



BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

THE GOOD NEWS

Interim Minister: Jim Moxley

June 2005

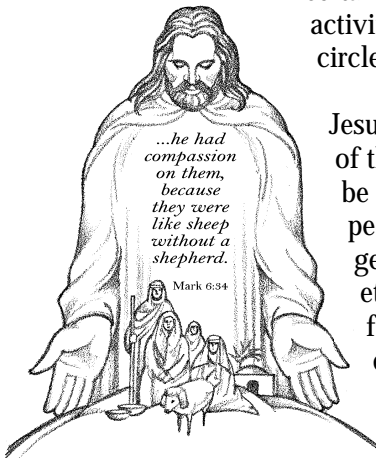
Volume 35, Issue 6

Where Are You Going?

By Jim Moxley, Interim Minister

The majority of people in this country go somewhere during the summer months. Where are you going? You probably planned the trip for several months. If you didn't make any plans until the day you left and you had no idea where you would be going, any road would take you there. However, I don't personally know of anyone who would leave on such a trip without any idea of where he or she would be going.

I do know of quite a few churches that don't know where they are going this summer, next year or even this fall. They are just keeping on keeping on with where they are. Could that describe Beneva Christian Church? Many churches keep on providing worship services at regular times and have done so for the last one hundred years. Some churches have been doing bingo every Saturday for many years and plan to keep on doing that. Church calendars are typically set up so that on the first Monday "group one" will do their thing, and on the second Tuesday a certain board will meet and on and on. Does that activity simply continue moving (perhaps in a circle) with no sense of direction?



Jesus told people that God is calling the people of this world to judgment and their lives must be invested purposefully. He invited a lot of people to follow him. He could not promise a geographical destination but he promised an eternal destination. Jesus challenged his followers to go into all the world and make disciples. Keeping on keeping on in our church buildings each Sunday is NOT exactly the same thing as going into the world to make disciples. Jesus had no

church building, nor center where people came to Him. He went to them wherever they lived.

At the Elder Retreat a few additional church leaders were invited to help consider the future of Beneva Christian. We reviewed the 30/30 Vision and saw that significant progress has been made in the last 4 years on the 30-year plan but we are capable of doing more. We looked at long range planning where people set targets for years ahead as opposed to strategic planning when people set long range goals and a strategic plan on how to get there and achieve those goals. We looked beyond these to

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The
LORD
is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

Psalms 23:1

Where Are You Going?

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“visioning” which looks at what is the core of our ministry and how that can lead us to fulfill the inner vision of Beneva Christian Church.

What things were identified in the group on that day as being our core qualities; that which defines Beneva Christian; that which is the heart of what we are and what we are doing; that which points our direction as a church to where we are going and what we are becoming, then becoming our vision? Four qualities identified that day were: (1) friendly, (2) accepting, (3) caring and (4) outreaching. These seem to me to describe Beneva. What do you think? The dialogue on what makes Beneva “Beneva” will continue. We have just begun. Would you agree that all these are vital or what would you add or redefine? How do we see Jesus Christ revealed in these values and activities?

I want to start the dialogue. Making decisions on what kind of church we are and how we need to grow will be made at least six months after the new minister arrives and has opportunity to dialogue with you. Beneva Christian has a lot of Christian spirit, a lot of energy, a lot of commitment and is a very, very active church but are we burning energy that does not take us in our eternal direction? Are we burning valuable time that also does not lead us to becoming what Jesus wants Beneva Christian to be for this community? What can we do better? What should we be doing in 2005 or the next 5 years or the next thirty years to move towards the vision God calls us to fulfill? You will make the decisions purposefully or by default but they will be done by you after I am gone. I pray for you and the guidance you can discover in Jesus Christ. In the meantime I hope to be able to open your eyes wider to Jesus Christ and the vision Jesus has for Beneva Christian. I have asked the Elders in particular to share their faith and vision in every group, committee or department where they serve. Let us choose a faithful direction and embark on that journey for our Lord Jesus. †

A Father's Example

I watched a small man with thick calluses on both hands work fifteen and sixteen hours a day. I saw him once literally bleed from the bottoms of his feet, a man who came here uneducated, alone, unable to speak the language, who taught me all I needed to know about faith and hard work by the simple eloquence of his example.

—Mario Cuomo

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4835 Beneva Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233-2110.

Relay For Life

By Pete, Lynn, Rea, Hazel and Michaela

All of us would like to thank those that gave of their time, money, ideas, inspiration (and coffee and doughnuts) and many other talents in setting up, running and disassembling our Hawaiian ‘Tiki’ themed hut for our campsite at the “Relay for Life” walk at Siesta Beach over the evening of April 29/30.

Special thanks must go to Tom, Q, and the baby Byrds as without their trailer hitch and help none of the prop’s would have arrived or been taken away.

There were many, many compliments given by judges and participants about the behavior and conduct of the children, and we’d like to add our support, encouragement and thanks to them all. Numerous people expressed happiness at the joy the children brought to the event.

To those who were not able to help, I’d like to say that you missed a worthwhile and fun event.

Hope to see you all there next year. †

Jesus, The Good Shepherd

One of the figures of speech that Jesus applied to himself was that of a shepherd. He said “I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep.....I know my sheep and my sheep know me” (John 10:11-14, NIV).



Note four things about Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He owns the sheep; they belong to Him. Next, He guards the sheep; He never abandons them when danger approaches. Also, He knows the sheep;

He calls them by name and they follow Him. Finally, He lays down his life for the sheep; their salvation is His primary concern. The Bible says, “We are His people and the sheep of His pasture” (Ps. 100:3).

Because we belong to Christ, we can be secure and at rest. †



"Come Along With Jesus"

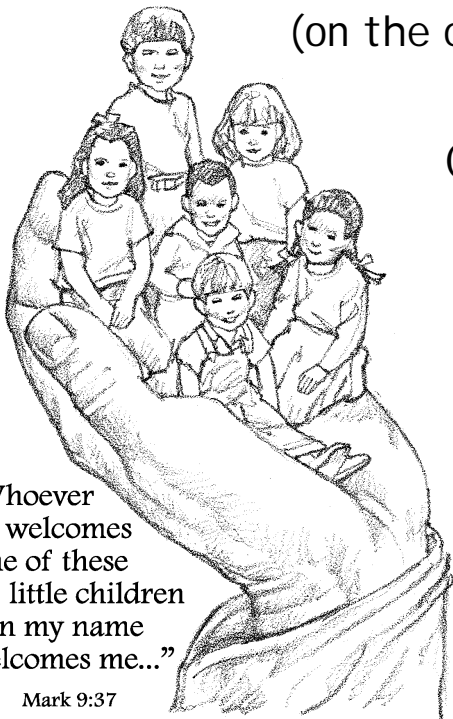
June 12th-17th
6:00 pm—8:30 pm

Beneva Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
4835 Beneva Road
(on the corner of Beneva and Proctor)

Call (941) 924-8713
For
VBS Registration

"Whoever
welcomes
one of these
little children
in my name
welcomes me..."

Mark 9:37



See page 6 for more information.

Hot Shots Update

By Bob & Susan Evans

Hot Shots - The Hot Shots had a fabulous year. We can't believe another year has raced by. The Hot Shots sent out 36 decorated bags filled with school supplies to World Outreach. We don't know who will receive them, but we hope they enjoy them as much as the children enjoyed making them.

Our Relay for Life for American Cancer Society was a great success. The Hot Shots and Chi Rhos participated and we also had a few of our younger and older children. They did a fabulous job singing at the luminary service - thank you, thank you to Sandra Edwards for putting that together for us on such short notice. One of the songs they sang was "You Gotta Have Hope" a most appropriate song for the ceremony. What amazed me was that I think every child there knew someone who had been affected by cancer. We all went to Ryan Hale's luminary, and remembered a tremendous youth from Beneva. Out tent was absolutely awesome. Pete Harris designed our set and was assisted by Tom Byrd in assembling our Hawaiian Hut. It won best campsite for Relay for Life. It had a thatched roof, pineapples, a Hawaiian flag, flowers galore, monkeys and bananas, and even a volcano.

The children passed out Beneva Christian pencils with fish eraser tops during the "fish" lap, talk about good disciples, we were fishing. Those that made crafts went

home with a Beneva Christian pencil with fish eraser, a book about the Disciple church, a God loves you pencil and a coupon for a free ice skating lesson. We also had a "Dude looks like a lady" contest and Garret and QB participated. They were great. Some of the youth participated in a Karaoke event singing YMCA—Jennifer took the lead mike. One young lady came to our Hut and wanted information about the Disciple church — she may join our high school youth group. We also had newsletters at our hut for anyone interested. We had great crafts and a fish toss into Noah's arc. The total as of this writing that the children earned for American Cancer Society was \$2,325. We have been bombarded by requests to do this next year. Please take a moment to look at our poster board filled with pictures of this event. Thanks. Many people came up to us and were impressed that a youth group from church was participating in this event. Hopefully next year we can challenge some other churches and have multiple youth groups participate. It would be great if we could have some of our children make a presentation to other church youth groups regarding this event.

We ended our Relay for Life weekend with a pool party at our home. We had pizza and great fellowship. Lots of splashing and lots of fun. Thanks Hot Shots for a wonderful year. †

Week of Compassion Update

By Glenda Morgan, World Outreach Chair

As we prepare for the upcoming hurricane season here at home, Week of Compassion and Church World Service also makes preparations. See below update from Johnny Wray, Director of Week of Compassion.

"Week of Compassion continues to support hurricane recovery efforts in the aftermath of last season's destruction and is monitoring Church World Service's hurricane preparedness planning now.

WOC continues to work closely with partners to provide major resources for earthquake/tsunami relief and recovery efforts in several impacted southern Asia countries. Earlier this week, WOC provided \$100,000 for a CWS expanded appeal for relief work on hard-hit Nias Island off the western coast of Sumatra. Nias was hit by an 8.7 aftershock on March 28, just 3 months after the December 26 quake and tsunami that killed more than 200,000 people. CWS is providing water and sanitation services to 50,000 people on Nias, along with

non-food item supplies to 15,000; health and nutrition to 3,000; psycho-social care to 2,000; and shelter support to 2000.

In the meanwhile, WOC is working closely with the Global Ministries Southern Asia office to fund major recovery/rehabilitation projects in India and Sri Lanka. Similarly, WOC is working with Church World Service on a major 5-year recovery plan in the Aceh province of Indonesia.

WOC has received numerous e-mails in response to last week's update on Sudan. In addition to the \$20,000 grant WOC has made toward a recently revised appeal for the ongoing tragedy in Darfur, the WOC Committee will be considering additional support at its upcoming spring meeting, June 1-2." †



A Letter From the President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

We received the following letter from the Interim General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) regarding recent troubling events relating to the bankruptcy of National Benevolent Association (NBA) and the shifting of funds withheld from NBA during the bankruptcy proceedings. Disciple Churches receive offerings and have supported NBA homes for decades and the General Board withheld some of those funds during the bankruptcy proceedings when the NBA attorneys opted to sell the care centers created over the last century. Read the explanation since this is all the information we have at the current time other than what you can get online at the websites of NBA and the Disciples.

.....



**Christian
Church**

(Disciples of Christ)

In the United States
and Canada

May 2005

Dear Disciples:

“May grace and peace be yours in abundance!” (I Peter 1 :2b) With this greeting Peter began a letter to exiled Christians of the young church. Some current Disciples

also feel distance from other Disciples as well, so I use these words to begin this letter. Writing as pastor of the wider church, I want to share with you some current information and hopes that emerged from the recent meeting of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This has been a difficult time for Disciples. It is not the first in our history, nor will it be the last, but for many today it is very troubling. The lengthy search for a General Minister and President nominee, the financial stress of Reconciliation Mission, and the events of the National Benevolent Association have all had a part in creating this climate. If it is of any value to you,, I have not been blind to these points of stress. In fact, they have been deeply troubling for me, not only personally, but because they are happening to this church that I love so very much and because I must honestly question my own part in these matters. I want to discuss each of these and also name some points of hope.

In retrospect, though it created some real concern, it is clear that the

search process was effective.

Sometimes we just aren't in synch with God' schedule are we? The Search and Administrative Committees worked diligently and faithfully, but the right time had not come. In a context rich with prayer and a fervent yearning for the Holy Spirit's guidance they and the General Board made decisions in April and I am convinced they were led to them. The nominee, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, senior pastor of Disciples Christian Church of Bartlesville, OK, is a colleague for whom I have great respect. She is smart, wise, visionary, experienced in church matters, an excellent preacher and above all, faithful to God. Sharon loves this church as a General Minister and President must. And if you know Rick Lowery, her husband, you know that she married an equal partner in all of the above. I am excited about her leadership, grateful to God for it, and I pray the General Assembly, compelled by the Spirit, will follow the same direction.

Reconciliation Mission has been in deep financial distress. Most of this was set in motion in 2001 when the Anti-racism Initiative, one of our church's mission goals for the 20/20 Vision, was placed in Reconciliation Mission without adequate financial backing. September 11, 2001 came a few weeks later, and this took the Reconciliation offering down further, as people diverted giving to disaster relief. A Task Force on Reconciliation was formed in 2004, and its report to the Administrative Committee in January, 2005 recommended merging the governance structures of anti-racism

and Reconciliation, for organizational and financial efficiency, and to do the mission more effectively. A section of the Administrative Committee developed a resolution to use up to half of the suspended NBA Disciples Mission Fund allocation for Reconciliation Mission, lest we lose the anti-racism initiative for lack of funding. I advised against the action, as did Eugene Fisher, Minister of Reconciliation. The “general church” didn't “divert” those funds, as has been implied by some. That said, the resolution, while hastily drawn up, was a heartfelt response to a crisis. It passed and it then became necessary to find a way to implement the action.

The General Ministries Allocation Team (made up of congregation pastors and lay persons) recommended to the General Board that up to 50% of the withheld NBA allocation (not to exceed \$336,392) go to Reconciliation Mission this year only, and that any funds given that “exceed those currently anticipated in 2005 and 2006 be placed in the NBA withholding account.” This will erase Reconciliation Mission's deficit and allow that essential work to be funded by the annual offering (which, thanks be to God, was over 7% higher in 2004 than in 2003). And so we can get on with the vital anti-racism initiative to which we are called if we are to be a faithful church in the 21st century.

The **National Benevolent Association** bankruptcy and the sale

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CYF Fireworks Meeting

By Russell & Sandy Robbins

We will have an organizational meeting for the annual CYF fireworks sale on Wednesday, June 8 at 7:00 pm in Disciple Hall. ALL current CYF members, incoming CYF members, and parents are urged to attend. This is our MAJOR fundraiser that will help you earn money to go to camps and/or trips. PLEASE plan to attend. We need everyone's participation to make this a successful event. †

Worship Department

By George & Emily Oberle

You may notice small changes from time to time in our worship services. The Worship Department is designing services that are creative, challenging and stimulating. We hope they are appealing to you. You have a very important role in helping us design these services. Please accept that role and let any member of the department know what you like, what you don't like and offer suggestions for new or traditional aspects of the services.

The Worship Department consists of the following members:

Jim Moxley Minister
Sandra Edwards Director of Music
Fran Hardt Chair Elders
Marilyn Marvin Chair Deacons
Olevia Fulkert Co-Chair Acolytes
Joy Byrd Co-Chair Acolytes
Iris Dubois Chair Choir
Russell Robbins Chair Vision
Ruth Wolf Chair Greeters
Bob & Shirley Blanton Members at large
Glenn & Jane Oneal Members at large
Kathy Bearden Member at large
George & Emily Oberle Co-Chair of Worship Dept.

We would like to acknowledge the fact that several of our young people are assuming leadership roles in our church. Matt Root is our drummer for Vision in Contemporary Services. Tiffany Valvo is a member of the Search and Screen Committee for our new pastor. Alex Byrd is now responsible for keeping our outdoor signs current and updated. There are others making a difference in the lives of our young people. So when you see these young people taking an active role in the ministry of our church, let them know how much you appreciate them.

Thank them and let them know how important they are to each of us here at Beneva. †

The Time Is Here Vacation Bible School

Program Runs From June 12th Through 17th.
6:00 pm — 8:30 pm

Your program directors this year are Corry Pruner (371-1387) and Joy Byrd (378-9037).



They have an exciting program this year. It is titled "Come Along With Jesus" and I am proud to announce the youth will have a very active role in this program. They will be doing everything from script writing, painting, singing, and set designing.

We still need lots of volunteers for VBS. We have some folks who have taken on various assignments, but we need more. We still need singers, set designers, men to carry crosses, and much more. If you are willing to help, please see Joy or Corry as soon as possible.

Instead of an adult class this year we will be using the adults to have fun and help out with the children (just like Jesus).

We also need volunteers to provide cookies and juice drinks for refreshments each night. Contact Melanie Bussiere (377-6835) for donations. †

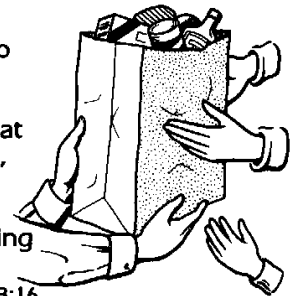
Food Pantry Update

By Mark Johnson

For the month of May we have spent \$92.03 on 737 lbs of food. We fed 41 families approximately 1,949 lbs of food, and appreciation for the help is reflected in the vocal and visible relief from those who receive your gifts. I want everyone to know that their generosity is a mainstay to many needy families in our neighborhood and beyond!

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

—Hebrews 13:16



For grocery donations we need spaghetti noodles, and we could use mushroom soup. Anything you think you'd like to give will be appreciated! †

Letter from President

(Continued from page 5)

of 11 senior living communities has left many people angry and astounded. I am very distressed and more than sorry that so many people have been hurt by what happened, and that the future is less secure for so many. From myself and the whole church, please accept our sorrow and ongoing concern. This may seem callous to some, and very little coming very late after all that has happened, but it is what we offer. It is certainly heartfelt.

As NBA's story has shown, one of our great strengths is also one of our most vulnerable places. We value the authority vested in each individual, congregation, region, educational institution and general ministry to make fundamental decisions for ourselves. We take joy in coming to Christ's table even with all our differences. We cherish the right to differ, and our self-governance rights are legally stated in the official documents of our institutions. We try to live in covenant, with mutual accountability, but when pushed, we often retreat into "autonomy." We do tend to turn on each other if someone appears like they are going to mess in our stuff. Sometimes, sadly, we even seem to shoot our wounded.

The Administrative Committee of the church has given to the current Moderators and General Minister and President, with 2-3 others, the responsibility of examining what happened in the NBA story, and, among other things, to see what the larger church did or didn't do to exacerbate this. This group could not begin until NBA emerged from bankruptcy and will have to serve beyond the Portland General Assembly to do this well. We will report with candor to the Administrative Committee and the church.

Some have raised the question of why the larger church didn't become formally involved until last fall. I expect the above-named group to ask that same question, and to ask it of me, for one. For the record, my answer will be because our polity (from the *Design*, which states our church's governance polity) doesn't allow the church to take action until a general ministry seems to have departed from its mission, and that occurred for me when NBA lost its HUD management role and moved to auction the eleven senior living facilities. That was in November 2004.

Others want to know why NBA went into bankruptcy in the first place. I've heard several answers: that it began in the 1980's when some of the senior living facilities moved to a higher scale of services and more money was required for building and expansion. . .that it began when NBA went to the bond market to cover costs of facilities and became more beholden to the market than to the church. . . that it was foreshadowed when NBA secured counsel whose business is bankruptcy... that the drop in the stock market several years ago, particularly aggravated by September 11, 2001, caused major finances losses for NBA... There is no clear answer and there may never be. What is certain is that, to the extent possible, transparency is needed and at some point we will then need to move on.

You need to know that the new NBA Board of Trustees has begun its work. It is a strong Board, with a number of Disciples, but even more, with people with particular skills needed by that Board who are willing to ask difficult questions and work with the answers. All are committed to the mission of NBA, to care for "the least of these." While NBA's facilities have been

reduced from 95 to 5, it is important to know that those five care directly for children and youth and for mentally and emotionally challenged adults. All desperately need what they receive from devoted and skilled staff persons in the five centers. The new Board and staff are committed to providing this and, over the long run, if NBA continues to be the best way for this care to continue, then it will.

The General Board restored a portion of NBA's Disciples Mission Fund allocation, with instructions that the funds go to the five ministry centers. The General Board would not "receive" the NBA report saying that it was inadequate, and asked NBA for a current narrative and financial report to be distributed by the General Assembly. The General Board heard an apology from the current President, Dennis Hagemann, for the pain and distress NBA's events have caused Disciples. With this comes a desire to see what happened and to begin anew. The task force discussed above will do the former; the new Board will do the latter.

Our life together as church is complicated and was made more so by events in the past 21 months. Having said that, I do not regret responding "Yes" to the call to serve you for this period. I love this church and believe we can be the church God has called us to be and in this belief there is much hope.

Where is this hope? The hope is in 20,000 new Disciples added to our numbers in over 300 new congregations in the past four years; it is in the growing number of congregations committed to transformation to do mission; it is in over half of our regions now having anti-racism teams; it is in the vitality of the church's growing ethnic ministries; it is in the new century

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Happy Hearts Eating-Out Schedule

Breakfast	Wednesday	9:00 am
June 1	Tasty Home Cookin	
June 8	Demarco's	
June 15	Millie's	
June 22	Serving Spoon	
June 29	First Watch	



Lunch	Sunday	12:00 pm
June 5	Olive Garden	
June 12	Longhorn	
June 19	Steak & Ale	
June 26	Marina Jack	

Happy Hearts News

By Hazel Frazier

Our Happy Hearts pot luck dinner was May 12th at 6:00 pm. There were 34 members present. We held a memorial service for forty-one deceased members. As each name was read a blue or white balloon was released.

Our next Happy Hearts pot luck dinner will be June 9th at 6:00 pm in Disciple Hall. †

Bifocal Bunch Events

Let's have lunch after church, Sunday June 26th, at the Olive Garden. Call Jane Wyatt for reservations at 484-0198.

Christmount Week

Interested in a short North Carolina vacation?

Consider this!

Christmount Week - Aug. 1-5, 2005

An annual event for adults interested in deepening their understanding of the Bible--Active worship services with an emphasis on good music and preaching while relaxing in the N.C. Mountains. The pace is laid back with free time each afternoon.

Bible Lecturer, Dr. Fred Craddock
Vespers Speaker, Rev. Linda Whitmore
Music Leaders, Bob & Ida-Anne Clarke

For information:
Christmount
222 Fern Way
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8977
(www.christmount.com) †

Circle News

By Hattie Coulter

I want to thank everyone that helped with Spring Luncheon. The decorations were beautiful. The Fashion show was great, with our own models doing a great job and the men doing a really wonderful job of serving. We were pleased with the caterer. Thanks everyone.

Lydia circle will meet June 7th at The Dutch Heritage for lunch at 11:30 am. Martha and Naomi circles are invited to join us. Please call Hattie Coulter at 364-4320 by June 3rd if you can join us. †

Cleveland Christian Home Walk

By Elsie Hagesfeld

The Cleveland Christian Home wants to let you know that they received the pledges and the fantastic photos from Beneva Christian Church's Walk for Kids. They said that it looks like you all had a great time, and they can't thank you enough!

It's the support of individuals and churches like Beneva CC that make it possible for us to fulfill our mission of helping children and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. Your help is so appreciated. God Bless. †

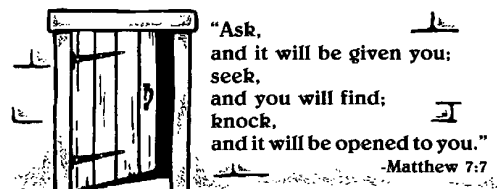
Letter From The President

(Continued from page 7)

for which God still needs us and the truth that God is far from through with the Disciples of Christ; it is in the fresh and faithful leadership we will have as we join to support Sharon Watkins in accepting her call as our next General Minister and President.

We cannot be a fair weather group of folks who sort of like each other some of the time if things are going well. We are the body of Christ, and we are called to be faithful to one another even if we don't always see eye to eye. I pray this is the spirit in which we will go to Portland and far beyond!

Christ's love and peace,
William Chris Hobgood
General Minister and President †



Hurricane Supplies Shopping List

(For Our Florida Readers)

General supplies

- ◆ Full tank of gas
- ◆ Enough cash for a week
- ◆ Battery-operated radio or television, extra batteries
- ◆ Flashlight, batteries, bulbs
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Camp stove Battery or wind-up clock
- ◆ Manual can opener
- ◆ Masking tape
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Warm clothing
- ◆ Rain gear
- ◆ Hand tools (hammer, nails, ax, knife, pliers, handsaw, screwdrivers)
- ◆ Water -- enough to supply 2 quarts per person for three to four days -- and containers
- ◆ Water purification supplies -- household bleach (not scented or fragrance-free) or iodine tablets sold at some sporting goods stores

Food

- ◆ Paper plates, napkins
- ◆ Plastic cups, knives, forks, spoons
- ◆ Beverages (powdered or canned fruit juices, instant coffee or tea) Baby food (if needed)
- ◆ Canned vegetables and fruits Prepared foods (canned spaghetti, tuna, chicken)
- ◆ Canned soup
- ◆ Snacks and snack spreads (peanut butter, jelly, cheese spreads)
- ◆ Foods for special diets

Sanitary supplies

- ◆ Emergency toilet: Small garbage can with tight lid
- ◆ Regular garbage can with tight lid
- ◆ Plastic bags for both cans
- ◆ Disinfectant or bleach
- ◆ Deodorizer Soap and plastic container
- ◆ First aid, personal items

Toiletries

- ◆ Extra medicine, especially prescription drugs
- ◆ First-aid supplies (bandages, antiseptic solution, adhesive tape, etc.)
- ◆ Aspirin
- ◆ Anti-diarrhea medication
- ◆ Mosquito repellent
- ◆ Sunscreen

Great Father ... Appreciative Son

An Arizona man named Ruff wrote to a newspaper to tell about his father. Ruff said his dad's first priority was to be a good father. He supported his children in their various activities: football or baseball games, scouting, school activities, etc.

Ruff said his dad, a heavy-equipment operator, was physically big but was also big-hearted. Ruff saw him help a dog that was hurt, and go out of his way to help the poor. He saw his father's eyes moisten when he held his baby granddaughter for the first time.

His father had taught him to drive, to use tools correctly, not to be greedy, and to be respectful of others. The good father had taught his son how to be a good man.

Ruff ended his letter to the paper with these words: "I guess ... I thought I'd reach a point in my life where I could be self-sufficient and not need him. That was a young man's thinking. Now that I'm over 40 and he is gone, I think about him every day and miss him. And I need him.

"So for all the times I didn't say it: Dad, I love you."

—Adapted from a letter in *The Arizona Republic*

Thoughts On Friendship

After a young man graduated from college in June 2003, an acquaintance came across a poem the graduate had written but to which he would not sign his name. It is a poem about friendship and the graduate's negligence in sustaining a significant friendship. Most of us can identify with the message of the poem: **Around The Corner**

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end.
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it, a year is gone.
And I never see my old friend's face
For life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine but we were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men,
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I will call on Jim
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And distance between us grows and grows,
Around the corner, yet miles away.
"Here's a telegram, Sir." "Jim died today."
And that's what we get and deserve in the end —
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

—Anonymous



- Jun 01 Mahlon Totten
- Jun 01 Michaela Harris
- Jun 02 Alice Stevenson
- Jun 03 Michael Keller
- Jun 03 Berta Pesano
- Jun 04 Courtney Platt
- Jun 04 Deanna Root
- Jun 07 Ruth Smith
- Jun 08 Ed Barrett
- Jun 08 Darren Platt
- Jun 11 Lance Robbins
- Jun 12 Jo Carless
- Jun 12 Frances Pence
- Jun 15 Sandy Clark-Faber
- Jun 16 Judy Fahrback
- Jun 16 Melissa Eastman
- Jun 16 Pat McKahan
- Jun 18 Myrna Wolf
- Jun 18 Greta Milner
- Jun 20 Florence Bollman
- Jun 23 Linda Creech
- Jun 23 Linda Brodkorb
- Jun 24 Diane Oberheu
- Jun 24 Brad Satterlee
- Jun 26 Hazel Davies
- Jun 29 Dylan Borchert

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

His People

“I was born to a woman I never knew and was raised by another who took in orphans,” said author James Michener. “I do not know my background, my lineage, my biological or cultural heritage. But when I meet someone new, I treat them with respect. For after all, they could be my people.” †



Happy Anniversary!

- Jun 03 Jim & Janice Webster
- Jun 04 John & Susan Kohut
- Jun 05 Edd & Mary Pat Spencer
- Jun 11 J.B. & Bertha Stanley
- Jun 12 Marshall & Iris DuBois
- Jun 16 David & Susan Sell
- Jun 17 Peter & Lynn Harris
- Jun 19 John & Sandy Tromboni
- Jun 22 Duane & Jane Wyatt

If you then...

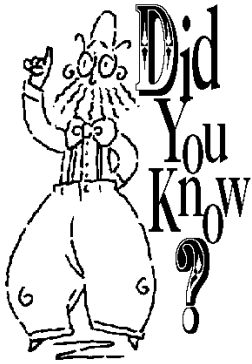
*give **good gifts**
to your **children,***

how much more will your

Father in heaven
*give **good gifts**
to those who **ask...***

Matthew 7:11





Interesting Bible Facts

By Jerry Dennis

Last month we talked a little about how important names were in biblical times. The meaning and impact of names were so crucial to the characters of the Bible that it is hard for we modern readers to appreciate the deeper meanings of some of the texts we read. So I thought it might be interesting to

discuss “names” a bit further this month.

Who Named Children? Most of the time women named children. The Bible is contradictory about Seth, once saying he was named by Eve and later saying Adam named him (Gen 4:25; 5:3), but Samson, Samuel, and other later children were named by their mothers. Leah and Rachel named not only their own infants but also those of their slaves (Gen 30:4—24). About a third of the time, fathers named their children, but all of these instances involved men such as Abraham, Joseph, and David, who were unusually forceful leaders. Children of prophets were sometimes given symbolic names by their fathers (Job 42:14; Isa 8:3; Hos 1:4—9). Occasionally, when a child was to play a major religious role, its name was given by God or an angel: Isaac (Gen 17:19), Ishmael (Gen 16:11), Jesus (Matt 1:20—21).

What’s in a Name? In an astounding number of cases, children had names indicating the role they were to play in life, leading to the suspicion that they changed their names once their careers were launched or that biblical authors gave appropriate names to the people they wrote about.

Even when names were not an indication of destiny, they were meaningful: A child might be named for the time of birth (Shaharaim, “dawn”); place of birth (Timna, “born in the town of Timnah”); some circumstance at the time of birth (Gershon, “sojourner,” because Moses was “a stranger in a strange land” when he was born; Ex 2:22); or what the baby looked like (Korah, “bald”). Jacob (“supplants”; “one who grabs by the heel”) was named because at birth he grabbed the heel of his twin, as though to hold him back and make himself firstborn (Gen 25:26).

Names drawn from nature were also popular: Rimmon (“pomegranate”), Shapham (“rock badger”), Susanna (“lilies”). Names such as Peninnah (“pearl”) or Haruz (“gold”) were given to express the great value placed on the newborn. Samuel (“God has heard”) had been born in answer to his parents’ prayers (1 Sam 1:20). Far sadder names were chosen by women wishing to commemorate

their sufferings during labor. The most moving example is the story of Rachel, who, dying in childbirth, bitterly named her newborn Benoni (“child of my sorrow”). Jacob, apparently unwilling to have the child go through life under the burden of guilt for his mother’s death, changed the infant’s name to Benjamin (“son of my right hand”; Gen 35:18). Another pitiful story involves Leah, who vainly tried to supplant her sister, Rachel, in Jacob’s affections. Leah named her first son Reuben (“behold, a son”) in the hope that when she showed the infant to Jacob he would love her. Her second son was Simon (“hearing”), because she thought “the Lord has heard that I was hated” and had given her a second son as emotional leverage with Jacob. Her third son was called Levi (“joined”), from her conviction that “this time my husband will be joined to me.” When this hope also proved fruitless, she named her fourth son Judah (“may God be praised”), apparently giving up on Jacob and seeking solace from her God alone (Gen 29:32—35).

Names and Meanings

Abel—breath
Abimelech—father of the king
Abner—father of light
Abraham—father of multitudes
Absalom—father of peace
Amos—burden
Barak—lightning
Bathsheba—daughter of oath
Benjamin—son of my right hand
Cain—a smith
Daniel—my judge is God
David—beloved
Elijah—God is my salvation
Elisha—God is my salvation
Elisabeth—God is my oath
Esau—hairy
Ezekiel—God gives strength
Gabriel—man of God
Gad—fortune
Gamaliel—reward of God
Habakkuk—basil planter
Hagar—one who has fled
Hosea—salvation
Ichabod—inglorious
Isaac—laughter
Isaiah—God saves
Jairus—enlightened by God
Jesus—God of salvation
Jonah—dove
Lazarus (Eleazar)—God has helped
Mahalaleel—praise God

(Continued on page 15)

Little Disciples Preschool

By Cindy McDowell, Director

As we close our doors on our 2004-2005 school year, we look back on this year with very fond memories. We tearfully congratulate our 42 graduates and their families as they begin their next step in a lifetime of learning.

This summer we will run three camp sessions, each two weeks in length. Session #1 runs June 6 - June 17 and during this first session we will have a blast as we go "Soaring Through the Solar System." Session #2 runs June 20 - July 1 and will find "Mother Goose on the Loose!" By Session #3, July 11 - 22, you can see we've all turned into some pretty "Sense-sational Campers"

We look forward to many wonderful Summer Camp adventures with Mrs. Christian, Mrs. Franco, Mrs. Kohut, Miss Parnes and Mrs. Tromboni. See you there!

Last month I said thank you to all our Preschool families for sharing their children with us and for a wonderful year together. I'd like to take a moment now and recognize those wonderful ladies who make everyday fabulous. To Diane, Teri, Kay, Julie, Susan, Sue, Shelly, Sandy, Roxann, Jane, Paula, Ellie, Sue and Tinna, a GIANT thank you for everything you have done this year. The months and months of work you gave to Little Disciples Preschool (and sooooo many hours spent in planning, evaluating, LABELING, RE-evaluating, mock visiting, and finally the NAEYC ACCREDITATION visit, IN ADDITION TO everything you always do!!) IS the reason we reached our goal for NAEYC Accreditation. I am so proud of you, so blessed by each of you, and so honored to be part of this very special family/team. I am already counting the days until we are all back together again.

Wishing each and every one of you a wonderful summer and thanking you for another beautiful school year. †

Plan Ahead—Mark Your Calendars

For the 2005 Summer Camp Dates!

<u>Event</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Chi Rho 1 (Grade 6-8)	June 19-24	June 4	\$280
Junior Camp (Grade 4-5)	June 26-30	June 11	\$245
Third Grade Camp	July 3-7	June 17	\$245
Canoe Camp (Grade 9-12)	July 3-9	June 17	\$255
Chi Rho II (Grade 6-8)	July 10-15	June 25	\$280
Creative Camp (Grade 8-12)	July 17-23	July 2	\$335
Young Adult Fellowship Retreat (Post High School)	August 5-7	July 22	\$ 99

The Family Table

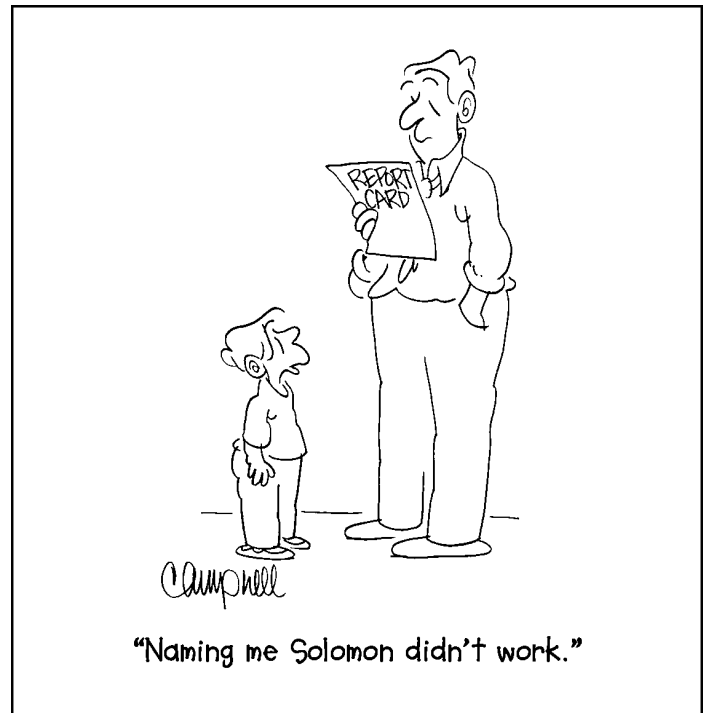
One of Theodore Roosevelt's sons told someone how much he appreciated the family he had been a part of as a child. He commented that he had gone to Groton, a private school, then on to Harvard and short terms in other schools. Yet he felt that the best education he had ever received was at the family table.



Much can be said about cohesive families who pray, talk, laugh and sing together around the dining table. With God's presence affirmed, they become a small church. With the collective learning and wisdom of family members, they become a small school. With the give and take of conversation and gentle debate, the family gathering becomes an insightful forum. Then, when they sing joyous songs or carols or hymns of thanksgiving, they become a family choir, although maybe not the Von Trapp singers.

Finally, when delightful tales are told, or children's antics are acted out, and especially when the family jokesters do their shtick, well then, the family becomes the joyous comedy club. What great fun!

All hail to such a family! †



Church Chatter

Our condolences to the family of Mary Powell who passed away March 28, 2005. Mary was a shining star in the lives of the Beneva children.

Our condolences to the family of Irene Carr who passed away May 1, 2005.

Rick Manning and Jim Moxley enjoyed a fun day each driving the preschool children around the campus and through the water sprinkler. Each year the Little Disciples preschool has a water-day celebration at the end of their school year where teachers and staff enjoy a water-splashing good time.

Every Sunday Joy Byrd estimates the end of the sermon in the traditional worship and dashes across to Disciple Hall to retrieve and robe the acolytes.

Alex Byrd has stepped up to fill the shoes of Lloyd Marvin who has been changing the lighted sign on Proctor Road.

Matt Root is filling the drummer job with Vision in Contemporary Worship on Sundays.

Dave Harlow works faithfully around the church with Glenn Oneal doing all sorts of jobs on property maintenance.

Florine Blake visits church members at SMH where she works. She's the angel from BCC.

Nathan Byrd faithfully folds the Sunday bulletins every week.

Barbara Clements keeps the kitchen in good shape.

Suzie Davis helps Sandra with the music program.

Hattie Coulter has done a great job with CWF.

Larry Brown spent much of his summer painting at church.

Don't miss Vacation Bible School — June 12th-17th at 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.



Sunday, June 19th
Bring Dad to church!

Let's remember these people in our prayers

Gilbert Bradley is in Sarasota Memorial. Marjorie Hart was moved to Pines of Sarasota, and Jennie Cutshall was moved to Manor Care after a hospital stay. Betty Ward was transferred to Hospice House after a fall at home.

At home are: Barbara Taylor, Thelma McKahan, Mary Yarman, Liz Meyers, Berta Pesano, Harold Rabjohns, Alice Gipe and Dorothy Miller.

Thank You Note

Dear Friends of Beneva,

I want to thank the people of Beneva for the calls, cards and visits. A special thank you to Jim for his visit with the "Beneva Bear". I love all of my Beneva family.

God bless you!!
Sibyl Keller

Thank You Note

Dear Friends of Beneva,

Thank you for your kind expression of sympathy in the death of our sister, Irene Carr. Your kindness and sympathy is deeply appreciated.

James Smith & Elizabeth Meyers

Congratulations To Our



Blake Brunner
Roz Satterlee
Jenny Wise

The Life of Beneva in June 2005

<u>June 1</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Happy Hearts Breakfast— Tasty Home	9:00 am
Small Group—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
Cub Scouts—Seekers & Chi Rho Rooms	6:00 pm
Chimes Rehearsal—Sanctuary	6:00 pm
<u>June 2</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Girl Scouts—Disciple Hall	3:30 pm
<u>June 3</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Food Pantry Open—Disciple Hall	3:00—5:00 pm
<u>June 5</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Contemporary Worship Service	9:00 am
Time of Fellowship—Disciple Hall	10:00 am
Blood Pressure Check—Chi Rho Room	10:00 am
Chi Rho's Leave-Mission Trip—Van & Trailer	10:00 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:30 am
Children Worship & Wonder—Disciple Hall	10:45 am
Faith Seekers—Education Building	10:45 am
Blood Pressure Check—Chi Rho Room	11:45 am
Happy Hearts Lunch— Olive Garden	12:00 pm
<u>June 6</u>	<u>Monday</u>
Vision Rehearsal—Sanctuary	7:00 pm
<u>June 7</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
Lydia (Circles) lunch—Dutch Heritage	11:30 am
<u>June 8</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Happy Hearts Breakfast—Demarco's	9:00 am
Chimes Rehearsal—Sanctuary	6:00 pm
CYF Fireworks Meeting—Disciple Hall	7:00 pm
<u>June 9</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Happy Hearts Pot Luck Supper—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
<u>June 10</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Food Pantry Open—Disciple Hall	3:00—5:00 pm
<u>June 11</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Chi Rho's Return from Mission Trip—Van & Trailer	
Elders Meeting—Disciple Hal	10:00 am
<u>June 12</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Contemporary Worship Service	9:00 am
Time of Fellowship—Disciple Hall	10:00 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:30 am
Children Worship & Wonder—Disciple Hall	10:45 am
Faith Seekers—Education Building	10:45 am
Happy Hearts Lunch— Longhorn	12:00 pm
Vacation Bible School Begins—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
<u>June 13</u>	<u>Monday</u>
Vacation Bible School—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
<u>June 14</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
Vacation Bible School—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
<u>June 15</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Happy Hearts Leave-Trip@TIA—Van	6:00 am-12:00pm
Happy Hearts Breakfast— Millie's	9:00 am
Vacation Bible School—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm

<u>June 16</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Vacation Bible School—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
<u>June 17</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Vacation Bible School Ends—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
Food Pantry Open—Disciple Hall	3:00 pm—5:00 pm
<u>June 19</u>	<u>Father's Day Sunday</u>
Contemporary Worship Service	9:00 am
Time of Fellowship—Disciple Hall	10:00 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:30 am
Children Worship & Wonder—Disciple Hall	10:45 am
Faith Seekers—Education Building	10:45 am
Happy Hearts Lunch— Steak & Ale	12:00 pm
<u>June 20</u>	<u>Monday</u>
Friendship Knot Quilters Guild—Disciple Hall	6:00 pm
Vision Rehearsal—Sanctuary	7:00 pm
<u>June 21</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
Cabinet Meeting—Disciple Hall	7:00 pm
<u>June 22</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Happy Hearts Breakfast— Serving Spoon	9:00 am
Chimes Rehearsal—Sanctuary	6:00 pm
<u>June 24</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Food Pantry Open—Disciple Hall	3:00 pm—5:00 pm
<u>June 26</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Contemporary Worship Service	9:00 am
Sunday Morning Bible Study—Disciple Hall	9:00 am
Time of Fellowship—Disciple Hall	10:00 am
Traditional Worship Service	10:30 am
Children Worship & Wonder—Disciple Hall	10:45 am
Faith Seekers—Education Building	10:45 am
Happy Hearts Lunch—Marina Jack	12:00 pm
Bifocal Bunch Lunch—Olive Garden	12:00 pm
CWF Meeting—Disciple Hall	2:00 pm
<u>June 27</u>	<u>Monday</u>
CYF Fireworks Sale Begins—Clark Road	9:00 am
Vision Rehearsal—Sanctuary	7:00 pm
<u>June 28</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
Happy Hearts Return from Trip@TIA—Van	6:00 am-12:00pm
CYF Fireworks Sale—Clark Road	9:00 am
<u>June 29</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Happy Hearts Breakfast— First Watch	9:00 am
CYF Fireworks Sale—Clark Road	9:00 am
Chimes Rehearsal—Sanctuary	6:00 pm
<u>June 30</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
CYF Fireworks Sale—Clark Road	9:00 am

Special Dates

Flag Day, June 14, 2005
 Father's Day, June 19, 2005
 First day of summer, June 21, 2005

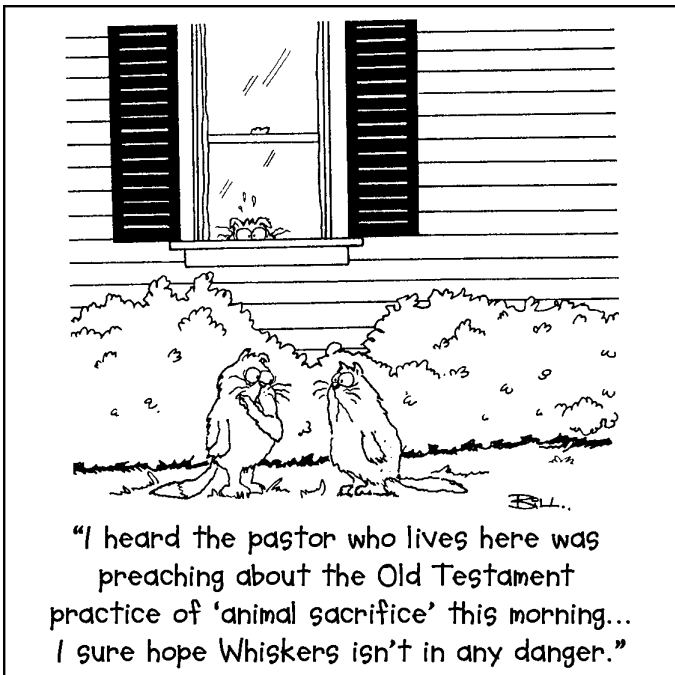
Interesting Bible Facts

(Continued from page 11)

- Mary (Miriam)—stubbornness
- Matthew (Mattathias)—gift of God
- Michael—who is like God?
- Noah—comfort
- Peter—rock
- Saul—asked for
- Simeon—hearing
- Solomon—peaceable
- Stephen—(Greek) crown
- Tabitha—gazelle
- Tamar—date palm
- Timothy—(Greek) honoring God
- Zechariah—God remembers

Children of Prophets: Prophets were fond of saddling their children with names that had nothing to do with the child itself but which instead reflected the state of the nation. Shearjashub (“a remnant shall re-turn”) was the name Isaiah gave his son at the time the Hebrews knew they were threatened with deportation (Isa 7:3). Maher-shalal-hash-baz (“spoil speeds, prey hastens”), a name given to another son of Isaiah, also referred to the Assyrian threat to plunder Israel (Isa 8:1—4).

Jezeel (“God sows”), Hosea’s first son, was named after the Valley of Jezreel; God told Hosea that the hated King Jehu could be destroyed there. Lo-ruhamah (“who has not obtained mercy”), Hosea’s daughter, was so named because God would no longer show mercy on Israel (Hos 1:6). Lo-ammi (“not my people”), Hosea’s younger son, was named for God’s anger at the rebellious nation. God had said, “For you are not my people, and I will not be your God” (Hos 1:9). †



July Good News



Deadline for articles sent to the church is June 23rd.

Articles may be sent directly to Nancy Dennis at nancydennis@verizon.net, or left in her inbox at the church office. †

Church Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

8:30 am-12:00 noon Office Open

Office Closed for Lunch 12:00 noon-1:00 pm

1:00 pm-4:00 pm Office Open

Phone: 924-8713

Anna Ragone, our church secretary, will be in the office every day at the above office hours. Our Interim Minister, Jim Moxley, will be in the office at varying times according to his visitation schedules. Please let us know if you are going to the hospital and having surgical procedures. Jim, the Elders, and other volunteers are available at any time. Please do not hesitate to call if needs arise.

- Church email — churchoffice@lifeatbeneva.org
- Jim Moxley email — jimmoxley@lifeatbeneva.org
- Church Website — <http://www.lifeatbeneva.org>
- Jim Moxley home phone — 378-5370
- Jim Moxley cell phone — 779-3239

E-mail Prayer Chain



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

June 2005							July 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			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. †



THE GOOD NEWS June 2005

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