



BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

THE GOOD NEWS

Rev. Bobby Dickerson

March 2008

Volume 38, Issue 3

“Fellowship of the Believers”

Last week end we held our annual leadership training and I was once again reminded of a scripture that I hadn’t read or thought about in quite a while. The scripture is from Acts 2:42. The heading in my Bible for this section is “Fellowship of the Believers”. It says, “ They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

The apostles’ teaching were the words and teachings of Jesus himself. Especially the “gospel” which was and is centered in Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. It is what we would know today as the New Testament. The same is true for today. We need to devote ourselves to the reading of the scripture in our daily lives. It is God’s word for us today. It is central to our identity as Disciples of Christ and we are called to study God’s Word within the community of the church. That’s why I am always asking if you brought your Bible to church, or saying that if you don’t have one I’ll buy you one. Yes, it’s that important.

It also says that they devoted themselves “to the fellowship”. To me it means they gathered as believers to worship. The scripture also say, “Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together”, worship is important. I’ve heard people say that they don’t have to go to “worship” (church) to be a Christian and they are right. You don’t have to go to the grocery store to buy your food either but it sure beats trying to raise it all on your own.

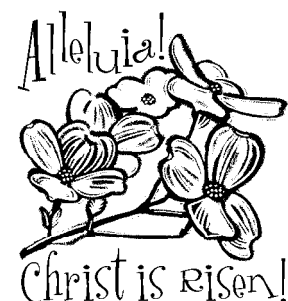
They devoted themselves “to the breaking of bread”. Yes, I believe that’s where the “fellowship and potluck dinners” got started. I don’t know about Jell-O molds though. But more importantly I believe that they gathered for communion, the Lord’s Supper or the Eucharist each week. It not only was a fellowship meal but a meal of thanksgiving for Jesus’ life giving sacrifice. That’s why we as The Disciples of Christ celebrate it every Sunday. It is the place where we experience the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

“And to prayer” the most import aspect of all. You can read the Bible, devote yourself to the fellowship and the breaking of bread, but if you don’t pray your
(Continued on page 2)

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

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The 19th Annual Seniors' Retreat
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida
 Tuesday-Thursday March 4-6, 2008



**RETREAT
 FOR SENIORS**

“Come, Let's Go Fishing!”

Keynoter: Pastor Roslin Springer

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Don Lynn

Christian Church Foundation: Rev. Randy Johnson

Where: Christian Church Conference Center
 6455 NE State Road 40, Silver Springs, FL 34488
 Phone (352) 236 - 2302

When: March 4th — 6th, 2008

Check-In: 2:00-3:00 pm — Program Begins: 3:00 pm
 Retreat Closes: After lunch March 6

What to Bring: Bible, pencil, flashlight, bed linens,
 pillow, bath items, items for craft table, Silent Auction &
 used book sale.
 Optional: Seat cushion.

Do Not Bring: Per Conference policy, pets are not
 allowed other than service dogs.

Senior Retreat Registration Form Deadline:

February 14, 2008

(\$10 late fee after Feb. 14) -- (No refund after March 1)

| <u>Fees</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| On Grounds | \$115 per person |
| Off Grounds | \$80 per person |
| RV on Grounds | \$80 per person |
| RV Hookup | \$12 per night |
| Arrive Monday (no meals) | \$14 per person |

(Scholarships available — see your pastor)

Lent Offers Time For Growth

Many of us know our IQ (intelligence quotient), but what about our SQ (spiritual quotient)?

Lent is a good time to think about the quality of your spiritual life. Do you think about God often ... or rarely? Do you pray often ... or occasionally? How well do you know the Bible? The Commandments? The Beatitudes? The lives of biblical heroes and heroines?

During Lent, commit to spending more time in prayer. Also consider selecting a book of the Bible or a particular Bible character to study in-depth during this period.

Some people give up particular items or habits during Lent. If used wisely, this discipline can help you abandon things that have been interfering with your relationship with God.

Seek out devotions and books that can help strengthen your spiritual life. Examples include: Show Me the Way by Henri Nouwen, A Season for the Spirit by Martin Smith, Six Hours One Friday by Max Lucado, and Lent and Easter Wisdom From Thomas Merton edited by Jonathan Montaldo. †

“Fellowship of the Believers”

(Continued from page 1)

religion is not a relationship. For us as believers to have a personal relationship with God we need to spend much time in prayer. Not only with our laundry list of things we want God to do for others and ourselves but to listen. God doesn't seek a monologue but a dialogue. He doesn't care if we are religious but that we have a relationship with him and other believers. So let's be like the New Testament church, study the apostles' teachings, come to worship, gather at God's table and seek a relationship with Him through prayer.

Blessings!
 Pastor Bobby †

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. †

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

“Snow Angels”

By Jane Wyatt, Growth Chair

Pastor Bobby calls our wonderful winter residents “Snow Angels”. While I do love the beautiful birds that come to Florida in the winter, it’s such a warm feeling to think of the fine Christians who come “flying” down as “angels among us”. Angels are messengers and they certainly do give us a fine message from God and light up our lives. We love them dearly!!

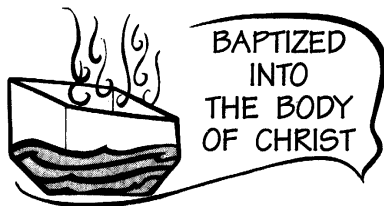
Did you know that you’re on the largest committee of Beneva Christian Church? You are all on the Growth Committee. Without your greetings and welcoming for visitors, we wouldn’t be adding to our family.

And speaking of adding, February 17th we had the joy of having Ray (a native of Florida) and Ann (a native of Indiana) join our ranks officially. They are: Ray and Ann Sullivan (925-3250). Also the following Sunday, February 24th, Bridget Clark

joined our church family. Please welcome these people. Their vibrant smiles are a great gift to us from God. We are so happy to have you. May God bless you richly! †

WELCOME!
NEW MEMBERS

Pastor's Class



Attention Parents and Youth. Starting on Sunday February 10th, Pastor Bobby will be offering a class for all young people wishing to join the church through Baptism. The class will be held on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 pm through Palm Sunday with the Baptismal service being held on Easter Sunday, March 23rd, during our 10:30 am service. Each child will be assigned an Elder as sponsor or a parent may be their sponsor. If your child has an interest in this class and making this commitment to Christ please contact the church office or Pastor Bobby.

Adult Baptism

If anyone is interested in following our Lord's command and being baptized on Easter Sunday please contact Pastor Bobby or the church office. †

World Outreach

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

Global Ministries—February 2008

“Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.” Psalm 67:6

Keeping Alive the Harvest

This is the time of harvest in Palestine. I remember as a child when we harvested the olives. My father hired daily workers to help with the picking, and we went to our land before sunrise. The workers carried long ladders and lay



them against the trees, picking the olives with their hands. These trees were members of the larger creation, and deserving of care and respect. Women sitting at the foot of each

tree laid bed covers on the earth so that the olives could fall down on smooth and clean sheets. The best olives were set aside for pickling, while the rest went to the press to make pure and extra virgin olive oil. Like ancient Canaanites, Oriental Christians still bring the first bottles of this olive oil to the church to light the alter candles.

The olive harvest was unforgettable. You could see the dozens of ladders pointing to heaven. One daily worker would start singing a harvest song, and then the neighboring workers joined in. The singing would continue on the following Sunday at Christmas Lutheran Church, where the sanctuary was decorated with the best fruits: grapes, pomegranates, and olives, as a sign of thanksgiving to God for the countless blessings we received. Today, 40 years of occupation destroys this culture. The building of walls, confiscation of lands, violations of water rights, and restrictions on freedom of movement make the harvest difficult. I’m glad that our artisans have picked the symbol of the olive leaf as a reminder of our identity and spirituality. It is our mission to make sure that this spirit remains alive in Palestine - that nothing can steal from us our feast, or song and culture.

Reverend Mitri Rahbe is the pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, a partner with Global Ministries.

Easter Offering

Our second major offering is our Easter Offering. It is early this year - March 16th and 23rd. The offering is

(Continued on page 6)

January Financial Update

By Duane Wyatt, Stewardship Chair

| | January 2008 | | January 2008 YTD | |
|---------------|--------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Income | \$15,734 | \$13,683 | \$15,734 | \$13,683 |
| Expenses | 17,167 | 16,118 | 17,167 | 16,118 |
| Gain(Loss) | (1,433) | (2,435) | (1,433) | (2,435) |
| Checking Bal. | | | \$5,003 | |

January income was very good - about \$2,000 above expectations, while expenses were \$1,000 over forecast. Our January loss was \$1,000 less than expected thus adding the same amount to our expected checking account balance.

Looking ahead we are still facing a \$45,000 deficit, but we are off to a good start.

We will be borrowing \$10,000 in February to cover our cash position as it continues to decline. We may not actually need the cash in February, but it is too close to call - better to be safe than sorry. †

2008 Offering Envelopes

By Frank Metheny, Financial Secretary

You will find your offering envelopes for 2008 in the Narthex on a table. We ordered a different number of envelopes this year so your envelope number may be different from last year. If you don't find yours, or would like some for the first time please call Frank Metheny at 966-4668.



The 2007 Giving Statements are also available for pick up in the Narthex. If you would like to have yours mailed please call the church office and leave a message. †

Reminder



Forms for the Christian Church in Florida (Disciples of Christ) Memorial Scholarship Fund are available in the church office for those students who are interested in applying for a scholarship.

The application deadline is April 11. †

Calling JOSHUA'S MEN

March 3rd — 7:00 pm



All men are invited to the gathering of Joshua's Men. We will meet at 7:00 pm on March 3rd for Fellowship, Prayer, and Bible Study.

Our guest speaker is Jason Knecht.

Jason is a native Floridian born in Sarasota. He has been affiliated with Gifts-from-God for three years. He works for the ministry and attends Trinity Bible College full time. Jason is married to a wonderful woman named Coleen. Like many of the people involved with this ministry he has a background of drugs and alcohol, but the Lord and his faithful wife have seen him through. Jason looks forward to talking with the Beneva men.

The scripture for study is Philippians 4:4-7.

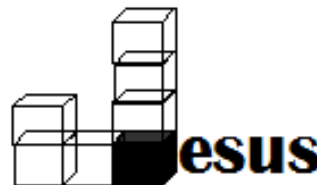
For more information contact Dr. Bobby Dickerson at 941-924-8713. †

"Cornerstone"

Sunday School Class each Sunday—9:00 am

Each Sunday at 9:00 am, Pastor Bobby will be offering a Sunday School Class called "Cornerstone".

The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A cornerstone



is a large stone used to anchor and align the corner of a wall or the keystone of an arch. For Christians, our Cornerstone is Jesus Christ upon which we are to build our lives. See Psalm 118: 22

and Acts 4:11.

This class will help us begin to read and understand basic biblical passages. It will be a catalyst for our prayer and devotional lives and give us an opportunity to discuss and fellowship with other disciples. This group is designed for young and middle age adults. If you have any questions please feel to contact Pastor Bobby at the church. Child care will be provided for those who need it. We hope to see you at Cornerstone each Sunday. †

Sunday Nite Live

By Patricia Poquette, Education Chair

Sunday Night Live is going Full Steam Ahead with a lot of activities. We have many exciting things going on and some great youth sponsors. Our youth activities start at 4:30 pm with "Kids Praise" where the kids are learning some really neat songs. After kids praise they are joining their respective groups who have some fantastic curriculums with learning about God, crafts and some plain old fun time. At 7:00 pm they meet for snack supper; there is a \$2.00 charge per person. By 7:30 pm all the youth should have been picked up by their respective parents.

Sunday Nite Live is open to all children and they do not have to be a member of Beneva Christian Church. If anyone would like more information on our youth programs please contact Patricia Poquette 780-2300 or the church office 924-8713.

No youth groups on these dates: March 23 —Easter Sunday and April 6th.

Youth Groups



Little Bits (ages 3,4,5)

Dale & Brenda Root

Genesis (Kindergarten & 1st grade)

Melanie Bussiere & Bob Evans

Sonburst (grades 2 & 3)

Darren Griffin & Sandy Mackey

HotShots (grades 4 & 5)

Linda Giordano & Jane Wyatt & Kathy Bearden

Chi-Rho (Grades 6,7,8)

Greg & Olivia Fulkert

CYF (Grades 9,10,11,12)

Pastor Bobby

Kids Praise — Greg Fulkert & Suzie Davis

Snack Supper — Pete & Lynn Harris

Group leaders doing opening in church before Sunday Nite Live:

February — Dale & Brenda Root

March — Bob Evans

April — Olevia Fulkert

May — Corry Pruner

Easter egg hunt will be held on March 22, Rhea Davies has decided to host this event. More details in next column.

End of youth groups May 18th. †

The Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 22nd — 10:00 am

By Rea Davies

The Easter Egg Hunt has always been run by adults, but this year that is going to change. Deanna Root and I, Rea Davies, have decided to take it over and run it ourselves. We are very excited about the Easter Egg Hunt and we are going to try some new things. We are going to have some guests from Vacation Bible School, have raffle ticket drawings, Easter Bunny with a nice background for pictures and many others.

We would like to ask for some help if anyone could be there please. If you could help with overseeing inside with the raffle tickets, guiding the children around or helping things run smoothly, I would be very grateful. I am also looking for two puppeteers to tell the story. Any elders wishing to answer any questions from parents about the church might be useful as well. If anyone could help out with supplying anything, we would greatly appreciate it.



We need:

hard boiled eggs

egg dye

plastic eggs

candy and small novelties for stuffing eggs

juice boxes/pouches (individual)

cookies or baked goods

Please leave donations in the kitchen in the box labeled Easter Egg Hunt.

If you can help or have any questions please call me (Rea) at 927-4551. †

Children's Worship and Wonder Story List

By Sandy Mackey

Mar 2 - Woman Anoints Jesus for Burial

Mar 9 - Too Afraid To Follow Jesus

Mar 16 - Jesus' Trial

Mar 23 - Jesus Dies and God Makes Jesus Alive Again

Mar 30 - Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Apr 6 - Jesus Appears to Thomas

Apr 13 - Jesus Commissions the Disciples

Apr 20 - Jesus Appears to Disciples by the Sea †

All-Day Hiking Trip to Myakka

By Kathy Bearden



All are welcome to enjoy a day of hiking in Myakka State Park on Saturday March 8th. Meet at the church at 9:00 am with a packed lunch and comfortable clothes. The day will last as long as the hikers would like,

and the church van will be used for transport. Contact Kathy Bearden (924-9073) for more information. †

World Outreach

(Continued from page 3)

entitled "Your Witness to the Ends of the Earth". It supports the general operations of the Disciples of Christ. Without our support, many of the programs like the Division of Overseas Ministries, Church Extension, Pension Fund, Disciples Home Missions, Historical Society; Global Ministries and many, many more, would be in serious financial trouble. I know the Campus Ministry at Kent State University, Ohio is sending several busloads of students to Gulf Port to help the rebuilding of homes ravaged by Katrina. Our money helps Homeland Ministries feed and house these volunteers.

CROP WALK

Sunday, March 9th — 1:30 pm

Walking With the World for Sixty Years!

Founded in 1946, Church World Service stands with impoverished peoples around the world as they envision and fashion a better future. Last year CROP Hunger Walks and events raised over \$15 million to support the hunger - fighting work of Church World Service around the block and around the world. With those resources, wells, seeds, tools, and training were provided to African farmers - who are mostly women. Emergency medical supplies for hurricane victims in Gulf States, tents and blankets for Pakistani families devastated by an earthquake, and vocational training for indigenous communities in Latin America - these are only a few of the ways you are making a difference through your CROP Hunger Walk. Thank you!

Beneva will take part in the local CROP Walk on Sunday, March 9th. It will start at 1:30 pm at the St. Armand's Lutheran Church. There will be two walks, one for 5 miles over the Sarasota Bay to Island Park and back. The other is a 1 mile walk around the St. Armand's circle. We will be signing up walkers in the Narthex. Tell your friends and workers you are walking. Ask them to support you in this worthwhile cause. †

News from CYF

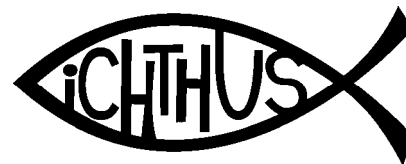
By Corry Pruner

This spring we are spreading our wings as Christians. We started off the year by learning more about mission work not only in our city but throughout the world.

The group has made two trips to Church in the Park to help serve lunch and participate in worship. Church in the Park is a part of Gifts from God a local organization that reaches out to the homeless of Sarasota. We also went to a service at Grace Baptist Church during their Missions Conference where we heard missionaries from France and Turkey speak. At home we helped the Chi Rho with the Week of Compassion spaghetti dinner.

In February we started a Bible study that will help us to explore our talents and how we can best use those talents to spread the word of God. We are still taking time to play and are planning a volleyball game with the Chi Rho's and the youth from St. Wilfred's Episcopal Church. †

Why A Fish?



One of the most significant statements the early Christians used was "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior."

Because Greek was the universal language then (the New Testament books were written in Greek), Christians often said and wrote, "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" in Greek.

That phrase, if printed as an acrostic (using the first letter of each word), looks like this:

I = Jesus
CH = Christ (anointed)
TH = God
U = Son
S = Savior

The acrostic forms the word ICHTHUS, which is Greek for fish. If Christians needed to know where to gather for worship, they could look for a fish and perhaps an arrow pointing in the right direction. Persecuted Christians, seeing a fish on the door of a home or business, knew it was a safe place occupied by fellow Christians. †

The Color Purple

We are still in the church season of Lent. Many churches have purple paraments on the altar, lectern and pulpit. Many pastors and choir members wear purple stoles. Why purple?

In ancient times, purple garments were expensive and hard to find. The dye came from rare sea mollusks that had to be crushed to garner their purple fluid. (One ounce of purple dye required 250,000 mollusks!) Then the right kind of fabric had to be placed in the dye, dried and made into clothing, which was time-consuming.

Generally, only wealthy people and members of royalty could afford purple garments. For example, in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man “was dressed in purple and fine linen” (Luke 16:19, NRSV).

Purple is used in church sanctuaries during Advent and Lent because Christ is revered as the King of Kings. †

Why Palm Sunday?

Palm branches are mentioned in only one of the four Gospels (see John 12:12-15). So why do we call the first day of Holy Week Palm Sunday?

Tradition plays an important part in church history. During Jesus’ time, Rome was the world’s leading power. Whenever the Romans were victorious in battle, citizens traditionally threw palm branches in the returning heroes’ path.

This was the accepted custom of reception. So when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, it was appropriate that he receive a hero’s welcome. One week later, he would be victorious over death. †

Maundy Thursday

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: “I am with you only a little longer. ... I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:33-35, NRSV).

Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us. †

There’s More!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn’t know there was more — a resurrected Lord.

“He has risen
from the dead ...”

Matthew 28:7, NIV



Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn’t yet know there was more — a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine

there was more — the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it’s only the “first fruits” of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come! †

Girl Scouts Make A Difference

Girl Scout Sunday (March 9 this year) is a great opportunity for churches to recognize an organization that aims to build “girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.”

Since Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts in March 1912, more than 43 million young people have participated. Famous former Girl Scouts include Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Sandra Day O’Connor, Queen Elizabeth II, Sally Ride, Katie Couric, Lucille Ball, Natalie Merchant and Venus Williams.



Olympic gymnast Cathy Rigby says her Girl Scout experience provided “a sense of real teamwork and working for the community.”

“I remember working as a group to achieve a goal,” Rigby adds. “There was a great sense of accomplishment in that.” †



- Mar 04 Rick Manning
- Mar 04 Tawnie McDowell
- Mar 05 Lloyd Marvin
- Mar 06 Barry Havener
- Mar 06 Jan Bogart
- Mar 06 Quinton Byrd
- Mar 07 Nancy Dennis
- Mar 09 Kelly Jo Fruehwald
- Mar 09 Paula Martin
- Mar 09 Rene Williams
- Mar 11 Bobbie Hartong
- Mar 13 Carol Evans
- Mar 14 Tiffany Howe
- Mar 16 Susan Sell
- Mar 19 Kim Evans
- Mar 21 Florine Blake
- Mar 22 Carolyn Hart
- Mar 23 James Wolf
- Mar 25 Laverne Thomas
- Mar 26 Stacy Evans
- Mar 29 Erin Creech
- Mar 29 Lauren Brunner

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

Naomi Circle

By Barbara Clements

The Naomi Circle will meet on Friday, March 7th at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall.

Joyce McClain will be presenting the program. Any member or friend of Beneva is invited to join us. Please bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be provided. †



- Mar 06 Willis & Helen Jacus
- Mar 10 Dick & Jeanette Haase
- Mar 21 Antonio & Monika Trujillo
- Mar 26 Ray & Ann Sullivan
- Mar 28 Mike & Amy Abbot
- Mar 30 Tony & Diane Christian
- Mar 31 Walt & Barbara Alice Carroll

Choir Fest

A Free Concert of Choral Music
March 2nd — 7:00 pm
By Bob Blanton

It's time once again for Choir Fest. Head on down to Pine Shores Presbyterian church on Sunday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm for a wonderful concert. Several of our choir members will be singing in the concert. The concert usually lasts about one hour and consists of a dozen beautiful choral pieces. We know you will enjoy it. Be there, and support your choir members. †

Bifocal Bunch

By Shirley Blanton

Tuesday, March 4th, 9:00 am. Breakfast at First Watch restaurant on the South Trail.

Sunday, March 9th, 5:00 pm. Musical program by the Jensen Family at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church. Dale Jensen was the Director of The Sarasota Pops Orchestra. Don't miss this program of flute, piano and stringed instruments by this very talented family group.

Fish Fry Each Friday night at 5:30 pm at St. Boniface Episcopal Church at 5615 Midnight Pass Road. Cost of \$9 includes meal, drink and dessert. No reservation necessary, stop in and enjoy the company of whomever shows up from the Bifocal Bunch. Jim and Darlene Huron are frequently there.

Contact Shirley Blanton on the above events at 377-7894 or 266-1084. Email to Sailor1954@aol.com †

Little Disciples Preschool

By Cindy McDowell, Director

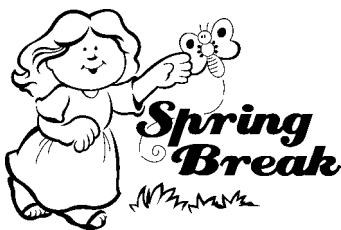
March!! Is it March already? Our school year has entered into its last trimester. We ended the month of February with our Registration for the 2008-2009 school year opened to our on-campus and alumni families. Not only are our current children returning but many of them are bringing siblings with them next year too!

Registration opens to the public on March 1st, 2008, for those vacancies that remain. Registration fees are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2 days | \$150.00 |
| 3 days/3 year olds . . | \$175.00 |
| 3 days/4 year olds . . | \$200.00 |
| 5 days/4 year olds . . | \$225.00 |

February was such fun. We had our hearing tested by the NCJW and our class photos and Graduation portraits taken by our photographer. As March begins, we will also have our Vision tested.

We will be so busy in the month of March! Daily activities include playground fun, spending time in our Outdoor Classroom and Learning Center, and enjoying classroom time with our Teacher and friends. Our Early Care program continues making smiles at 8am each day, and our Extended Care program is a favorite lunch spot for many preschoolers daily. Before closing for Spring Break, we will enjoy another very popular event together known as "Center's Day". As the classes travel from room to room,



I'm not sure who is having more fun, the Teachers or the children! We will close for Spring Break on March 31st. Doors reopen on April 7th. Have a wonderful Spring Break and a Blessed Easter.

Teacher's Tidbits
By Mrs. Plattner

We will begin March reading three of our favorite Traditional Tales: The Three Bears, the Three Little Pigs and The Little Red Hen. We will be making porridge and finding out which bowl is "just right". Next, it's off to building houses with pretzel sticks, drinking straws and PEZ for those three little pigs and working as a team to make monkey bread for all to enjoy. We will also enjoy learning about our five senses this month (and with all the delicious food we'll be making, I think we'll learn A LOT about our sense of taste!!!) Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Easter, Happy Spring! ☩

Mark your Calendars!

Girl Scout Sunday – March 9th

Easter Lilies can be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one to help decorate our Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday – March 16th — EASTER CANTATA

Maundy Thursday – March 20th

Soup Supper before the service

Three Day Prayer Vigil – Thursday, March 20th, Friday, March 21st, & Saturday, March 22nd

A Prayer Room will be set up with Bibles, candles, communion and a prayer diary. The Prayer Room will be open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm (or perhaps sun up to sun set). Watch for sign up sheets, or call the church office to volunteer. You may pray from home if it is not convenient to come to the church.

Good Friday – March 21st

Easter Egg Hunt – March 22nd

Easter Sunday – March 23rd

The early service will be held at the gazebo. The traditional service will be held at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Hopefully, we will have a Baptism Service at the beginning of our worship. ☩

Food Pantry Update

By Jackie Hazen

The Food Pantry continues to be very active. During the month of February we had close to 100 families come in looking for help with close to 3000 pounds of food being given out.

Thank you so much to all of you that have been helping me out. This is definitely a 2-3 person job so we can always use the help. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Again, thank you so much to all of you who have made donations of food and money. Every little bit helps so please keep it coming!

During the month of March we are looking for help with condiments (ketchup, mayo, mustard, sugar, etc). We are also looking for help with any baby items such as diapers and baby food. Please drop off all donations in the basket outside of the Food Pantry.

Thank you for your continued help and support! ☩

Bible Book of the Month

The Letter to Hebrews

What makes Hebrews special?

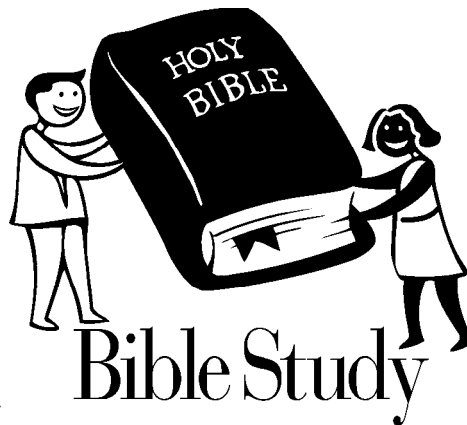
Notwithstanding the fact that the author of Hebrews remains unknown to us and the circumstances that occasioned the letter are uncertain, Hebrews is truly a literary and theological masterpiece, full of subtle rhetoric, sophisticated language, and evocative imagery. Whoever the author of Hebrews was, it is clear that he or she was trained rhetorically, familiar with Greek philosophy, and very knowledgeable in the study of Jewish scriptures. The author accepted Jesus as the Messiah, though he or she was not an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry. Regarding authorship, John Dunnill compares the anonymity of Hebrews to that of Deuteronomy: Hebrews "derives its authority not from its writer... but from conforming itself to the address of God himself, as expressed in scripture, in his Son, and in the pattern of obedient action and worship which Jesus lays down."

Why was Hebrews written?

Hebrews is more of a homily than a letter. Many have viewed it as a Midrash on Psalm 110. It may have been addressed to Christians who were in danger of becoming lax in their commitment. It intends to refresh that commitment by exhorting the readers (or hearers) to endure. Believers are encouraged to follow the example of Jesus, the high-priestly Son of God, who was a champion of faith, leading believers...perfect example of the faithful service that such a life involves." In his structuralist reading of Hebrews, Dunnill labels the text, "a rich meditation on the glorious oddness of God's dealings with humanity," and points out that the letter "positively rejoices in whatever is anomalous or strange." In order to create an ideal image of life before God, Hebrews does three things: First, it presents holiness as a deeply ambivalent power. Second, it reworks Israel's sacred history through the interlocking marginal roles of Priest and Stranger. And finally, it interweaves images of the readers' situation in the sacred margin. The result is "a liturgical understanding of the present moment, expressing a theology of the actual presence of God". Dunnill also argues that Hebrews' imitation of the Pentateuch (e.g., its repetitive and allusive style, axiomatic announcements, dwelling on whatever is mysterious and 'fraught with background') indicates that Hebrews is not only interpreting scripture, but also being interpreted by it.

What's the story behind the scene?

The date of composition for Hebrews could be any time between 60 and 115 ce. If it was written early, it may have been composed just before the fall of Jerusalem. However, the development of traditions evident in the text, the author's reference to his dependence on original hearers (2:3), and his remark that the recipients had been believers for some time (5:12) all suggest that several decades had elapsed since the beginning of the Christian movement. It is difficult to assign a precise date to Hebrews primarily because it bears so few marks from the themes we find in other New Testament writings indicating that its thought developed independently of the traditions contained elsewhere.



Any reconstruction of the audience (including its location, characteristics, problems, etc.) of Hebrews can only be determined on the basis of inferences from the work itself, though some specific community appears to be in view. Although the letter is clearly addressed to Christians, it is difficult to determine whether they were Jewish, Gentile, or mixed. Those who have opted for a primarily Jewish-Christian audience see the recipients at risk of falling back into a form of Jewish Christianity more conservative than the

author likes. Those who imagine a Gentile or mixed audience consider the group to have been dealing with persecution, the delay of Christ's return, and general fatigue, doubt, and lethargy, which had developed in a community too accustomed to its initial commitment.

The theology of Hebrews is extremely rich. The author's views on God function as the basis for the letter's teaching on Christ. "Faith" (i.e., the elementary truths) is rooted in the Old Testament scriptures. God is the creator and equipper of the universe and thus humankind (1:10; 2:10; 11:3; et al.). God is active in maintaining the world he created. God called the liturgical high priests to their office just as he called Jesus to his. God speaks (and has now spoken) through the Son and confirms through miracles the work of those who spread the Christian message. In fact, the Son is the very form of God's address, witnessed in Jesus' act of priesthood. God is in control of the end of history. The author of Hebrews actually insists on the continuity of God's speaking in history. Worship (i.e., doing God's will, including liturgical and ethical elements, which are inseparable) is

(Continued on page 11)

Bible Book of the Month

(Continued from page 10)

the ultimate end of human life. Designations such as "living God" and "judge of all" transcend distinctions between past, present, and future. God's relationship to his Son represents the most distinctive developments in the letter's teaching about God: God speaks through the Son; the Son is one with God to the extent that Old Testament texts are transferred from God to Son (e.g., 1:18); angels are bidden to worship the Son; the Son is addressed as lord (1:10) and God (1:8); it is God who by his mighty acts brings people to accept the message of salvation spoken by the Son.

How is Hebrews constructed?

Introductory Statement of Faith (1.1-4)

The Son and the Angels (1.5 - 2.18)

- * The Son is higher than the angels (1.5-14)
- * Therefore listen carefully (2.1-4)
- * The Son became as we are and is our priest (2.5-18)

The Son's Superiority Over Moses (3.1 - 4.13)

- * Son rather than servant (3.1-6)
- * A new opportunity for rest (3.7 - 4.13)

Jesus the High Priest (4.14 - 10.39)

- * Christ the merciful (4.14 - 5.10)
- * A call for maturity (5.11 - 6.3)
- * A stern warning and the ground for hope (6.4-20)
- * Christ and Melchizedek (7.1-28)
- * The High Priestly ministry of Christ (8.1 - 10.18)
- * Life in response to this ministry (10.19-39)

A Call to Faith and Faithfulness (11.1 - 12.29)

- * Learning from those who preceded us in faith (11.1-40)
- * A call to continue in faith (12.1-29)

Final Exhortations (13.1-25)

A Bible Study Resource provided by
www.BibleResourceCenter.org †

Blood Pressure Check

By Pauline Totten, Healthcare Services

For March the blood pressure check will be March 2nd at 11:30 am (after church). Find our Beneva volunteer nurses in the CYF room located in the Education Building (Little Disciples building) after the church service. We are grateful to the Healthcare Services Department for offering this service. †

Please Remember our Homebound

Ruth Martin
Thelma McKahan
Oscar Thomas

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Studies

There are Youth Bible Studies from 9:00 to 10:00 am on Sunday mornings right now for ages K thru Fifth Grade. There is curriculum and we are asking for a one month teacher commitment. If anyone is interested please contact Patricia Poquette 780-2300. If we get enough teachers we will be able to expand Bible studies for the upper classes.

Please consider this worthy endeavor. †

Vacation Bible School

I know we just got over the holidays but it is time to think about our summer programs. Anyone interested in hosting VBS please contact Patricia Poquette at 780-2300 or the church office. †

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
-



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



Beneva Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

2008 General Board Members

Church Officers

Elders

Chair: Olevia Fulkert
Vice-Chair: Dale Root
Secretary: Elsie McDonald
Financial Secretary: Frank Metheny
Treasurer: Duane Wyatt
Historian: Pauline Totten/Jane Oneal

Expires 2008
 Sara Metheny
 Frank Metheny
 Oleivia Fulkert
 Greg Fulkert

Expires 2009
 Garland Poquette

Expires 2010
 Charles Rabjohns
 Bob Blanton
 Shirley Blanton
 Bob Evans

Department Chairs

Deacons

Worship: Sara Metheny
Christian Education: Patty & Garland Poquette
Stewardship: Duane Wyatt
Church Growth Jane Wyatt
Membership:
World Outreach: David Harlow
Property: Thomas Byrd
Healthcare Services: Pauline Totten
Nurture: Florine Blake

Expires 2008
 Gail Brodkorb
 Brenda Root
 JoAnn Kelly
 Amy Abbot

Expires 2009
 Lori Walsh
 Debbie York

Expires 2010
 Cindy McDowell
 Suzanne Pruse
 Tim Brodkorb
 Becky Brodkorb
 Jan Bogart
 Dean Hoover
 Joyce Hoover
 Nila Valvo

Staff

Youth Deacons

Minister: Pastor Bobby Dickerson
Secretary:
Director of Music: Greg Fulkert
Pianist/Organist: Janene Overley
Custodian: Yves May
Preschool Director: Cindy McDowell

Alicia Brodkorb
Expires 2008
 Glenn Oneal

Expires 2008
 Deanna Root

Trustees

Committee Chairs

Group Chairs

Little Disciples Melanie Bussiere
Preschool:
Memorial: Barbara Clements
Music: Iris DuBois
Personnel Committee: Duane Wyatt
Local Benevolence: Jackie Hazen
30/30 Vision: Elders
New Building:
Scholarship: Kathy Bearden
Hostess: Brenda Root/Gail Brodkorb

Elders: Frank Metheny
Deacons: Amy Abbot
Trustees: Bob King
Greeters: Ruth Wolf
Acolytes: Kathy Bearden
Christian Women Fellowship:
Christian Men Fellowship: David Harlow
Bifocal Bunch: Shirley Blanton
Young Couples/Singles:
Technology: Marshall K DuBois
Newsletter: Nancy Dennis
Web Site: Marshall K DuBois
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.

Elder Serving Schedule for March 2008

| <u>March 2</u> | <u>March 9</u> | <u>March 16</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| L Greg Fulkert | L Charles Rabjohns | L Sara Metheny |
| R Olevia Fulkert | R Shirley Blanton | R Frank Metheny |
| | | |
| <u>March 23</u> | <u>March 30</u> | |
| L Bob Evans | L Olevia Fulkert | |
| R Bob Blanton | R Garland Poquette | |

Elders of the month: Bob & Shirley Blanton (shut-ins, lockup facilities)

Deacon Serving Schedule for March 2008

Elements Preparation for March — Debbie York & Nila Valvo

| <u>March 2</u> | <u>March 9</u> | <u>March 16</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Debbie York | 1 Alicia Brodkorb | 1 Dean Hoover |
| 2 Jan Bogart B | 2 Gail Brodkorb C/B | 2 Joyce Hoover B |
| 3 Amy Abbot C/B | 3 Tim Brodkorb | 3 Nila Valvo B |
| 4 Cindy McDowell | 4 Becky Brodkorb | 4 Jan Bogart |
| | JoAnn Kelly B | |
| | | |
| <u>March 23</u> | <u>March 30</u> | |
| 1 Lori Walsh | 1 Brenda Root | |
| 2 Amy Abbot | 2 Deanna Root | |
| 3 Debbie York | 3 Joyce Hoover C/B | |
| 4 Suzanne Pruse B | 4 Dean Hoover B | |
| JoAnn Kelly B | | |

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.

Christian Ways To Reduce Stress

- An Angel says, "Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice."
- Pray
- Go to bed on time.
- Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
- Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
- Delegate tasks to capable others.
- Simplify and unclutter your life.
- Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
- Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
- Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
- Take one day at a time.
- Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
- Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
- Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
- K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
- Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
- Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
- Get enough rest.
- Eat right.
- Get organized so everything has its place.
- Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
- Write down thoughts and inspirations.
- Every day, find time to be alone.
- Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
- Make friends with Godly people.
- Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
- Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."
- Laugh.
- Laugh some more!
- Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
- Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
- Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
- Sit on your ego.
- Talk less; listen more.
- Slow down.

continued in next column

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

churchoffice@lifeatbeneva.org

Director of Music: Greg Fulkert

Director of Little Disciples Preschool: Cindy McDowell

Pianist/Organist: Janene Overley

Custodian: Yves May

Chair of the Board: Olevia Fulkert

Treasurer: Duane Wyatt

treasurer@lifeatbeneva.org

Financial Secretary: Frank Metheny

financial@lifeatbeneva.org

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

Christian Ways To Reduce Stress continued

- Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
- Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.
GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31) †

April Good News

Deadline for articles sent to the church is March 19th.

Articles may be sent directly to Nancy Dennis at
nancydennis@verizon.net, or
churchoffice@lifeatbeneva.org †

| March 2008 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 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 | | | | | |

| April 2008 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

The Life of Beneva in March 2008

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <u>March 1, 2008</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
| Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall | 4:00 pm |
| <u>March 2, 2008</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
| Cornerstone Sunday School Class—Fellowship Hall | 9:00 am |
| Youth Bible Studies—Education Building | 9:00—10:00 am |
| Traditional Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Faith Seekers—Nursery | 10:30 am |
| Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall | 10:45 am |
| Blood Pressure Check—CYF Room | 11:30 am |
| Pastor's Baptism Class—Pastor's office | 4:30 pm |
| Kids Praise—Sanctuary | 4:45—5:00 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall | 5:30 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Snack Supper—Fellowship Hall | 7:00 pm |
| Choir Fest—Pine Shores Presbyterian Church | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 3, 2008</u> | <u>Monday</u> |
| Joshua's Men Group—Fellowship Hall | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 4, 2008</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> |
| Bifocal Bunch Breakfast—First Watch-S. Trail | 9:00 am |
| Senior Retreat —Silver Springs check-in | 2:00—3:00 pm |
| <u>March 5, 2008</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> |
| LDP Art Show—Education Alcove | 5:00 pm |
| Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary | 6:00 pm |
| Worship Team 1 Rehearsal —Sanctuary | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 7, 2008</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
| Naomi Circle—Fellowship Hall | 12:00 noon |
| Food Pantry Open | 3:00—5:00 pm |
| <u>March 8, 2008</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
| Myakka hiking trip—Church Van leaves | 9:00 am |
| Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall | 4:00 pm |
| <u>March 9, 2008</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
| <i>Daylight-Savings Time Begins-Set your clocks ahead one hour</i> | |
| Cornerstone Sunday School Class—Fellowship Hall | 9:00 am |
| Youth Bible Studies—Education Building | 9:00—10:00 am |
| Traditional Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Faith Seekers—Nursery | 10:30 am |
| Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall | 10:45 am |
| CROP Walk—St. Armand's Lutheran Church | 1:30 pm |
| Pastor's Baptism Class—Pastor's office | 4:30 pm |
| Kids Praise—Sanctuary | 4:45—5:00 pm |
| Musical program—Pine Shores Presbyterian | 5:00 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall | 5:30 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Snack Supper—Fellowship Hall | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 11, 2008</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> |
| General Board Meeting—Fellowship Hall | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 12, 2008</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> |
| Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary | 6:00 pm |
| Worship Team 1 Rehearsal —Sanctuary | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 14, 2008</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
| Food Pantry Open | 3:00—5:00 pm |
| <u>March 15, 2008</u> | <u>Saturday</u> |
| Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall | 4:00 pm |

Deadline for the April Good News is March 19th

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|
| <u>March 16, 2008</u> | <u>Palm Sunday</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
| Cornerstone Sunday School Class—Fellowship Hall | | 9:00 am |
| Youth Bible Studies—Education Building | | 9:00—10:00 am |
| Easter Cantata | | 10:30 am |
| Faith Seekers—Nursery | | 10:30 am |
| Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall | | 10:45 am |
| Pastor's Baptism Class—Pastor's office | | 4:30 pm |
| Kids Praise—Sanctuary | | 4:45—5:00 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall | | 5:30 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Snack Supper—Fellowship Hall | | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 18, 2008</u> | | <u>Tuesday</u> |
| LDP Committee meeting—CYF room | | 6:30 pm |
| <u>March 19, 2008</u> | | <u>Wednesday</u> |
| Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary | | 6:00 pm |
| Worship Team 1 Rehearsal —Sanctuary | | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 20, 2008</u> | <u>Maundy Thursday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> |
| Soup Supper—Fellowship Hall followed by Worship service in the Sanctuary | | 6:00 pm |
| Prayer Vigil begins—Sanctuary | | 6:00 am —6:00 pm |
| <u>March 21, 2008</u> | <u>Good Friday</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
| Prayer Vigil —Sanctuary | | 6:00 am —6:00 pm |
| Food Pantry Open | | 3:00—5:00 pm |
| <u>March 22, 2008</u> | | <u>Saturday</u> |
| Prayer Vigil —Sanctuary | | 6:00 am —6:00 pm |
| Easter Egg Hunt—Courtyard | | 10:00 am |
| Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall | | 4:00 pm |
| <u>March 23, 2008</u> | <u>Easter Sunday</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
| Early Worship Service—Gazebo | | 7:00 am |
| Cornerstone Sunday School Class—Fellowship Hall | | 9:00 am |
| Youth Bible Studies—Education Building | | 9:00—10:00 am |
| Traditional Worship Service w/Baptism | | 10:30 am |
| Faith Seekers—Nursery | | 10:30 am |
| Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall | | 10:45 am |
| No Youth Groups | | |
| <u>March 26, 2008</u> | | <u>Wednesday</u> |
| Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary | | 6:00 pm |
| Worship Team 1 Rehearsal —Sanctuary | | 7:00 pm |
| <u>March 27, 2008</u> | | <u>Thursday</u> |
| LDP Chapel Moments—Sanctuary | | 11:45 am |
| <u>March 28, 2008</u> | | <u>Friday</u> |
| LDP Chapel Moments—Sanctuary | | 11:45 am |
| Food Pantry Open | | 3:00—5:00 pm |
| <u>March 29, 2008</u> | | <u>Saturday</u> |
| Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall | | 4:00 pm |
| <u>March 30, 2008</u> | | <u>Sunday</u> |
| Cornerstone Sunday School Class—Fellowship Hall | | 9:00 am |
| Youth Bible Studies—Education Building | | 9:00—10:00 am |
| Traditional Worship Service | | 10:30 am |
| Faith Seekers—Nursery | | 10:30 am |
| Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall | | 10:45 am |
| Kids Praise—Sanctuary | | 4:45—5:00 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Youth Groups—Fellowship Hall | | 5:30 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Snack Supper—Fellowship Hall | | 7:00 pm |

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

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Cornerstone Adult Sunday School Class | 9:00-10:00 am |
| Youth Bible Studies | 9:00-10:00 am |
| Traditional Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Faith Seekers—Nursery | 10:30 am |
| Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall | 10:45 am |
| Kids Praise—Sanctuary | 4:30 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live—Fellowship Hall | 5:30 pm |
| Sunday Nite Live Snack Supper | 7:00 pm |



THE GOOD NEWS March 2008

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

Phone: 941.924.8713 Fax: 941.923.4185

E-Mail: churchoffice@lifeatbeneva.org

Web Site: www.lifeatbeneva.org

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