

# Celebration News

October, 2012 - Volume 22 - Issue 5

## A Few Happenings from the Summer

Prayer Shawl Group giving Siyuan Ya (Lara) a shawl before she returned to China.



Jacob Rodriguez receiving his first Communion.

Grandmothers Andrea Cooper and Charyn Walker pictured before the baptism of grandsons Tobin Cooper and Jacob Rodriguez



Worship Center honoring our beautiful and peaceful summer.

Happy Junior Campers Tobin Cooper, Zoe Van Beek (back row) and Hailie Rodriguea and Sydney Evans on their way to Deerhaven Campgrounds.



Frankie Scholl and Patrick James (on right) pose at SPEC with friends.



At SPEC Kendall Chlebina and Frankie Scholl (on left) gather with some friends.

## Sunday School

The Fall Session of our Sunday School has begun. From two years old and up, Sunday School attendees are exploring the scriptures and enjoying their time together. The Senior High class even went to Starbucks one Sunday for their discussion time.

**Larry Bell** is leading the adult class in *Understanding the Way* and Ginger Robertson will follow with *Christ's Mission is Our Mission* in mid-November. **Jo Willetts** is teaching our two and three year old little ones. **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina and Amy Smeralda** are team teaching the first and second graders. **Charyn Walker** is teaching third, fourth and fifth graders. Heather Devine is team teaching the Senior High and Middle School ages with **Charlie Walker**. Our teachers are registered youth workers with World Church policy and are dedicated to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Be a part of our Sunday School. Join us in the Education wing on Sunday mornings from 10:00 - 10:45 am in the appropriate classrooms.

Corinthians 2:4-5 *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

**Charyn and Charlie Walker,**  
Sunday School Coordinators



## Instruments of Your Peace

Let us prayerfully reflect on the words of hymn No. 21 in *Sing a New Song* written by Kirk and Deby Dearman:

Refrain: Lord, make us instruments of Your Peace; Where there is hatred let your love increase. Lord, make us instruments of Your peace; walls of pride and prejudice shall cease, when we are your instruments of peace.

Where there is hatred, we will sow Your love; Where there is injury, we will never judge. Where there is striving we will speak Your Peace; To the people crying for release, we will be Your instruments of peace.

Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight; When there is darkness, we will shine Your light. Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief; To the millions crying for release, we will be Your instruments of peace.

As we look around our world today, we are witnessing an increasing amount of unrest among the human family and many nations of our world; especially over religious beliefs. I stop and reflect on the example given to us by our Lord and how he gave his life to bring a greater understanding of Devine truths. I ask myself not only *what would Jesus do?*, but also *what is Jesus wanting us to understand?* A lot of this unrest is just that we don't understand each other.

This month, **October 26-28**, the Florida Mission Center is excited for the opportunity to have JW Winland share his ministry with us at the **Spiritual Growth Retreat** being held at Deervan Retreat Center. JW Winland began World Church appointment in 1984 and has served since that time in Upper Canada as Toronto Metropole President and Ontario Region/Canada East Mission President. His final appointment has been as director of the Encounter World Religions Centre and an interfaith educator building bridges within religious diversity.

An invitation is being extended for you to join JW and others as we grow in knowledge and understanding as did Jesus of each other and to continue to become ***Instruments of God's Peace*** in our world today. The cost of the retreat is \$80 per person plus \$10.00 if you would like to receive Temple School Credit. You can register only at [www.cofchristfmc.org](http://www.cofchristfmc.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Karen Palko** at [karenpalko@gmail.com](mailto:karenpalko@gmail.com) or 941.321.7364. See you **October 26-28 at the Spiritual Growth Retreat.**

Blessings and Pray for Peace,  
**Karen Palko**, Evangelist

## Spiritual Journey

As the Bradenton/Sarasota congregation begins anew after the summer months, I thought that the following words might be helpful.

In our fractured world where we are literally torn apart emotionally, physically or spiritually, staying focused on God is a struggle. This is also true when things are for the moment going satisfactorily. Crisis stirs up faith within us and reminds us of our dependence on God. But even that needs to be understood more fully.

The Scriptures suggest that God does whatever is needed to get our attention and to bring needed change in us. Purging what is unclean and untransformed in us is the work of the Holy Spirit. Stretching our understanding and purging wrong beliefs is the work of the Holy Spirit. This reminds us of what we already have learned about the work of the Holy Spirit. Is being spiritually stretched and having our lives changed painful at times? Yes, but it is necessary and imperative if we are to become what we are called to be.

To grow a Zion people, which is God's goal, requires a focus on spiritual things. The Spirit in us works diligently to keep calling us back to a focus on God and the purpose for which we were created and sent to this earth. Seek God's presence is the command and invitation. In Jeremiah 29:13 it says, *When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.* Nothing is more important than being fully engaged with God, in God's work and in God's purposes for his creation. What is God's purpose for you and in you? What is God's call to you, right here, right now? What is God's personal message to you? See it. Find it. Live it.

**Bob Slasor**, Evangelist

Invite your mother, sister, daughter and friends to get away with you and other women for a weekend of fun, laughter, relaxation, renewal, Bible study, crafts, music and more. We, the women of the Bradenton/Sarasota congregation, will lead the weekend events at the **Women's Retreat** to be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center **October 5 -7**. The theme is ***Cozy Mountain Lodge: Where Women Find Shelter in God.***

Check-in time will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday evening with activities starting at 7:30 pm. Saturday activities begin with Brunch at 9:00 am with Morning Devotions following. Sunday morning concludes with a closing worship beginning at 10:15 am. Please bring a white elephant gift. The fee of \$65.00 covers delicious meals, fun and refreshing activities. You may register online at [wwwcofchristfmc.org](http://wwwcofchristfmc.org) or call **Ginger Robertson** at 941.756.8276.

***We hope to see you at Cozy Mountain Lodge.***

## Congregational Conference

Your presence is encouraged at the annual election of officers at the **Congregational Conference** to be held at **9:45 am on Sunday, October 21st**. A list of officers to be elected and sustained is available at the church. Please obtain the list, look it over and prayerfully consider your choices. These officers will be elected to serve beginning January, 2013.



## Women's Retreat at Cozy Mountain Lodge

## Peace Festival

Our 2nd Annual **Peace Festival** will be held on **Saturday, November 3rd**, at the church. There is no charge for this event so bring your family and friends to an outdoor peace-filled day with music, prayers, food, crafts and games.

If you would like to be involved in planning or volunteering, please contact **Charyn Walker** at 941.545.3232. Many volunteers will be needed.



## Trunk or Treat

The Sunday before Halloween, **October 28th**, will find some 'guests' at church. Well, they really won't be guests, but they will be our children and youth dressed up in costumes. This will mean that its time for **Trunk or Treat**.

After the worship service, the children will gather in the Fellowship Hall while others are preparing their 'trunks' to receive these special guests.

Begin collecting items that you can use to decorate your trunk and make sure you have some treats available for the guests that will be parading through the church parking lot.

## Receive, Respond, See and Serve in October

October is a busy, busy month with an exciting variety of worship opportunities. A Communion service will be held the first Sunday of the month. Children's Sabbath will be celebrated on the second Sunday. Our worship service on the second Sunday will be held at Longwood Run Park followed by a cook out. Every Wednesday evening a Prayer and Praise service is held in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm except for the third Wednesday when a Prayer and Blessing service is held in the Sanctuary.

Reading the tenth chapter of the book of Mark will prepare you for the lessons being studied during the Sunday morning worship services for the entire month.

Mark 10:2-16

*Receive God's Blessing*

October 7

The relationship between covenant sin and blessing will be explored by Elder **Larry Bell** as he brings the message centered on the first 16 verses of the 10th Chapter of Mark. Jesus' message is one of being in communion with one another. Evangelist **Bob Slasor** is the presider for the Communion Service.

Mark 10:17-31

*Respond Generously to God's Grace*

October 14

God has generously given us the gift of grace. Will we receive it? The parable of the rich man's desire to attain eternal life is found in these verses. The focus of this story is on the poor, who are the central focus of Jesus' ministry. Are there things you, like the rich man, need to let go in order to follow Jesus? The Worship Team is planning this worship service when we meet for **Church in the Park**. The children and youth will be involved in the service. All worshippers who come to the Park will have the opportunity to participate in the service.

Mark 10:46-52

*Lord, Let me See*

October 21

"Have mercy on me. Lord, let me see!" was Bartimaeus' request of Jesus. Do we make that same request today? Are we blind in some areas of our lives? The healing of Bartimaeus' sight is the demonstration of the fulfillment of the good news of God. Evangelist **Karen Palko** will bring the message with Elder **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** presiding.

Mark 10:35-45

*Serve in Community*

October 28

In these verses we read about the request of James and John to sit at the right hand of Jesus. This request begins an angry discussion among the disciples. Jesus uses this situation to have a teaching moment with the disciples. He explains that his primary purpose on earth was to be of service, even to the point of giving up his life for all. Elder **Jim Deering** will lead the worship on this Sunday with many sharing their testimonies.

Join us and 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

## Experiencing Labor Day Reunion

We, **Tim and Heather Devine**, are a young adult couple with both older and younger children. We have been driving to and from Deerhaven Campgrounds and Retreat Center a few times a year with our kids and friends' kids for summer camps for the past 11 years. Every time we dropped them off, there were lots of hugs and hellos from old friends, and we always enjoyed hearing the stories about camp when we picked them up. The past four or five years we have attended and enjoyed Young Adult Retreats which gave us our own Deerhaven stories. We have also been attending the Labor Day Reunion as a family for a few years. We now have our individual stories as well as shared memories of our time together at Deerhaven. At the Labor Day Reunion our family has the opportunity to go to our separate activities and still have time to share together which is mostly at meals and bedtime.

The theme for this year's reunion was *Signal Christ's Mission*. Heather and her mother, **Ginger Robertson**, taught a craft class when they made lighthouse candle holders. I was one of the camp nurses and thankfully wasn't needed much. **Frankie** and **Jonathan** did their own thing as teenagers do. **Matthew** was busy with his class activities most of the time. I enjoyed taking **Tobin Cooper** out for a canoe ride and sharing the time with **Karla and Cole Van Beek**, Rick Schwartz and Hayden Parham and others. Volleyball was a hit with the young and old alike as were the Wacky Family Olympics which ended in an all out battle with water balloons. The night hike was great, but next year I will be sure to bring more bug repellent! There were more "fun stuff" and good food, but Labor Day Reunion is also a spiritual time in a beautiful setting.

We enjoyed the getaway from our jobs and daily responsibilities and being in a peaceful atmosphere. The Young Adult class was an opportunity for us to share ideas on how to live out Christ's mission to pursue peace and reconciliation. This is not an easy thing to do. In our discussions we had many different ideas on how to do this, but we all agreed that peace within ourselves is an important step and if we are at peace with ourselves, it is easier to share that peace with other people.

We look forward to going to next year's Labor Day Reunion, seeing old friends and hopefully meeting some new ones. May Jesus' peace be with you and your families.

### Tim Devine

No man ever got very high by pulling other people down. ... Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself. - Alfred, Lord Tennyson

God is in the business of taking old pieces of our lives, refinishing them and, at just the right time, surprising us with new found beauty. - Susan Duke

## Update on Trey

Remember Trey, the yellow lab church-going puppy that the Van Beek family raised and trained to be a guide dog? He was part of our church worship services and activities during his stay with the Van Beeks. This summer Trey returned to the Southeast Guide Dog School in Palmetto for his formal harness and specific guide dog training. He was at the school for two months getting used to life in a kennel and working very hard with his trainers.

Trey has accomplished what is rarely done - he accelerated through his training in half the time usually required. After a month and a half at Southeast, he was matched with his companion. His new owner is a 35 year old man who has some central vision but no peripheral vision. He works full time, has a wife and a 16 month old son.

In July the Van Beek family went to say their "Good-byes" to Trey and got to meet his new owner. Thanks to all who were instrumental in the raising of Trey. He is contributing to making a better life for his new owner.



## 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 Brougner  
(anniv.)
- 11 Stuart Skene
- 13 Kenny Johnson
- 17 Barbara Smith
- 17 Suzanne Grimmer
- 22 Linda Morgan
- 25 Dick Chlebina
- 26 Glenn Day
- 30 Ginger Robertson

## Notes from Friends

It is always nice to hear from friends and former members of our church family who enjoy receiving Bradenton/Sarasota congregation's *Celebration News*. Here are three that we have heard the few months.

From Art and Betty Freer - Betty and I appreciate receiving *Celebration News* each month. I'm enclosing a money order to help the stamp cost...We certainly miss the association with all you good people. Unfortunately we are no longer able to go to Florida. We no longer have a land phone. Our new number is 59.466.0731.

Jane Watkins e-mailed - Just a quick note tell you how much I enjoy your monthly newsletter...I feel like such a part of the congregation through reading these (newsletters). It really helps one get a feel for the people, the program and the work of the Christ through the congregation..

Jackie Prevy e-mailed - I love those newsletter! They are so positive and inspiring. Please let (the authors) know how nice it is to read what is going on and coming up. I know it takes a lot of thought and work putting together a newsletter. Thanks to all for their time sharing that ministry.

## In God's Own Time

Books have always been an important aspect of my life. I was an early reader, who, when other small classmates were struggling to sound out "the" and "and", was peeking ahead in the reading book to find out what adventure Tom, Betty, Susan and their dog Flip were having in that chapter. By the time I entered High School, I had already raced through the "100 Suggested Books" list for college freshmen.

Exposing children to books and reading at a young age will provide limitless opportunities to learn, which brings me to my latest literary jewel, the time keeper by Mitch Albom. This little book is the story of a man named Dor who after years of focusing on nothing else invented the first clock. Because he did not appreciate the time God gave him to live his life and spend time with those who loved him, he was banished to a cave for thousands of years and forced to hear the cries of people who needed more time; needed time to slow down; wanted to go back in time; wanted time to speed up. Upon his release, Dor, aka Father Time, had to teach two of those people how to appreciate the time God had given to them.

While reading this book, I questioned my own appreciation (or lack of) for the time God has given me to live my life here on earth. I could have been one of those voices crying out for the sake of time. How many of us bemoan time as our enemy instead of the gift it is. Are we filling our time with so much work and busyness that we fail to nurture our need for loving and fulfilling relationships? Dor spent a lifetime inventing a way to control time, only to realize his own life had slipped away, along with the people he loved the most. We have been created to love and be loved by a God whose love is infinite. I do not know how many years I will live in this life. That is not for me to determine. I do know that I will remember to cherish each moment as a gift. I will no longer live in increments of time that control my life and rob me of the blessing of relationships which God desires for me, whether it is with Him or with others. Unlike Dor, I will strive to live in God's time, and not worry so much about the time on the clock.

**Ginger Robertson**, Outreach Ministries

## DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Jonathan Robertson and Dan Willetts** were ordained to the Priesthood Office of Deacon on June 17th ?
- ◆ **Kathy Park** wraps the tableware for our potluck dinners?
- ◆ **Linda Mount** made and donated blankets to our baby nursery?
- ◆ **Jo Fenn-Martin, Nanette Dizney and Elaine Gregg** had a great time sharing with Jan Kraybill, World Church Principal Musician, singing and learning about many of the hymns that will be part of the new hymnal to be available October, 2013?
- ◆ **Our Father's Cupboard** distributed over 300 bags of food during June, July and August thanks to many volunteers?
- ◆ **The August 12th Special Fund Raiser** for Florida Mission Center Camperships brought in \$4,700 which will assist those needing financial help to experience the special ministry found at camp, retreats, reunions and more?



### Sympathy

This summer we lost a long time member of the Bradenton-Sarasota Congregation. **Wanda Fenn** passed away on July 12, 2012. A Memorial Service was held at the church with a reception followed where Wanda's famous cookies were featured. Her family, including children **Nanette Dizney, Jo Fenn-Martin** and Danny Fenn, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, will miss her as well as our church family.

### Leading Congregations in Mission

In an effort to help congregations implement the five Mission Initiative Ministries, eighty-five congregations throughout the United States have been selected to begin congregational leadership training. Bradenton/Sarasota congregation is one of those selected to participate. Clearwater, Orlando and Ft. Myers congregations have also been invited to participate. Still in the planning stages, this three year commitment of participation requires pastors and other leadership volunteers to attend training workshops two to three times a year. The Florida Mission Center training will be facilitated by Jim and Jan Slauter and Brenda Cummins and will hopefully begin early next year.

On September 15th, a group consisting of nine generationally mixed Bradenton/Sarasota members met with the facilitators to share and learn more about what we might expect in the months ahead. We look forward to learning how we can continue to make Christ's mission our mission.

**Ginger Robertson**, Outreach Ministries

The **Prayer Shawl Group** of knitters and crocheters will meet the **third Saturday, October 20th at 2:00 pm.** Note this is a change from the usual second Saturday.



Bring your yarn, finished shawls or lap robes and enjoy a couple of hours of working and praying together for this ministry. If you have questions, please contact **Ginger Robertson**.



**Please** make the following update to your 2012 Congregational Directory:

Jeanette Harris' new phone numbers are -

home: 941.923.2600

cell: 941.780.3044

Bryant's e-mail address -  
wbryant25@tampabay.rr.com

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

Address Correction Requested

*A warm greeting to*

## Church in the Park, Sunday, October 14th from 10:15 am - 2:00 pm at Longwood Run Park just south of University Parkway



Gathering will begin at 10:15 am with the Worship Service beginning at 10:30 am at the covered pavilion. A meal will follow with hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments and beverage being furnished. Table service will be provided.

Bring a covered dish, salad or dessert.

Please bring a folding chair to use during the worship service and a beach towel to cover the picnic table benches.

There are playgrounds for children, a basketball court and tennis court near the pavilion. You will need to bring the necessary equipment.

There are sidewalks from the parking lot to the park pavilion where we will be gathering and to the rest rooms. Wheel chairs, wagons, etc. are permitted.

Don't miss the worship, food, fellowship and fun!!