

CELEBRATION NEWS



Membership Opportunities

Most of us look at those who lead us and at times wonder....why? Why did they decide that? Why do they look at it that way? How did THAT become the priority? Admit it! Once in a while you have thought...*I could have done better than THAT!* You have also occasionally thought....*glad I'M not in charge!* Whew! *Dodged that bullet!* We have all been there.

It does not matter whether we are considering our state, local or federal government, a club we belong to or our church. Leadership is needed, and it is that time of year again! Two of our Pastorate have been in place for two years and two of them have been there for three years. Decision time is coming on November 8th when we will elect new leaders. Take the time to look anew at yourself and see if there is something YOU can do that you have not done before.

We really are ALL in this together, and we owe it to ourselves to create the best team we can to move forward. Our congregation is so very blessed. We have a very solid foundation to build on. This is a time to look toward the future for new ways to be of service to our God. Our **Congregational Conference** (business meeting) will be **November 8 at 9:45 AM**. Come prepared to serve in new ways having asked those around you to do the same.

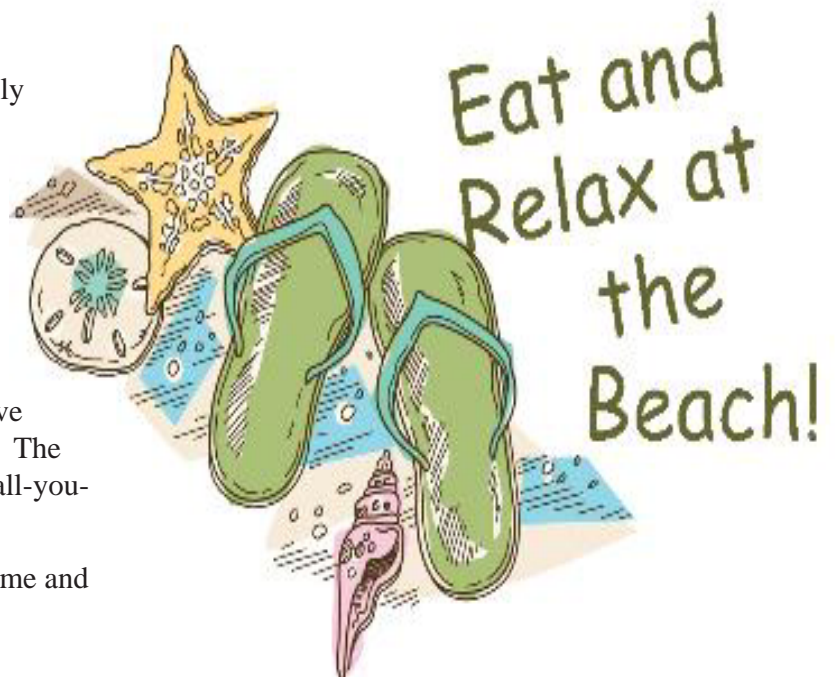
Jim Deering, Administrative Pastor

One of the things we do really

well and enjoy very much is eating. This is what we can do on **Saturday, October 10 at 8:30 AM** at our **Beach Breakfast** at Cafe on the Beach on Holmes Beach!! Some people will arrive early to reserve as many tables as possible, but please try to come early so that we can eat together as a group.

This is such a fun time to just relax and have a good visit with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The menu includes all kinds of breakfast items and an all-you-can-eat pancake feast!

Mark your calendars and don't forget to come and share together.



Spiritual Growth

Come experience a weekend devoted to wholeness of body, mind and spirit and to spiritual growing, understanding, renewing and blessing. Bring your hurts and have them healed. Bring your hopes and have them clarified. Bring your commitment and have it sanctified. This can be experienced at the **Spiritual Growth Retreat, October 30 - November 1** at Deerhaven Retreat Center. Bring the scriptures, journal or notebook and lawn chair (optional). This is a weekend where Christ is the Focus, Zion the call, and empowerment the goal. Register on-line at www.cofchristfmc.org or contact **Bob Slasor** (941.756.3678) or rslasor2@verizon.net.

Want to be a Delegate?

The date for **Florida Mission Center Conference** has been changed to **December 5th**. It will be held at the Lakeland congregation and start at 9:30 AM. Lunch will be provided by the congregation and an offering will be received to help offset the cost.

At this conference delegates' names and any proposed resolutions for the 2010 World Conference will be submitted. If you are considering a resolution, please remember it must be turned in to the Mission Center office 60 days prior to the FMC Conference (October 6th) for consideration and voting at the December 5th Conference. If you have any questions, call Debbie Bartlett at 800.900.5070.

The Youth participated in the August 30th worship service at which time some shared with the congregation about their summer experiences at camps, IYF & SPEC, and visiting. During this service two youth asked questions of two adults regarding their experiences and decisions when they were younger. Shown are left to right Glenn Day, Penny Cramer, Kenyata Evans, and Brittney Morgan.

Enjoy a Weekend Away

Ladies, you are invited to participate in the **2009 Women's Retreat** to be held at Deerhaven Retreat Center on **October 2-4**. This year's retreat is being hosted by the ladies of the South Miami congregation. The men of South Miami will be cooking and those attending will get to experience some cultural diversity in worship, food, class offerings and Saturday evening's FIESTA! Plan now to bring a friend, mother, daughter, aunt, etc. and enjoy a weekend away from it all. Apostle Linda Booth will bring guest ministry.

Information is on the bulletin board in the Information Center. You may register on-line (www.cofchristfmc.org) or call the Florida Mission Center office at 800-900-5070.

Missional Group Activity

The Western Central Missional Group (Bradenton/Sarasota, Lakeland and Zephyrhills) is planning a "Thankful for Fall" festival at the Lakeland church grounds on Saturday, October 10th from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The event will include fun and games like croquet, a bean bag toss, tetherball, a scarecrow hat contest, bobbing for apples and more. Grilled burgers and hot dogs will be provided for lunch and then the event will end with a campfire at 2:00 PM. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ella Bishop at e7mbishop1.mac.com.



Discernment:

The Call of God to a Prophetic People

The surest evidence that the *Community of Christ* membership is growing spiritually is the encouragement of the World Church Leadership for individual members and congregations to seek divine understanding about critical issues facing the church. The call of God is for the church to seek to become fully a World Church equally yoked with Jesus Christ and with each other.

A current issue that we are asked to pray about, discuss and be open to the Holy Spirit's direction is the matter of "Conditions of Membership" - specifically as to the need to rebaptize persons who want to be part of the *Community of Christ*. As individuals and as a body of believers, we need to explore our current feelings and beliefs regarding this important issue even as we seek further understanding from God. Perhaps nothing will change or perhaps the 2010 World Church Conference will determine that one's personal commitment to Jesus

Christ through baptism in another denomination could be acceptable in order to become a member of the *Community of Christ*, along with confirmation by the laying on of hands by the elders.



The discernment process of prayer, study and discussion will help you personally and help the body of the church have a Holy Spirit confirmed understanding of God's will in this matter as it applies to our day and time. Isn't it wonderful that God trusts us enough to have us seek more light and truth? Isn't it wonderful that the leadership that God has provided for the church also trusts us and encourages us to seek our own understanding?

If you have not done so yet and have website capability, go to www.CofChrist.org/CofM/ to download material that will help you in a personal discernment process. This will be very helpful to you in making an informed decision. To further help us in this discernment process, **Small Group Discussions** will be offered so that we can explore and confer together. Two group meetings are being planned as of now and will be held on **Sundays, October 4 and October 18 at 9:45 AM in Classroom 4**. The invitation is to all. If you have trouble downloading the suggested material or need a copy of the material, please ask **Bob Slasor** or one of the **Pastorate** for help.

May God bless each of us in our searching.

Bob Slasor, Evangelist

Make Me a Servant

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are
weak. And may the prayer of my heart
always be: Make me a servant, make
me a servant, make me a servant today.*

I love this hymn, because it applies to everyone. We are all called to be servants for our Heavenly Father. We have tried very hard this year to be servants to those around us whether in the form of administrations, in taking of communion, visiting, phone calls, cards and delivery of meals where needed. There are so many members of our church family that have stepped forward and offered these services whenever and wherever the situation presented itself. As one in charge of Pastoral Ministries, I am so grateful for each one's participation. Surely God is smiling down on us as He sees the willingness of His people to serve.

My concern for the congregation is that we continue to meet the needs that are present in the best way that we can. Unfortunately, I believe that many do not take advantage of the gifts we have available to us as a community of Christ. It sometimes becomes second nature to do and do for others and forget to do for ourselves in times of need. To be able to address problems/needs/concerns within the congregation, we must be informed that those problems/needs/concerns exist. We are here to help and serve each other, but we cannot do that without communication. I humbly ask that when you have a need, no matter how big or small, please contact me, **Carolyn Deering**, or **Bona Lee** or any one of the priesthood members so that we may be of assistance to you.

In Christ's love,

Carolyn Deering, Pastoral Care Pastor

Ropes of the Mind

A number of years ago, several ministers were invited to visit the Ringling Brothers Circus at its winter quarters in Venice. Coming in via the performers' entrance, they passed by the elephants' area. Someone noticed that the ropes around the elephants' feet were not tied to anything. This oversight was pointed out to the handler. "Oh," he said, "don't worry. We never tie them up. We just tie a rope around their leg and drop it, and they think they are tied up."

How many of us imagine ourselves tied up to something from which we cannot get away, when in truth, the ropes are in our heads and hearts, not on our hands and feet?

* * *

If we cannot base the future on cooperation, we perish, for all the great demands laid on us for the making of a new world have cooperation at their center.

If your day is hemmed with prayer, it is not likely to unravel.

Never let yesterday use up today.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Operating Budget for 2009 is \$60,031:

Income through August 2009	\$35,308
Expenses through August 2009	<u>33,422</u>
Balance ending August 2009	\$ 1,886

It is a good feeling knowing that we are on the plus side; however, we should have 67% of the 2009 Budget in as of August, and we only have 58%. This is a shortfall of \$4,912.

Our Budget is much like yours, not all expenses come in equally each month of the year. Hopefully, we will keep the balance in the plus column.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bob Beers, Congregation Financial Officer

Keeping in Touch

A message received from **Cheryl Tack**:

I almost didn't open the newsletter. I am so busy getting ready to move and knew I wouldn't be in Florida in September. But I am sure glad I did open it. What a FABULOUS newsletter!!! It was the next best thing to being there with you all! Oh, how I miss my Sunday hugs!

Cheryl is moving into a villa in Illinois. Her new address is 1416 S Barrington Rd, Unit B, Barrington IL 60010, and her phone number is 630.445.3919 for those who would like to keep in touch. She will be closer to family. Hayden, her granddaughter who was on our prayer list for so long, has been released from all restrictions and is doing fabulous which is wonderful news. Cheryl added, "We are so blessed!"

The closing sentence of her e-mail message says, *Tell everyone 'Hello' and when the snow flies, you may see me heading your way!* Cheryl, your hugs await.



Karla Van Beek plays the oboe while Jo Fenn-Martin keeps the music from flying away during a baptism service at the Reunion.

Fun at Labor Day Reunion

The Labor Day Reunion continues to be the place to be over the long Labor Day weekend. Officially 221 people were registered, but the numbers were higher as visitors came to witness four baptisms and confirmations. Attendees from age seven months to 93 years enjoyed a variety of activities.

To see who attended from our congregation, go to page 8.



Heather Devine, Ginger Robertson, Karla, and JaAna Parham enjoy the beading class.

Pictures by Megan Chlebina

Magic Wand Responses

Members of our church family were asked to respond to the questions - *What would you do if you had a magic wand for one day?* The following responses were received.

I would change the ways of the world. There would be no more wars so we could bring our soldiers home from Iraq and other countries. I would make it so that ones that are able to work would have jobs. **Nancy Brougher**

I would want to go back in time and relive my childhood and change the things I did and said. I would also love to meet God in person because he does so much to heal and take care of me. **Brittney Morgan**

I would wave away this suffering hot weather and bring in the fall and winter cold fronts! **Ginger Robertson**

I would give every person the ability to see each individual the way God sees them. People would have only love for one another (after doing so) and surely we would finally have peace. **Carolyn Deering**

I would get the wand and zap you. I would bring it to my home and make a flower. I would bring it somewhere special and make a monster truck. If I had a magic wand for one day, I would bring it back! **Cole Van Beek**

I would have my parents come back for the day and see how they are. Ask them how they think I'm doing. Talking with them for just one day would be helpful. As we all do, I still look for my parent's approval of what I do. **Dale G. Morgan**

I would wish that I could have a hamster and I would want to be a princess to heal people and animals, put a pool in at our house, church and at Deerhaven. **Zoe Van Beek**

I would spend 23 of my 24 hours praying for the wisdom to use it wisely. The last hour would be quite busy!! **Jim Deering**

I would wave the magic wand over all the people on the earth and wish God's Spirit to enter deep into each one's heart allowing God's love, peace, and joy to reside there for the entire day. The peaceable kingdom may become a reality. What a world this would be!!!! **Jo Fenn-Martin**



At recent worship service with the theme *Plant Peace*, the story of Sadako Sasaki was told. When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, Sadako was only two years old. She knew little of world politics or wars. All she knew was that her young life was destroyed. She developed leukemia as she grew up. Sadako latched on to the legend of the crane, and the tradition that if she folded 1,000 cranes she would be granted her dearest wish. Her wish was for world peace. She folded crane after crane and hoped her wish would come true. Unfortunately, the leukemia was too much for her young body and at age 12 she died. Others folded the remaining cranes, and she was buried with 1,000 cranes.

Paper cranes were hung over the podium as a worship center and were distributed to all those in attendance during the worship service as a reminder of world peace.

Join Us for WORSHIP

Are you humble before the Lord? What sacrifices are you willing to make for Him? These are just a few of the tough questions we have faced as we continue to explore the conditions of true discipleship. In a time of uncertainty and financial crisis, the strength of our faith communities have certainly been put to the test. But it is because of our trust in God and His promises that we are able to overcome the problems of this world and strive to build His kingdom here on earth. May we enter into the last quarter of 2009, may we boldly grasp hands with one another and move forward toward the future with the assurance that God is leading the way.

Receiving the Kingdom is our call to action on the first Sunday in October. Our children are a gift from God. We are reminded that they are an important part of God's kingdom. We must be like those children and accept His kingdom as a gift. Priest **Carolyn Deering** will preside over this October 4th service with Evangelist **Glenn Day** bringing the Communion message.

Are you willing to *Let God Be Your Ruler*? On this October 11th Sunday, Elder **Marcia Brougher** will share with us how, with God, all things are possible. It is not by our merit and accomplishments that we enter His kingdom; we must be willing to accept salvation through Christ. Elder **Bona Lee** will be presiding.

Become a Servant is the theme for our October 18th service. Teacher **Nancy Skene** is planning the worship with Evangelist **Bob Slasor** speaking. Jesus was sent here on earth to serve man, giving his life as the ultimate price of ransom for our freedom. Are we to be anything more than servants? On this Sunday, we will also observe Children's Sabbath.

Have you every been asked, *What Do You Want*? **Matthew Devine** says that he wants to be baptized! We will all have an opportunity to answer that question during the Praise and Worship service on October 25th. Anyone wishing to enter the water and be baptized will have an opportunity to step forward on this last Sunday in October. Elder **Larry Bell** will preside during this service of celebration.

Make plans to come to our **Wednesday Evening Prayer, Praise and Fellowship**. It is a time when we gather over light refreshments and share our love, concerns and prayers with and for one another. Children are always welcome to come and share as well!

Ginger Robertson Worship Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW ???

- ◆ **Bona Lee** is recovering from a deep bite from a neighborhood dog which resulted in her having to go the emergency room?
- ◆ **Carolyn and Jim Deering** traveled to Kirtland, Ohio, for a family reunion to celebrate her parent's 60th wedding anniversary and their oldest daughter's, Jamie, recent graduation from Georgetown University with her PhD?
- ◆ **Stuart Skene** kept his commitment to provide ministry at Arden Court Assisted Living Facility the morning his grandson was born? **Jane Kelley, Bettie Chlebina and Roberta Hamilton** went with Stuart to help.
- ◆ **Zee, Rachel and Don Fant, Nanette Dizney, Megan Chlebina, Kathy Park, Jo Fenn-Martin, Zoe, Cole, and Karla Van Beek, Matthew, Tim and Heather Devine, Jonathan Robertson, Frankie Scholl, and Ginger and Dave Robertson,** attended the Labor Day Weekend Reunion and a FEW of them got sick and/or came home that way? The report is that they had a good time in spite of it!
- ◆ **Patty and Glenn Day** went to Pennsylvania to be part of the September 19th wedding of their daughter, Courtney and throughly enjoyed the great weather also?



Congratulations to Heather and Daryl Quinn! Liam Austin arrived Sunday, September 20, at 10:48 AM. The reports coming in seem to agree that he is really cute and very special! Liam has extended family members in our congregation which includes grandparents Nancy and Stuart Skene, great-great-grandmother Bettie Chlebina, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Our church family also celebrates the safe arrival of Liam!

It's Just Around the Corner

It is just around the corner, Thanksgiving that is. This Thanksgiving Day we will again have a **Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner** at the church in the Fellowship Hall. **Nancy Peters** will be in charge of the dinner. Please be thinking about whether you would like to be a part of this meal of thanksgiving. Information will be made available as plans are put into place.

Celebration News is a publication of the

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

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October

- 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
- 19 Ovide LePage
- 22 Linda Morgan
- 24 Kayla Morgan
- 25 Dick Chlebina
- 26 Glenn Day
- 30 Ginger Robertson
- 31 Alexandra Fant



Community of Christ
% Elaine Gregg
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Address Correction Requested



Come worship with us!



Larry Bell and Brad Martin "feeding" the chipper.

Stuart Skene reaches high to trim tree branches.



Nancy Brougher puts the finishing touch on the kitchen cupboards.



Two of the Girl Scouts sharpened pencils and worked on many other jobs.



Saturday's (9/26) **Work Day** comprised of a few people but a lot was accomplished. The inside was polished and cleaned up. Outside trees and bushes were trimmed and weeds pulled. The wood chipper was whirling most of the morning. Those working out in the sun kept up a good pace, but the chipper decided it needed a rest and quit working. In a matter of minutes Larry Bell pulled out his tool kit and went to work. It wasn't long before the chipper came to life, ready to work again! Working inside and outside were five representatives from the Girl Scout Troop that meets at the church. They had come to help as a way of saying "thank you" to the congregation for their being able to meet at the church. Those who worked in addition to those shown in the photos were Bob Beers, Karla (It was her birthday!) and Jason Van Beek, Dick Chlebina, Charyn Walker, Jim Deering, and Elaine Gregg. All can attest that it was a good day although VERY HOT!