growth Retreat** is *Anointed with Spirit's Power - Filled with Spirit's Fire*. Register on-line or call Bob at 941.756.3678 for more information.

## DID YOU KNOW ???

◆ **Tobin, Lonnie, and Amber Cooper, Nanette Dizney, Matthew, Tim, and Heather Devine, Frankie Scholl, Jonathan Robertson, Ginger and David Robertson, Don, Rachel, and Zee Fant, Megan Chlebina, Matthew Neeley, and Susan Mullins** all from our congregation attended the Labor Day Weekend Retreat held at Deerhaven Retreat Center?

◆ **Ryan Hollenbeck** has been selected out of his battalion of over 600 people to receive an award for excellence and being an awesome soldier in Washington, D.C. on October 9th by the Sergeant Major of the U. S. Army?

◆ **Bona Lee** is improving after hip surgery and wants to "sincerely thank everyone for their visits, cards, and prayers - I have been SO blessed by God's healing process within me. Each day I feel a little stronger and am able to work through the therapy, plus a little more than is required! Thank you for your love and concern."

◆ **Danielle Johnson** has recently become a 3rd grade permanent substitute teacher at Gulf Gate Elementary School in Sarasota?

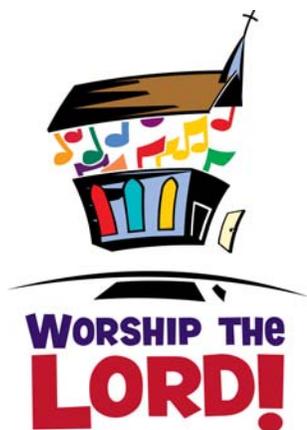
◆ **Places of Peace: Russia to Ukraine** has been added to the right hand side of your contribution envelopes? The World Church is supporting this endeavor from Sept. through Jan. 2009. Information about this project is on the bulletin board in the Information Center. There are also brochures about this in the pamphlet rack on the opposite wall. If you have any questions, see Bob Beers or look for articles about this project in the **Herald**.

◆ **World Church** requires that anyone ages 15 through 20 who work with children must be a registered Youth Worker Assistant, and anyone ages 21 and over must be a registered Youth Worker? If you need to be registered, see Jim Deering.



With deep sorrow we have just learned of the death of our dear brother **Louis Willetts** who passed away Friday, September 26th. He was deeply loved and respected by his family and friends. We, as his church family, will greatly miss his presence among us. He was a willing servant. Please remember his wife Betty and the family in the weeks to come.

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



**Let us sing, praise, and learn together.**  
Join us each Sunday at **10:55 AM** in the sanctuary. You are also invited to come to our fellowship time where we share light breakfast snacks along with coffee and juice in the Fellowship Hall from **9:30 - 10:00 AM**. Be a part of learning God's life lessons with others. Classes begin at **10:00 AM** and are for ages two and up. Come and be a part of our church family.

Maybe we don't have a band and a singer as pictured here, but our hearts sing praises and we are endeavoring to include more praise music in our worship. Also, look for the next praise music service coming soon!



Alexandra Fant, age 7, drew this picture. It wasn't surprising that her theme was music as it is most likely heard in her home often. Thank you, Alexandra, for sharing your drawing with us.