



**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
926 15<sup>th</sup> St. W. (34205)  
P.O. Box 849 (34206)  
Bradenton, FL.  
Rev. Heather Robertson, Pastor

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Church Web Page: [www.Bradentondisciples.org](http://www.Bradentondisciples.org)  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

# FAMILY PROMISE SUNDAY



Family Promise is celebrating their 20th Anniversary of helping families regain a sense of independence in their lives. The national office has designated September 14-20 as Family Promise Week. On Sunday, September 14 our worship service will center around Family Promise. I hope that you will come join us on this day as we will learn how Family Promise of Manatee County is doing as we celebrate our 1 year anniversary.

# HEATHER'S HAPPENINGS

What a month August was! I spent the first 13 days of the month on vacation. What a glorious vacation it was! One week of that was spent in the mountains of Southern California counseling youth entering the 11 and 12 grades and those who had just graduated from high school. No doubt this takes a lot of time and energy, but in the end all the sweat pays off. I am sure that you have heard of mountain top experiences, Jesus had a few, not to mention others! I truly had one of those mountain top experiences the week of camp. I have to admit that it was by far the best camp I have been a part of since I have been counseling.

It seemed as though the cards were stacked in our favor. We had 60+ youth and over 16 staff who helped make this years camp so wonderful and blessed. It was not just the staff, but the campers were wonderful too. The girls in my cabin were so quiet. I would come in at rest time and they would all be on their bunks and the same was true at night (I usually have the rowdy cabin that stays up way past lights out). My family group which had 11 youth and two counselors was phenomenal. The youth were so eager to learn about Jesus and what better time in their lives than when they are in the early stages of their faith formation?

It was hard to say goodbye because the reality is that we became a close-knit group and I know that there are some I will never see or speak to again. I just have to trust that what I did that week left a lasting imprint on their hearts and a burning desire to learn more.

As I write this the theme from camp is fresh on my mind because it is the lectionary Gospel lesson for this morning (August 24). It is from Matthew 16 where Jesus asks his followers, "Who do you say that I am?" This is a powerful question, one that may or may not be easy for us to answer. Was Jesus just an ordinary man? Perhaps he was a man with supernatural powers which enabled him to perform the miracles he did. If we take this question that Jesus poses to us seriously we will see that Jesus is more than a mere man. Jesus is our Messiah!

A Messiah literally means someone who is a "savior or liberator: somebody regarded as or claiming to be a savior or liberator of a country, people, or the world." Jesus claimed to be and IS our Savior. He came into this world to set us free from sin. John 3:16-17 say, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

We often get caught up in the hubbub of the world and we neglect to give thanks to the one who gave his life for us. When we are truly thankful for what Jesus has done for us then we should have the burning desire in our hearts to know him more fully. I pray that you will take time to be in study and prayer these next several months. Pray for an open mind and heart and allow Jesus Christ in your life in a deeper more meaningful way perhaps than you have in the past. Who do you say that Jesus is?

**Shalom ~ Rev. Heather Robertson**

# PRAYER CONCERNS

*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*

**Blake Hospital:**

**Robi Manning**

**Casa Mora Rehabilitation Center (1902 59<sup>th</sup> St. W.): John Childers**

**Dolphin's View (1820 Shore Dr. South, South Pasadena, FL):**

**Margaret Wenger**

**Windsor Oak (2614 43<sup>rd</sup> St. W.):**

**Bill & Opal Hayes**

**Freedom Village (6410 21<sup>st</sup> Ave W., Apt # 325):**

**Dorothy Squires**

## **OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:**

*Jack Barnes, Ann Brose, Shirlene Bunch, Kathy & Frank Callega, Faye Coomes, Hattie & Calvin Coulter, Betsey Dobson (cousin of Gloria Taylor), Betty Donohue, Nellie Dotterer, Shirley Elliott, Todd Fritz (son of Betty Fritz), Cindy Gettinger, Francine Hewett (aunt of Diane Taylor), Lois Hipskind (friend of Barb Abbring), Margaret McIrvine (great aunt of Heather Robertson), Dale Martin (brother-in-law of Tom Dixon), Nancy Mooney, Rick Moma (nephew of the Noland's), Joel Reeve (son-in-law of Hal & Millie Zug), Mary Reynolds (Pastor Heather's Grandma), Jeremy Robertson (brother of Pastor Heather), Marilyn Ruffing, Maggie Shane, Mary Lou Sturdevant (sister of Fred Hetherington), Wendell & Rean Thomas, Mary Tupper, Ava Whitford (granddaughter of friends of Georgia Hutchens).*



## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

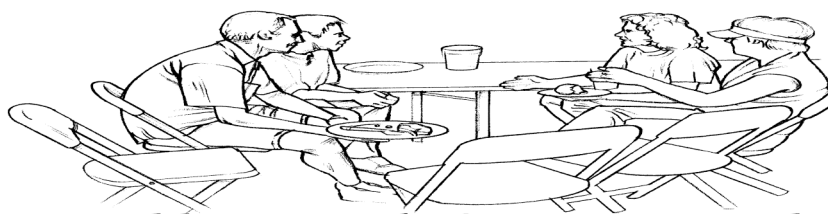
### **July Operating Fund**

Bal. 6/30/08	\$ 992.67
Jul Income	\$ 8,106.90
Jul Expense	\$ 7,280.49
Bal 7/31/08	\$ 1,819.08

## **HOPE HAPPENS:**

Every substantial grief has 20 shadows  
and **MOST** of the shadows are of your  
own making

*Sydney Smith*



## Fellowship Meals

### MUNCH BUNCH DELIGHTS

September is here and we will be trying something new with Munch Bunch beginning this month. We will meet once a month at the church for dinner and we will meet at a local restaurant once a month. We will try doing Munch Bunch this way for the rest of the year. Please be advised of the September-December Munch Bunch schedule.

**September 8** ~ Picnic and Bingo at the church @ 6 pm

Get your picnic baskets out and pack a dinner for yourself/spouse. We will have watermelon for desert. For fellowship we will play Bingo, so please come prepared for some fun times!

**September 22** ~ Red Lobster @ 5 pm

**October 13** ~ Dinner and a Movie at the church @ 6 pm

**October 27** ~ Ruby Tuesday's in Ellenton @ 5 pm

**November 10** ~ Thanksgiving Dinner and Fellowship at the church @ 6 pm

Two individuals have offered to provide the turkeys. THANK YOU! The rest of us will bring our favorite side dishes to share with all.

**November 24** ~ Oyster Bar on Cortez @ 5

**December 8** ~ Christmas Party at the church @ 6 pm

Please bring finger foods to share with all.

**December 22** ~ NO Munch Bunch



### SPECIAL 'SURPRISE' UPDATE



On Sunday, August 17 we celebrated Deidre Jackson's 10 year anniversary as the church Administrative Assistant. I want to thank all of you for keeping this surprise a secret and for all of your contributions toward Deidre's special day. Jim Hutchens took pictures during the worship service and luncheon. You can view the photos at the following link, which is a part of our church webpage:

<http://www.bradentondisciples.org/deidre.html>.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## SEPTEMBER Birthdays

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9-6 Dottie Feldman  
9-8 Sheenia Loomis  
9-11 Tom Abbring  
9-14 Mike Jepsen  
9-18 Shelly Brown  
9-15 Betty McKimmy  
9-19 Danny Brown

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10-1 Heather Robertson  
10-4 Jamie McPherson  
10-9 Leonard LeVan  
10-11 Barb Abbring  
10-12 Shirley Schwartz  
10-13 Bill Hayes  
10-27 Ann Dotterer

### NO OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9-9 Mac & Betty McKimmy  
9-20 Bill & Opal Hayes  
9-29 Leonard & Donna LeVan

\*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please call the church office so we can update our records. Thank you.



**sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

The next Potluck Dinner will be held Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> following our 10 am worship service. As with tradition, this is a special time in the life of our church where we come together with our church family and friends and fellowship with one another while enjoying great food prepared by some wonderful people of our congregation. As always EVERYONE is encouraged to bring one covered dish per person to share. You are also encouraged to INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS to share in the festivities. See you there!

### **BIBLE STUDY RESUMES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**



**GREAT NEWS!** Bible Study resumes **Monday, September 8 at 11:00 a.m.** We will gather together once again to study God's Holy Word. This year we will turn a corner and do things slightly different than in the past. Instead of reviewing scripture from the past Sunday's service, we will be looking ahead and studying scripture that is to come. While it is good to remember and review the past, we must always look toward the future in all that we do. Let's start this session off by *LOOKING AHEAD* as we anticipate all of the possibilities that lie there! Hope to see you all there!



### **BOARD MEETING \* SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

OUR NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD **SEPTEMBER 13, 2008**  
BEGINNING WITH COFFEE & DONUTS @ 9:00 A.M. BOARD MEETING @ 9:30  
A.M.



## **AFFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Our congregation was overjoyed with the transfer of membership of **BILLIE JO LAIRD** on August 3, 2008. We welcome her into the Body of Christ with loving arms and caring hearts.

Billie Jo's address is: 1319 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205

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In addition our congregation is overjoyed to announce the return of a long time member and friend of Central ~ **JO CARLTON**.

She has been a member here for well over 30 years.

## *A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS.....*

Words can not convey the extreme emotion I feel for this congregation and all that you've done for me and my family throughout the years. While it is true, I've been here for 10 years, it has been years filled with laughter, sadness, transitions and LOVE. I had not realized that I've been here that long. So that should tell everyone how at home I feel here in this place.

I believe that God sent me here in 1998 at great reluctance on my part. For I really didn't care for the "church" or anything associated with it. During that time I was a rebel. But while here, I've learned that the "church" is built up with people, as you, showing the kind of sincerity and kindness that Jesus has for all people.

The service (as always) was filled with the Lord's presence. I was quite surprised to not hear Pastor Heather sing ☺ (as she had promised) but I was even more surprised to hear the closing of her sermon refer to me. Now that really shocked me. The floral basket was BEAUTIFUL! I thank Heather for knowing to NOT get me anything real, for I would kill it. The beautiful butterflies that were within it were gorgeous (I didn't know they were made of \$5.00 bills until one fell). The crystal cross is charming and has a special place in my living room. The monetary gifts/gift card was much needed as you all may know I have three children in college and their expenses are not decreasing. The cards are precious and will be tucked away in my photo album. The liturgical dance performed by Diana Shoemaker was second to none. That song, as Heather knows, is one of my favorites. "*I Can Only Imagine*" is a song I meditate on daily. The dinner was GREAT! For those who were unable to attend, I must say you missed a great treat. The menu consisted of Lasagna, garlic toast, green beans and salad. For dessert we had a VERY delicious marble cake! Last but not least - *by any means*, the scrapbook. I chose to mention this last, because it touched me the most! This precious book was placed together by YOUR hands, along with YOUR thoughts. It will be treasured for LIFE!

Again, a huge **THANK YOU** to **ALL** of you. I genuinely appreciate your kindness and expressions of love. ~*Deidre*





**Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that we hope you will take part in. It requires very little effort on your part and the outcome is huge for those receiving the boxes at Christmas. I want to share a story with you from a child who lives in Kazakhstan who received one of the shoeboxes.**

Greetings! My name is Aigul. I am 13. I am Kazakh. All the members of my family (grandmother and grandfather, brother, sister and parents) are Muslims. One day my classmate Zhanna asked me to the Zion church. She said that there would be a great Christmas holiday. I decided to go, and I liked it very much. There were a lot of children. We read the Bible, prayed, played games, and sang songs about God. My brother, sister, and I began to go there every Sunday. But our family was against that. They said that we are Muslims and forbade me to go to the church. One day when they all went to the marketplace, I ran to the church where there was a holiday celebration. I received a gift from America. At first I had been very happy, but then I got upset that members of my family might find out about my church visit.

We and our teachers from Sunday school prayed for my relatives, and then I went home. My parents were at home. When they saw me they were angry. I boldly went to the living room and set my box there. Everyone began to look carefully at the gifts. My father took the cross and hung it on a ring of keys. My mother took a postcard. Then they asked about a meeting for adults in the church, and all my relatives except my grandfather went to the church next Sunday. In the church my mother cried very much, maybe because God touched her heart. Now we have a Bible in the house, and every evening from 8 until 8:30 p.m. we read it in turns. Our life was changed due to God and the gift.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider putting together a shoebox (the plastic rubbermaid boxes work well). Please bring your completed shoebox with you to church on any Sunday and place it at the altar. On Sunday, November 16 we will bless the boxes during our worship service and then they will be taken to a drop-off location. If you have any questions, please speak to Georgia Hutchens or Pastor Heather.



**Operation  
Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

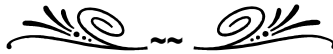
# Serving Schedule

**Sep 7<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** Sue Fitzgerald, Marian McClain. Alt. June Boltz. **Elders:** Tom & Barb Abbring. Alt. Tom Dixon. **Greeters/Ushers:** Lesa Canterbury.  
**Worship Leader:** Betty McKimmy

**Sep 14<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** Shelly Brown, Betty McKimmy. Alt. Sue Fitzgerald. **Elders:** Clyde Boltz, LaVerne Forshey. Alt. Georgia Hutchens. **Greeters/Ushers:** Reba Foreback.  
**Worship Leader:** June Boltz

**Sep 21<sup>st</sup> Diaconate:** June Boltz, Marian McClain. Alt. Jenny Dixon. **Elders:** Anita Haisch, Tom Abbring. Alt. Barb Abbring. **Greeters/Ushers:** LaVerne Forshey.  
**Worship Leader:** Mary Lou Hetherington

**Sep 28<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** Lesa Canterbury, Shelly Brown. Alt. Brenda McKinney. **Elders:** Jim & Georgia Hutchens. Alt. LaVerne Forshey. **Greeters/Ushers:** June Boltz.  
**Worship Leader:** Shelly Brown



**Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** Mary Lou Hetherington, Betty McKimmy. Alt. Sue Fitzgerald. **Elders:** Tom & Barb Abbring. Alt. Tom Dixon. **Greeters/Ushers:** Marian McClain.  
**Worship Leader:** Jim Hutchens

**Oct 12<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** Shelly Brown, Lesa Canterbury. Alt. Marian McClain. **Elders:** Clyde Boltz, LaVerne Forshey. Alt. Georgia Hutchens. **Greeters/Ushers:** June Boltz.  
**Worship Leader:** Jenny Dixon

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** June Boltz, Sue Fitzgerald. Alt. Betty McKimmy. **Elders:** Anita Haisch, Tom Abbring. Alt. Barb Abbring. **Greeters/Ushers:** Mary Lou Hetherington  
**Worship Leader:** LaVerne Forshey

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Diaconate:** Marian McClain, Mary Lou Hetherington. Alt. Shelly Brown. **Elders:** Jim & Georgia Hutchens. Alt. LaVerne Forshey. **Greeters/Ushers:** Lesa Canterbury.  
**Worship Leader:** Barb Abbring

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING.** If you are unable to serve please call your ALTERNATE. Any further questions please call: Jenny Dixon (Chair of Deacons), Barb Abbring (Chair of Elders) or Deidre at the church office 748.3130.

**NOTE TO THE DIACONATE:** With another church using our Sanctuary, after you have taken up the used communion cups and taken the signed Ritual of Friendships Sheet out of the folder, please remove the Hymnals and Bibles on the front row and place on the piano. Take the Ritual of Friendship Books and place on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. The other church will place all of these back when finished in the Sanctuary.