

CELEBRATION NEWS

Good Reading Comes Your Way

Did you ever wonder why you are receiving the monthly World Church *Herald* magazine even though you didn't subscribe to it? Well, it is a program we have in our congregation called *Herald in Every Home*. The *Herald* is sent to all members of our congregation. It is hoped that those receiving it will have a better insight into what our World Church is doing with stories, illustrations, programs as well as any upcoming changes. One change that has been mentioned in the *Herald* is a change in the offering envelopes that is taking place in September.

The cost of a *Herald* subscription is \$26.52 for each family/person which costs the congregation \$1,538.00 a year. In the past there has been a special offering envelope included in our envelope packet twice a year to remind us of this expense. If you would like to help defray some of this program's expense, you can just write on the left side of your

offering envelope, **Herald Program** and the amount. Any contribution you can make to offset this expense will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Bob Beers, Congregational Financial Officer

Mission in Action

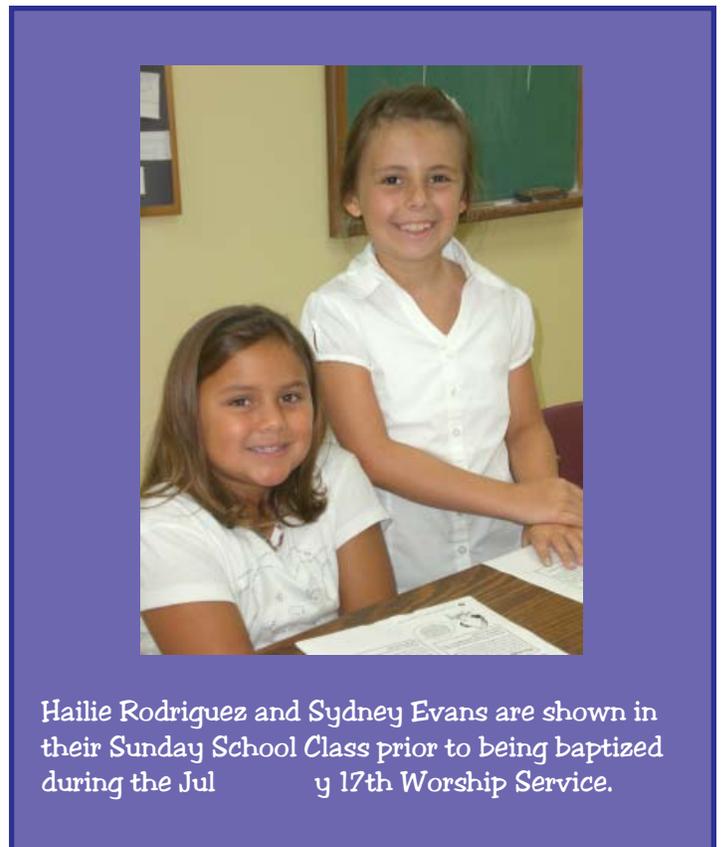
One of our Mission Initiatives calls us to *Abolish Poverty and End Suffering*.

"We are poised to be Christ's hands and feet, reaching out through compassionate ministries that serve the poor and hungry and stop conditions that diminish the worth of persons. We fulfill God's ultimate vision as we...

Help Those Who Hurt - Feed the Hungry - Support Compassionate Ministries - Respond in Times of Crisis

Many willing volunteers are living out this Initiative through their dedication to the *Community of Christ* food pantry, **Our Father's Cupboard**. For over 20 years we have endeavored to offer food to those in our community who are in need. Through this vital ministry, we are also able to address other needs that extend beyond food to emotional and spiritual needs. We would like for all of you to know that your prayers and donations do make a difference. Currently, we are in need of the following items: cereal, shelf (unrefrigerated) milk, peanut butter and jelly, diapers (all sizes), canned meat (tuna chicken, etc.) and soups. And moms, if you have baby clothing to pass on, there is a great need for it also.

Please leave your donations in the wagons provided in the Information Center. If you wish to help, watch the *Opportunities* page of your Sunday bulletin for dates and times.



Hailie Rodriguez and Sydney Evans are shown in their Sunday School Class prior to being baptized during the July 17th Worship Service.

Young Adult Happening

All young adults, please mark your calendars for **September 24th, Saturday from 2-6:00 PM**. Join us for a **Family BBQ and Pool Party** at 317 137th Street NE, Mill Creek Subdivision, Bradenton. We are going to have a great time at our first ever family gathering!

Please bring your family with you as well as a side dish to share, bathing suits to swim, towels to dry oneself, and lawn chairs to lounge in around the pool. Hot dogs, pulled pork and sodas will be provided. We will swim, play basketball and football, do sidewalk chalk and blow bubbles, and anything else we can think of. Hope to see you there!



If you have questions, contact **Karla Van Beek** for details.

We're Back!

After a flurry of summer activities including camps and Vacation Bible School, we are happy to report that **Children's Church** will start up again in September. It will be held on the third Sunday of each month during the 10:55 AM worship hour. Children entering first grade through fifth grade are welcome to join in the fun. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. We, **Patty Day** and **Carolyn Deering**, look forward to sharing stories, crafts and snacks with the children.

Presiding Bishopric Change

An announcement has been made by President Stephen Veazey of James A. Poirier's call to serve as a member of the Presiding Bishopric and counselor to the presiding bishop of the church. Bishop Poirier's call to serve as a member of Presiding Bishopric will be presented for approval at the 2013 World Conference.

Congregational Opportunity

What an exciting time! The Prophet/President of the church, Steven Veazey, has outlined the pathway ahead of the church. In his address, *What Matters Most*, he lists five Mission Initiatives: Invite People to Christ, Abolish Poverty and End Suffering, Pursue Peace on Earth, Develop Disciples to Serve, and Experience Congregations in Mission.

The Bradenton/Sarasota Congregation will have an opportunity to have Elder Rick Rosser of Bryan, Texas, lead us in a weekend of spiritual learning, experiencing, and empowering. He will lead us in learning new ways to provide healing ministry to the community, more ways for the Spirit to be alive and active among us as a congregation, and additional understanding about the power of the Holy Spirit available right here, right now to each disciple who will respond to the Spirit's invitation.

Let me introduce you to Rick Rosser with his own words taken from his biography.

My name is Richard M. "Rick" Rosser. I am a convert to the *Community of Christ*. I was baptized in February, 1981 in the Bryan, Texas, congregation. I was ordained to the office of Teacher in 1986 and to the office of Elder in 1989. I have served the church in three different congregations and in a variety of roles over that time including missionary coordinator, financial officer, and pastor. I returned to the Hearne Congregation in the latter part of 2005 and have served as pastor since that time. Over those years we have grown from a weak and struggling mission to a vibrant community of worshipers. We have seen our contribution to both congregation support and the world church mission tithes grow from just over \$8,000 in 2005 to over \$70,000 in 2010. I am an avid student of church history and scripture. I have a hunger and passion to bring people to an encounter with God that will equip and empower them to fulfill their role as kingdom builders.

Dear Saints, I know Rick Rosser. I have been involved in ministry with him and in his congregation over the last three years. I know the power of his personal testimony and of his relationship with Jesus Christ and the *Community of Christ*. I know what his ministry can do in us and for us in equipping us to move into the Mission Initiatives of the World Church. My brothers and sisters, please mark your calendars for the weekend of **October 21 - 23, Friday through Sunday**. Rick's ministry will begin on Friday evening the 21st and conclude with the 10:55 AM Worship Service on Sunday the 23rd. A schedule of the weekend's activities will be printed shortly.

I invite your continued prayers on behalf of the ministry that will bless our congregation that weekend. In Christ, **Bob Slasor**

Worship Opportunities

You cannot really tell by the weather, but summer is almost over. Before you know it, we will be celebrating the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Let's enjoy the last few days of summer before we rush ahead. There are many opportunities to join us in worship before the holidays. In September, the scripture lesson for the first Sunday is from Romans; on the following Sundays the lessons are from Matthew.

We are all aware of the hunger problems that plague the world. World Hunger Emphasis Day is being celebrated throughout the church on September 4. The theme is *Love One Another*, and we have the opportunity to demonstrate our love by financially contributing to the World Hunger Fund. We will also observe Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on this Sunday with Elder **Elaine Gregg** presiding and Elder **Beth Slasor** giving the Communion Message. Addison Creel will be blessed as we observe the Sacrament of Blessing of Children.

How many times should you forgive? Jesus' answer to this question appears in the book of Matthew. On September 11, we will be reminded of his answer and also learn that Jesus said to *Forgive from Your Heart*. Evangelist **Glenn Day** will do the teaching on this theme with Deacon **Melinda Creel** presiding over the service.

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard reminds us that *God Is Generous*. God's kind of generosity is not given to get something back - it is not given in response to anything. It breaks the rules, and it changes everything. Elder **Stuart Skene** will bring the message on September 18 with Teacher **Nancy Skene** presiding. Heritage Day will also be celebrated on this Sunday.

When the religious authorities question Jesus about his authority, Jesus begins to question them. Then he shares the parable of the two sons. The bottom line message for this day is that actions are more important than talk. What we DO is important. Elders Scott and Penny Cramer will emphasize that lesson on September 25. Elder **Nanette Disney** will be the presider.

A faithful group of people gather on Wednesday evenings for a **Prayer and Praise Service**. You are encouraged to join them at 7:00 PM.

Jo Fenn-Martin for the Worship Team

Why Is that Dog in Church?

The Van Beek family added a new member to their family this summer. His name is Trey, and he is a 6-1/2 month old yellow lab from the Southeast Guide Dogs in Palmetto. He is a guide dog in training and lives with the Van Beek Family. Karla is his primary raiser and takes him everywhere she goes including work, shopping, YMCA basketball games with the kids, and, of course, to church. He is allowed to be petted by the public until he is 10 months old. After that, he can only be petted when his blue training coat is off. He is learning basic obedience, house manners, and how to behave when he is out in public. When you hear Trey let out a big yawn, he is not really bored. He's just tired - he is still a puppy! Thanks for welcoming him into our church family. **Karla Van Beek**



New Look for Offering Envelopes

You may have noticed the new look of your offering envelopes for September. If you have questions, here are some helps.

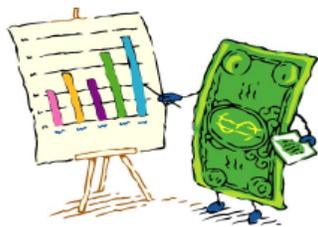
The World church sent out a brochure entitled *Community of Christ Contributor Guide*. The Guide is very well done and explains the new formatting of your September offering envelopes and where you may want your contribution to go.

On April 10, 2011, President Veazey presented his annual address to the church. In it he laid out an increased vision for the church through five Spirit-led Mission Initiatives. If you did not have an opportunity to hear him, you can find the text of the address in the May 2011 *Herald*.

If you have any questions or would like some counseling on your contribution choices, I'd be more than happy to help.

Bob Beers,
Congregational Financial Officer

Congregational Financial Update through July 2011



	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Local Operating Fund	\$33,205	\$ 32,121
Local Operating Expenses		<u>\$ 21,749</u>
Amount Remaining		\$ 10,372

We are short to our Planned Budgeted Income by \$1,084, however, our expenses are lower than anticipated at this time. We are expecting our yearly insurance bill of \$5,900 any day now. Overall we are doing a good job of controlling expenses. Thank you for your support of our Local Congregation and World Church.

Our Father's Cupboard Update as of July

Income	\$2,969*
Expenses	<u>692</u>
Balance	\$2,277

* Income includes FL Mission Center Grant of \$2,000.

Bob Beers, Congregational Financial Officer

What's Going On with the Youth?

After a great summer of church camp experiences as well as Spectacular, we are ready to get back into the groove. We continue to prepare 'Shoeboxes' for the youth shelter. At the beginning of the summer 16 boxes and three bags were filled with full size items of shampoo, body wash, lotions, feminine products and several other items. Thank you for all your past donations, and we look forward to your continued support of donations. The list of items needed for this project is on the green container in the Information Center. The shelter wants all to know that the teenagers love getting the boxes, and it is also helpful to the shelter to have these items available whenever needed. If you have questions about the project, feel free to ask any youth.

On Saturday, September 10, the youth will be joining the Orlando and Tampa youth for Night of Joy at Disney. Afterward there will be a lock-in at the Orlando church. There will be approximately 17 going. We are very excited to see our friends from the other congregations. For many of us, this will be the first time to attend Night of Joy. We look forward to a fun time and lots of great live music concerts. It will definitely be a night to remember. We will give you an update next month about our trip and what we have planned for the future.

Heather Devine, Youth Leader

FL Mission Center Coming Events

September 2-5 - Labor Day Reunion, cabin and camper space still available for families and individuals.

October 7-9 - Women's Retreat, a beach-theme weekend retreat for the ladies, young and old.

October 28-30 - Spiritual Growth Retreat, a time for adults to learn and grow spiritually.

All of these events have dynamic ministers and exciting things planned. Please look for more information on the bulletin board in the Information Center. The church's First Mission Initiative is *Invite Others to Christ*, and one of the best places to invite friends to encounter the Christ is Deerhaven Retreat Center. The above mentioned activities are excellent opportunities to invite and share with friends.



Kaitlyn and Patrick James load up a wagon full of 'shoeboxes' for distribution to the youth shelter.

Spaghetti Dinner and Live/ Silent Auction

Go get your calendar as there is a date coming up that you won't want to miss! Circle Sunday, November 20th for a great dinner and a fun time. That Sunday you will not need to fight the lunch crowds at Red Lobster or Olive Garden - instead enjoy lunch with your church family right in the Fellowship Hall. Spaghetti, salad, bread sticks and dessert are on the menu. The fun will come when the silent bidding starts. There will also be a few special live auction items that will bring shouting and a few good laughs. Some of the items that are already gathered are beautiful Southern Living platters and bowls, Lia Shophia jewelry, and favorite food items from Tastefully Simple (garlic garlic, onion onion, and the bountiful beer/soda bread). Also up for bidding will be a homemade cheese cake, award-winning banana pudding, and a week's stay at the famous Skene cabin in the woods in northeastern Georgia. There are too many items to list, and we continue to search for more donations. If you have items that you would like to donate to the auction, please call **Karla Van Beek** (941.739.9823) or **Stuart Skene** (941.746.4965).



So, circle your calendar now, show up on November 20th, have a yummy lunch (donations accepted), go home with some great items, and enjoy fellowship with your extended family all while we raise money to make Christ's Mission a reality.

Fund Raising Committee

Who Could Have Imagined?

I was blessed by the opportunity to attend the 100th anniversary of the first church reunion on the campgrounds at Onset, Massachusetts. Having spent summers at Onset all my life, it was such a joy to renew friendships and worship on the grounds that hold so many memories. Our church President, Stephen Veazey with wife Cathy, Jack Ergo and many others brought special ministry and fellowship to this celebration. The Sunday service rededicating the campgrounds was broadcast live on local cable television - something my relatives who attended the first reunion could never have imagined! **Nancy Peters**

Called to Mission

How many times have you heard someone say, *Change is never easy*? Being the Pollyanna that I am, (Pollyanna is a fictional character who always looks for the positive in everything), when I hear that allegation I usually roll my eyes and wonder what we would be missing if we did not embrace change. The simple fact is that like it or not, change will come throughout our lives whether or not it is within our control. I remember the impact my father's sudden death had upon my life as a senior in high school. Early that morning, I was laughing at his jokes and antics as he waited with me for the school bus. Hours later I was numbed with tears as I was told to gather my things from locker, because my father had died of a possible heart attack, and I would be going home. *Change is never easy*. Although the weeks and months that followed were challenging for a girl who adored her father, what I gained was a new love and respect for my mother who somehow managed to meet and overcome whatever obstacle confronted her.

Many changes have taken place in our faith movement in the last few decades. Women in the priesthood, open communion, leadership lineage, name change, tithing; these are just a few of the issues that have been difficult for some to embrace. As the world changes, so must our ministry change. As the needs of the world change, so must we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, be willing to rise up and meet the challenges before us with the anticipation that God will open new pathways to ministries. It is our embrace of change that gives us flexibility, and our flexibility that gives us strength. According to Paul, when Jesus returns, *we will all not sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet*. Paul is telling us that at that time, change will not be an option. I like to think that God, who is unchangeable, wants us to remember that we are the instruments of change for the peace, justice and welfare of all people.



Beloved children of the Restoration, your continuing faith adventure with God has been divinely led, eventful, challenging, and sometimes surprising to you. By the grace of God, you are poised to fulfill God's ultimate vision for the church. Doctrine and Covenants 164:9a

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministries



CHURCH IN THE PARK

Save this date: Sunday, **October 16th**. You won't want to miss **Church in the Park** (Fellowship Sunday). We will all meet at the Longwood Run Park which is located just south of University Parkway on Longwood Run Blvd. in Sarasota. We will gather at 10:00 AM with a worship service beginning at 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 on this day as we observe Children's Sabbath.

Following the worship service we will eat. Bring a potluck dish(es) to share, lawn chairs and smiling faces. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, onions, pickles, ice, and beverages will be furnished.

There will be volleyball, table games, basketball, after we have shared a meal together. There are also playgrounds for the children to enjoy.

Mark your calendars for this special Sunday when we worship, eat and play together. We will be talking about it for months afterward so you won't want to miss it.

Stay tuned - more information is forthcoming.

A God "High"

As I write this article, I am surrounded by God's glory in Hawaii. Recently Marcia and I visited the extinct volcano Mauna Kea. This volcano has been inactive for several years, but its aftermath has left behind a 13,622' tall mountain. There are several other peaks that surround it, and they are an awesome sight when the sun hits them squarely in the best light of the day. This volcano is now extinct and has special spiritual ties to the native Hawaiian people. It is also a main source for the astrological and scientific community.

Marcia and I, accompanied by our son and his wife, took a trip to experience the peace of Mauna Kea. We rode in a four wheel drive Jeep up to the ranger's station at 9,200'. There we had to wait for the ranger's staff to make sure we were all right with the altitude. We then formed a 12 vehicle caravan to the top. At the top, there are 13 observatories, and nearby there are holy grounds of the ancient native Hawaiians. They are symbolic of the native people's love for their sacred grounds and their deity Mauna Kea. Their spiritual leaders have made journeys to the top. These pilgrimages were an important sign of their love for their mountain and God. Their journey took days, even weeks as they endured the elements and the high altitude oxygen shortage. Our trip took four hours up and four down.

We were 13,622' above sea level and oxygen deprived. Yet we experienced a God high when we saw some of the other islands of Hawaii from a lofty place. We have experienced a God high at 800' feet above sea level while attending *Community of Christ* church in Hilo, Hawaii. The work of early missionaries is evident here, and the word of God has allowed the people of Hawaii to experience Jesus as the destination of their spiritual journey. We, as Christians, need to draw upon our God highs in order to be ready for the valley lows that can and do occur. God has told us that he is always with us, and the Holy Spirit is our comforter. We humans are an earthly vessel for the Grace of God, and we need to be filled daily. When filled, we can then pass the Grace of God on to those who are in need of the peace of Jesus Christ. This fulfills our calling to be the *Community of Christ* and Zion for the world we serve.

Aloha in the Peace of Christ, **Jim Brouger**

It is useless to pray for more knowledge, power or faith until you begin to use what you have already. - Henry Bucklew

September

- 01 Hunter Morgan
- 04 Karen Palko
- 05 Laura Vaughan
- 10 Marcia Brouger
- 11 Jerilyn & Dick Chlebina (anniv)
- 13 George Botelho
- 13 Pat Benjamin-Bovee
- 16 Beth Slasor
- 18 Kenyata Evans
- 19 Joan Martin
- 20 Liam Quinn
- 20 Kathy Park
- 24 Don Fant
- 26 Karla Van Beek



August Pandamania!

What has 40 listening ears, 40 talented hands, and loud joyful voices? The answer is 20 little pandas! This year we held our summer Vacation Bible School the first of August. The students donned their panda ears and began a fun week of stories, music, crafts and yummy food. In all, 26 volunteer staff members share their time and talents to bring this VBS ministry to children in our congregation and community. **Jim Deering** was our host/pastor, while **Hunter Morgan** and **Frankie Scholl** entertained the children with a nightly panda comedy skit. Our theme, Pandamania, taught us that *God is Wild About Us*. Our scripture focus for the week was passages from Psalm 139.

After VBS was over, and everything was packed away to be stored, it occurred to me that there may be other congregations that could benefit from the wonderful VBS kits and resources we have stored in our church attic. Plans are now being made to inventory all VBS materials, and loan them out to those congregations that are unable to budget for VBS. One of our new church plants in New Port Richie has already placed a request to use one of our many kits. This is yet another way we can be good and generous stewards of that which God has provided.

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministries

Things You May Have Missed This Summer

- ◆ **Jonathan Robertson** and **Hunter Morgan** graduated from high school in May.
- ◆ **Melinda and Richie Creel** welcomed **Addison Hope** on June 6th. She was also welcomed by brother **Patrick James** and sisters **Kaitlyn James** and **Rebecca**.
- ◆ **Rachel Fant** was promoted to Navy Captain and has moved to the Columbus, Ohio, area. **Don** has moved closer to family in Maryland while **Zee** is presently with an aunt in Missouri. We wish the family the best.
- ◆ **Facility Management Committee** has been busy widening the window opening in the Sound Room and doing a lot of rewiring. The project is not completed but is in the process.
- ◆ **Heather Devine, Melinda and Richie Creel** were pictured on page 35 of the August, 2011, *Herald*.
- ◆ **Marilyn McAlister, Al and Linda Mount**, and **Tara Butler** are new members to our congregation. Marilyn came from the Atlanta, Georgia, area and the Mounts moved here from New Jersey. Tara moved here to become an emergency room doctor at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Make sure you get acquainted with our new arrivals.



A VBS student is shown singing a praise song (above) and (below) getting ready to make edible treats that went along with their Bible stories.



Crafts found students being creative and having fun (above) and (right) receiving their panda ears.



Address Correction Requested



Important news for

Welcome!

Whatever the Weather

No matter the forecast, weather can remind us of God's presence:

- **When it's sunny, remember that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).**
- **When it's cloudy, remember that God often spoke to and guided his people from a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22)**
- **During a thunderstorm, remember the thunder and lightning when God beckoned Moses to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).**
- **When it rains, remember that God's Word serves his purpose just as precipitation does (Isaiah 55:10-11).**
- **When it's windy, remember that "a wind from God" came at Creation (Genesis 1:2), and God's Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost like a mighty wind (Acts 2:2).**

