

CELEBRATION NEWS



Step Up and Go...

Step Up and Go Green for Jesus is the theme for 2010's Vacation Bible School to be held **June 8th (Tuesday) through 11th (Friday) from 6:00 -8:30 PM** at the church. VBS is for children pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. To preregister call **Bona Lee** (941.378.5607).

The Children's Peace Center from Atlanta will be here to lead us in the evening's activities. Substantial snacks will be served and a big dose of fun too! Invite your friends to be a part of VBS.

All those participating in this year's VBS are invited to the **Organization Meeting** to be held **Tuesday, May 10th at 6:30 PM** at the church.

Spiritual Growth Retreat

You still have time to sign up for the **Spiritual Growth Retreat** at Deerhaven May 14-16. The focus will be on *Now is the Time! Awaken! Be Transformed!* Come spend time with God surrounded by the beauty of Deerhaven and away from your daily routine. Guest ministry will be brought by Jerry Niefert who has served in numerous church capacities. Cost for the weekend is \$55, and on-line registration is encouraged.



Each Has a Special Place

With summer coming, I was remembering the old camp song *Make new friends, but keep the old...one is silver and the other gold*. There are old friends who leave us to return to other homes, and we will miss them dearly while they are away. At the same time, summer also brings camps and reunions and many opportunities to make new friends and develop new testimonies. What a blessed people we are to have the chance to experience a variety of people and places, enriching both our lives and our witness.

Some of my best memories and spiritual experiences were found at campgrounds around the country. We gather our strength and sense of community from this fellowship and can become "one" together. Another campfire favorite resounds *We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord*. Throughout the scriptures we are called to be 'as one' because separately we can do little, but together we can do great things. It is like a ship. If you consider the individual parts of the ship (bow, stern, hull) by themselves, they would sink. However, when they are welded together, they float even in the deepest of oceans. So it is in our lives as we accumulate friendships: some are old and some are new, but they all make up the vessel of our spiritual self.

Let us make the most of this summer and what it has to offer. Some will leave us for awhile and some will have the opportunity to attend camps, vacation Bible school and reunions. I pray that everyone will have the chance to *make new friends* and be blessed in coming back to *the old*. Each has a special place in our lives and the life of our community. When we come together, we can go to great places and do wonderful things for our Heavenly Father.

Carolyn Deering, Editorial Staff Member

Summer Sunday School for Big People!

This summer we will have ONE class for adults. In keeping with the nature of summer...everyone coming and going...we will expand the class **Jim Deering** has been teaching this spring.

In the class we use the world events of the week from Yahoo News and look at them in light of the same five questions each week. It is part game show and part religious study! The questions help us look at local and world events through the lens of the scriptures.

Beginning **June 13th** we will meet at **10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall, so coffee is okay! See you there?

Jim Deering, Adult Sunday School Coordinator



Children/Youth Sunday School

When a good program works - keep it! That is what the Children/Youth Sunday School will be doing this summer. Again there will be two classes offered. The one class will be the youth (middle and high school ages) and the second class will be for all children up to grade five. A variety of activities will be offered. The summer schedule will begin **June 13th** at the usual **10:00 AM** time. Come and be a part of the summer Sunday School program!

Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina, Coordinator

Transportation Needed

There is currently a need for help with transportation for some of our regular Wednesday and Sunday church attendees. We often take for granted our accessibility to drive wherever we need to go. There are others who are not so fortunate. Please contact **Ginger Robertson** (941.756.8276), Outreach Ministries, if you are willing to sign up to help out once or twice a month with this much needed area of ministry.



QUARTERLY REPORT

Financial Update through March 31, 2010:

Local Tithes Operating Income	\$13,846
Local Operating Expenses	<u>9,810</u>
Balance/Net Operating Receipts	\$ 4,036

Our Local 2010 Annual Operating Budget is \$58,178. Through March we should have income of \$14,544, and our actual income is \$13,846 or \$698 short. All things considered, we're doing good!

Our Father's Cupboard Update:

Income through March	\$ 3,816
Expenses through March	<u>2,438</u>
Balance on Hand	\$ 1,378

Thank you all for your support of tithes for our Operating Budget and contributions to Our Father's Cupboard

Bob Beers, Congregation Financial Officer

Our Father's Cupboard

This has been a busy time for the Bradenton/Sarasota *Community of Christ* food pantry. We have, on the average, fed just over 60 families each week. While we have been blessed with free government commodities and other free shipments of fresh produce besides our regular weekly food purchases, our need for volunteers has also increased. With each delivery the truck must be unloaded, and all of the food must be shelved, refrigerated or frozen. The pantry must also be swept and cleaned after deliveries and distributions. Sounds like a lot of work? You are right, it is! Our pantry facilitator, **Patti Benjamin-Bovee**, works many long hours as do many volunteers who help keep **Our Father's Cupboard** running smoothly.

How can you help? Helping hands are needed to unload and put away the food that is brought in on **Thursday afternoons at 2:30 PM**. This takes about one to one and one-half hours depending on how many volunteers share the work. On **Friday mornings between 9-9:30 AM** volunteers begin preparing the food boxes for distribution at 10:00 AM. Clients may receive food until 12:30 PM. After the food is distributed, the pantry must be cleaned up and made ready for the next week.

Through this community outreach program, approximately 250 families are fed each month. We are working faithfully to ensure that no one is turned away. Your support is needed to continue serving our brothers and sisters in need. If you can come and offer your help, please contact **Patti** (941.739.7716).

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministry

Enjoy a Luau

Please join us for a **Luau on July 10th at 6:00 PM**. The menu and price are not quite ready to be advertised at this time, but there will be more information as the date gets closer. We are planning a fun night of food and entertainment, so mark your calendars now so you won't miss the Luau.

Fund Raising Committee



Our 20 year old church building received fresh paint and a new look this month!

You May Want to be Present

President Steve Veazey will be the guest minister at the **Labor Day Reunion** this year. The reunion is scheduled at Deerhaven Retreat Center September 3 - 6. More information on this event will be forthcoming soon.



We Look Towards Pentecost

The Easter activities are part of our memories now, but the celebration is not over. From our somber remembrance at the Good Friday service to the exciting bell ringing and slapping of our thighs as the Easter morning worship service concluded, we truly experienced the Easter message. The reading at the end of the service encouraged us to **run** to tell the message to others. Are you still running?

May 2 is the fifth Sunday of Easter. Priest **Ginger Robertson** will preside over the Communion Service, and Priest **Stuart Skene** will speak on the theme *Minister Through Love*. The Scripture from John 13:31-35 shares a powerful message to love one another. We want to love one another, our neighbors, those in our church community, our enemies, strangers. What gets in our way?

Bring Glory and Honor to God on May 9, the sixth Sunday of Easter. The book of Revelation speaks of a day when the glory of God will not be confined to a temple or a separate sacred space. All space will be filled with peace and justice. Elder **Carol Law** will speak on this subject with Priest **Heather Devine** presiding. One way to honor God is through baptism. A baptism will be included in this service.

Looking at the life of Jesus, we can learn a lot about prayer. The seventeenth chapter of John contains a prayer which is one of the most powerful expressions of the depth of love for friends in all recorded history. Elders **Charyn Walker** and **Jim Deering** will bring ministry on the theme *To the Ends of the Earth* on this seventh Sunday of Easter, May 16.

The Spirit Is in Us will be celebrated on May 23. The author of Acts tells of the outpouring of God's Spirit on the gathered crowd on the day we now celebrate as Pentecost. Pentecost, which literally means "fiftieth day," was a major harvest celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after Passover. Priest **Patty Day** and Elder **Marcia Brougher** will lead us in our celebration of Pentecost.

We recognize God as our *Creator, Redeemer, Guide*. Are there other names you would use to describe God? Priest **Scott Cramer** and Elder **Penny Cramer** will direct our worship on this first Sunday after Pentecost, May 30.

The midweek service on Wednesday nights continues to bless the lives of those who come. Join the group on **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM**.

Jo Fenn-Martin, Worship

Youth Update

On May 16th after church there will be a **Soup and Dessert** fund-raiser put on by the Youth. There will be several types of soups, i.e. vegetable, corn and potato, blackeyed peas, broccoli and cheese. We will have a variety of desserts that can be bought by the slice or as a whole. All the money raised will go towards Deerhaven camperships for summer camps.

After a weekend of work, we are planning a fun day fishing the following weekend. So on the 22nd of May, you will find us reeling in the fish and having fun!

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the youth shelter where the youth will be making donations. It is a beautiful facility with a close and loving staff. They are a privately funded shelter which means they are not given the same government funds as some larger organizations. Many of the teens that they care for are only in the shelter for three to five days, and they can house up to 13 teens at a time. The teens come with almost nothing and do need new undergarments, socks and flip flops. If you wish to donate such items it would be great, but if you prefer the youth and me to do this for you, we would graciously accept cash donations. Remember if you are donating undergarments, these are for teen girls and boys. You can ask our youth for suggestions on style and sizes if you are unsure.

In connection with the youth shelter the youth have already started to collect items for their Shoebox Project. We hope to donate many 'shoeboxes' filled with much needed items. There is a container and a list of items needed in the Information Center. If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact me or ask one of the youth. We will appreciate your help in filling shoeboxes and will keep you informed of our progress.

Heather Devine, Youth Coordinator

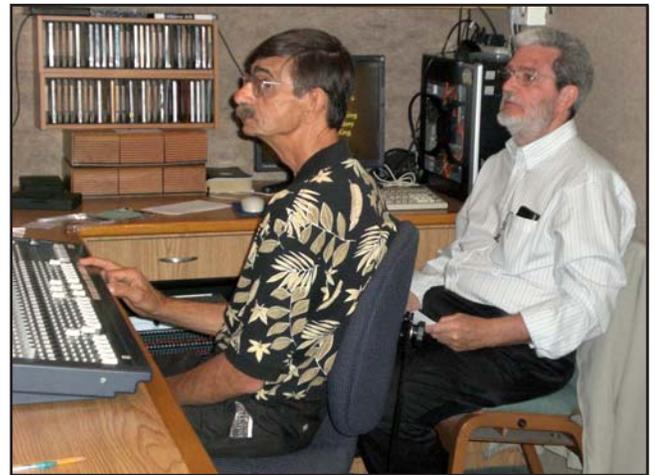


Make Us, O God, a Church that Shares

Make Us, O God, a Church that Shares Thy love for human-kind...Help us reach out with loving hands, in times that try the soul, with sympathy that understands and make the needy whole. Those words written by Victor Kane over 100 years ago and set to an old English tune, ring just as true today as when they were first penned.

The generosity of this congregation has certainly met and exceeded the many challenges that have been set before them on behalf of our community. The Apostle Paul said that "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Cheerful giving of our time and talents as well as our money has been a huge blessing to so many people throughout the years. On any Sunday, from the moment we walk through the doors we experience the generosity of the greeters and fellowship hosts. But before they arrive, the Deacon has



prepared the building for all of us. Soon the Sunday School teachers are receiving students in their classrooms, while those who have planned and are participating in the worship service make last minute preparations in the Sanctuary. And let's not forget our talented musicians, and those who bring us the ministry of the spoken word. Oh, and the sound and video technicians, nursery caregiver and those who plan our Children's church are also giving us the benefit of their talents.

Currently, we are supporting our food pantry, a youth outreach project, Arden Court Ministries and numerous pastoral in-reach ministries. Vacation Bible School is in the planning stages, and a dedicated Facility Management Team keep on top of any repairs or upkeep in and around our church and grounds. Finally, Paul said that "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

As a loving and faithful people, may we continue to be sent forth "where duty calls to serve the Crucified!"

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Ministries



A Spiritual Formation group will begin Tuesday, June 1st. **Karen Palko** will be facilitating a group of 8 to 12 people wanting to begin their journey together to seek a closer intimacy with God. The definite study has not been determined at this time but will be one of discernment, prayer or becoming a prophetic people. The approximate cost will be around \$14.00 for a book. Watch for more information on the website and the Sunday bulletin. But for now, save the date of June 1st to begin your journey.

Want to have Financial Peace?

Come this September, Financial Peace University will be located at 5817 33rd Street East, Bradenton, Florida! Financial Peace University (FPU) is Dave Ramsey's program that teaches you how to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. It will help in the area of cash flow, budgeting, debt elimination, saving, and giving. You will be challenged to take control of your money and your financial future. FPU is recommended by the World Church as a tool towards becoming a good steward.

If you wish to know more about all that FPU has to offer go to www.daveramsey.com. On Dave Ramsey's website you can also put in your zip code to see where and if a class may be offered sooner in our area. There may be one offered sooner than ours that would be more convenient for you. The Bradenton/Sarasota congregation is planning to offer the class beginning the second Monday evening of September (9/13/10) which is after Labor Day. The class will meet every week for ten weeks and should end prior to Thanksgiving. It will be a commitment on all our parts of time and energy.

Young and old adults, youth, married and singles are all encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. We are hoping to be able to offer a discount to our church family members as the cost is quite costly, but we feel it is worth the investment. Please don't let the cost make the difference of whether you will participate in the program or not.

The class will be open to the community. To make sure we have room, please let **Jim Deering** know by **August 15th** if you plan to attend. If you have questions, contact Jim. More information will be made available on our website and in the Sunday bulletin this summer.

Jim Deering, FPU Facilitator

NOTE: If you are not familiar with Dave Ramsey, you can go to the above mentioned website and learn more about him. He can also be seen on Fox Business channel Monday through Saturday (except Thursday) at 8:00 PM or 11:00 PM as a personal financial consultant who dispenses advice to help people achieve debt-free lives. Family Finance Night is featured on Sunday nights beginning at 8:00 PM. He is also heard weekly on 820 AM radio at 3:00 PM.

Are you learning about church family members in the **Who Am I?** column? Have you found the answers in the current newsletter or had to wait for next month's issue? Remember the names are hidden in the newsletter somewhere! Good luck finding the two names for this month's **Who Am I?**. Last month's persons were (A) Nancy Skene and (B) Bill Williams.

(A) Who Am I?

- 1 - My birthday is February 22nd
- 2 - Do not have any brothers, sisters or pets
- 3 - Favorite food is mac-n-cheese
- 4 - Favorite veggies are carrots
- 5 - Favorite books are Hop on Pop and Star Wars
- 6 - Favorite car is a race car
- 7 - Bike is yellow
- 8 - Am five years old
- 9 - Friends are Jasmine, Lucas, Ayamia, Connor, Brandon and Jacob
- 10 - Have a Star Wars Leapster



(B) Who Am I?

- 1 - Was a sugar chemist for a beet factory
- 2 - Caught a hammerhead shark
- 3 - Was captain of my basketball team
- 4 - Was in a high school operetta and the senior play
- 5 - Was a Church School director
- 6 - Worked one day in a grocery store
- 7 - Favorite sport is baseball
- 8 - Favorite food is lasagna and litchi nuts
- 9 - Have run all kinds of machinery
- 10 - Ran a business with several employees

A Giant "Thank You"

The Program Services Department at Arden Courts in Sarasota wishes to thank the following people for bringing a monthly worship service to our residents during 2009 and continuing in 2010: **Jim and Marcia Brougher, Bettie Chlebina, Scott and Penny Cramer, Arthur and Carol Curtis, Nanette Dizney, Don, Rachel and Zee Fant, Roberta Hamilton, Jeanette Harris, Jane Kelley, Ginger Robertson, Stuart and Nancy Skene, and Charyn and Charlie Walker.** Participants bring a short half-hour service on the third Sunday of every month that might include well-known scriptures and hymns, short positive stories, testimonies and messages of spiritual encouragement.

Anyone interested in bringing a service to Arden Courts can feel free to contact **Carey Chaney** at 941.924.2721. Again, **MANY THANKS** from Arden Courts!

Carey Chaney, Arden Courts Staff

Yard Sale Wrap-Up

The Yard Sale held March 27th had a great turnout and the weather really cooperated! Thanks to all our helpers/workers/donors for the long hours put forth. Special thanks to **Nancy Skene** for organizing the event. Here is the final tally:

Bake Sale	\$ 427	
Yard Sale Items	1,037	
Charlie's BBQ	234	
Youth Car Wash	<u>187</u>	
Total before Expenses		\$1,885
Expenses: Ads and supplies		<u>102</u>
Total Received		\$1,783

Thanks again for everyone's support!

Fund Raising Committee

Celebration News is a publication of the
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 Elaine Gregg, 8075 36th St Cir E, Sarasota 34243



2010 Camps

Junior Camp <i>Celebration at Deerhaven</i>	June 13 - 17 Cost: \$100	Entering Grades 3-6 Director: Betty Yoder
Senior High Camp <i>Louder Than Before</i>	June 20 - 26 Cost: \$150	Grades 10 - 12 & graduating seniors Director: Amy & Dave Cleveland
Junior High Camp <i>It's Elemental, My Dear</i>	July 11 - 17 Cost \$150	Entering Grades 7 - 9 Directors: Charlie Brown & Lorna Owen
Spectacular Graceland University, Lamoni, IA	July 23 - 31 Youth entering 11th - graduating seniors	Leader: Debbie Bartlett
High Adventure Camp Only 8 campers allowed	July 31-Aug 7 Cost: \$175	Entering Grade 9 and older Director: Mike Barnett

Registration forms and 2010 Camp Brochures have been mailed out to eligible youth through the Mission Center. If you have not received the mailing, check the bulletin board.

If you are interested in working at a camp as a staff member including being a CIT, contact the camp director.

DID YOU KNOW ???

May

- 01 Rachel Fant
- 04 Dale Morgan
- 08 Liliana Rodriguez
- 08 Charlie Walker
- 09 Bettie Chlebina
- 15 Penny & Scott Cramer (anniv)
- 17 Jacob Rodriguez
- 18 Cole Van Beek
- 22 Laura & Bob Vaughan (anniv)
- 23 Joan Wooderson & Ray Daniels (anniv)
- 25 Wanda Fenn
- 28 Tobin Cooper
- 30 Pat Moore-Hall



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES!

June

- 05 Bill Williams
- 07 Jonathan Robertson
- 09 Patty & Glenn Day (anniv)
- 16 Bob Beers
- 16 Carolyn & Jim Deering (anniv)
- 25 Megan Chlebina
- 28 John Batdorff
- 28 Lisa & Joel Rodriguez (anniv)
- 29 Karen & Charles Palko (anniv)

You say: "It's impossible."
 God says: All things are possible,
 Luke 18:27.

July

- 02 Nancy Peters
- 03 Heather & Tim Devine (anniv)
- 06 Zoe Van Beek
- 07 Coral Blackmore
- 09 Ken Simpson
- 11 Emily Vaughan
- 11 Fred Wenzel
- 13 Mark Bee
- 15 Brad Martin
- 15 Jean & George Botelho (anniv)
- 16 Lisa Rodriguez
- 17 Esther Bender
- 19 Amy Smeralda
- 20 Rachel & Don Fant (anniv)
- 25 Genevieve & Fred Wenzel (anniv)
- 26 Dani Cosgrove
- 26 Stephen Morgan

Be strong enough to face the world each day.
 Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
 Be generous to those who need your help.
 Be frugal with what you need yourself.
 Be loving to those who love you.
 Be loving to those who do not love you - they may change.

◆ **Marcia and Jim Brougher, Karen Palko, and Nanette Dizney** attended the recent World Conference in Independence?

◆ **Denise Chlebina** celebrated her 21st birthday by running a Half-Marathon in Nashville, TN along with her sister **Megan Chlebina**, aunts **Jolene Gregg** and Janice Martin, and boyfriend Nick Roehl with a support team of parents **Jerilyn and Dick Chlebina**, grandmother **Elaine Gregg**, cousin Jered Martin, friend **Terrell Italiano**, and Nick's mother, father and brother?

◆ **Shirley Clow, Bona Lee and Lil Caudle** all recently had knee surgery and are or will be sprinting around soon?

Welcome to -



Meah Elys Rodriguez who arrived April 6th. Parents Lisa and Joel and sister Hailie are smiling and the bragging has started already with grandparents Charyn and Charlie Walker and aunt Amy Smeralda and all the cousins.

Congratulations to -

the Morgan family who welcomed Levi into the world April 21st. Mother Kayla and baby are doing well. Grandparents Dale and Linda as well as aunt and uncles are very taken with the new member of their family.



Remember to visit our web site to keep up with what is happening when you go back north or go on vacation. You will be able to "hear" Sunday worship services and "see" the order of worship and things that are going on while you are gone.



cofchristbradenton.com

Community of Christ
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Sarasota FL 34243-6309

Address Correction Requested

