

CELEBRATION NEWS



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Church in the Park will be held on **Sunday, October 16**, at Longwood Park. The park is located just south of University Parkway on Longwood Run Blvd. in Sarasota. Directions to the park will be available. We will be meeting under a covered pavilion which is located near the entrance. Restrooms are close to the pavilion. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for the outdoors.

We will gather at **10:00 AM** with a worship service beginning around 10:15 AM. The theme for the service is *Give to God What Is God's*. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate through song, prayer, and testimony. We will honor our children during the service as we observe Children's Sabbath.

You are asked to bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be furnished. For your comfort you may want to bring folding chairs and beach towels (to cover the benches). If you have large coolers, please bring them with some ice, if possible.

There are playgrounds for the little ones to enjoy. A basketball court and tennis courts are available so bring the necessary equipment and maybe a competitive game or two can be played. Board and card games will be available for friendly competition following the meal. There are sidewalks from the parking lot to the pavilion and to the restrooms. Wheel chairs, wagons, etc. are permitted.

Our past experience of meeting for worship and fellowship in the out-of-doors has been special. Many of us have wonderful memories of the years we met at the FP&L park on Sarasota Bay. Join us as we create new memories at Longwood Park on this special day when we worship, eat, and play together.



The Benefits of Journaling

Regular writing is a rewarding way to improve your spiritual life.

Journaling allows you to:

- express thoughts and emotions in a safe way,
- analyze problems and find patterns,
- face fears by writing them down,
- record and remember God's work in your life,
- record prayers and answers,
- remember life lessons that God is teaching you
- and stay focused on your priorities.

You can reap the many benefits of journaling without much preparation. To begin, all you need is a pen, paper and some regular quiet time.

Women to be Hostesses

Ladies, mark your calendar for the October 7th meeting of the **Manatee County Church Women United** which will be hosted here at our church facility by our women. The gathering will begin with a fellowship continental breakfast at 9:30 AM, and a short worship service at 10:00 AM. Following the worship, the meeting will begin. This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know Christian women of other denominations who share a common interest in peace and justice ministries and mission.

In 2008, Church Women United members from throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Philippines and Canada gathered at our International Church Headquarters. Church member, Gail Mengel who at that time was appointed by President Veazey as the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Officer, was the national president of Church Women United and presided over that gathering. Women of *Community of Christ* have been encouraged to *join Church Women United to advance ecumenical and interfaith work and ministry across the United States*. We hope you will join us on Friday, October 7, in this morning of fellowship, faith and sisterhood in Christ.

Ginger Robertson,
Outreach Ministries



October Worship Schedule

October is a busy, busy month with an exciting variety of worship opportunities. Communion will be celebrated the first Sunday of the month; a baby blessing will be celebrated on the second Sunday; the Church in the Park will happen on the third Sunday; and the guest minister here for the congregational workshop, *The Ultimate Treasure Hunt*, is speaking at the worship service on the fourth Sunday. Every Wednesday evening a Prayer and Praise service is held in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM.

We begin the month studying the writings of Paul to the Christians in Philippi. Paul shares his struggles and conversion in Philippians 3:4b-14. He wants the people to understand that righteousness comes through know-



ing Jesus Christ, not through following the strict Jewish law. What might you need to leave behind as you *Press on toward the Goal*? The Lord's Supper is a time of forgiveness and reconciliation. Elder **Marcia Brouger**, as presider, and Evangelist **Bob Slasor**, as speaker, will bring ministry on this Communion Sunday on October 2.

Paul's story continues on October 9 with the theme *Stand Firm in the Lord*. Paul reminds the congregation in Philippi to focus on the one who provides. Elder **Larry Bell** will bring ministry on this Sunday. There will also be a baby blessing.

Children's Sabbath will be celebrated on October 16 as we experience **Church in the Park**. All worshippers who come to the Park will be encouraged to participate in a service to *Give to God What Is God's*. Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** will lead us in worship with the assistance of our children and many others. Read the details about **Church in the Park** on page 1.

In response to the religious leaders' questions, we learn Jesus' response as recorded in the book of Matthew. Jesus responds by telling the leaders to *Love the Lord Your God*. Elder Rick Rosser, guest minister from Texas, will be sharing his love for the Lord as he brings our congregational workshop to a close on October 23. Evangelist **Bob Slasor** will be sharing in ministry with Rick.

According to the writer of Matthew, Jesus has been answering questions from the religious leaders designed to trap him. Jesus responds so well to these encounters that the religious leaders decide their schemes were not going to work. Elder **Jim Deering** and Elder **Ginger Robertson** will bring us the rest of the story on October 30 with the theme *The Greatest Will Be Your Servant*.

You are encouraged to be present at all of these opportunities as we encounter our God through worship, praise, song, and the studying of his word.

Jo Fenn Martin, for the Worship Team



Sea Side Escape

Sea Side Escape is the theme for Florida Mission Center's **Women's Retreat** to be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center October 7 - 9. Guest Minister is Jan Slaughter who will share her affirmation of God. During the weekend you will be refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

Invite your mother, sister, teenage daughter and friends. Enjoy a weekend of fun, relaxation, Bible study, crafts, music and renewal. You can register on-line: cofchristfmc.org.

Want to Keep in Touch?

In addition to our present church family members, *Celebration News* is sent via mail and e-mail to many who have been a part of our church family in years past as well as others who are no longer affiliated with our congregation. We enjoy keeping in touch with everyone and are happy to send out our *News* to all. We are aware that all things come to an end sometime so if you prefer to be taken off the mailing list, please let **Elaine Gregg** know. You can contact her at efgregg@msn.com or 8075 36th Street Cir E, Sarasota, FL 34243.

The Ultimate Treasure Hunt

Treasure hunts are exciting. There is a lot of anticipation as to what you need to find, wondering if you will be able to follow the instructions on your map, and hoping you will be able to find the treasure. Are you ready to go on a treasure hunt? It is hoped that the weekend of **October 21 - 23** will find many Bradenton/Sarasota church family members ready to find the ultimate treasure.

Elder Rick Rosser from Texas will be coming to help us practice trusting fully in God's promises. Rick, says that **The Ultimate Treasure Hunt** is a weekend that challenges some paradigms that we may or may not have as they relate to our identity. Our identity is our perceptions of how we see ourselves, how we see our relationship with God, how we see God, and how God sees us. Everything we do in life flows out of our identity; our motivations, decisions, relationships, our comfort level in various environments, and especially how we respond in every situation or circumstance in which we find ourselves. The goal (of the weekend) is to free us from the things that hinder or limit us to the "status quo." We need to become everything that God says we are and to do the things that God says we can do.

We are God's treasure. We are God's ultimate treasure. We know the love of God. Individually we are full of all kinds of possibilities. To go on this treasure hunt of self discovery will be quite an adventure. To go on this treasure hunt as a congregation will be amazing. Maybe this is the "shot" that our congregation needs. As a community of believers, new possibilities may be made known to us. This can be a great experience for us individually and as a faith movement.

The weekend will begin at 6:00 PM Friday with a meal of soup, salad and dessert. A class, *Becoming a Prophetic People*, will follow at 6:45 PM. Saturday's activities will start off with coffee and juice at 9:00 AM and the introduction of Rick Rosser. After a break a discussion on *The Ultimate Treasure Hunt* will be held, and then a catered lunch will be served (donations accepted). At 1:00 PM we will gather to prepare treasure maps, and at 2:00 PM the treasure hunt begins and a critique follows. Arrangements for all those who wish to go out to dinner together will be made. We will return at 7:00 PM for a healing experience. Sunday at 10:00 AM, Rick Rosser will teach a class on tithes, and he will be the speaker at the 10:55 AM worship service.

You are invited and encouraged to participate in all the activities during the weekend. No one will be forced to do anything that will make them uncomfortable. Come expecting and trusting in God's love for you - God's Ultimate Treasure.



Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you;
Be honest anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

-The Paradoxical Commandments, Kent M. Keith



Needles Keep Clicking

Between 10 to 12 women have gathered on the second Saturday of each month as the contributors of the **Prayer Shawl Group**. The women keep turning out prayer shawls as they meet together to fellowship, exchange ideas and get help when needed. As of the end of September, 40 shawls have been given out to those in need of comfort in difficult times. **Barbara Smith** donated a great amount of yarn recently for which we are grateful.

At the September meeting, two guests from the Palm Bay congregation joined us to share information. Jeanie Brown is endeavoring to start a prayer shawl group in her congregation and wanted to see what was going on here at the Bradenton/Sarasota congregation. She also came to share her ideas and patterns. Betsy Stormer came with Jeanie. After the meeting, **Jo Fenn-Martin** invited us to her home for dinner. So in addition to knitting and crocheting that day we enjoyed socializing and good food!

If you know of someone that needs comforting, a hug, or any symbol of God's gracious love, please let us know. We will be happy to get a shawl and card for you to take to them or, if you prefer, we will designate someone to do so. Just let **Bona Lee** or **Ginger Robertson** know of the need.

Knitters, please make note that because of the Women's Retreat on the second weekend in October, we are changing our October meeting to **October 15, at 2:00 PM**. Anyone interested in this ministry is invited to join us!

Bona Lee, Coordinator

Explore the Inner Life

The fall **Spiritual Growth Retreat** will be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center **October 28 - 30**. President Dave Schaal will be the guest minister at this retreat with the theme *Exploring the Inner Life*.

This is an opportunity to invite a friend to attend with you as President Schaal emphasizes that this retreat will be geared towards anyone searching to grow in their spiritual life, not just church members. To register for this event, go to www.cofchristfmc.org and complete the on-line registration. The cost is \$55 and needs to be sent to Florida Mission Center. The payment is due by October 21. If you have questions, contact **Karen Palko** at 941.321.7364.



It is time to update the Church Family pictures in the Information Center. If you are new to our church family, have added members to your family, or would just like an updated picture, please make note of the following dates.

Elaine Gregg will be taking pictures the first three Sundays in November (6th, 13th and 20th). Start practicing that perfect pose and beautiful smile!

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 01 Larry and Patti Bell
(anniv.)
- 01 Al Mount
- 04 Matthew Devine
- 05 Kayla Smeralda
- 08 Beth & Bob Slasor (anniv.)
- 11 Marcia & Jim Brougher
(anniv.)
- 11 Stuart Skene
- 13 Kenny Johnson
- 17 Barbara Smith
- 22 Linda Morgan
- 24 Kayla Morgan
- 25 Dick Chlebina
- 26 Glenn Day
- 30 Ginger Robertson

A Sharing Experience

Last year's 2010 **Trunk and Treat** event was a success so we are doing it again this year on **Sunday, October 30th**, following the morning worship. This event provides the opportunity for young and old to share in an informal way. The children and youth enjoy seeing the decorated car trunks and the goodies that are provided. The adults enjoy seeing the children in their costumes and eating some of the treats as well.

Last year there were some trunks that were elaborately decorated. This year we look forward to seeing more of the same, but really what matters most is that everyone comes ready for a fun time. Let us open our hearts and our trunks for the **Trunk and Treat**. See you in the parking lot after church on the 30th of October.

For in Their Welfare Resides Your Welfare*

As a faith movement we have long been encouraged to *be in the forefront* of those efforts to make the world a better place. I find myself in one of those places and God is in it everywhere I look! Some of you may know that I am now Executive Director of the All-Star Children's Foundation (ASCF) in Sarasota. Some of you may not be aware of our mission. We exist for one purpose, to put an end to child abuse!

Five children die each day in this country as a result of child abuse. The incidence of child abuse is TEN times that of cancer and that is just the abuse that gets reported. This cannot stand! We live at a time when every possible human need is reaching out for help. Yet I am asking you to consider the needs of the young ones who have no voice of their own. I know, I was one of them.

The ASCF is a nationwide movement that just happens to be headquartered in Sarasota. Among other things, we fund the Children Protection Center that serves on the front lines with intervention and prevention.

One of our own is going to do his part in this effort! Our own **Jason Van Beek** will be participating in our annual Golf Marathon to raise money to end the abuse of children. Jason needs help raising money for this cause. Please offer your support to Jason by becoming a Sponsor or Pledge Partner for this most worthy cause that will take place November 14, 2011. Jason will play 50 holes of golf in one day, and we want him to be the one, out of 36 golfers, who raises the most money to end child abuse!

If you would like to help Jason make his goal for this worthy cause, seek out Jason and give him your contribution which is tax deductible. You also can check out www.allstarchildrensfoundation.org on the web or contact me at jim@allstarchildrensfoundation.org or at 941.400.2878.

Jim Deering

* Doctrine and Covenants Section 163:4a



A trick or treater at one of the trunks at last year's event.

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Address Correction Requested

God loves -



cofchristbradenton.com

DEERHAVEN SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

The news about the **Deerhaven Pool Project** is very good! The pool construction contract has been signed, and the final process is now underway. As a result, the new pool should be ready for use in early 2012.

The updated design will have nearly 2,500 square feet of pool space and includes a beach entry, 0 to 3-1/2' in depth and 15' x 35' in size,

- ✓ An ADA-approved chair lift system for those who need assistance getting into the pool,
- ✓ A deeper section, 25' x 75', in depth from 3-1/2' to 5', with three competitive swimming lanes, and space for water polo and a full range of swimming,
- ✓ Three large heat pumps,
- ✓ A 5' aluminum fence surrounding the pool,
- ✓ Solar covers for when the pool is not in use,
- ✓ A bathhouse with outside showers, and
- ✓ A canteen in the northwest corner of the nursery building, adjacent to the pool.



Deerhaven is Community of Christ's campground/retreat center located in the Ocala National Forest. The church sponsors many camps and retreats there during the year, and also rents out the facilities to many different groups. After 40 years of desiring a pool, we will now have a wonderful and highly usable pool for our members, friends, and our neighbors! Members across Florida and the Florida Mission Center have made the pool project a high priority and donated generously, even in such bad economic times. Although an additional \$50,000 in pledges and cash is needed to pay loans off, it is felt that it is time to start construction now.

If you haven't had the opportunity to donate to the Deerhaven Swimming Pool project, please consider doing so. You may make your contribution by noting so on your church offering envelope.