

CELEBRATION NEWS



"Loving God, come to us just as we are, and make us into what you desire us to be."

We Are Growing Trees

(Children of God) are like trees, planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. Psalm 1:3 NRSV

(We are called) to give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. Isaiah 61:3 NRSV

Growing trees takes time and proper nourishment. Trees grow little by little. A tree's growth is so gradual that its growth is often not perceived from day to day, month to month. Then, what seems like all of a sudden, what was once a seedling is a majestic structure that brings fruit and shade to those that need it.

Stroll down the hallway of the education wing, and you will see that we are growing trees. Classroom 1 is our *Seedling* class - for two year olds through Pre-Kindergarten. Classroom 3 is our *Sprouts* class of kindergarten and first graders. Our *Saplings* class is for second through fifth grade, and they are in classroom 2. The *Young Trees*, middle and high schoolers, are in classroom 6. Currently our gardeners are **Beth Slasor, Nancy Peters, Nancy Skene and Ginger Robertson.**

Many are needed to grow our "trees". If you would like to help grow beautiful and majestic "trees" that bring fruit and shade to those that need it, contact **Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina.** More gardeners are always needed.

Jerilyn Gregg-Chlebina,
Children/Youth Sunday School Supervisor



How Do You Make Stone Soup?

There is a popular children's classic storybook that tells the tale of a mysterious stranger who, through a cunning plan, brings a community together in fellowship and generosity. On November 13th, you will not only hear the story, but you will be an active participant at the **Stone Soup Supper** hosted by the Bradenton/Sarasota Community of Christ Fund Raising Team. This evening of fun will begin at 5:30 PM. What will you share? Add this date to your calendar and look forward to food, fellowship and coming together in generosity.



Youth Stay Busy

The youth are planning a camping trip for the weekend of November 5th at Fort DeSoto, but, in the meantime, they are continuing to work on the Shoebox Project. There have already been over 20 boxes delivered. Your continued contributions of small hygiene items and/or monies will make it possible to deliver more boxes. Look for a bulletin insert with a list of needed items.

At our last planning meeting, the youth decided to have a fund-raiser in December for the Deerhaven Swimming Pool Fund which is just getting off the ground. The youth are very excited about the possibility of having a swimming pool available for them at camps and other activities at Deerhaven Campgrounds and would like to put a challenge out to other Florida congregations to help raise money for the pool. Look for more details about this fund-raiser next month.

The youth thank all of you for your love and support.

Heather Devine, Youth Leader

A Month of Parables

During the month of October, each Sunday morning's worship will include a parable told by Jesus. In your worship preparation, it would be helpful if you read the appropriate parable before the service each Sunday.

The Mustard Seed - Luke 17:5-10

The parable of the mustard seed follows a difficult lesson on forgiveness. The apostles ask the Lord to *Increase Our Faith* so that they could follow His teachings. Sunday, October 3, Elder **Bona Lee** will be sharing her insight as to how we can increase our faith. Priest **Carolyn Deering** will be presiding over this Communion service.

The Persistent Widow - Luke 18:1-8

If a complaining widow can get an unjust judge to hear her case, how much more can our constant prayer move a loving God to act on our behalf? Jesus tells us to *Pray Always*. Evangelist **Karen Palko** will be speaking on this theme with Elder **Jo Fenn-Martin** leading the service on October 10.

Ten Healed of Leprosy - Luke 17:11-19

The lesson of this parable is that when we *Rise and Go*, we must go responding to what we have received. Jesus sees the leper and responds; the healed leper sees the healing and responds to God's generosity. Guest ministers, High Priest Bruce and Elder Ronda Wooderson from Australia, will share with us on October 17 with Teacher **Fay Beers** presiding.

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee's attitude is one of exclusion. Jesus' ministry is all about inclusion. This parable teaches against judging others. We are advised to follow the lead of the tax collector in this parable and humbly pray, *Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner*. Priests **Heather Devine** and **Ginger Robertson** will bring ministry on October 24.



Zacchaeus the Tax Collector - Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus has an intense desire to see Jesus as he is passing through Jericho; so intense, in fact, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to get a better view. How does the crowd

“see” Zacchaeus and how does Zacchaeus surprise everyone? On October 31, Elder **Penny Cramer** will lead this service with Priest **Scott Cramer** bringing the message.

As you read these parables in preparation for each Sunday's worship, look for new meanings in these familiar and not so familiar stories.

An additional opportunity to meet with others for **fellowship and worship** is yours on **Wednesday** nights starting at 7:00 PM. Join the group.

Jo Fenn-Martin, for the Worship Team

A Call to Serve: Reaching Out Into Our Community

Each member of the Pastorate that serves our congregation has specific areas of ministry for which she is responsible. This sometimes includes everyday tasks that require attention. Retrieving phone messages became my daily "task". While I occasionally have to delete random sales calls, I have logged many messages from people who were in need of emergency assistance. It is through these calls that I have been privileged to meet and talk to brothers and sisters in our community who have been pushed to the brink of homelessness and hopelessness.

Many of these individuals and families live within five to ten miles of our church doors. Most have very little (below poverty) income, with few employment prospects. Transportation is an ongoing problem. Their housing, which takes a huge disproportionate amount of their monthly



money, is largely substandard. Having food on the table is a daily concern. While I can make some phone calls, or file some forms to get them immediate help, what they also need is the hope of Jesus Christ. As I have watched

literally hundreds of children stream into the arms of waiting parents on street corners after school, spoken to moms with one and sometimes two or three tiny babies and toddlers, or listened to the stories of how one family shares the little they have with those who have nothing, God has given me a clear message that we are the ones he is calling to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into this community. The time has come for us to leave our comfort zones and go where God is leading us.

As we look ahead to reopening our food pantry in November, we need to look at the possibilities that abound in open door ministry: Spiritual counseling, Bible study, children's Bible stories; the list is endless. Going yet another step farther, in home visiting with prayer and Bible study, after school tutoring and Young Peacemakers Clubs are just a few of the ministries that we, using our gifts and talents can offer. The call has been made to us. Are we, as a united body of Christ followers, ready to answer God's call?

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Pastor

If you choose not to be part of a Sunday School Class, we encourage you to gather in the Fellowship Hall to talk and share with others. This will help eliminate the narthex from being too crowded and will allow our greeters to welcome those who are coming to church. Thank you.

Women's Gathering

The Florida Mission Center Women's Retreat with the theme *Walk Humbly with Your God* will be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center on **October 8-10**. Jan Slaughter will be bringing guest ministry to the retreat. Many activities are planned. Women are encouraged to bring their teenage daughters/granddaughters/nieces (age 16 and older). Register at www.cofchristfmc.org.



Congregational Conference Results

Elected at the September 26th Congregational Conference to serve in 2011:

Pastorate: Nanette Dizney, Ginger Robertson, Marcia Brougher

Secretary: Elaine Gregg

Head Deacon: Melinda Creel

Librarian: Beth Slasor

Auditors: Jo Fenn-Martin and Joan Wooderson

Facility Management Team (3 year term): Jim Brougher and Dan Willetts

Fund Raising Team (3 year term): Karen MacDonald and Dave Robertson



Joy and Hope

I don't often get to sit in the congregation to enjoy the worship service. Usually I am involved with the mechanics somewhere. But a few weeks ago I was sitting and listening. That Sunday we had three of our four new babies at the worship service. As the babies began to talk and fuss, I saw concerned parents with worried faces. I want the parents to know that I am willing to listen to Liam's, Meah's, Levi's and Rebecca's messages anytime. Those little utterances give me joy and new hope for the future, and I look forward to more messages. Thanks, **Nanette Dizney**

Our Father's Cupboard Update

During the last week in July, the pantry was closed because some of our volunteers, including the pantry manager, **Patti Benjamin-Bovee**, had health concerns and were ready for a much needed break. It was apparent that we needed to reevaluate **Our Father's Cupboard** and to come up with a plan that would open up new volunteer opportunities for *all* of our church family. A Task Team consisting of **Jim Brougher, Brad Martin, and Dave Robertson** have begun the process of assessing the program which includes plans to restructure the pantry work space.

Distribution will take place (for now), once a month on the morning of the third Saturday of each month. This will allow volunteers to come in at designated times either during the day or evening to pack the paper grocery bags with food. Nonperishable items only will be distributed. Many of you have requested these changes to allow our youth and young to middle-aged adults the opportunity to be involved in the ministry of the Cupboard. We will have a table set up in the Information Center during the month of October for people to sign up to help. Our target opening date is November 20th.

When the remodeling is completed, we will open up the doors and invite all to come and see the improvements. Thank you for your support and continued prayers; God has heard them and will use all of us to continue this ministry.

Ginger Robertson, Outreach Pastor



Women gather to form a new caring ministry. The new **Prayer Shawl** group will be meeting at



2:00 PM on the 2nd Saturday of each month to make shawls. Prayers are given on the yarn and during the making of the shawls. When finished they are given to people who are in need of a special blessing. It is a ministry where both the giver and the receiver benefit by this gesture of prayer and love. Anyone interested is invited to join in this ministry.

Precious Shepherd

In my youth I spent time on my uncle's farm. There I witnessed God through the simplicity of farm life. On the farm my uncle raised corn, beans, and produce. He also raised horses, cattle, pigs, and goats. I did not realize it at the time, but looking back, I now see my uncle's stewardship over his crops and livestock. Even his stewardship over his wife and two children that lived with him on the farm was evident. For all the groups on this farm were his flock whether it was livestock, his family, hired hands, or the crops he raised.

Flocks have need of a shepherd and my uncle was a great steward of God's green earth, his farm. On one occasion a female, nanny goat was standing at the fence that surrounded the barn yard. She was jumping up and down, bleating her lungs out, butting her head into the fence and carrying on so loudly that my uncle came out of the barn to see what it was about.

My uncle walked to the goat. There he found one of her twin kid goats entangled in barbed wire by the throat. The kid was bleeding and hurt, and my uncle bent down and untangled her. He carried her to the barn with the nanny following him. There he treated the kid goat and set her free to rejoin her nanny. The nanny goat ran to her kid and nuzzled her, and all was well in the barn yard again. The next day as we prepared the goats for milking, yesterday's distressed nanny was all over my uncle with head butts, bleating, and touching him with her nose. She was thanking her shepherd for love and caring guidance.

That day I saw my uncle and his goat as I also saw my Precious Shepherd Jesus. I saw the value of saying thanks and giving praise to God for all we have been given. Let our voices and witness always be heard!

Jim Brougher

We Are All Teachers

Proverbs 22:6 says *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

On a recent Sunday morning I had the privilege of witnessing two of our newest family members interacting with one another. **Rebecca** (Creel) and **Meah** (Rodriguez) were on the floor in the narthex facing each other and just being together. Then during the service that day our older children played the bells for our worship. These were such beautiful moments, and they reminded me of how precious our children really are and the importance of their training...their teaching.

The season has changed again and fall has come; schedules differ; school has started and there seems to be a "changing of the guard." It is often joked about what a relief it is when school begins again and many times parents feel like they are turning over the reins to the teachers, but the truth is we all have the reins, all the time, whether the children are ours or not. Their teachers are not just at school; they are everywhere all year around. We are ALL teachers to the children that we encounter throughout our lives because they watch us and learn by our example.

Treasure your time with children. We have such a short time in which to influence them, so use it wisely. Be a good teacher; it is a noble profession; and follow the example of the greatest teacher of all, Jesus.

Carolyn Deering, Editorial Staff Member



A builder builded a temple,
He wrought with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.
Men said, as they saw its beauty,
"It shall never know decay;
Great is thy skill, O Builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye."

A teacher builded a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with
patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised their unceasing
efforts,
None knew of their wondrous
plan,
For the temple the Teacher
builded
Was unseen by the eyes of man.

Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumbled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the Teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Was a child's immortal soul.

--Unknown author

Aaronic Ministries

As a congregation we have been blessed with many priesthood through the years. We currently have four Deacons, six Teachers, 12 Priests, 17 Elders, two High Priests, and four Evangelists listed in our congregation's directory. This includes those who are ordinands, winter residents, and those who have been superannuated as well as active and inactive members. Regardless of the numbers, it is important that within each Community of Christ congregation, the priesthood quorums, both Melchisedec and Aaronic, have a clear vision of planned ministry.

On **October 17 at 6:00 PM**, Bishop Don Passeretti from the Florida Mission Center will come here to meet with the Aaronic priesthood to facilitate a training session to help us better plan for our future ministry needs. This session will cover all areas of Aaronic ministries including Pastoral Care, Outreach Mission, Ministry Planning for Deacons, Priests and Teachers, and both Florida Mission Center and World Church ministry vision.

ALL priesthood members including Melchisedec members should plan to be present for this training. We have been called to be servant ministers, working together for the benefit of God's purposes. This opportunity will benefit not only our congregation, but the community in which we live.

Start Gathering

Our congregation has sponsored a yard sale each year for many years. The **Yard Sale** is probably our largest endeavor as far as physical labor and financial return. Once again we will be having a yard sale in the spring of 2011. Because we do depend on the monies raised from the sale to “pay” our bills and provide programs, we are asking each person to start gathering household goods, tools, electronics, etc. now. Ask your neighbors if they have goods to contribute. If you know of a family that is moving, ask if they would donate their items to the yard sale. Tax deductible receipts are available for contributions of goods.

When you have assembled some items, contact one of the Fund Raising Team to make arrangements to bring the items to the storage building. Items in good condition are needed. Please - no clothes or broken items.

Keep your eyes open for sellable goods and keep bringing them in. Thank you.



Attention, Young Adults

Do you have your 2011 calendar ready? There will be a **Young Adult Retreat** at Deerhaven Retreat Center **March 18-20, 2011**. Guest Minister will be Tony Chvala-Smith who is a Scripture and Theology Specialist. Tony especially enjoys teaching and preaching, but he isn't all serious as he likes to cook, travel, read, and garden. It is also noted that he especially loves cats, any and all Star Trek stuff, Tai food, and good coffee. So get your 2011 calendar out and circle the date so you won't miss meeting Tony as well as your “old” friends.



Coming Florida Mission Center Events:

October 30th is the Florida Mission Center Conference at Tavares beginning at 9:30 AM.

November 12-14 a Mission Fest at Deerhaven (a fun event)

Pancake Breakfasts are back after a summer sabbatical! Chefs D.J. and Dale Morgan are pictured at the end of a busy morning of preparing pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage. The Morgan family sets up and prepares a breakfast each fourth Sunday of the month. Thank you, Morgan family, for sharing your giftedness of hospitality with us.



To Help You Pray for Others

In the July, 2010 **Herald**, there was an article entitled *Pray for One Another*. People have been making references to this article, especially regarding the Four Prayers at the end of the article. Each month a *Pray for...* list is printed and enclosed in our Sunday bulletin noting requested prayers. Many of the people listed are not known personally to some of us nor do we know their needs. Some of the praying people who have used this guide have mentioned that it has helped them pray for others. The Four Prayers may help you in your prayers for those listed as well as those who may be on your heart and mind.

The Four Prayers are:

- ❖ God, what is your prayer for this person?
- ❖ God, what would you have me pray for this person?
- ❖ God, show me any barriers within myself that prevent me from praying as you would have me do.
- ❖ God, is there something you would like me to say or do for this person today?

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 01 Larry and Patti Bell (anniv.)
- 04 Matthew Devine
- 05 Kayla Smeralda
- 08 Beth & Bob Slasor (anniv.)
- 11 Marcia & Jim Brougher (anniv.)
- 11 Stuart Skene
- 11 Dale Budd
- 13 Kenny Johnson
- 17 Barbara Smith
- 19 Ovide LePage
- 22 Linda Morgan
- 24 Kayla Morgan
- 25 Dick Chlebina
- 26 Glenn Day
- 30 Ginger Robertson
- 31 Alexandra Fant

DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Kaitlyn James** is keeping busy in her second year at Hale Middle School as a member of the Swing Choir (an opera music group), Ballet Club, Future Business Leaders and bookkeeper of the Year Book Club?
- ◆ **Rebecca Creel** is busy pulling herself up and trying to walk and is crawling all over?
- ◆ **Patrick James** is on the Freshmen Football Team at Braden River High School and a member of the Junior ROTC?
- ◆ **Liam Quinn** celebrated his first birthday with family and friends at the Skene's home?
- ◆ **Denise and Megan Chlebina** have joined a Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball team?
- ◆ **Zoe and Cole Van Beek** recently earned Karate belts - Zoe an orange belt and Cole a yellow belt?



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Operating Budget for 2010 is \$58,178:

Income through September	\$37,389
Expenses through September	<u>(44,515)</u>
Balance ending September	\$(7,126)

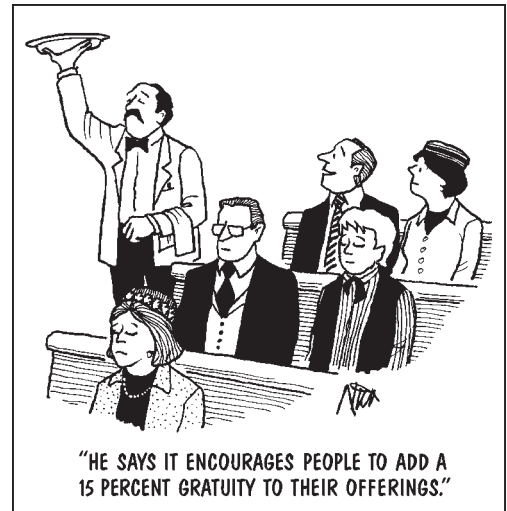
Through September our Operating Income should have been \$43,634 to meet the planned programs and expenses. This means we are short to the budgeted planned income by \$6,245. We will need to make this up quickly or we will have to rethink planned programs and activities for this year.

Our Father's Cupboard Update

Income through September	\$ 8,840
Expenses through September	<u>(6,196)</u>
Balance ending September	\$ 2,644

Thank you for your support both to our local congregation as well as our world church. The needs are great and sharing of our blessings promotes God's Joy, Hope, Love and Peace throughout the world.

Bob Beers, Congregation Financial Officer



Celebration News is a publication of the

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

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Address Correction Requested



And what does the
LORD require of you

To act  justly
& to love mercy and to
walk humbly with your

GOD.

M I C A H 6 : 8