



BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

THE GOOD NEWS

Rev. Bobby Dickerson

February 2009

Volume 39, Issue 2

Builder and Protector—God Can Build the Family

Psalm 127:1-2 says,

“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep”.

These verses have been favorites of mine for a long time. If ever I am tempted to worry about the Church, I remember that it is His house and ultimately only He can build it. My efforts, by themselves, are in vain.

The Hebrew word for house in verse one can actually be translated family. That is one reason why the next few verses (3-5) read like this, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate”.

He is not only the builder of the Church, He is the protector of it as well. These truths take a lot of weight off of my shoulders and help me sleep well at night. And I believe that is the way God wants it.

Too many of God’s children sit up late, worrying and eating the bread of sorrows. Whether you are a pastor or a business owner or a stay-at-home mom, learn the secret of casting your cares on God. If you have sat up late, worrying about your children or your family, you need to know that God can turn things around. Trust Him to build and protect your family. Do your part, but look to Him for guidance and strength. And trust Him to do what you cannot do. He can cause your “arrows” to be effective against the enemy instead of wounding your own heart.

May you be happy with your quiver of “arrows,” and may God be glorified in your family. He is the builder and protector of your life, and He knows the battles you face. Trust him today and sleep well tonight!

By Bayless Conley

Empowered by the Spirit, We will reach out in Love and Fellowship; Teaching and Making Disciples.

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GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

World Outreach

By Dave Harlow, World Outreach Chair
(Amy Abbott and Mary Caress also on the committee)

Where is Your Treasure?

Thursday, January 15, A.D. 2009

It seems impossible that February is just around the corner. Our Week of Compassion offering will be received February 15 and 22 this year. As we look toward this week of giving, I invite you to reflect on this year's offering theme, "Where is your treasure?" Little did I know just how timely this theme would be during this period of tremendous economic hardship and uncertainty. Perhaps there is no better question to ask ourselves now: where is your treasure? Where is your heart? As we all are faced with difficult decisions and many of us forced to make sacrifices, what a wonderful opportunity to examine critically our choices as consumers, as builders of the Realm of God, as followers of Jesus Christ. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor



rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). Treasure of the heart is the wealth that satisfies in the long

run: what we care most deeply about, the people and places we cherish, the experiences and qualities we value. On deeper reflection, as you think about treasure, perhaps the birth of a child comes to mind, or playing with grandchildren, a visit with a dear friend, scoring points for your team, memories of special people no longer present; maybe a moonlit walk during winter, the sound of birds chirping, the scent of a delicate rose. Many people find their true treasure to be in love, in relationships, in life itself.

That seems to be God's perspective. In God's eyes, we are treasure. Cherished, longed for, tended by, in relationship with, the Mighty One. Each and every person on earth is a treasure to God. It is a treasure to have the sparkle of life, God's love, and the Holy Spirit within us. And yet, life can be tough. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Many times and many places, God's treasured children are deeply hurting. One of the gifts of being God's children is that we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. Through Week of Compassion, we gently, persistently, and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure - our money, our time, our energy - decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives. We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure. And the sharing is mutual.

When we care for people nearby and far away, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize that God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases. Your heart will be where your treasure is. So, where is your treasure? May you find it, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion. †

A Poem to Ponder

I was talking to a Special Friend,
Which I try every day to do.
I'm sure or hope you all know Him,
And share your day with Him too.
He asked me to do Him a favor,
Which worried me, but I said I would.
He says He opens His house once a week,
Hoping friends and strangers will gather to meet.
All He wants is a Greeter or two,
So I said, "yes" – how about you?

Author Unknown †

"In a world where people are looking everywhere for signs of God, where have you found God? What have you done about it? And who will you tell?"

—Robert Gorrell

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Ways you may help as God's steward.

Beneva Christian Church will join our brotherhood with the Week of Compassion offering. Our money, when added to the monies of other cooperating churches, make a real difference. WOC with CWS are usually first responders. We will be aiding the innocent people caught up in the current Israeli/Hamas battle. As of this writing, it has not been possible to bring in humanitarian aid. We will offer you a chance to give WOC monies on Feb. 15th and 22nd. Because of natural disasters and wars, money may be earmarked at any time.

Crop Walk Sarasota will be on March 8th. Our church will be joining other churches in Sarasota for a 5 mile and 1 mile walk. We will be collecting money for Church World Service, our local food bank, and our food pantry. It would be great to collect \$500 of food for Beneva that we wouldn't have to buy. Take advantage of the "Buy one- Get one free deals". Jackie Hazen will suggest what she could use. One item she suggested was toilet paper. Maybe older adults could 'sponsor' a younger Chi Rho-er or CYF-er to walk for them? 25% of all monies collected will go to our All Faiths Food Bank. All the food we collect will stay here in our church. Did you know our sister church, First Christian, will be in Crop Walk? I'd like to show them a big crowd from Beneva. You only need to walk as far as you feel able-1/4 mile, 1/2 mile, etc.

To be announced is the Walk on the Beach for the Cleveland Christian Home.

Dave Harlow and your Outreach team ☩

Volunteer

Watching President Obama's speech on Inauguration Day, he brought up the subject of volunteering. I thought what he said was excellent. You know, I know the perfect place to volunteer-Beneva CCDOC. Have you ever considered what all of us pulling the yoke could do? Why not bring someone to church? Why not support our outreach helps, locally and nationally why not be involved? The church will be better and so will you. Find your niche and Volunteer!

Dave Harlow ☩

Interested in a home visit with Pastor Bobby, or a cup of coffee at the church? Please contact him at **400-7349** (cell) or the church at **924-8713** to arrange a convenient date and time. ☩

Joshua's Men

February 2nd — 7:00 pm

A continued Happy New Year with God's richest blessings for you and your families.

ALL men are invited to the monthly gathering of Joshua's Men. We will meet on Monday, February 2, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM for fellowship with our brothers in Christ, Prayer and praise songs. During this meeting we will continue our training helping each of those who attend to be a "Man of His Word" in all aspects of his life, specifically with regard to his relationship with his wife. Also place March 2, 2009 on your calendars from 7:00 to 8:00 PM for the next Joshua's Men meeting.

Please join us and add your unique perspective to the growth of God's men in service to Him and to bring Him Glory through our actions. Please don't forget to invite at least two friends to join us. That way there is a 50% probability that at least one will come.

We will also be discussing two of the events that are planned in February and March/April. We need to assess our commitment to accomplish the things that are to take place and pray for God's wisdom, blessings and encouragement.

Finally please join us as we lift up our hearts in prayer for a new administration in our nation. We should hope that, in God's incredible wisdom, we will have the unique capability to once again openly put our trust in God from whom all blessings flow.

For more information or questions please contact Steve Dziadik at 941-228-8605. ☩

Recycling Fundraiser

Do you have old cell phones sitting around your house? Bring them to church! In an effort to raise much-needed funds for our church, as well as do our environment a favor, we are conducting a drive for used electronic items. Through this program, we send out the items so they can be recycled in the proper way, and our church receives a bit of money for each item sent. If you have: Cell phones, Digital cameras, iPods, Laptops, or used Ink Jet cartridges, we want them! No accessories please, and if an item is broken we still receive money. Ask your friends, neighbors, and even local businesses for items to be recycled. We can all make a difference in the life of our church and our environment through this exciting drive! ☩

Revolve Tour

February 6-7 - Orlando

The Revolve Tour is geared toward middle and high school girls. The All Access tour focuses on letting our girls know that God is available to them. Other topics for the weekend are dealing with guys, relationships with others, self-esteem etc. This is done through speakers, drama and music. We have invited other churches to join us -see Ms. Corry (915-3206) for more info. †

Sunday Morning Youth Programs

By Patricia Poquette, Christian Education

Corry O'Carroll will be teaching grades 3rd thru 12th. All others please go to the nursery.

We ask that if you are dropping off your children at the nursery for bible studies, that you please pick them back up after class. The nursery attendants can then have a coffee break before 10:30 services, when the children can return to the nursery.

After the Children's Moment during the 10:30 a.m. service, the children will go to Fellowship Hall where grades 3-5 will go to Worship & Wonder while Grades K-2 will go to the Seekers classroom for bible studies. †

Nursery Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for the nursery during Sunday worship. The nursery is located to the left of the Sanctuary and is for children up to 5 years old. We would like to have enough people volunteer so a person only is out of church services one Sunday every 4-6 weeks. We are not gender biased, men are welcome; teenagers are also welcome in addition to an adult. Please contact Patty at 780-2300 or Corry at 915-3206. †

Sunday Bible Classes

By Patricia Poquette, Christian Education

Adult bible studies are led by Pastor Bobby Dickerson, and are held every Sunday between 9 and 10 in the morning in Fellowship Hall before church services at 10:30 am.

Haven't tried a class yet? Come join us and see what we're learning. †

Christian Ed. Dept.

Our children need you! Now is the time to sign-up to serve with Children's Church. The Christian Education committee is in the process of restructuring this ministry and planning a training session. If you would like to share the love of God with our children please contact Betty Freant (918-1626) †

Cornerstone

Sunday School Class: Sundays—9:00 am

This class helps us to read and understand basic biblical passages. It is a catalyst for our devotional lives and gives us an opportunity for fellowship with other disciples. This group is designed for all adults — any age. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Bobby at the church. The nursery will be provided during this class. We hope to see you at Cornerstone each Sunday. †

Martha Circle

The Martha Circle will meet on Monday, February 2nd, at the home of Mary Caress. Plan to be there by 7:15. See you there! †

Christian Symbols



Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei is a Latin term meaning Lamb of God. It represents the risen Christ who triumphs over death. In John 1:29, John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The lamb carries a white resurrection banner with a cross of red. The banner, representing the body of Christ, is attached to a cruciform staff, representing the cross on which Christ died.

Bifocal Bunch News

There will be a Super Bowl Party on February 1st at 5:00pm at the home of Jerry and Mary Caress, 4175 Escondito Circle, in Prestancia. Please try to carpool. Bring finger foods, snacks, or desserts. Please let Mary know what you're bringing, Jerry needs to notify the guard at the gate of all guests.

There will be a Bifocal Bunch Breakfast at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 12th, at First Watch. Please RSVP to Shirley.

The Bifocal Bunch will go to Myakka Park during the last week of February for a picnic and Safari Tour boat ride. Possibly on Tuesday, Feb. 24 or Thursday, Feb. 26. Cost of the boat ride is \$12. More details on this later. †

Choir Fest

2009 Choir Fest- March 1, 7:00 P.M. at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church. This one hour concert is a wonderful experience for the audience and the singers. Our choir is participating in this event. Please come and show your support for the Beneva choir. †

Beckham's Fundraiser

Don't forget about a great opportunity that awaits you at BECKHAM'S restaurant, located at 1272 S. Tamiami Trail in Osprey, (South Bay Plaza). They will send Beneva Christian Church a check for 15% of your bill for any Sunday noon meal. Simply enjoy a great lunch at BECKHAM'S after church on any Sunday, give your server the name and address of our church, and they will mail the church a check! Their food is delicious and served in generous portions, and the professional yet comfortable atmosphere of Beckham's will have you rushing back for more. We received a very heartfelt 'Thank You' letter from Beckham's for participating in their Brunch Cashback program, as it has helped them get through the financial slumps. They look forward to welcoming us to brunch throughout 2009, and I hope that everyone makes a trip (or two or three) to Beckham's! Take your friends and family along. Enjoy a great meal, great fellowship, and help support our church!!! †

Food Pantry

By Jackie Hazen

First and foremost, a big THANK YOU to all of those who have helped to keep this very needed program alive. As you all know, by the end of November our funds were near depletion and our pantry shelves were bare, thus we had to cut back to serving only 15 families a week. Now we are in full swing, our shelves are being kept replenished and the funds are returning to the black. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Please keep it coming as there is such a need in our community. There are a lot of folks out there who are in need of a lot of help. Our Food Pantry is a much needed service in our community and very welcomed by all of those who come through the door. Please keep all of these folks in your thoughts and prayers as many are in ill health, out of work, facing eviction or foreclosure or on the streets.

At the beginning of January, Gail Brodkorb and I met with the folks at First Christian Church to solicit their help in providing food for our pantry. Our meeting was a success! That very day we were handed bags of food that they had been collecting! Thank you to everyone at First Christian Church. We are so grateful to them for their help and contributions.

During the month of February we are asking for the following items: cereal, peanut butter, jelly and tuna fish. These are much needed items which we are unable to obtain from All Faith's Food Bank. Of course we will be grateful for any and all contributions. Please keep it coming!!!

Remember we have designated the first Sunday of the month as FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY! Please bring in a bag of food and drop it in the grocery cart in the Narthex or



leave it on the counter in the kitchen next to the food pantry. Watch for your Publix fliers as they often run "Buy One Get One Free" specials on many of the items we need for our pantry. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Again, thank you to all of you who have contributed to this wonderful ministry. I would especially like to thank all of the youth and volunteers who are there every week helping to put food on these folk's tables. If you would like to help or be a part of this great program, please contact Jackie Hazen at 941-408-4705. †



Beneva Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

2009 General Board Members

Church Officers

Chair: Dale Root
Vice-Chair: Bob Evans
Secretary: Elsie McDonald
Financial Secretary: Sara Metheny
Treasurer: JoAnn Kelly
Historian: Pauline Totten/Jane Oneal

Elders

<u>Expires 2009</u>	<u>Expires 2010</u>	<u>Expires 2011</u>
Olevia Fulkert	Bob Blanton	Glenn Oneal
Greg Fulkert	Shirley Blanton	Jane Oneal
	Bob Evans	Elsie McDonald

Department Chairs

Worship: Pastor Bobby Dickerson
Christian Education: Betty Freant
Stewardship: Duane Wyatt
Church Growth: Duane & Jane Wyatt
Membership: Duane & Jane Wyatt
World Outreach: David Harlow
Property: Larry Hazen
Healthcare Services: Dorthia Rogers / Debbie York
Nurture: Florine Blake

Deacons

<u>Expires 2009</u>	<u>Expires 2010</u>	<u>Expires 2011</u>
Lori Walsh	Cindy McDowell	Marilyn Gerkin
Debbie York	Suzanne Pruse	Kathy Bearden
	Tim Brodkorb	Joe Bearden
	Jan Bogart	
	Dean Hoover	
	Joyce Hoover	
	Nila Valvo	

Staff

Minister: Pastor Bobby Dickerson
Secretary: Caitlin McDowell
Director of Music: Greg Fulkert
Pianist/Organist: Janene Overley
Youth Director: Corry O'Carroll
Custodian: Yves May
Preschool Director: Cindy McDowell
Nursery Attendant:

Alicia Brodkorb

Youth Deacons

Expires 2009

Deanna Root

Trustees

<u>Expires 2009</u>	<u>Expires 2010</u>	<u>Expires 2011</u>
Bob King	Jerry Caress	Frank Metheny

Group Chairs

Elders: Olevia Fulkert
Deacons: Nila Valvo / Kathy Bearden
Trustees: Bob King
Greeters: Ruth Wolf
Acolytes: Kathy Bearden
Christian Women Fellowship:
Christian Men Fellowship:
Bifocal Bunch: Shirley Blanton
Young Couples/Singles:
Technology: Marshall K DuBois
Newsletter: Caitlin McDowell
Web Site: Marshall K DuBois

Committee Chairs

Little Disciples Preschool: Erin Sturm
Memorial: Barbara Clements
Music:
Personnel Committee: Duane Wyatt
Local Benevolence: Jackie Hazen / Gail Brodkorb
30/30 Vision: Elders
Scholarship: JoAnn Kelly / Kathy Bearden
Hostess: Joy Byrd

By-Laws:

Notice

Everyone on this page is requested to attend the General Board meetings.
 All Church Officers, Department Chairs, Staff, Committee Chairs and Group Chairs are requested to attend the Cabinet meetings.

Details From Dale

Gosh it is hard to believe that another year has gone by. I am not a person who prefers to look back rather than to learn or reflect. But if you will indulge me for a moment...

I would like to start off with a huge 'THANK YOU' to Olevia for all she has done over the past two years for this church. Anyone that knew the situation of the church would have probably run the other way when presented with the challenges that were facing us - but not Olevia. With her love for this church we call Beneva, and her faith as her motivation, she said 'yes'. What a great job she has done while being chair of the board. Her dedication of long hard hours, unselfish sacrifices, creative ideas, conscious thought to everyone's feelings, and her genuine 'I care' attitude etc.....

It is summed up best, "good job faithful servant"... Thanks again, Olevia!!!!!!

Now I get the chance to attempt to keep the ball rolling (or stay in front just enough not to get run over). Most of you know me from my many years here at Beneva. You have become part of my family. Been there for the good times and some of the not so good in my personal life. Been there to laugh with me and even cry a little. You have all helped me raise my many children some who have come to stay and some who touched us as they were passing through. I must say a 'Thank You' for everyone being very patient and understanding. I also want to say 'Thank You' to all of you who accepted my mom in to this church in her final days. Well, enough of the emotional stuff, we have work to do....

I would now like to let you know some key things as we get started. As much as we sometimes do not like to admit it, the church has some very similar elements to running a successful business. Yes, I know it has some big differences too. I hope to bring some ideas that have worked for me over the years in my day job as a manager to the business aspect of the church to help it run smoothly as well.

Some are as follows:

1. **COMMUNICATION:** You can never have too much of it, but it needs to be clear and precise. Everyone must have the same information. Communication must be an open line for every member of the church. We can not have any secrets. There is a time for confidentiality due to the nature of certain issues, but this is the exception and not the rule.

2. **RUMORS:** Mostly form from the lack of communication. Rumors can spread quickly and tear down any organization from the inside out. I will be honest when I say I have low tolerance for rumors. I understand that whenever a wide diverse group with different personalities is brought together, halting certain comments is almost impossible. But if I hear of any comments that I feel negatively affect the church I will address them swiftly.

3. **QUESTIONS:** There are no stupid questions. I encourage you to ask me questions. I do not have all the answers. Sometimes the answer may not be what you want to hear but I will always be truthful.

4. **RESPECT:** Everyone deserves it. This has to be one of the fundamental principles that we use together. There must be respect when things are positive or negative, whether the opinion is with the majority or by itself. We can never let the situation lower our level of respect for each other.

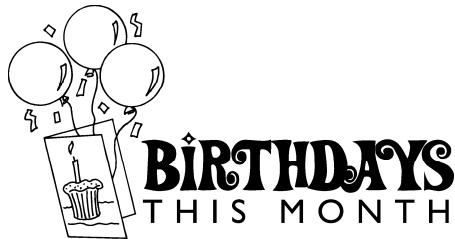
5. **MEETINGS:** I know they are part of doing some of the work of the church. There needs to be guidelines. Meetings need to start on time, have an agenda and a planned ending time. Social time can happen before a meeting or after but during we need to stay focused on the reason we are having the meeting.

6. **ATTITUDE:** Is the glass half empty or half full? This is a huge principle on whether we will be a success or a failure. It is easy to live in the land of negatives, it can sometimes even become a way of life. Attitude is everything, and I choose to have a positive attitude. By no means does this imply we overlook the negatives, we just choose not to let them dictate the way we do business. This positive attitude has to start at the top and work its way all the way down. If the leadership is full of doom and gloom so will the membership be. I or WE set the example, and actions speak louder than words.

Well enough for now. We will talk more in future editions.

I would like to end with a broad 'Thank You' to everyone for what you do in your unique way to help Beneva and for entrusting me to be Chair of the Board.

Dale Root †



- Feb 01 Karen Johnson
- Feb 01 Jerry Dennis
- Feb 01 Maryann Dziadik
- Feb 04 Forest Fahrbach
- Feb 04 Alice Stump
- Feb 04 Lori Minor
- Feb 05 Bob King
- Feb 07 Mark Apsey
- Feb 11 Roberta Bragg
- Feb 11 Travis Creech
- Feb 13 JoAnne Humbert
- Feb 13 Thomas Byrd
- Feb 14 Doug Fruehwald
- Feb 15 Suzie Davis
- Feb 16 Tim McGee
- Feb 17 Gary Weil
- Feb 19 Hattie Coulter
- Feb 21 Maxine Conn
- Feb 21 Mike Abbot
- Feb 21 Lisa Morrison
- Feb 22 Julie Howell
- Feb 23 Charlie Gerkin
- Feb 23 Garland Poquette
- Feb 24 Marcy Griffin
- Feb 24 Raymona Owens
- Feb 25 Rob Gerkin
- Feb 26 Matthew Root
- Feb 28 Amy Abbot

If we have dates that are not correct, or if we don't have your special days listed, please notify the church office. ☩



- Feb 01 Troy & Debbie York
- Feb 05 Michael & Sibyl Keller
- Feb 09 Gil & Sue St. Louis
- Feb 09 Bill & Julie Howell
- Feb 14 Dean & Janet Gray

December Financial Update

By Duane Wyatt, Stewardship Chair

	<u>December 2008</u>		<u>December 2008</u>	
			<u>YTD</u>	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$29,969	\$42,583	\$198,551	\$196,307
Expenses	21,403	22,492	232,078	233,132
Gain(Loss)	8,566	20,091	(33,527)	(46,825)
Checking Bal.			\$15,595	

Income for December was down by \$11,000, because \$15,000 in special gifts had been received last summer. Expenses \$1,000 under forecast combined with the \$11,000 shortfall in income meant that our estimated gain of \$20,000 dropped to approximately \$8,000. On a YTD basis our results for 2008 were very good - income was \$2,000 over budget and expenses were \$1,000 under budget. Christmas tree combined with the Bazaar made almost \$11,000 which was really a big help - which could not have happened without Rea Davies and her ROTC friends! We did not pay our 2008 Property Taxes until Jan. mainly because our total cash position improved greatly at the end of December.



Our first look at 2009 financial position looks like this; we begin the year \$50,000 in debt, the Little Disciples flood will cost probably over \$30,000 and our best estimate for the 2009 budget is a loss of \$15,000. This is not a pretty picture, but the Stewardship Committee is looking into ways of dealing with the cash shortfall. You will hear more about this in February.

Thanks for all of your support in 2008! ☩

Little Disciples Preschool

By Cindy McDowell, Director

January was a terrific month for us. We returned from holiday recess ready for lots of fun together. Back in September, each Teacher held a Parent Meeting in their classroom to provide an opportunity to discuss classroom rules, goals, the use of our student evaluations, and to participate in a Question/Answer time together. Parents also received a copy of the current student evaluation form we use. During the last two weeks of January each year we hold our Parent/Teacher Conferences and in addition to the student evaluations, our Parents are also able to see their child's active Portfolio which is rich with art, skill level activities, dictation and many photos.

I hope for 100% attendance and 100% agreement that everyone is having a great year!

WE LOVE February here at preschool and this month we will have some very busy days.

On February 10th and 11th, our photographer will be here taking class and graduate pictures. What fun it will be sharing Valentine's with our classmates on February 12th & 13th. Our Hearing will be tested by the NCJW (Nat'l Council of Jewish Women provides this and other services free to our preschoolers) on the 18th & 19th. Chapel Moments will be held on the 19th and 20th and on February 20th we will also enjoy our morning with alumni staff member, Donna Albers, as she shares yoga classes with the children. Busy, busy, busy!!



February also means that Registration for the 2009-2010 school year is just around the corner. On February 17, 2009, current students and their siblings and alumni families will begin registering for Fall 2009. This is also an extremely busy month for us as we spend the days showing Little Disciples Preschool to families who want their children to attend next fall. On March 2, 2009, we will open registration to the public. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please call us soon to set an appointment to visit (note: we offer 10% discount on tuition to our church members). †

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it's what you are expected to give — which is everything."

—Vittorio Alfieri

Teacher's Tidbits by Mrs. Kohut

Can you believe it?! More than half the school year is over. We just had the opportunity to enjoy some wonderful conferences with our parents about their terrific children. Soon we will be showing our "Love" with our Valentine's parties and card exchanges. Then, before you know it, it will be time for graduation and summer vacation! Hope you will miss us as much as we will miss you! †

Prayer Partners

The following people had prayers requested for them during the month of January. Please take a moment for them, and continue to lift them up in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you and God Bless.

- Charles & Bobbie Hartong
- Dean & Joyce Hoover
- George Oberle
- Glenn Oneal
- Jim Huron
- Dottie Weil
- Wanda Benedict
- Bessie Zauner
- Cathy Morris
- Dean & Carole Platt
- Casey Platt
- Sandy Puterbaugh
- Jeff Morrison
- James Horton
- Betty Jensen
- Cathy Connolloy
- Timko Family
- Scott Bouley
- Janice Webster
- Jesse King
- Beneva & LDP Staff
- Ryan Bergeron
- Brad Hall
- Chris Koch
- Teresa Metters
- Heather Martin
- Gene Drewery
- Ralph Evers
- Military overseas & natural disaster victims
- Those struggling to make ends meet

Recently, our country welcomed home two brave soldiers. Greg Freeman returned from Afghanistan, and Joseph Douvillier returned from Iraq. We thank the Lord, and thank you all for your prayers, this is truly a blessing. †

Property Report

By Larry Hazen

Thanks for your confidence in asking me to take this important position. I knew this would be a big undertaking and after writing this note, I now KNOW, and now you know, how big it really is!!!

I have been "Briefed" by Pastor Bobby and Dale, so now we are ready to roll. I have a few names of people that have done things in the past (Pete, Tom, Bob K, Glen Sr., to name a few) and I am ALL EARS for insight from these people as well as anyone else.

"The Plan" is to create "TEAMS" (a family, a group, some friend's, etc.). We need a minimum of 6 TEAMS (obviously, the more TEAMS the better..... hint hint hint.....) These Teams would do 2 months of Basic Property Maintenance: weekly mowing, minor weed whacking and blowing.

"To-Do's": We/I need to create an ongoing list of "To-Do's". They will be posted in an appropriate place (TBD). Please submit your "To-Do's" to me via 1) a note in mailbox at the church, or 2) (preferred choice) send me an e-mail (larry@larryhazen.com, FYI: I will take calls but sometimes I'm not somewhere I can write down the suggestion(s), or 3) send a note to the church with "To-Do" in the bottom left corner of the envelope.

BTW: If you are "particularly handy" with certain hobbies/chores/whatever and would like to volunteer to help with those chores PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE let me know.

Another part of "The Plan" is a monthly, Sat-a-Workday. ANYONE is invited to participate here. These would be 3 hours ONLY. I will post what items we are looking to get/be done during that workday. These will be scheduled in a mid month period. The object of the Sat-a-Workday would be to get as many of the "To-Do's" done as possible, in the 3 allotted hours. NOTE: Whatever we do not get done will be on the list for next month, or the next, or the next.....

Equipment Requests: If you have, or know someone that has, any of the following items please let me know.

- Gas edge trimmers—electric is ok but we don't always have extension cards long enough.
- Weed Whackers—I don't think we can get too many of these (they cut grass almost as quickly as the lawn mowers....) Plus we have a few fairly steep banks that need attention and the lawn mowers would be best staying away.

- Gas Blowers ~ again the more the merrier. These are very safe pieces of equipment to use for younger volunteers.
- Mower deck for existing John Deere

I am not sure of other pieces of equipment already at the church but... safety glasses, trimmers, clippers, shovels, rakes and misc. hand tools could be used.

Well that's it, that's enough right????!! So please let us get this process/project rolling. I am looking at Saturday February 14 or 21 to set Sat-a-workday. Please provide me your input for the To-Do's and which Saturday (14th or 21st).

Larry Hazen / 941.504.9050 / Larry@LarryHazen.com †

We hope you can join us on Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm in our Sanctuary for our special Ash Wednesday Service. Look for details of our Lenten Season schedule in next month's Newsletter. †



Cartridge World Fundraiser

Keith and Debra Harrison, owners of CARTRIDGE WORLD, 3472 Clark Road, have offered their cartridge recycling program to Beneva Christian Church. Place your empty cartridges in the recycling basket in the Narthex. We will take them to CARTRIDGE WORLD and they will quarterly reimburse Beneva Christian Church \$2 for usable name brand cartridges with print heads, \$1 for HP Brand usable cartridges without print heads, \$.50 for all other name brand usable cartridges without print heads. They will also send us \$3 for usable black and color laser toner cartridges.

Let's recycle and help support our church in the process! †

Growing More As We Enter 2009

Jane Wyatt, Growth Chairman

What a nice present we received in January as David and Boots Hill joined our church as associate members. They add their strong commitment to Christ and their love of people to our friendly church family and are already very active in their involvement. Their address is 3413 Tanglewood Dr., Sarasota, 34239 and they may be reached at 923-5553. Summers for the couple are spent in the beautiful state of North Carolina, their native state.



It is so nice to look out from the choir at our growing church family. You're a handsome crowd!! †

Pastor's Class

If you or a loved one is interested in being baptized this season, then it's time to sign up for our Pastor's Class! Led by Pastor Bobby, this class will guide you and equip you with everything you need to be prepared for the amazing adventure you're embarking on. The deadline to sign up is February 15th. The class culminates with a Baptismal Ceremony on Easter Sunday. †

Senior's Retreat

Are you old enough to belong to AARP? Remember you only have to be 50! If you fit this group, than you can attend the Senior Retreat of the Florida Christian Church. The retreat will be held at the Christian Church Conference Center in Silver Springs. The theme this year is "STEPPING UP TO GOD'S CHALLENGE". The Keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Todd Adams Associate General Minister and Vice President Christian Church [Disciples of Christ]. Our Bible study leader will be Rev. Day Broers-Case. She is the pastor at the Brandon CCDOC. The retreat is from March 17th- March 19th, 2009. Have you ever been to Silver Springs Park and taken a glass bottom boat ride? Ever visited the Appleton Art Museum? More information is posted on the bulletin board near Pastor Bobby's office. See you there!

Glenn, Jane, Mary, Dave & Pastor Bobby †

Be Thou My Vision

What is your vision for our church? No, really – we want to know!

The core Vision Focus Group has been meeting for a couple of months. A planning inventory for Beneva's Vision has been adapted from one developed by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. The purpose of this survey is to determine the interest, needs and wants of our church. Your completion of this questionnaire will assist us in planning for the future of Beneva. Our objective is to find out where we are now (including the past) and to set attainable goals for the future. The desired outcome is to establish a VISION of where we are going and to ultimately produce a MISSION STATEMENT with intent and direction.

Someone from the Vision Committee should be contacting you soon. They will ask to meet with you for an interview. This should take approximately 45 minutes to one hour. After the interview is complete they will leave a copy of the survey for you to complete. The survey is to be completed within a week and returned to the interviewer. You will not put your name or identity on the survey and are free to add additional comments if you would like to do so. We hope to have the surveys reviewed and an analysis by March or April.

The core group has read James Harnish's book "You Only Have to Die" to assist and inspire in this vision process. In his book, Jim asks, "What difference would it make in your community if your congregation ceased to exist? Who would miss it? What would they miss? Why would they miss it?" Later on he asks, "Is your congregation asking "What must we do to survive" or "What must we do to align ourselves with God's redemptive purpose for the world?" "Is your life of prayer focused on meeting the survival needs of your congregation or on meeting the larger needs of a bruised, broken and spiritually hungry world?"

If you do not hear from a member of the Vision Focus Group soon, please contact the church office and we will see that you receive a copy of the survey. Your input is important to the growth and vision for Beneva. We look forward to hearing from you. †

"He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare; and he who has one enemy will meet him everywhere."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

HEARTS in the morning

Start your morning with heart. Enjoy this special breakfast with someone you love!

What you need:

- Your favorite pancake recipe and syrup
- Pan or griddle
- Cooking spray
- Liquid measuring cup
- One 5-inch heart-shaped metal cookie cutter
- Wooden clothespin
- Spatula
- Adult help

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, follow your recipe to make your favorite pancakes.
2. Spray cooking spray onto your pan or griddle.
3. Pour pancake batter into a liquid measuring cup. (This helps with pouring individual pancakes.)
4. Place the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle. Then clip the wooden clothespin onto the cookie cutter to act as a handle.
5. Pour batter (about 3-4 Tablespoons) into the cookie cutter.
6. Cook until the top is bubbly and the pancake is dry around the edges.
7. When the heart is ready to flip, use the clothespin to lift and remove the cookie cutter.
8. Turn the pancake with the spatula and cook until golden on both sides. Enjoy with your favorite syrup or fruit.

OUR HEARTS

This special Bible verse from the NIV describes what God wants us to do with our hearts.

1. Start with the center heart marked with * and write its word on the blank.

2. Then follow the arrows underneath each blank to find the remaining words.

“Trust _____, _____, _____, _____, _____; _____, _____, _____, _____, _____; _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.”

Answer: “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

Elder Serving Schedule for February 2009

February 1

- C Elsie McDonald
- O Olevia Fulkert

February 8

- C Bob Blanton
- O Shirley Blanton

February 15

- C Jane Oneal
- O Glenn Oneal

February 22

- C Greg Fulkert
- O Elsie McDonald

C = Communion; O = Offering

Deacon Serving Schedule for February 2009

Elements Preparation for February — Suzanne Pruse & Cindy McDowell

February 1

- 1 Suzanne Pruse C/B
- 2 Alicia Brodkorb
- 3 Debbie York B
- 4 Marilyn Gerkin

February 8

- 1 Tim Brodkorb C
- 2 Alicia Brodkorb B
- 3 Dean Hoover
- 4 Joyce Hoover B

February 15

- 1 Nila Valvo C/B
- 2 Kathy Bearden
- 3 Cindy McDowell B
- 4 Joe Bearden

February 22

- 1 Deanna Root C/B
- 2 Jan Bogart B
- 3 Dean Hoover
- 4 Joyce Hoover

B= Bulletins: Arrive at 9:45 am to hand out bulletins.

C=Captain: Arrive at 10:10 am to check that the communion table is complete and all Deacons are accounted for.

U=Usher stays in the back and seats the late people and handles the microphone or announcements and prayer requests.

If you are unable to serve on scheduled date — Please arrange to have someone cover for you on that date.

All Deacons serving on their Sunday are to make sure all bulletins, cups and papers are picked up from the pews.

Communion Cups — fill grape juice to line right before it starts to curve — IF MUCH POUR SOME OUT.
Communion Preparation — Give to Organist (on wooden shelf), Worship & Wonder (in Fellowship Hall) and Nursery.

If you have any questions call Amy Abbot (Deacon Chair) at 922-1089.

Please Remember our Homebound

Ruth Martin

1343 Lucaya Ave
Venice, FL 34285

Thelma McKahan

22 Horton Cir
Sarasota, FL 34232

Wilma Kauffuss

3270 Lake Pointe Blvd
Room 125
Sarasota, FL 34231



Please remember those who are sick and our “shut-ins”. Drop a card or note to those who are unable to attend our weekly services and let them know they are missed. Please remember Donna Shrimplin, Leanne Dickerson, Iris DuBois, Charles & Bobbie Hartong, Leon & Edith Davidowski, Mary Yarman, and any others who may appear on our prayer list. Take a moment and make someone’s day, it’s always good medicine for the soul to be reminded how special we are to those we care about. †

Blood Pressure Check

Healthcare Services

Our Blood Pressure service will take place in the CYF room on February 1st at 11:30 am (after church). Please come if you are concerned about your health. †



If you would like to be added to our e-mail prayer chain please send your request via email to:
churchoffice@lifeatbeneva.org

www.lifeatbeneva.org

In addition to our sermons now online we also have the following features:

- Weekly Sermons to listen to and save
- Prayer Requests
- Elder and Deacon Schedules
- Good News newsletter in downloadable format
- Slideshows of church events
- Links of interest to Disciple websites
- Church event calendar and weekly schedule
- Contact information and more

Church Office

Phone: 924-8713
Pastor: 400-7349

The office hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Dr. Bobby Dickerson

b.dickerson@lifeatbeneva.org

Church secretary: Caitlin McDowell

bccoffice2@verizon.net

Director of Music: Greg Fulkert

Youth Director: Corry O’Carroll

Director of Little Disciples Preschool: Cindy McDowell

Pianist/Organist: Janene Overley

Custodian: Yves May

Nursery Attendant—

Chair of the Board: Dale Root

Treasurer: JoAnn Kelly

treasurer@lifeatbeneva.org

Financial Secretary: Sara Metheny

financial@lifeatbeneva.org

Church Website — <http://www.lifeatbeneva.org>

March Good News

Deadline for articles sent to the church is the week of February 19th.

Articles may be sent directly to Caitlin McDowell at
bccoffice2@verizon.net †

Good News Printed By

Creative Technology of Sarasota, Inc.
5959 Palmer Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34232
(941) 371-2743

Email: bob@ctimls.com

“Our economy, peace and lives depend upon a healthy sustainable environment. If we are out of sync with creation, we are out of sync with the Creator.”

—Doug Bland

The Life of Beneva in February 2009

<u>February 1, 2009</u>	<i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>	<u>Sunday</u>
Adult & Youth Bible Study—Fellowship Hall		9:00 am
Traditional Worship Service		10:30 am
Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall		10:45 am
Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall		4:30 pm
Bifocal Super Bowl Party—Caress'		5:00 pm
<u>February 2, 2009</u>		<u>Monday</u>
Joshua's Men—Fellowship Hall		7:00 pm
Martha Circle—Caress Home		7:15 pm
<u>February 3, 2009</u>		<u>Tuesday</u>
Elders Meeting—Fellowship Hall		7:00 pm
<u>February 4, 2009</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>
Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary		7:00 pm
<u>February 5, 2009</u>		<u>Thursday</u>
Community Bible Study—F.H. and Sanctuary		7-8:30 pm
<u>February 6, 2009</u>		<u>Friday</u>
Food Pantry Open		3:00-5:00 pm
Revolve Tour for Youth—Orlando		4:00 pm
<u>February 7, 2009</u>		<u>Saturday</u>
Youth returns from Revolve Tour		7:00 pm
<u>February 8, 2009</u>		<u>Sunday</u>
Adult & Youth Bible Study—Fellowship Hall		9:00 am
Traditional Worship Service		10:30 am
Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall		10:45 am
Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall		4:30 pm
<u>February 10, 2009</u>		<u>Tuesday</u>
Cabinet Meeting—Fellowship Hall		7:00 pm
<u>February 11, 2009</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>
Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary		7:00 pm
<u>February 12, 2009</u>		<u>Thursday</u>
Bifocal Bunch Breakfast—First Watch		9:00 am
Christian Ed. Meeting—Fellowship Hall		7:00 pm
Community Bible Study—F.H. & Sanctuary		7-8:30 pm
<u>February 13, 2009</u>		<u>Friday</u>
Food Pantry Open		3:00—5:00 pm
<u>February 14, 2009</u>	<i>Valentine's Day</i>	<u>Saturday</u>

<u>February 15, 2009</u>	<i>Week of Compassion</i>	<u>Sunday</u>
Adult & Youth Bible Study—Fellowship Hall		9:00 am
Traditional Worship Service		10:30 am
Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall		10:45 am
Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall		4:30 pm
<u>February 16, 2009</u>	<i>President's Day</i>	<u>Monday</u>
<u>February 18, 2009</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>
Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary		7:00 pm
<u>February 19, 2009</u>		<u>Thursday</u>
LDP Chapel Moments—Sanctuary		11:30 am
Community Bible Study—F.H. & Sanctuary		7-8:30 pm
<u>February 20, 2009</u>		<u>Friday</u>
LDP Chapel Moments—Sanctuary		11:30 am
Food Pantry Open		3:00—5:00 pm
<u>February 22, 2009</u>		<u>Sunday</u>
(Deadline to sign up for Pastor's Class)		
Adult & Youth Bible Study—Fellowship Hall		9:00 am
Traditional Worship Service		10:30 am
Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall		10:45 am
Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall		4:30 pm
<u>February 25, 2009</u>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Ash Wednesday Service		7:00 pm
<u>February 26, 2009</u>		<u>Thursday</u>
Community Bible Study—F.H. & Sanctuary		7-8:30 pm
<u>February 27, 2009</u>		<u>Friday</u>
Food Pantry Open		3:00—5:00 pm

February 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

What Do Disciples Believe?

Like most Christians, Disciples affirm:

- ♦ Jesus Christ is the son of the Living God, and offers saving grace to all.
- ♦ All persons are God's children.

Beliefs and practices usually associated with Disciples include:

- ♦ *Open Communion.* The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all believers.
- ♦ *Diversity of opinion.* Each person is free to determine individual belief guided by the Bible, the Holy Spirit, study and prayer.
- ♦ *Baptism by immersion.* In baptism the old self-centered life is set aside, and a new life of trust in God is made possible. Although Disciples generally practice baptism by immersion, they honor other baptism traditions as well.
- ♦ *Importance of church unity.* All Christians should cooperate in ministry wherever possible, affirming each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- ♦ *The ministry of all believers.* Both ministers and lay persons lead worship, direct service opportunities and nurture spiritual growth.
- ♦ *Freedom of belief.* Disciples are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. †



The chalice symbolizes the central place of communion in worship for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The X-shaped cross of the disciple Andrew is a reminder of the ministry of each person and the importance of evangelism.

Discover . . . Spiritual growth

Every Disciples congregation meets weekly to worship God. In the warmth of God's presence and with the support of others, we grow in our understanding of God in ways that make a difference in our everyday lives.

Through worship that is both contemporary and traditional, we discover the joy of trusting and following Jesus.

Around the communion table, we acknowledge Christ's presence and remember the meal He shared with His followers. All believers are welcome at the Lord's table.

Whether you are a longtime follower of Jesus Christ, or curious about Christianity, the Christian Church can help you explore Christianity and learn about Christ. †



Sunday Schedule

Adult & Youth Bible Study Class	9:00-10:00 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:30 am
Faith Seekers—Nursery	10:30 am
Worship & Wonder	After Children's Sermon
Youth Groups	4:30 pm



THE GOOD NEWS February 2009

BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
4835 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34233-2110

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