



# celebration News

Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ

May, 2008

Volume 19 - Issue No. 3

Our Bradenton/Sarasota congregation has a web address! We are hoping that it will be a vehicle of quick and up-to-date information for our church family members, but it is also a wonderful outreach tool. **Jason Van Beek** is our web master. He has created an easy to read site. Look the site up: [cofchristbradenton.com](http://cofchristbradenton.com). There you will find a link to view the bulletins for the last four or five weeks. You may also listen to the services if you have the appropriate audio software on your computer. The *Celebration News* is there in full color. There are also links to the World Church, Florida Mission Center, and Graceland University sites. So many opportunities are available with just a click!

Our website is still in the building process, but we feel there is enough information that you can tell your friends about it. One of the links has the church's vision and mission statements. Check it out and encourage others to do the same. We are very excited to have entered the 21st century!



## Red, Hot and Blowin'

How shall we describe the Holy Spirit, revealed in the Pentecost experience of the church?

**Red** - The color of fire, which crackles, spreads and consumes what it contacts. So does the Spirit of God move with electricity through people, from person to person as we interact in the gospel. Pentecost shows us that God intends to conquer the world through his words, spread by us.

**Hot** - Two disciples received teaching from the risen Jesus, and they felt their hearts burning within them. (Luke 24:32) So the Holy Spirit moves on the Word of God and turns sad hearts to joy, infuses confidence where there was fear, and creates faith where there was doubt. Pentecost urges us to pray for the heat of the Spirit to warm our inner selves.

**Blowin'** - like the wind. The Spirit is at one time God's gentle breath, at another time it blows with hurricane power. Like the wind, the Spirit will not be controlled or directed by any human being, and the force is hardly predictable. Pentecost urges us to be open to surprises under the rules of the Spirit, to be ready for changes, of course, and new directions.

## More Praise Coming

The Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ has been discussing how to implement a contemporary service in our worship schedule. There were several meetings where the leadership and young adults had input as to the type of music and the possible time of such a service. Possibilities such as Saturday night or early Sunday morning were considered as well as the possibility of a blended Sunday morning service. After much discussion, it was decided that our first contemporary service would be implemented on Communion Sunday, April 6th at 10:15 AM.

So on April 6th the first praise service was held. DVD's provided music, words, and beautiful background scenery which appeared on our large screen. There were many favorable comments following the service such as "when is our next service" or "when can we do this again." These comments were made by people from all age groups.

Yes, there will be another contemporary service. Plans are being made for a service on Sunday, May 11th with the service starting at 10:40 AM. But, instead of having two services, the intent is to bring the two modes of worship into a blended service. You are encouraged to come at 10:40 AM and enjoy the uplifting music and praise, but you are also welcome to come in and join in the service at the usual time of 10:55 AM.

Please have patience as this is a growing process for us all. We feel it is very important to find and provide worship for the different age groups and music through different methods of worship.



Any requests or comments regarding the new Blended Worship Service may be sent to **Larry Bell** (359.6932 or [Lmb832@msn.com](mailto:Lmb832@msn.com).)

**Larry Bell**, Contemporary Worship Coordinator

## "Living in God's Presence"

The date for the next **Spiritual Growth Retreat** is **May 2-5** at Deerhaven Retreat Center. Led by Evangelists **Karen Palko** and Andrea Henson, this event provides opportunity to draw apart and find rest and renewal in God's presence and love. The weekend theme of "*Living in God's Presence - God's Gift of Sanctuary*" will allow attendees to explore their relationship with the Divine. There will be time for journaling and individual time as well as corporate worship and learning. To see an informational flyer or to register on-line, visit [cofchristfmc.org/announce.html](http://cofchristfmc.org/announce.html).

## Florida Mission Center Youth Camps

June 15-21     **Senior High Camp**  
Amy Cleveland and Don Bailey, Directors

June 22-26     **Junior Camp**  
Betty Yoder, Director

July 6-12     **Junior High Camp**  
Charlie Brown and Lorna Owens, Directors

July 18-26     **SPEC, Graceland University**  
Greg Milam, Director

Aug. 2-9     **High Adventure Camp**  
Mike Barnett, Director

## Informative and Interesting

Our congregation hosted a Preaching Workshop on April 18th and 19th. Forty people attended the two day event. It was held in the fellowship hall where a power point presentation was able to be viewed because of our recently installed wireless access. I am pleased to report that our congregation was represented by 25 of our priesthood members. The workshop was taught by Jane Watkins, Florida Mission Center Financial Officer.

It was a very informative and interesting class. Temple School credit was also available. This workshop will be offered one more time in the Mission center at the Gainesville congregation in August of 2008.

**Jim Deering**, Administrative Pastor

## Spirit Filled Vessels

Section 163:6c of the Counsel to the church reads: *"How can the Spirit fill vessels that are unwilling to expand their capacity to receive and give according to a full measure of God's grace and truth?"*

During the month of May, we will be studying scriptures about the Holy Spirit. The first chapter of Acts tells us that Jesus prepared his disciples to carry on his ministry when he would no longer be with them. He encouraged them to *"Wait Faithfully."* Elders **Jim Deering** and **Marcia Brougner** will share their ministry on Communion Sunday, May 4.



Just as Jesus encouraged his disciples to be ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit, we are encouraged to welcome the Holy Spirit in our own lives. On May 11, Pentecost Day, we will begin our worship at 10:40 AM with a praise service. Elder **Bona Lee** will bring a message on the theme *"Filled with the Spirit"* at the 10:55 AM service with Deacon **Heather Devine** presiding.

The Book of Matthew records the instructions of the resurrected Jesus to his disciples. He commands them to *"Disciple the World."* Priests **Scott Cramer** and **Carolyn Deering** will lead us in worship on May 18 around this theme.

*"Who Do You Serve?"* is the question that will be explored on May 25. High Priest **Nanette Dizney** will share with us about the pitfalls of serving two masters. Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** will preside over this service which will encourage us to have faith in God's abundance.

Are you willing to expand your capacity to receive and give? Attending the worship services on Sunday mornings as well as Wednesday evenings may help you in your faith walk. Are you a Spirit filled vessel? Come and learn about the Holy Spirit.

**Jo Fenn-Martin**, Worship Coordinator

## Points to Ponder

A lot of Christians may do nothing, but there are no Christians who have nothing to do.

Never pray for more than you are willing to work for.

We do not have the right to do as we please, unless we please to do what is right.

## Things You Should Know

The following is a financial update through 3/31/08.

Annual Budget	\$63,600	
Operating Income	\$14,033	22% of budget
Operating Expenses	\$12,794	20% of budget
Current balance 3/31/08	\$1,239	

**Did you know** our congregation distributes approximately 65 copies of the Herald monthly to families and friends? The cost for a single copy, including delivery is \$2.00 or \$24.00 per year. The total cost for the year of 2007 was \$1,534. In the past we have had a separate Herald offering envelope twice a year included with our regular envelopes. This envelope served as a reminder for contributors to help defray some of the expense for this publication. The World Church discontinued these envelopes two years ago. Our donations for this publication have almost completely stopped. If you would like to contribute to this great program, just write on the left hand side of your regular offering envelope "Herald" and the amount of your contribution. This would be greatly appreciated.

**And** another program that we no longer hear much about is our Graceland University Congregational Matching Grant Program. Over the past several years we have given \$4,000 for our youth to attend Graceland University. Graceland then matches the amount. If you would like to contribute to this program, just mark on the left hand side of your envelope "Graceland Grant Program" and the amount. What a wonderful gift this is for our youth.

**Futhermore**, anyone wanting to donate money to Our Father's Cupboard can write on any blank line on the left side of your offering envelope "Our Father's Cupboard" and fill in the amount. This way your contribution will be on your quarterly statement.

**Bob Beers**, Congregation Financial Officer

## An Appeal

I am becoming more acutely aware of our need as disciples of Jesus Christ to join in mighty prayer for the welfare of the congregation, the church, our communities, and the world. Only passionate and heartfelt prayer can turn aside the forces that are destroying men, women, children, and our earth. I am suggesting that we have a great, untapped prayer power as a community of saints. We need to gather together in the spirit of compassion and pray for those who do not yet know Christ, those who need blessings and spiritual support, and those who are serving the needs of humanity wherever that may be.

As the Community of Christ we are called by God to be a *healing and redeeming agent* (Doctrine and Covenants 156) in the world and for the world. But to do that means we must intentionally confront the forces of darkness and destruction, oh, not physically confronting but spiritually confronting. Wednesday night Prayer and Praise Service is one time we are able to gather in prayer at church, but that is not the only time to gather, and it doesn't have to be at church. How wonderful it would be if we could have five or six homes where we could gather for prayer each week or at least twice a month. We tried that once before and for a time it worked well. Is it time to try it again?

Gathering together will only work if we feel the Holy Spirit calling us to be more proactively engaged with the Spirit in bringing the spiritual power of our congregation to bear for all who need it. The world cries out; can you hear it? Can you feel it? Let me know personally if you are interested, and we will go from there.

Evangelist **Bob Slasor**



**Familiar Faces** - Many friendships were made, and old ones renewed, at the recent Young Adult Event. Shown in the above picture are "old" friends JaAna Parham, Kenny Powell, **Karla Van Beek**, Rachel Dizney.

## Mother's Day Poem

When God created mothers,  
He pursued a special plan;  
For their task is too important,  
To be handled by a man.

He created them in beauty,  
Full of tenderness and love;  
And of all of His creations,  
They're the ones He's fondest of.

For a mother's love comes closest,  
To the love that God alone;  
Can offer to His children,  
As He leads them to His throne.

It's a love without condition,  
Pure and simple, tried and true;  
Sometimes shouted, often whispered,  
Ever present, always new.

Our mother's love is faithful,  
It's enduring to the end;  
And through years of tender nurture,  
She becomes our lifelong friend....

Written by Joe Masek, brother of **Carolyn Deering**

## Where are They?

The weekend of April 11- 13 I attended the Florida Mission Center's Men's Retreat at Deerhaven Conference and Retreat Center. There were 61 men in attendance ranging from the age of 14 to some in their nineties. Ministry was brought by Evangelist Danny Belrose. Together we explored what it means to become vulnerable to God's grace. It was a great weekend.

Ralph Day from the Atlanta area was there with his son-in-law Jim. Ralph was our pastor a few years back. He, and many others, kept asking me where the rest of the "guys" from my congregation were. Many of you were asked about by name. Sadly, I had no answer for them.

Perhaps more will attend next year and be blessed by the experience. Men's Retreat is held the first or second weekend in April each year.

**Scott Cramer**



## Great Resource

A few weeks ago I visited our congregation's library and was surprised to see so many available **new** books. Some have been suggested reading in the *Herald*. There are "help" books, beautifully illustrated children's books, and "old" books. One particular "old" book that I enjoyed reading is titled How to Talk to God When You Aren't Feeling Religious by Charles Merrill Smith. It was written in 1971. What a wonderful sense of humor the author has! Forty-nine delightful prayers are found in this book with chapters titled "*Is All this Guilt Really Necessary?*", "*Would Jesus Drive a Cadillac?*", "*Am I Really a Jew, and is that O.K. with You?*" and the 49th chapter "*I'm Still Not Feeling Religious.*" Don't look for this book right away as I haven't returned it yet!

Why don't you visit the congregation's library soon? Take a child with you to see the variety of books for them also. Check out the library and the great job that **Beth Slasor**, our librarian, does in weeding out and adding to the library.

**Bona Lee**

## Thank You

The **Our Father's Cupboard** would like to thank everyone for continuously helping with food and donations. It has helped a lot. Please keep up the good work. Thanks to **Bill and Lil Caudle** for the many egg cartons which are being given out after we add eggs.

There have been so many young families that have lost their jobs and have no income to live on. The food from the Cupboard has brought a positive impact on the bleak lives they are now facing. With your donations we are able to shop for nutritional food that the families are needing. Mark and I have been busy squeezing oranges and grapefruit to hand out to the families. As long as the fruit comes in, we will continue to squeeze!

Thank you to **Bona Lee** for the twin sheets and blankets which were given to the Manatee Children's Services. Everything that has been donated is needed and being used. We would once more thank the families that donated the freezers and refrigerator. They have helped a lot.

**Mark Bee and Patti Benjamin-Bovee**

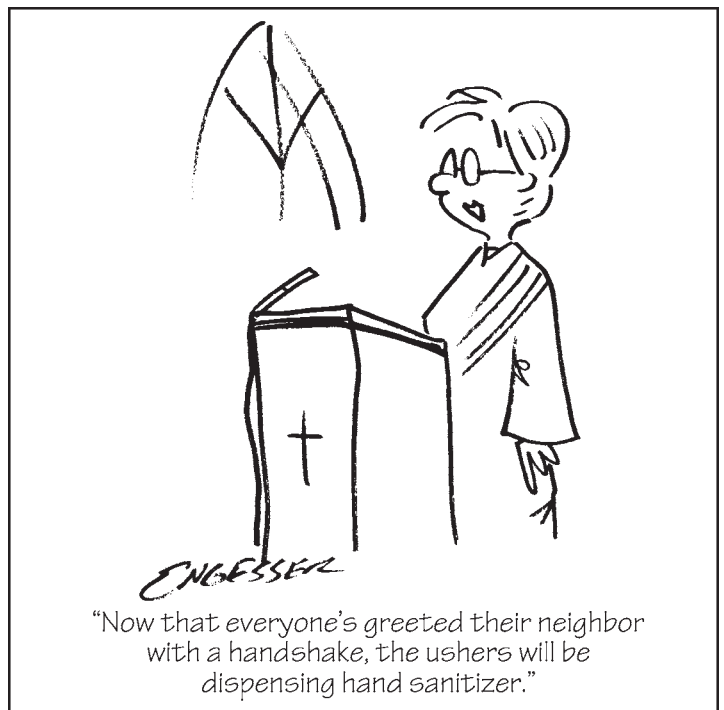


## Meet for Breakfast

Back by popular demand, the **Beach Breakfast!** The Beach Breakfast will be held at the **Cafe on the Beach on Holmes**

**Beach** which is at the end of Manatee Ave, on **May 10 at 8:30 AM**. Come and join others as we gather on the beach to enjoy breakfast together. Order your choice of the breakfast offerings, sit together with other church family members and friends, and enjoy the breeze and sun. This is a time to be with each other, relax, and to bask in the beauty of the beach. Even the most pressing Saturday errands will take on a more relaxed feeling after being with each other in such a beautiful setting.

P.S. If you can't make it right at 8:30 AM come anyway. It seems there are always some who enjoy the atmosphere and just want to "hang around" a little longer.



"Now that everyone's greeted their neighbor with a handshake, the ushers will be dispensing hand sanitizer."

## We're Looking Good!

The **2008 Congregational Directories** have been distributed. The main comment that has been heard is "Wow, the pictures look good!" The pictures do add color to the directory, but please browse through all the pages. There is information to answer questions that are often heard such as, "Who do I call to put a name on the prayer list?" or "Who can tell me if the church is available for an activity?" Names and phone numbers of congregational officers are listed as well as priesthood members. Ever wonder how to get in touch with president of the Florida Mission Center (FMC) or the apostle in charge of our area? FMC address and phone numbers as well as staff members can be found right next to information regarding Deerhaven Retreat and Conference Center. For those who do not have access to the internet, the telephone tree will show you who should be calling you and/or who you should call when a message to the congregation is being sent out.

If you have not received your 2008 Directory, please let me, **Elaine Gregg**, know. Those winter people who have not received their directory, please give me your northern address and your copy will be mailed to you or you can get it when you return south. If you receive a directory that has a blank page or seems to be missing some pages, please let me know. Each side of the page was printed separately, and the printer sometimes sent a blank page through. Also, it was hand assembled increasing the possibility of more errors. So, don't hesitate to get a replacement, but you will need to trade in the defective one.

**Elaine Gregg**



**Make sure you get your  
2008 Directory!**

## May

- 02 Aaron Stevens
- 02 Barbara Jousma
- 04 Dale Morgan
- 08 Liliana Rodriguez
- 08 Carol Curtis
- 08 Charlie Walker
- 09 Bettie Chlebina
- 13 Brittney Roberts
- 14 Brandon Morgan
- 15 Betty Willetts
- 17 Jacob Rodriguez
- 18 Cole Van Beek
- 18 Millie Park
- 19 Kay Budd
- 22 Laura & Bob Vaughan (anniv)
- 23 Joan Wooderson & Ray Daniels (anniv)
- 25 Wanda Fenn
- 28 Tobin Cooper



## Let's Have a Good Time Together

Buon Giorno! The Fund Raising committee and friends are gearing up for the upcoming **Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction/Karaoke on Saturday, May 3rd at 5:30 PM**. **Dale Morgan** will head up the kitchen crew, and he is planning a wonderful dinner. You won't go away hungry! As a bonus, and back by popular demand, will be karaoke for an evening of fun and entertainment. (Who could forget the participants at last year's event!).

The items for the Silent Auction are now being displayed in the Information Center and the bidding has begun. There is a wide variety of items and services including a weeks vacation in the North Georgia mountains, jewelry, gift certificates, theme baskets, and many home decor items. Bidding will continue until 7:30 PM on Saturday, May 3rd.

Don't miss out on this event. Tickets are available from Fund Raising members: **Scott Cramer, Dale Morgan, Suzanne Grimmer, Betty & Louis Willetts, Tim Devine, Nancy Skene, and Kaitlyn James**. Invite your friends, buy tickets, and start bidding. Come on May 3rd, and let's have a good time together. Ciao!

Your Fund Raising Committee

**Celebration News**

- 02-05 Spiritual Growth Retreat  
Deerhaven
- 04 Potluck Dinner
- 07 Leadership Meeting,  
7:00PM
- 10 Beach Breakfast,  
8:30 AM
- 11 Mother's Day
- 20 Camp Sign-Up Day
- 25 Pancake Breakfast, 9:30  
AM
- 25 FMT Meeting, 6:00 PM
- 26 Memorial Day



## DID YOU KNOW ???

◆ **Nancy Peters** has been helping students at Rowlett Elementary Magnet School learn to quilt in an after school enrichment program, and **Zoe Van Beek** is one of those learning about quilting?

◆ **Heather Cosgrove Manfull** with **Dani, Kenny Johnson, Kelsey Adams, and Karla and Jason Van Beek** with **Zoe and Cole** were among 50 young adults and families from nine states who attended the "Seize the Day" Young Adult Retreat held at Deerhaven Retreat Center the last weekend in March, and **Nancy Skene** and **Nanette Dizney** were part of the support staff?

◆ **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina** and **Elaine Gregg** visited **Megan Chlebina** in Salt Lake City, Utah, took a tour of the Mormon compound, and, after a beautiful snowfall, went to the top of a ski mountain via a ski tram?

◆ **Charlie Walker** has agreed to be our Youth Leader for 2008? Be ready to say "yes" if he calls for assistance!

◆ **Frankie Scholl** drew the "spring fairy" shown below?

### In addition to the above -

#### Each Sunday morning:

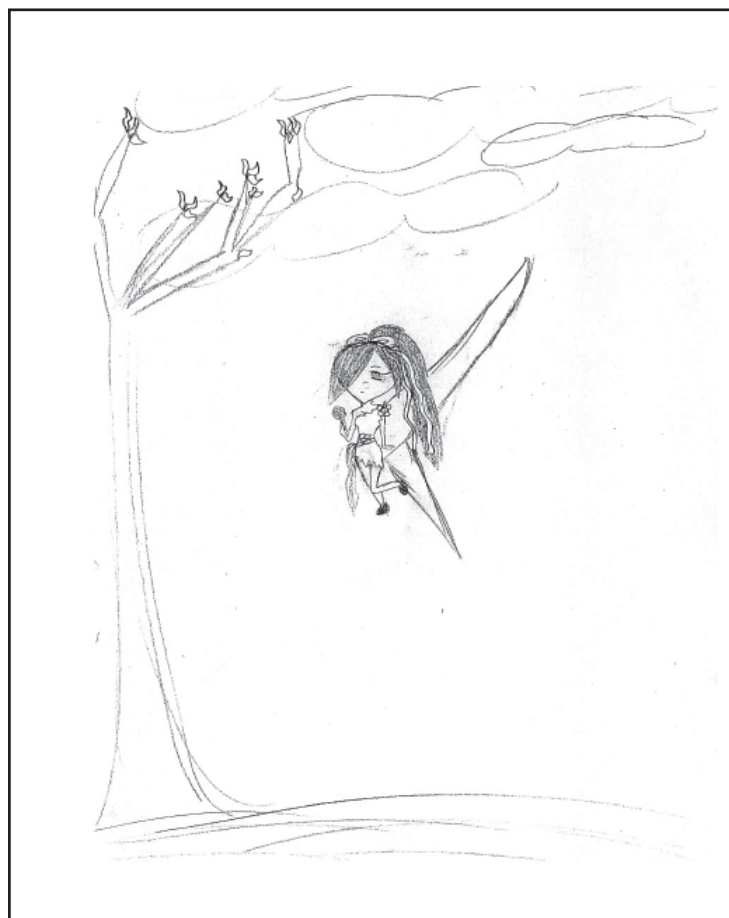
- 9:30 AM Fellowship Time with coffee, juice and light snacks
- 10:00 AM Classes for all ages
- 10:55 AM Community Worship

#### Wednesday:

- 7:00 PM Praise Service

## The Things You Cannot Buy

The best and sweetest things in life are things you cannot buy,  
 The music of the birds at dawn, the rainbow in the sky;  
 The dazzling magic of the stars, the miracle of light;  
 The precious gifts of health and strength, of hearing,  
 speech and sight;  
 The peace of mind that crowds a busy life of work well done;  
 A faith in God that deepens as you face the setting sun;  
 The boon of love, the joy of friendship as the years go by;  
 You find the greatest blessings are the things you cannot buy.



*Celebration News* is a publication of the  
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Sarasota FL 34243-6309

**Address Correction Requested**



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**A**

**Y**

**1st**



# **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**