



Celebration News

October, 2015 - Volume 25 - Issue 5

It's Time for Church in the Park

Come and join our church family for worship, meal, and play in the park. **Church in the Park** will be held on **Sunday, October 11, at 10:00 am**. This is a great time to invite neighbors and friends to come and have fun and fellowship with our church family. We will be meeting under a covered pavilion, and restrooms are at the pavilion. Wear comfortable clothing suitable for the outdoors. There are plenty of play equipment for the children and a lake where those interested in fishing can try their luck. Hotdogs, hamburgers and condiments will be provided.

We will gather at 10:00 am with a worship service beginning around 10:15 am. The theme for the service is "All Things are Possible with God." The young adults are planning the service to include drama, music, and activities.

After the service, we will have card and board games and corn hole.

Bring the following: a potluck dish to share, camping chairs, games, Frisbee, anything you and your family enjoy.

Be sure to join us in this outdoor setting for this special day when we worship, eat, and play together.



Directions to Church in the Park

Where: Greenbrook Adventure Park, 13010 Adventure Place

Arrival: 9:30 - 10:00 am Coffee, juice and light snack will be provided.

Directions from the church (5817 33rd Street E, Bradenton)

Head north on **33rd Street E**.

Turn right onto **FL-70 E**.

Continue east on FL-70 for approx 4 miles after Interstate.

Turn right onto **Greenbrook Blvd**.

Turn right onto **Adventure Pl**. The Park will be on the left.

Fun, Food and Family

Invitational Ministries Invites you to a **Family Fun Night** with a free spaghetti dinner on **Wednesday, October 7**. This dinner is being prepared for friends, neighbors, and relatives so invite them all! It is our goal to soon invite some of our church neighbors to join us also.

We will gather at **6:00 pm** and enjoy a meal together then have some fun with **Heather, Daryl, Liam, and Lennon Quinn** as they lead us in some fun activities. For the October 7th evening, we have also booked a celebrity who will perform one of his top ten hits. You won't want to miss this evening of fun, food, and family. Put it on your calendar now.

The Progression

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

--Ned Erickson

Preparing for 2016

On **Sunday, October 25, at 9:30 am** our **Congregational Conference** will be held. At this meeting we will be voting to elect our officers for 2016. The offices to be considered are Pastor, Secretary, Head Deacon, Librarian, Auditors, and members of the Facility Management Team and Fund Raising Teams. Please contact the person(s) you would like to nominate and ask for their permission to present their name. Please plan on being an active member of our congregation by showing your support with your presence at the Congregational Conference.



Tables are at their best when they are shared. They provide a great place to talk and even a better place to listen. In the spirit of bringing our tables outside, we will be having our **November Potluck** in the parking lot! Being that this potluck is in the parking lot, it will be open to the community. Everyone is invited.

Please plan to attend the **Potluck in the Parking Lot on November 8th** directly after church. This would be a great day to bring a friend or neighbor to church.

Welcome, Phyllis

Hi, I'm **Phyllis Hallman**, and I am originally from Oklahoma. I was born in Tulsa. My parents were friends with a family from their work that lived in Sperry, a small town close to Tulsa, and they attended this church. We became great friends and began attending church with them. All of my family were baptized at the same time. Four kids and my parents! All of my family still live in Oklahoma. I am the only one who has moved around a lot.



I have lived in Florida for 16 years, living in Boca Raton and attending church in Ft. Lauderdale. I worked in the Snow Ski business in Ft. Lauderdale and retired earlier this year. My career was in apparel buying, and I have moved a few times during my career. I have lived in Norman, OK, Charlotte, NC, Independence MO, Corte Madera, CA, Little Rock, AR, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and now Sarasota. Each move was an adventure, but there were always a welcoming church congregation in my new town and a new group of church friends to meet and worship with.

I was visiting my family in McAlester earlier this year around the time I was getting ready to retire. I was talking with Ben and Pat Jones (formerly of Sarasota) at church in Hailyeville, and Ben told me I had to move to Sarasota and that there was a "wonderful" congregation there. I took his advice and moved to Sarasota in June this year. I love Sarasota and worshipping with this congregation is very special.

Thank you for the warm welcome and making me a part of your congregation. And I am having a great time helping with the Food Pantry!

Congregational Ministries

On our church website it points out that we are called to become congregations woven together by the Spirit and sent into the world as witnesses for Christ's love and compassion. This statement touches me in many ways. I have been blessed with four children and all of them have been touched by this congregation. They have all experienced love and compassion from many of you. That love and compassion that you have all shared with my children has taught them to share that same love and compassion with others. That is what being part of a congregation is all about.

As part of our congregation, we show each other what can be done when we work together to meet the church's needs. Our children are seeing the work that it takes to contribute to the congregation. They are being taught the importance of being involved in a congregation. In Ephesians 4:12-13 it states "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." This Bible verse points out an important factor in the growth of our church. When we work together as a ministry to others, we become a useful body of Christ.

Melinda Creel, Experience Congregation Ministries

Jesus' Power is God's Power

October offers an exciting variety of worship opportunities. The scripture lesson for each Sunday in the month comes from the tenth chapter of the book of Mark. 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.

On the first Sunday we will celebrate the sacrament of Communion. The second Sunday we will be worshipping in the Park where we will enjoy food, fun, and fellowship after the service. The third Sunday we will celebrate Children's Sabbath.

Mark 10:2-16 *Receive the Kingdom of God as a Child* October 4

The sacrament of Communion is an ideal time to remember Jesus' teaching and our covenant with God. Jesus reminds us to be a blessing to children in our fellowship and neighborhoods. Elder **Dan Fenn** is the speaker, and High Priest **Nanette Dizney** is the presider for the worship service on this Sunday.

Mark 10:17-31 *All Things Are Possible with God* October 11

These verses describe an encounter between Jesus and a rich young man. Jesus invites the man to surrender his heart and life to compassion and discipleship - an invitation the rich man found too difficult to accept. Jesus clearly states that God is the one who makes possible the seemingly impossible task of living in and fully experiencing God's reign. Young adults are planning this worship service when we meet for Church in the Park.

Mark 10:35-45 *Make Me a Servant* October 18

We often sing these words of one of our favorite hymns. Our call of discipleship is servanthood - service to our fellow beings. Jesus explains that his primary purpose on earth was to be of service. As Christians, we must answer a major question asked in verse 38, "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?" Teacher **Jo Willetts** will speak on this theme with Elder **Ginger Robertson** presiding. We will honor our children on this day.

Mark 10:46-52 *Jesus, Have Mercy* October 25

As Jesus passes by him, Bartimaeus shouts, "Jesus, have mercy on me!" He wants Jesus to heal his blindness. Jesus heals him immediately. Just as Jesus showed mercy to Bartimaeus, we are to show mercy to others. Priest **Heather Devine** and Elder **Dick Kramer** will share the lesson that we can respond to God's mercy to us by being merciful with others.

Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four and thought to be the first one written. It is full of symbols that illustrate Jesus' plan and simple power as the Son of God. The many stories of healing found in Mark remind us that Jesus' power is God's power. And that God's power is shown in acts of mercy.

A service of **Prayer and Praise** is held in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on the second through the fourth Wednesdays. You are welcome 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



The Bradenton/Sarasota congregation has been my church home for 26 years now! But I can still remember something our sister Nanette said to me about 25 years ago. We were all getting out of the car on a Sunday morning at the beginning of October. Nanette had just driven up ahead of us and was getting out of her car just as we were.

It was at that moment that she smiled and declared what a beautiful fall day it was! "Can you just smell fall in the air?!!" It was at least 80 degrees and I think my whole family agreed at that moment that she was out of her mind! I remember it so well because I just had never given any thought to Florida having seasons. I was and am just grateful that it has no snow.

Fall is here again. In the years that have passed since then, I have come to see that Nanette had a good point. There is a point at which you begin to appreciate the subtleties of life here and in general. This time of year fills our heads and our calendars with thoughts of celebrations and holidays. It welcomes time to appreciate God's wonderful blessings. As we begin this season, let us take a moment each day to tell someone what they mean to us.

Let's remember to pass along kindness instead of anger. Express appreciation instead of criticism, and allow ourselves times to accept love. This will become a busy time of year, no doubt. May we all provide opportunity to "smell the fall air!" and enjoy God's blessings.

Jim Deering, Pursue Peace Ministries

Navigating the Church Website

There are some times when I question my ability to understand technology, especially in trying to use the church website, CofChrist.org. Now, I have to take some of the blame, because I did not do the tutorial when it popped up on the website. I'm sure it is still there somewhere, but I can't find it. I am still at a loss to find the resources I need all the time.

But there is a website that you might be interested in that we learned about at our Leading Congregations in Mission (LCM) retreats. It is missionalleaders.org. There you will find many of the resources we received at the LCM retreat. These are available to use in worship, classes or wherever they are appropriate. Try it out!

Nanette Dizney, Pastor

World Conference Delegates

World Conference is scheduled for June 4-11, 2016, at church headquarters in Independence, Missouri. The Florida Mission Center is now accepting nominations for delegates. If you are a member of this mission center and would like to be a **delegate to World Conference 2016**, please send your name to Debbie Bartlett at www.cofchristfmc.org. Your name will be added to the ballot that will be voted on at the Florida Mission Center Conference at Deerhaven on Sunday, November 15.

MissionFest 2015

Deerhaven Campground will welcome members of the Florida Mission to **MissionFest 2015** on November 13-15. The theme for this weekend of engaging, exploring, envisioning, and empowering is *Christ's Mission, Our Mission*. Linda Booth, President of Council of Twelve, will be the guest minister. There is no registration fee. There will be free will offerings received to cover the cost of the weekend events. To register or receive more information go to www.cofchristfmc.org.

Reach In/Reach Out Success

We, **Compassionate Ministries**, are so proud to be part of such a giving group of people. Through the generosity of members and friends of our congregation, we have raised over \$650 for the Church Women United's Soles for their Little Souls shoe drive!

The Compassionate Ministries has a **Reach In/Reach Out** bucket that is placed in the sanctuary each Sunday. Many Sundays we have our bucket in front of the podium and other Sundays the bucket is kept near the doors to the sanctuary. Every Sunday old and young have graciously dropped their weekly accumulated loose change into this bucket. Over \$3,000 has been raised to date.

In October we will be announcing what the next recipient group is for the December payout of our loose change. Please continue to give what you can and remember, these small amounts can do great things!

Jo Willetts, Compassionate Ministry



Heather Devine and Jo Willetts, representing **Compassionate Ministry**, present the results of monies received from **Reach In/Reach Out** to **JaAna and Rick Schwartz** from the **Greenville, South Carolina** congregation. The money is for the work and activities the church has been offering the youth in their neighborhood.

Only Six Days Away!

The **Women's Retreat** is only days away. If you would like to attend, register and pay online now at www.CofChristfmc.org. The theme for the weekend is *Refresh - A Spa Retreat for Body, Mind and Soul*. The women of the Orlando congregation are hosting the event.

Shown to the right are some of those who enjoyed a fun and musical evening at Disney's Night of Joy. Twenty-one of our youth and young adults were part of the evening's activities. Those attending were: Tim, Heather and Matthew Devine, Jonathan Robertson, Amy Smeralda, Jacob Rodriguez, Kayla Smeralda, Lilli Rodriguez, Lisa, Joel and Hailie Rodriguez, Tobin Cooper, Ryan Hollenbeck, Karla, Zoe and Cole Van Beek, and Brad Martin



Mission Brings Hope

These are the words - *Mission Brings Hope* - found in the September issue of the *Herald*, a Community of Christ magazine. The September, 2015 issue is an important one for all congregations across the United States. The articles explain how we as a church, who embrace the mission of Jesus Christ, are moving into the future starting January 1, 2016.

Those of us who were fortunate to be involved in the *Leading Congregations in Mission (LCM)* pilot study at least have a basic knowledge of the terminology and the focus on mission. The changes being proposed will have a direct effect on all congregations in the USA.

These changes have not occurred over night. When you read President Steve Veazey's 2005 strategic vision for the church and listen to our leaders of the church over the past few years, you can see this future of the church strongly stressing the mission of Jesus Christ.

I encourage all of you to read this issue of the *Herald* and imagine how you can serve in this new endeavor. We need all of us. I know that I AM IN! I hope you can say that too.

Nanette Dizney, Pastor

Change of Heart

God has nothing but the best, and he offers it to us, weeds us, sustains us and cares for us through his Son. That's the way our hearts are changed to follow Christ.

--Martin Luther

Unprecedented Love

Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon.

---Thomas Merton

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- 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
- 17 Suzanne Grimmer
- 22 Linda Morgan
- 25 Dick Chlebina
- 26 Glenn Day
- 30 Ginger Robertson

Recycling



Members of our congregation have volunteered to help us in our efforts to recycle. Please remember the following items and people.

Aluminum Cans are being collected by the **Youth**. Place your cans in the indicated barrels on the porch located on the south side of the church.

Prescription Bottles are being collected by **Carolyn Deering**. Place your prescription bottles in the indicated container in the church office.

Ink Cartridges can be given to **Elaine Gregg**. The monies received from these cartridges offset church printing costs.

DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Jordan and Eli Morgan**, the twin sons of Lucy and Cody, were born August 13th? Congratulations to the parents and the grandparents Dale and Linda Morgan.
- ◆ **Patrick James** is a recent high graduate?
- ◆ **Kaitlyn James** attended Spectacular at Graceland University this summer as a part of the Florida Mission Center, is entering her senior year of high school, and has joined the wrestling team?
- ◆ **Zoe, Cole, Karla, and Jason Van Beek, Kaitlyn James, and Nanette Dizney** attended the Florida Mission Center's Labor Day Weekend at Deerhaven Retreat Center?

Trunk or Treat

This year **Trunk or Treat** will be held **Sunday, October 25th**, following our morning worship. At this event the children will be dressed in their Halloween costumes and out looking for some "goodies". If you would like to participate and have a vehicle, all you need to do is "decorate" your trunk and have some treats to give out to the children who will come around in costumes looking for delicious goodies. Many of us remember the trunks that were decorated from quite a basic way (a pumpkin or two and some treats) to extravagant (top-notched decorations with music and other interesting characters). The one common theme is the delicious treats to share. So plan on dressing up your trunk and/or watching children and adults and enjoy our time together.



We Know Your Name

Have you noticed something different at church lately? I have! Its name tags! Now I know everybody's name. I really appreciate the name tags, because I am still getting to know new faces and persons that I have only met once or twice. I even had an embarrassing moment when I introduced myself to someone and asked him his name because I didn't recognize him. The only thing different was a shave and haircut! We laugh about it now, but it was not funny at the time. As our northern friends come to visit us, our memory fades. It will be nice to see their names in print with their faces.

A big thank you to **Karla Van Beek** and others who have taken the time to make our church family more welcoming.

Andrea Cooper, Invitational Ministries



Do you think the **Facility Management Team** is six men/women sitting around a table for a few meetings a year? It may be news to many, but the FMT team members are reach high positions when working. There has been quite a bit of high working jobs the last while. As seen above, David Robertson is working on replacing light bulbs on the church roof. You may have noticed the hole in the narthex ceiling which has caused other members to be on the "up" on the roof to look for the leak. If you enjoy seeing the community around the church, the FMT might be for you. Of course, many of their responsibilities keep their members' feet on solid ground. The FMT has many types of jobs. If you are interested, let someone know so that they can nominate you to be a team member at the business meeting October 25th.

Like a Pumpkin

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff -including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

Then He carves you a new smiling face, and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.

This was passed on to me from another pumpkin.. Now, it is your turn to pass it to a pumpkin!

Winter Reunion

Florida's Winter Reunion will be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center, January 23-29, 2016. Guest ministry will feature Peter and Kris Judd. This reunion will be filled with opportunities to live in community as the Body of Christ: worship, music, fellowship, delicious food, fun and laughter, education - all of the ingredients for an amazing week.

In an effort to make reunion available to those with limited income, a major discount on the registration is being offered. The fee is \$195.00, a discount of \$45.00 per person (based on last year's registration) or \$40/person per day for a partial week. The reunion text *Live, Love, Share: Visibly One in Christ* is available for purchase from Herald House at www.HeraldHouse.org or by calling 800.767.8181.

Registration begins October 11th. For more information regarding the Winter Reunion, contact Peter Smith or Mark Dixon, Reunion Directors, at 813.926.5218.

President Veazey's Address

Join in President Veazey's interactive, webcast-only event on **October 4, 2015 at 6:00 pm.**