

Celebration News

October, 2013 - Volume 23 - Issue 5

Motorcycle Club Comes to the Cupboard

The Bradenton/Sarasota *Community of Christ* had the unique opportunity to share our monthly third Saturday food distribution with help from the Iron Order Motorcycle Club. The local chapter of this international club believes in giving back to their community throughout the year. **Our Father's Cupboard** was honored to be asked to be a part of this gift of generosity. The club arranged for the Manatee County Food Bank, through Director Cindy Sloan, to purchase enough fresh meat, produce, bread, juice, eggs and other food to fill 82 boxes for distribution. Our congregation also prepared 82 bags of nonperishable food from our cupboard for distribution.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, we were in awe of the huge Food Bank truck that was needed to bring in the food. As our clients began arriving, we shared the good news of this added blessing with them. I can't begin to express the excitement we all felt when the Iron Order came roaring in on their beautiful bikes. After hugs and introductions, they went to work setting up tables, emptying the truck and packing boxes. Cindy and her Food Bank crew worked equally hard to ensure the boxes would be ready after our clients signed in and received their bagged food. There was much shouting of praise and gratitude from those who received this bounty. At the end of the distribution, more than 325 people in our community would have enough food to sustain them for three or four days.

And herein lies the Biblical message: This past summer the Food Bank has struggled to supply more than 100 food banks in Manatee County with enough food for their clients. It was not unusual to receive only Govt. commodities, because there was no food to purchase. But through God's grace we managed to make so little go a long way. Sound familiar? When they needed it the most, the Food Bank would receive donations of food and money to sustain them. This is more than loaves and fishes; this is a call for God's people to come together in community to love and care for one another, and to abolish poverty and end suffering. Those of us who participated in this event were witnesses to the extraordinary blessings that come to all who choose to take action.

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministries

Members of the Iron Order Motorcycle Club pose with boxes of fresh produce, and other food items they donated.



Look What's Going Down

The church driveway is awaiting a new coat of asphalt. The holes were fixed, and the edging was repaired a few weeks ago. After a three-week waiting period, a coating will be applied, and we will have a "new" driveway. The coating will need to dry for four days. This means we will NOT be allowed to drive on it during those days. The coating will be applied Monday, October 7, weather permitting, which means NO DRIVING on it from Oct. 7th through Friday, October 11th. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you have any questions, contact **Brad Martin**.

How Are We Doing?

Financial Update through August, 2013

Budgeted Income	\$ 40,466
Actual Income	<u>31,563</u>
Difference to Budgeted Income	<u>\$(8,903)</u>
Actual Income	<u>\$ 31,563</u>
Actual Expenses	<u>(28,633)</u>
Balance on Hand	<u>\$ (2,930)</u>

*Point of information: The church insurance bill of \$6,762 was paid in September.

Our Father's Cupboard through August

Income	\$3,269
Expenses	<u>(1,388)</u>
Balance	<u>\$1,881</u>

Labyrinth Fund through August

Income	\$1,239
Carry over from 2011 & 2012	<u>2,105</u>
Balance (no expenses)	<u>\$3,344</u>

Thank you for sharing what God has given you that others may know of his love for them.

Bob Beers, Congregational Financial Officer

Women to Be Hostesses

After a summer break, **Church Women United of Manatee County** will resume their 2013-2014 schedule on **Friday, October 4**. Our women will be hosting this gathering beginning at 9:30 am with a fellowship of continental breakfast foods and updates on old and new business. We will then convene to the Sanctuary for the 10:00 am Worship and Program. Our theme, "Proclaim the Year of the Lord's Favor", will focus on God's desire for us to work together to see peace and justice for all people. The speaker for this meeting is Adell Erozer, Executive Director of Turning Points Community Coalition for the Homeless in Manatee County.

All women of our congregation are encouraged to join us in hosting women from other churches throughout Manatee County who work together to make a positive impact on our community. We will need help with the registration, the gathering fellowship, and the worship. How would you like to help? Those of us who have attended regularly have found a beautiful spirit of love and friendship among all who attend. Women, mark your calendars now!

Ginger Robertson, CWU Communications Secretary

A Job Well Done

The **Fund Raising Committee** has been doing an outstanding job for our congregation. Over the past two years, they have raised \$6,000 of which \$3,000 helped pay for our new hymnals which will arrive next month. They also raised funds to pay for the repair and recoating of our parking lot at the cost of \$2,700.



Our thanks to the Fund Raising Committee (members include **Jim Brougher, Dave Robertson, Jeanette Harris, Dale Morgan, Stuart Skene,**

Karla Van Beek) for their tireless contribution of time and effort working on the yard sale and social and dinner events that made this all possible. Of course, the congregation needs to be thanked for their support of these Fund Raising events also.

Bob Beers, Congregational CFO

Join in Prayer and Praise

Prayer and Praise Services are again being held on a weekly basis. These services are a wonderful time to enjoy fellowship and spiritual fulfillment with fellow members of our church family.

The service includes a time for praise for the gifts received from God during the week and a time for prayer for our loved ones, friends, ourselves, and the world. If you need administration, there are also members of the priesthood available to perform that sacrament.

We would invite everyone to come and bring a friend and join us in this wonderful ministry which starts at 7:00 pm and lasts about an hour. Join us at about 6:50 for coffee and light snacks.

Dan Willetts

Congregational Conference Scheduled

There will be a **Congregational Conference** on **Sunday, November 10 at 9:45 am**. Information has gone out to our membership regarding some possible changes in the leadership set-up for 2014. We have been asked to make it a matter of prayer in the weeks to come as to the structure or form that the leadership will take and who will serve in those positions.

At a recent priesthood meeting, two priesthood members presented their vision of what they see for the Bradenton/ Sarasota congregation in 2014. Please read and pray on these leadership proposals. Feel free to talk to these two people and others in the congregation as to what they see for next year.

Nanette Dizney's Vision

We will be participating in a Congregational Conference in November to elect the people that will be serving the Bradenton/Sarasota congregation in leadership roles for 2014. I am willing to serve as your pastor if the leadership model or structure is changed or modified.

My desire is that we become more missional in the direction we move. I would like more people to be involved in what happens in our congregation. There are many of you who have ideas that have never been tapped or heard. By centering our structure around the Mission Initiatives: *Invite People to Christ, Abolish Poverty and End Suffering, Pursue Peace on Earth, Develop Disciples to Serve, and Experience Congregations in Mission*; I feel we can all act together to fulfill the mission of Christ.

After listening to Kaitlyn James share her testimony with us at a recent worship service, I want her concerns to sincerely become our concerns, and I want to do something about them. We have many issues that need attention, and I believe that with a different structure and all of your help, we can address them.

The last paragraph in the Mission Initiative print out from the World Church expresses the direction I feel this congregation can go. "In response to God's Spirit we are moving from being a church defined to a great extent by organizational needs to being a church driven by Spirit-led mission. You are invited to put your heart and soul into mission: the divine mission of evangelism, compassionate ministries, and justice and peacemaking for which Jesus Christ lived and gave his life!"

If you have questions, please contact me at 941.753.2450 or ndizney@msn.com.

Labor Day Retreat Well Attended

The Labor Day Retreat held at Deerhaven Campgrounds had a very good representation from our congregation with **Ginger and David Robertson; Nancy and Stu Skene; Daryl, Heather, Liam and Lennon Quinn; Jim and Carolyn Deering; Jonathan Robertson; Tim, Heather and Matthew Devine; Zander Scholl; and Jason, Karla, Zoe and Cole Van Beek** in attendance.

Larry Bell's Vision

It has been made known that the Pastorate of 2013 will be dissolved at the end of the year. I, Larry Bell, am asking you to nominate me for pastor for 2014. As a pastor I would ask you to support two assistant pastors as well as the other congregational officers we would have.

We have heard "all are called". The question is called to what? My thought for the congregation is: Let us Preach, Teach, and Witness Jesus. We are called to take the gospel of Christ into the world which means our communities. Let us preach salvation unto the unsaved; let us teach God's love for all mankind; and let us be witnesses of the Holy Spirit.

My leadership skills include being a pastor in Lake Orion, MI with 320 members that averaged 120 members at Sunday morning services. Also, I started as linemen for a phone company and was promoted three times. My last promotion was manager of Outside Plant Engineering and Construction.

God bless each of you as we build Zion communities.

If you have questions, please contact me at 941.359.6932 or lmb832@msn.com.

If you would prefer not to receive the *Celebration News*, please e-mail Elaine Gregg at efgregg@msn.com or send a note to 8075 36th Street Cir E, Sarasota, FL 34243. Thank you.

God's Kingdom Rocks!

Castles and Kings and Queens! O my! And don't forget Chadder Chipmunk! Over thirty children stepped into another era as our church was transformed into a medieval castle for **Vacation Bible School** this summer. The children were greeted by our Queen, Her Highness **Melinda (Creel)**. The activities began each night with an episode of Chadder's theater, where they learned about making good choices and to rely on God in difficult times. The children, pre-kindergarten through 5th grade, learned how they could "Stand Strong in God".

The "knights", as the children were called, were treated to nightly Bible story dramas creatively presented by **Amy and Kayla (Smeralda)**. Investigative Scientist, Professor **Charlie (Walker)** amazed the children with fun experiments that taught them many ways God helps us to be strong when we have faith.

Lively dancing and music could be seen and heard in the Castle Chambers where Princesses **Kaitlyn (James), Lilli (Rodriguez)**, and Brittney (Roberts) taught the rambunctious knights choreographed songs.

In the Castle Kitchen, Lady **Jo (Willetts)** and Princess **Frankie (Scholl)** helped the knights prepare their own snacks while helping them to recognize the things in their life for which they can be thankful.

Our VBS was successful thanks to the volunteers who decorated, registered children, served as guides, and helped with clean up. Great job, everyone

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministries



Story tellers Amy and Kayla Smeralda ready for their Bible story time.

Professor Charlie Walker helps children with the scientific experiment.



Let's Go Trunk or Treat!

The Annual **Trunk or Treat** has been such a big success in the past years that we are expanding it this year! Following our worship service on **Sunday, October 27**, our children and their friends can enjoy going Trunk or Treating at our decorated cars as they have done in the past. After the "treating", everyone is invited to enjoy a **Halloween Party** in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided. **Suzanne Grimmer** and her team are busy preparing for this activity. She can use more volunteers. Please contact her if you want to get in on the fun!

Adults, make sure you decorate your trunk that Sunday and provide "treats" for the kids!

Kids come dressed in costume, and adults come in costume if you wish. The children will enjoy seeing the adults in costumes just as much as we enjoy seeing them in theirs.



A Child's Prayer for Protection

If indeed childhood was ever care-free, it's hardly so now. Some children face bullying, while others deal with rough home lives. Many fret over their performance at school and in sports. News of dangers and tragedies makes parents want to shelter their kids from the worldly harm.

Whether real or imagined, childhood anxieties are best confronted in the same way as adult anxieties: through prayer and the assurance of God's presence. Teach this traditional prayer to a young person in your life -- and find comfort in it yourself:

*God in heaven, hear my prayer.
Keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do.
Bless all those who love me too.
Amen.*

Are You and Your Family Participating?

Sunday School is in session each Sunday from **10:00 to 10:40 am**. Are you and your family participating?

The Adult class is currently meeting in classrooms 5 & 7 with **Al Perrin** facilitating "Journey of Joy". On October 27th a new study "What was Paul Thinking?" will begin with **Ginger Robertson** as facilitator.

Beginning in October, there will be a change in the following class assignments:

High School youth will be in classroom 6 with **Heather Devine**,

Middle School youth will meet with **Stuart Skene** in classroom 4,

Elementary School children will be in classroom 3 with **Charyn Walker**.

Beginning October 20th:

Pre-School (3 & 4 year olds) will meet in classroom 2 with **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** and **Amy Smeralda**.

Nancy Skene will be with Toddlers and two year olds in classroom 1.

See you in Sunday School!

Charyn Walker, Director



Opportunities to Worship

A feeling of anticipation is in the air as we approach the fall season. We look forward to the cooling air, the refreshing breeze, the return of our northern members, and the opportunities to worship, especially during the coming holidays. The scripture lessons for the month of October come from the 17th and 18th Chapters of Luke

October 6 *Increase Our Faith* Luke 17:5-10

A mustard seed is a very small seed, but Jesus uses it in his illustration to the disciples about faith. Deacon **Dan Willetts** and Evangelist **Karen Palko** will share with us about faith and forgiveness during the communion service on this first Sunday of October.

October 13 *Get Up and Go* Luke 17:11-19

We plan to do just that, and we hope you plan to do the same. We will get up and go to the Longwood Run Park for our annual **Church in the Park** outdoor worship and fellowship. See further information on page 8 of this newsletter. The Worship Team will be sharing about the response of the lepers who were healed by Jesus. How many of the ten who were healed returned to thank Jesus?

October 20 *Justice for All* Luke 18:1-8

Prayer is intimate communication with God, and Jesus teaches his disciples by word and by example to pray. The parable of the widow and the unjust judge presents multiple lessons. Priest **Heather Devine** and Evangelist **Bob Slasor** will share those lessons as they explore this scripture. This Sunday is also children's Sabbath. This is the day we examine the responsibility we all share to nurture and protect the children of this world.

October 27 *Serve Humbly* Luke 18:9-14

The lesson from the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is that disciples of Jesus Christ must serve humbly. This same philosophy is emphasized in one of our enduring principles. Elder **Charyn Walker** and **Al Perrin** will share their thoughts on the advantages of serving humbly.

Take the opportunity between now and the first Sunday in October to read the 17th and 18th Chapters of Luke. Then you will be familiar with the lessons that will be presented in the morning worship services during the month. Some of those same themes will be discussed at the Wednesday night services held at 7:00 pm. Join the group for a more informal learning time as we share together our thoughts and prayers.

Looking for Willing Hands

So many enjoy visiting with church family and friends on Sunday morning before Sunday School classes begin. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get volunteers to prepare a light snack for this **9:30 am Fellowship Time each week**, so we have decided to try something a little different.

Eggs, cheese, fruit, crackers, bagels, cream cheese, juice, cereal, milk, creamer, and coffee will be provided each week. The only thing a volunteer needs to provide is sweet rolls or something similar for which your expenses will be refunded. We are looking for volunteers to do two Sundays a month instead of the full month. Please consider spending time with your church family by hosting our weekly **Fellowship Time**.

If you are interested, please contact **Jo Willetts** at 941.724.4220 or **Fay Beers** at 941.751.2993.



On Saturday evening, July 27th, a lively group of approximately 25 people met at Lido Beach to enjoy fellowship and watch the sunset together. Everyone enjoyed the outing. Shown above are seven ladies posing in their "shades". We are looking forward to doing this again.

Will You Join Me?

As we prepare ourselves to move into expanding horizons with new Leadership next year, I would like to take this time to remind everyone that as the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants say, *All are Called*. I am reminded of a passage from Grant McMurray's "Words of Counsel to the church", *Saints Herald*, June 1996:

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.

...Be faithful to the spirit of the Restoration, mindful that it is a spirit of adventure, openness, and searching.

...Embrace the blessing of your many differences. Be reminded once again that the gifts of all are necessary in order that divine purposes may be accomplished...

Be courageous and visionary, believing in the power of just a few vibrant witnesses to transform the world.

The Church as a whole has been continually on an evolving path of growth and change, changing to bring us closer to achieving the "mission that matters most: The Mission of Jesus Christ." As part of our path, we, as a church, have received five Mission Initiatives. The call has gone to all members of the church to help achieve these initiatives.

To the members, I remind you that all are called to achieve the work of completing these Mission Initiatives and to bring the ministry of Christ to all. The only functions and duties that are restricted to the Priesthood are the Sacraments. This means that each of us has a gift that can be used to bring these initiatives to fruition. So, I ask you, "What can *you* do for our congregation and the community around you?"

To the Priesthood, I say to you, "You have accepted a Call from God according to your Gifts. Are you living up to that commitment to God?" There are many priesthood duties that need attention, and we need your help to get them done. Have you signed up to support those duties lately? The congregation needs your support and the gifts that God has given you to continue moving forward.

Remember, it takes the gifts of everyone to grow a church and spread the message of Christ. I will use my gifts in any way needed to help this congregation move forward and live the mission initiatives. Will you join me?

Jeremiah 29:11, *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

Dan Willetts

Happenings during the Summer

Zander Avery Scholl made his appearance on June 2nd and was welcomed by his mother Frankie, grandparents Tim and Heather Devine, uncles Jonathan and Matthew, great-grandparents David and Ginger Robertson, and great aunt Kathy Park.

The Sacrament of Blessing of Children was celebrated on June 9th. The parents of **Kinsley Allyn Roehl**, Denise Chlebina and Nick Roehl, brought her to be blessed by her grandmother Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina and great-grandmother Elaine Gregg. At that service friends of Denise and Nick brought their daughter **Demi Jae Reid** also. She was blessed by Jo Fenn-Martin and Glenn Day.



A Hawaiian Luau was held at the church in August. The youth decorated and prepared a very festive dinner. Pictured are Kayla Smeralda and Lilli Rodriguez as greeters, and Al Perrin, Lynn and Wade Bryant as happy diners.



The following was written by **Tim Devine** following the distribution of food last Saturday: My family and I were at our church, *Community of Christ*, in Bradenton, FL this morning to help with our food pantry. It took our breath away to see a large food truck being emptied onto tables by some of your awesome members from the Bradenton Chapter and St. Petersburg Chapters of Iron Order Motorcycle Club. Forgive me if I get names wrong or forget anyone, but a special thank you to Nailor, Soldier, Too Soon, Rusty, ATM and Mayhem. I know I'm forgetting at least one Maiden and another Brother. All...represented Iron Order with class and, along with our local Food Bank (thanks to Cindy and family), we fed 82 families today!! Thank you from our church and from the people who are enjoying the food you provided.



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 Brouger
(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



Marilyn Wonsttler passed away on July 8th. She is missed by many friends and especially her daughters and sisters, Carol Law and Karen MacDonald. A Memorial Service was held at the church.

Terrell Italiano's father, Nelson Italiano, passed way Sept. 5th. We extend our prayers and condolences to Terrell and her family.

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

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Gregg, 351-1072
 Please address suggestions and comments to:
 Elaine Gregg, 8075 36th St Cir E, Sarasota 34243

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

Address Correction Requested



Enjoy a Morning in the "Park"

You are invited to come and join us in a joyful celebration **Sunday, October 13th**, for good food and fellowship in one of God's beautiful places. We will be celebrating and giving thanks at **Church in the Park** at Longwood Run Park, 6050 Longwood Run Blvd, in Sarasota, just south of University Parkway. We will gather at **10:00 am** to share in fellowship. A short time of worship will start at 10:45 followed by children's activities and more fellowship for the adults. Lunch will be served at noon.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates, tableware, and napkins will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. We are asking for donations of a 12 pack of soda or water from all those who are able. If you can do so, please bring the sodas and water to the church before Saturday, October 12th.

The pavilion is covered and next to the parking lot with a sidewalk to the pavilion and from the pavilion to the rest rooms. There are playgrounds for the children as well as tennis courts and a basketball court for those wanting some action. Bring a lawn chair and any sports equipment you might need.

Come and bring your friends and family and join us for fun, fellowship, and food.

See You There!

