



celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

September, 2008

Volume 19 - Issue No. 5

A Growing Experience

Wednesday night Pray and Praise services in September will be an opportunity for everyone to take part in a "growing experience." The theme for the month is *Growing in Our Capacity to Bring Blessing*.

- ▶ The first goal will be to *renew our testimonies of Jesus Christ in our lives today!*
- ▶ The second goal is to *believe that we can be a blessing to others today!*
- ▶ The third goal is to *create a hands-on blessing* for
 - 1) someone special we have in mind,
 - 2) for someone we don't know, and
 - 3) make this so special that our combined prayers will become a part of some stranger's testimony of Christ working in his or her life.

This will be an experiment in testimony and prayer. It may test our faith, but it will be a fun, challenging, and creative exercise in worship and praise! It can result in a "growing experience."

Join us **beginning Wednesday, September 3rd and every Wednesday after that during September**. We'll **begin at 6:00 PM with sharing a meal together**. This meal will be provided, but if you would like to bring a salad or dessert, that would be welcome. The worship part of the service will begin at 6:30 PM. This is being scheduled early enough in hopes that those with children will be able to join in this "growing experience."

On Sunday, August 10th, we rejoiced with **Heather Cosgrove-Manfull** and Olivia Loudermilk as they entered the water of baptism during a spirit filled service. They both were baptized by Priest JaAna Parham, a former member of our congregation. JaAna is Olivia's aunt and a friend who introduced Heather to our faith movement. Olivia is also a former member of our congregation. We delighted in watching her grow from a baby to the child about to start school before her family moved to South Carolina.

From the first Sunday that Heather came to worship with us, she has been special. She has participated in many activities and taken on responsibilities. She is willing to share her love for Christ with others. She is the mother of **DaniLee** and wife of **Bill**. We rejoice in having Heather and her family in our church family. (See photo on page 2.)

During the baptismal service we were also blessed with **Don Fant** sharing in the solo *I'm So Glad I Found You, Jesus*. Don wrote this song for his own baptism.



Baptisms

Reflections of a Wannabe Relic

It was 40 years ago this summer, and I had just graduated from high school. Forty YEARS! In those days I could not even wrap my mind around even being forty. It was the "summer of love", and we were going to change the world. Our generation had decided that since the "relics" of the world had messed up so badly, we would make everything better through our great "enlightenment."

In those days the word relic referred to age as a bad thing and ignored experience and wisdom. Spirituality came from outside sources and not very often from God. It was often quoted that "you can't trust anyone over 30!" Now I hardly KNOW anyone under 30 and that includes my own children! By looking back, I see now that much of my generation's attitudes made the world very black and white. It was a world of extremes that did not really foster discussion let alone compromise or consensus.

Forty years later there is much to applaud. Not only am I grayer, but the world is too in it's thinking. We have learned that there is much to be learned in the gray areas of our lives. We know now that the people we call relics in our lives link us to our past in a way that can help us understand and enjoy our collective futures.

I know it sounds as though I am trying to make a place for myself now that I am a relic, and maybe I am. But I also believe that we have come a long way in understanding what everyone of every age has to bring to the banquet of life. We are a blessed people in this congregation. We have all ages to learn from and enjoy. Let us all be willing to tell our stories so that life will be richer for everyone!

Jim Deering, Administrative Pastor



Heather's family and friends witness her baptism.

Join Us for WORSHIP

The mood of this newsletter (as proof reader, I get to read it before it is published) seems to be one of disbelief that summer is coming to a close and one of looking ahead to the coming activities. In spite of all the activities enjoyed by members listed in the *What I (we) did this Summer* article, the attendance at church was strong. As we look forward to the coming months, the following opportunities for worship are available in the month of September.

The story of the Last Supper as recorded in Luke, Chapter 22, tells us that Jesus said to his disciples, "Do this in Remembrance of me." On September 7 we will share in Communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ with Priest **Don Fant** delivering the message. Priest **Scott Cramer** will preside over the service as we also place emphasis on World Hunger.

On September 14 the ordination of **Melinda James** and **Heather Devine** will be celebrated. They will be serving in new roles in their relationship with God and this congregation. As Christians we all belong to God, and God is willing to engage with us in relationship. Priest **Stuart Skene** and Elder **Jim Deering** will explore the theme "God Delivers Us."

Are you aware of God's generosity to you? Have you celebrated it and given praise to God for his generosity lately? On September 21 High Priest **Nanette Dizney** will speak on the theme "Praise God's Generosity" with Priest **Ginger Robertson** presiding.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is a hymn we love to sing because it reminds us of how faithful God is. God's faithfulness can never be doubted. Elder **Elaine Gregg** will preside on September 28 when Priest **Carolyn Deering** will share her thoughts on "God is Faithful".

The services on Wednesday evening in the month of September will be led by Priest **Karen MacDonald**. The theme for the month is "Growing in Our Capacity to Bring Blessing," Read more about the planned services on page 1. Note that a time of fellowship begins at **6:00 PM**. Join the Wednesday evening faithful for a growing experience.

Jo Fenn-Martin, Worship Coordinator



2008 Women's Gathering

This summer found me heading to Independence, MO, to attend the 2008 Women's Gathering sponsored by Church Women United. Our former apostle, Gail Mengel, has been the president of this organization the past year, and she organized this event to be held at our church's international headquarters in Missouri.

The gathering was full of motivating speakers and unique fellowship. I had the privilege of facilitating a small group of 25 women for three sessions. It was interesting to share with women of all different faiths and traditions.

I have ordered a DVD of the gathering and look forward to sharing it with all of you. I am looking for the Church Women United organization in our local area in hopes that some of our women may find it interesting to get involved.

During my time there, I was also able to spend some time with Becky Savage, a member of the First Presidency of our church and formerly from this area. She sends her love and concern to all of you.

Nanette Dizney

Financial Update

Our Operating Budget for 2008 is \$66,600.00. This budget provides the necessary funds to run all the programs by departments that the congregation voted for and enjoy. This budget also provides for our fixed operating expenses, i.e., utilities/janitorial services/insurance/lawn care/repair and maintenance. Our operating income through July 31st has been \$29,370.00. Our expenses for the same period have been \$28,395.00. This leaves us with a balance of \$975.00. This might give us a good feeling, however, by this same date we normally have 58% or \$38,848.00 of our annual operating income.

What this means is that we are actually \$9,478.00 behind in our operating income which offsets the planned incoming expenses.

We appreciate and need your financial support if we are to continue all of the programs that have been planned for this year.

May you be blessed in your efforts to support the Lord's work in the Bradenton/Sarasota area.

Robert Beers, Chief Financial Officer



Have you checked the Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ's website lately? When you type in cofchristbradenton.com on your computer, you will be able to view a colored version of *Celebration News!*

If you miss a Sunday's worship service you can view that Sunday's bulletin which will also keep you up to date with what is going on (Opportunities). At your convenience you can listen to Sunday's message (sermon).

We are still a work in progress. If you have a suggestion of something that you would find helpful on the website, please let **Jason Van Beek** or **Elaine Gregg** know. We're still working on a calendar program, and hopefully will be able to get it up and running soon.



Sing and Choose Together

Would you like to have input in the new hymnal that the church will be publishing in 2013? Are you interested in what is being considered? If so, we have a gathering for you! On **Saturday, September 27 at 10:00 AM** we are providing an opportunity for you to come and share in choosing music to be included in the new book of songs. You will be able to listen to some of the possible new songs and review the old favorites. This should be a fun time. It will be good to share why we do or do not care for certain music. But in the end, you will have your own "ballot" to mark as you desire. If you would like more information, contact **Nanette Dizney** or **Elaine Gregg**.

It would be great if we had a huge response. Will you be there? Mark the date on your calendar now!

Helping Those Who Need Help

Our Father's Cupboard is now purchasing food from Manatee Food Bank of Bradenton, also known as Meals on Wheels Plus. They are located off 9th Street and new 301. **Lillian Wade** and **Kathy Park** go shopping with me each Thursday afternoon at 2:00 PM which is our assigned time. We are able to get food of all kinds and canned goods. Free food is also available at times. This has been a huge savings for our budget. Not everything can be purchased there, so our Cupboard still needs your help with items and finances. Food collection is being received the **second Sunday of every month**. You can place your contributions in the red wagon in the Information Center. The fourth Sunday of every month there will be an insert in the bulletin to serve as a reminder as well as a list of items that are most needed.

Recently we donated a new chest freezer and our friend, Larry Smith, donated a used chest freezer. Lillian donated a new water cooler so our clients and workers will be able to have a cool drink of water. **Stuart Skene** is making a sign to help clients locate Our Father's Cupboard easily. We would like to give special thanks to those who helped our Cupboard meet the federal guidelines to qualify for the Manatee Food Bank's program.

The Cupboard has been blessed in many ways and continues to grow as clients are referred by Manatee Food Bank and United Way. We are also looking at other programs in Children's Services that need help. Dear members, our church family comes first, and if you are in need, please contact **Carolyn Deering** for the necessary paperwork. Everything will be kept confidential according to the HEPA privacy act.

The Cupboard is open to serve referrals on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM and anytime for emergencies. Remember the Red Wagon is located in the information Center awaiting your donations. Also momentary donations can be made anytime by marking "Our Father's Cupboard" on your offering envelope. Checks should be made payable to Community of Christ. Remember this is a project that everyone can participate in at any time.

To enable you to get your donations lined up early, here is a list of items that are needed this month.

Pancake syrup
spaghetti sauces
canned fruits
soups
hand soap
little boys pull ups (medium)

jams and jellies
any type of noodles
instant potatoes
ketchup and mustard
shampoo

canned vegetables
salt and pepper
cereals
rice dinners
diapers (#3-4-5-6)



Thank you, **Patti Bovee and Mark Bee**, Coordinators

Thoughts for students of all ages and teachers returning to school:

- ✓ The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives. - Robert Maynard Hutchins
- ✓ The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. - Aristotile
- ✓ An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. - Benjamin Franklin
- ✓ A professor is someone who talks in someone else's sleep. - W. H. Auden
- ✓ Home computers are being called upon to perform many new functions, including the consumption of homework formerly eaten by the dog. - Doug Larson
- ✓ Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. - Chinese Proverb
- ✓ As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools. - Author Unknown

Congregational Life Workshop

The workshop held in August was formerly known as CLW which stood for Congregational Leaders Workshop. This event was newly designed this year, and the "L" now stands for "Life" instead of leaders:

- L - learning
- I - inspiration
- F - fellowship
- E - engage in mission

As most church events, the week was full of excitement, renewing of friendship, learning, and encouragement. We are such a fortunate people in that we can sit elbow to elbow with all of our church leaders. Many of them were there teaching and learning right along with the rest of us.

I took two classes: *Live Like You Believe It!* with Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith and *A Witnessing Community: We Can Do It!* with Jean Brookens. We also had the opportunity to attend many short sessions on various subjects. I spent time learning about the new hymnal that will be coming out in 2013. (See *Sing and Choose Together* article on page 3.) Each one of you has the opportunity to select the hymns that you personally would like to have moved forward into the new book of songs.

Hopefully, the next CLW will have more than one person for our congregation attending.

Nanette Dizney

What are You Looking For?

An extensive survey was conducted in the United States questioning people of various ages and occupations. The key question was this: What are you looking for most in life? When the results were compiled, the analysts were surprised. Most of them expected answers that would suggest materialistic goals, but the top three things that people wanted in life were love, joy, and peace - the first three fruits of the Spirit. - David C. Egner

True Religion

True religion is a union of the soul with God, a real participation of the divine nature, the very image of God drawn upon the soul, or, in the apostle's phrase, it is Christ formed within us. - Henry Scougal

Youth Enjoy Bread for Body and Spirit

On Friday, August 22nd, 10 of our youth and three adult escorts went to Suncoast Community Church in Sarasota for the "10th Street North" concert. All enjoyed the Christian music and message by the four young men whose lives are different since surrendering to Jesus Christ. Afterwards, they visited Pontillo's Pizza in Sarasota. After all, Jesus said man may not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. So, they were fed spiritually and then with pizza to fulfill the scripture.

As more activities are being arranged for our youth, volunteers will be needed. So when called on, consider it an opportunity to not only help the youth but to enrich your own life with ministry you will enjoy.

Charlie Walker, Youth Ministry



What I (we) did this Summer

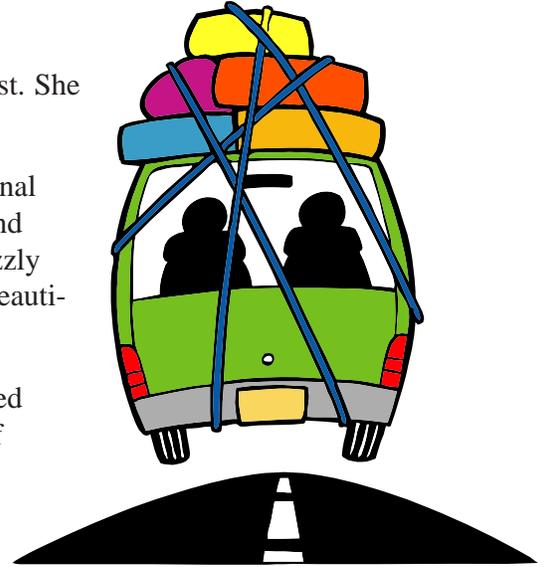
Bill Williams spent six weeks in Chicago. He attended a family reunion with 105 family members. A great time was had by all. Family members came from Texas, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Florida, Oregon, and Iran.

Carol Law remodeled her "shop" into a sewing room so she bought a new shed for all her junk. She read about 100 books. She was with her sister during her colon cancer surgery, recovery, and chemo treatments. Other than that - she didn't do much!

Melinda James visited the aquarium in Atlanta and went snorkeling in Key West. She went camping on the Suwannee River in Florida with Patrick and Kaitlyn.

The Chlebina Family (Dick, Jerilyn, Megan and Denise) went to four National Parks in six days! They went to Zion, Grand Canyon North Rim, Yellowstone, and Grand Tetons. They hiked, climbed, and enjoyed being together. They saw a grizzly bear, Old Faithful, and many breathtaking waterfalls and found this to be a truly beautiful world.

Ginger Robertson's summer began with the passing of her mother who had lived with her family for the last five years. It became a time of renewal and a time of reflection on what she had learned through the challenge of caregiving. She then felt blessed to relax in the pool, read, talk to God and listen to God's encouragement. She even learned how to train dogs! Over all, it was a very good summer.



Charyn and Charlie Walker traveled a lot this summer. They made two trips to Charyn's hometown, Marlette, Michigan. Once to visit her sister who was ill and the next time to attend her funeral. In July granddaughters, Kayla Smeralda, Hailie Rodriguez, Jasmine Rodriguez, and Liliana Rodriguez, flew with them to Texas for a visit with Charlie's family. While there they enjoyed the NASA Space Center, swimming at Splashtown Water Park, a boat ride at River Walk, hiking Natural Bridge Cavern 18 stories down and back up, and driving their vehicle through Safari Texas Style. In August they drove to Pigeon Forge, TN, to share a cabin with Charyn's youngest sister and her family. They attended two dinner shows, went tubing on the river, toured Cadens Cove, played putt-putt golf, ate lunch at the Old Mill Restaurant, and enjoyed the peace and beauty of the mountains. In between all of this activity, Charyn completed her Elder's study course and awaits ordination. They are thankful to God for their safe travels and look forward to new opportunities to worship and serve Him.

Jolene Gregg and Terrell Italiano traveled through 10 states in their RV while heading for Blue Springs, Missouri, to attend the wedding of Jolene's nephew Gregg Martin. The first day was spent at Suwannee River State Park waiting for a part to repair a broken turbo. After repairs were made, they were off and running! They enjoyed many adventures and scenic wonders during their time on the road, i.e. natural springs, Ozark National Scenic Riverways Park, the Civil War Park in Vicksburg, Land Between the Lakes where they saw bison and elk, Nashville, and Branson to name a few. While in MO they attended a baseball game and cheered on the Tampa Bay Rays at the Kaufman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals.



Gloria Chaney spent a fantastic Fourth of July weekend in St. Augustine with daughter and son-in-law. Her family gathered in Hudson, Florida, for a family reunion where they had a pig roast. Forty families were there which included almost all the grandkids, and great-grandkids.

Make a Difference

I sit here wondering where this summer has gone!! We all tend to get caught up in the craziness of our daily lives, and we turn around and time has passed us by. The unfortunate part about that is that not only have we missed out on so much, but the chances to help others and make a difference in their lives have passed us by as well.

We read in Galatians 6:9-10, *And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*" Opportunity is a wonderful thing. An opportunity is considered to be a favorable circumstance; a suitable occasion or time; or a change for progress. They happen each and every day in so many little ways if we look for them. God places them in our path, and sometimes he brings them to our consciousness with an idea or that still small voice. I know that I have tried to be responsive to those times that I had an opportunity to make a difference, but I have also fallen short and missed so many others.

Jim and I are blessed with seven grandsons, and it is hard to believe how fast they have grown and changed. With the birth of our first granddaughter, I have had the opportunity to spend more time with this little one. Babies are such a precious gift, and it becomes even more apparent how important time is because they change so quickly; if you don't pay attention, those moments are gone. If only we could watch for the ways to spread blessings as closely as we watch the development of our precious children. A whole new world would be open to us!!

As we enter into a new season, my prayer is that we all become more aware of the circumstances of those around us and listen to the yearnings of the Spirit that comes in many ways and calls us to service. May we take advantage of every one and respond with more love and joy than ever before. Just as we take pleasure in the changes that take place in our children, our Heavenly Father delights in the growth He sees in us as we develop and change and grow in responding to the needs of all His children.

Carolyn Deering, Pastoral Pastor

We would like to introduce...

Glenn and Patty Day who recently moved to our area. The following information is to help us know a little about the Days.

Glenn and Patty were both born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. They met in 1977 and were married on June 9, 1979, in the RLDS church in Jenkintown, PA. They began their marriage as a blended family with Glenn's son and daughter, Glenn, Jr. and Tricia. In January, 1983, their daughter Courtney was born. They raised their family in a modest home in Fairless Hills, PA, where they lived for 19 years. They then moved to the small town of Limerick, PA, to be closer to Glenn's employment as a mechanical-technical supervisor at a Philadelphia newspaper. Patty was employed as a special education instructional assistant for the school district in the area. They lived in Limerick until their permanent move to Venice, FL, this summer.

They fell in love with Florida during their honeymoon in Dizney World 29 years ago. They hoped that someday they could retire here and now feel blessed to call their new house home.

Glenn is what they lovingly call a "lifer" as he was baptized into this church when he was eight. Patty is a convert to the church and was baptized in 1981. The church family has always been important to them. Glenn currently holds the office of Evangelist after serving many years as a Seventy. Patty holds the office of Priest.

They enjoy being outside and doing any activity that can be done outdoors. They have done a lot of camping over the years. They love to travel and explore new areas and are also very fond of dining out. They look forward to many happy years in their new home, here in "Paradise."

Glenn and Patty, we welcome you to our church family and look forward to many happy and blessed times together.



Places of Peace

"Places of Peace: Russia to Ukraine" is an outreach program that the church will be launching soon. As members of Community of Christ, we "are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate."

Imagine wanting to share the peace of Jesus Christ so passionately that 20 people cram into a tiny apartment that is only the size of a bedroom. For Community of Christ members and friends in Russia and Ukraine, having a comfortable building with room enough to worship, fellowship, and host activities is only a dream. This new program will hopefully change that. Individuals, congregations, mission centers, etc. are encouraged to get together and make possible monies to provide buildings to be purchased and converted into sacred spaces.

Remember the "Roofs Over Africa" project that we contributed to as a congregation? If enough enthusiasm is shown, we may want to designate funds for this most worthwhile project. Look for further information in the next few months. If you have questions or ideas now, contact **Bob Beers**.

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.



September

- 01 Hunter Morgan
- 04 Karen Palko
- 05 Laura Vaughan
- 10 Marcia Brougher
- 10 Carol & Arthur Curtis (anniv)
- 11 Jerilyn & Dick Chlebina (anniv)
- 13 George Botelho
- 13 Pat Bovee
- 16 Beth Slasor
- 19 Joan Martin
- 20 Kathy Park
- 22 Heather Cosgrove-Manfull
- 24 Don Fant
- 26 Karla Van Beek
- 29 Beulah & Jack Wilkins (anniv)

October

- 04 Matthew Devine
- 05 Kayla Smeralda



Millie Park, mother of **Kathy Park, Ginger and Dave Robertson** and grandmother and great-grandmother of **Devine Family**, passed away on June 6th with services held in Indiana.

Charyn Walker's sister, Mary Ann, passed away on June 26th in Michigan.

A former member of our congregation, **Claudine Morical**, passed away on August 9th. A Memorial Service was held at the Tampa Church.

Florida Mission Center Activities

September 20 - **Conference** at the Orlando church

October 10-12 - **Women's Retreat** at Deerhaven Conference and Retreat Center

October 24-26 - **Spiritual Growth Retreat** at Deerhaven Conference and Retreat Center

November 7-9 - **Congregational Workshop** at Deerhaven Conference and Retreat Center

November 15 - **Deerhaven Workday** at Deerhaven Conference and Retreat Center



Jim Deering
e-mail:

Glenn and Patty Day
4358 Via del Villetti, Venice 34293
941.493.9525

Don and Rachel Fant and Alexandra
6801 Forest Point Way, Riverview 33569
240.237.0361



DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Scott Cramer** replaced the old "holy" screens on the Fellowship Hall windows?
- ◆ **Jason Van Beek, Stuart Skene, Jolene Gregg, Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina, and Elaine Gregg** painted the Fellowship Hall and **Bob Beers and Dave Robertson** did the prepping work?
- ◆ **DaniLee Cosgrove** received perfect attendance as a kindergartener at Stewart Elementary at the end of the school year?
- ◆ **Mark Bee and Patti Bovee** donated a new chest freezer to Our Father's Cupboard?
- ◆ **A Budgeted Income and Expense Statement** by department through July 31, 2008, is listed in the Information Center for your review?
- ◆ **Jim Deering** has a new job as Associate Director of Planned Giving with the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and works out of his home on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday and commutes to Tampa the other days?
- ◆ **Cathy Snow** has left our area and moved to Savannah, GA, where her daughter lives?
- ◆ **Glenn Day** invites anyone to help themselves to a book or two from the box of books that can be found in the Information Center?
- ◆ **Zoe Van Beek** dictated to her mother the prayer she offered in the August 24th worship service as she wanted to say a prayer "up front" in church?

You may send cards or visit **Bona Lee** at

Health South Rehabilitation Hospital, Room 102B
6400 Edgelake Drive, Sarasota, FL 34240

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



**Good luck this year to all
our school aged children
and teachers.**

