



BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

THE GOOD NEWS

Reverend Luis C. Bernard

May 2006

Volume 36, Issue 5

Let God Lead

By Rev. Luis C. Bernard

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

The snowbirds have returned north, High School and College graduations are being celebrated, and our own Little Disciples Preschool has finished its school year. We begin to make plans for the summer. Some will travel, others want to rest, but most have put together some kind of plan for their summer. Young people are excited over the possibilities of a good vacation.

What do we do with our time? How about our free time? The scriptures indicate that it is a good thing to plan ahead. However, they also tell us that we should not leave God out of our plans. We have been called to seek God's will for our lives. Therefore, we are encouraged to put our plans before Him.



None of us is certain of how our life and plans will turn out. Only God knows the answer to that. Therefore, we should let Him lead us. He is our trusted guide. He will surprise us but we are certain that He will get us to where we are supposed to be. We may be limited in seeing the grand scope of things but God is not blind to them.

Sometimes, what is required is that we be willing to accept God's will. That may be a difficult task because we may not agree with what God is doing, or how He is doing it. We may not be willing to listen to Him because what He is trying to tell us is not what we want to hear. The anxiety may be high but we need to step back and trust that God knows what He is doing.

I want to congratulate everyone at Beneva Christian Church. Your love for the Lord and each other is evident. This is my first summer with you and hope that all of us are able to enjoy it. Keep the faith and see you on Sunday. †

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Sunday, May 14th

A Grateful Man

George Washington had this to say about his mother: "All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her." †

Pentecost Special Offering

May 28 and June 4

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”
Acts 2:1-2, 47b (NRSV)



When the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) established a goal to start 1,000 new congregations by 2020, we expected great things. Each year, God adds growth beyond our greatest expectations:

PENTECOST 2005 marked the third consecutive year that Disciples new church starts outpaced church closings. Thanks in part to strong training and coaching efforts of New Church Ministry, about 93% of our new congregations remain viable. The new church leadership pool continues to grow remarkably, with 600 members trained by Pentecost. Our fastest decade of growth before now was the 1890's, when about 320 congregations formed – many of which are still around today. In March 2005, Disciples shot past that mark – and half the decade is still ahead of us! All these numbers translate into much more than just figures on paper. We touch more than 20,000 new Disciples through this movement as God transforms their lives.

The Pentecost offering directly supports the development of new churches all across North America and in every region. Half of the offering remains in the region from which it originates, usually going directly to new church plants. The remaining half supports the work of this movement across the life of the church with training, coaching, and other church-wide efforts to empower new churches. God calls us to respond faithfully to those who seek. We act in faith...and God adds the growth. †

Notice

From the Editor

The monthly calendar was not available for publishing in the Good News at time of printing.

Please check your weekly church bulletin for current dates and times of events in the life of Beneva.

That same weekly calendar will be available online as well.

Sorry for this inconvenience. †

World Outreach Department

By Glenda Morgan

In April, the World Outreach Department sponsored a fundraising Week of Compassion dinner with special guest, Rev. Amy Gopp, Assistant Director for WOC. Amy is a dynamic speaker and we learned a lot about what Week of Compassion does all year around the world to provide relief and continue ongoing projects. We raised \$375.00 and more contributions have followed. I would like to thank Bob Freeman, David and Mary Harlow, Todd Dellit, Elsie McDonald, Tom and Joy Byrd especially for help with the dinner. The Hot Shots did a great job of decorating the tables and the Chi Rho youth group served the meal. Thanks also to Dale Root for donating the dinner rolls. Special thanks to Glenn and Jane O'Neal for taking tickets and always being ready to assist in any way. †

Sweet Adelines To Entertain At Ladies Spring Luncheon

May 13th at noon

The Venetian Harmony Chorus, a part of Sweet Adelines International for more than 20 years, will entertain at the upcoming Spring Luncheon. They sing a cappella tunes, barbershop style. Under the direction of Polly Ann Nanfito, the chorus entertains throughout the greater Venice/Englewood area. Their organization donates a scholarship to area music students and also presents hundreds of teddy bears each year to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department for use by officers who encounter youngsters caught up in emergency situations. The 50+ members come from Venice, Englewood, Sarasota, Nokomis, North Port, Longboat Key, Port Charlotte, Myakka City, Bradenton and Sun City Center. The chorus competes with other Sweet Adeline choruses throughout Florida and placed first in Division AA competition last April for the third year in a row.

The Christian Women's Fellowship invites all ladies of the church to come to the annual spring luncheon. Originally known as the Mother-Daughter Luncheon, it has come to be known as the Ladies Spring Luncheon so that no woman should ever feel excluded. We encourage you to invite any significant woman in your life to join you, whether it is mother or daughter, or just come and enjoy the fellowship of other women. The menu is chicken salad stuffed tomato, banana bread, fresh fruit, and sherbet. Please bring a picture of a significant woman in your life and also a baby picture of yourself. Tickets will be \$7.50 for adults, \$5.00 for 12 and under and will be on sale in the Narthex after church services April 30th & May 7th, or call Glenda Morgan at 922-0259. †

Adult Bible Study

Sunday Morning 9:00 – 10:00 am
By Lloyd Marvin

By the time you read this we should have finished our study of the book of Matthew and have started on the books of Judges and Ruth. Because Judges is such a book of “gloom and doom,” about halfway through, Diane Litwiller will be leading the study of Ruth.

**For whither thou goest, I will go;
& where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
Thy people shall be my people,
& thy God my God.**

Ruth 1:16

This class has made plans to be a year-round class. A lot of our winter members have returned home for the summer. So there is plenty of room for anyone interested in joining us. The class is from 9:00 to 10:00 am, Sunday morning, in the Fellowship Hall. See you then and may God bless. †

Vacation Bible School

By Patty Poquette

Our theme this year is “**Fruit Of The Spirit**”. The dates are July 24 to 28th.

We are in need of the following volunteers:

Harvesters (Guides for the children from one event to the next)
Food
Crafts -- Lisa Beetham (need helpers)
Games
Music
Storytime
Registration

If you can only make a short term commitment, don't be afraid to volunteer. You do not need to make up curriculum or activities as these are preplanned.

If you can help with any of these activities please contact Patricia Poquette 780-2300 or Corry Pruner 371-1387. †

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Sunday School Opportunities

Children's Sunday School every Sunday, between 9:00—10:00 am in the Christian Education Building (Little Disciples Preschool). Ages: 5 – 11.

Children's Worship & Wonder every Sunday, between 10:45—11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Ages 5-11.

Faith Seekers every Sunday, between 10:30—11:30 am in the Nursery. Ages 1-4.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study every Sunday morning, between 9:00 - 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join Lloyd Marvin and Diane Litwiller for teachings from the Judges and Ruth. Hope to see you there!

Sunday Evening Adult Bible Study will be every Sunday evening, between 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Meet with Pastor Bernard as he walks us through the Book of Acts. Ages: 18 + welcome. †

Worship and Wonder

Worship and Wonder is starting off the New Year with a lot of enjoyment for the children. Miss Sandy has a lot of new stories for the children to learn and enjoy. This class needs people to be greeters. If your children go to this class we would love to have some parents sign up to help Miss Sandy with the class. If you are interested in helping please contact Patricia Poquette at 780-2300.



This class meets every Sunday, between 10:45—11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Ages 5-11. †

Cleveland Christian Home Walk

By Dave Harlow

The combined efforts of 35 walkers, 2 bike riders and the "Hot Shots" (4th and 5th graders) raised at least \$1,737 for the Cleveland Christian Home. Four retired ministers and their wives (Humberts, Smiths, Stumps and Hurons) walked. Other walkers were: Wally and Mabel Brunton; Glen and Jane Oneal; Hugh and Lillian Moore; and Luis, Carmen and Natalie Bernard; Mary Caress, son Steven, daughter-in-law Grace and grandchildren Stephanie, Kris and Kyle; Becky Brodkorb; Rebecca Root; Bob and Susan Evans; Jennifer Fulkert; and bicycle riders David and Glenda Morgan. Florine Blake, with Amy Abbot's help, pushed her walker the entire 3 miles. In her walker was cool water for the return walkers. In His Service, Dave and Mary “walkers”. †

Relay For Life

By Bob & Susan Evans

The Beneva Christian Youth group made a fabulous showing at the "Relay For Life" on Siesta Key. Thanks to Pete and Lynn Harris, I don't know how they do it, but they came up with the most wonderful site. Our theme was Disney and our tent was a replica of Cinderella's castle with full size pictures of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. There were also Mickey ears all around, a huge banner with the church name. You would think you had just driven into the Magic Kingdom with the large Mickey ears. Thank you, thank you and thanks again.

Thanks to everyone who participated - we had about twenty young people. We also had lots of other helpers, Tom and Joy Byrd made sure no one was hungry that night, Tom kept the grill hot and the food was delicious. Thanks to the multitude of people that helped. In addition, many, many members stopped by and did a lap. We appreciate all the support we received from the members and friends of the congregation. Justin Pruse won the contest "The Dude looks like a Lady". There were lots of games, water balloon tosses, musical chairs with a twist - a scavenger hunt (and the last person to find the item didn't have a chair), hula hoop contests, bean bag tosses and carnival games. Of course, there was the serious and meaningful luminary ceremony.

Our children set a goal of \$3,751. At this time I don't have the final count, but I don't think we have made our goal yet. I do know we have a large donation coming in that has a company match. The good news is there is still time, we can continue to accept donations until June 1st that count toward our team total. Anyone wishing to make a contribution please make your check payable to the American Cancer Society.

With the enthusiasm and energy of our youth, I feel very hopeful that cancer will be a disease of the past in the near future. Thanks Beneva Christian Church for your help. †

Blood Pressure Check

Sunday, May 7th

Our Healthcare Services Department provides a health-giving service to Beneva Christian Church each month by offering a blood pressure check. For May the blood pressure check will be May 7th at 11.30 am.

Find our Beneva volunteer nurses in the CYF room located in the Education Building (Little Disciples building) after the traditional church service. We are grateful to the Healthcare Services Department for offering this service. †

Hot Shots Update

By Bob & Susan Evans

It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close. Our end-of-year party is set for May 7th with a trip to Ellenton Ice and Sports complex. We are very lucky to have a special guest joining us for this event. Clara Peters, from Ireland, is training at Ellenton Ice and she will be helping us at our end-of-year party.

Our "Relay For Life" was a great success. We had lots of people participating and many members and friends came out to join us. We all had a great time and helped out on a worthy cause. What a great combination.

We are doing the children's moment at Youth Sunday. We hope to share our experiences with the congregation and the children.

Thanks Hot Shots for a great year. †

Thoughts for Memorial Day

The anthropologist and naturalist, Loren Eiseley, who died in 1977, wanted this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth, but could not stay."

No one can stay, of course. We all are moving inexorably toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (Book of Common Prayer).

This Memorial Day we particularly remember the men and women who have perished in war, giving the ultimate sacrifice to make the world a better place. They too "loved the earth, but could not stay." May God hasten the day when we can solve our disputes peacefully.

We also remember all our loved ones whose stay on Earth is over. Christians believe that death does not end all. We trust that the God who made us will provide for us when our bodies can no longer sustain us.

A memorial stone on the campus of the College of Wooster in Ohio, placed there by a class many years ago, reads:

United in time
Divided in time
To be reunited
When time shall be no more.

That is a hope we can have for ourselves, our loved ones and those who sacrificed all. †

Happy Hearts Eating-Out Schedule

Breakfast	Wednesday	9:00 am
May 7	Applebee's (Clark Rd.)	
May 14	Longhorn	
May 21	Demetrio's	
May 28	Steak & Ale	

Lunch	Sunday	12:00 pm
May 3	Tasty Home Cookin	
May 10	Serving Spoon	
May 17	Demarco's	
May 24	First Watch	
May 31	Millie's	



- May 04 Nila Valvo
- May 04 Marko Sumney
- May 05 Sande Nielson
- May 05 C.J. Powell
- May 07 Caitlin McDowell
- May 07 Jim Aiken
- May 10 Ron Bair
- May 11 Mary Caress
- May 12 Edd Spencer
- May 13 Donna Shrimplin
- May 14 Diane Christian
- May 16 Roger Bogart
- May 16 Edith Davidowski
- May 17 Peg Morey
- May 17 Corry Pruner
- May 20 Dorthia Rogers
- May 20 Susan Evans
- May 22 Jennifer Daniels
- May 22 Thelma McKahan
- May 26 Millie Neel
- May 26 Jason Hart
- May 28 Roy Fahrback
- May 28 Gil St. Louis
- May 30 Robert Ely
- May 30 Danielle Pruner
- May 30 Pauline Totten
- May 31 Wilma Kaulfuss
- May 31 Robyn Brunner

Happy Hearts News

By Jane Oneal

Saturday April 15th, 22 members and guest attended the Palm Dinner Theater at Ft Myers to see the show Oklahoma.

On April 20th the Happy Hearts held their annual picnic at Turtle Beach pavilion, with 22 present. A good time was had by all. All seniors are welcome to come join us and have a great time. †

June Good News

Deadline for articles sent to the church is May 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
9:00 am-1:00 pm Office Open
Phone: 924-8713

The office telephones will be covered every day at the above office hours by our secretary, Theresa Weber. Our Minister, Luis Bernard, 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. Pastor Bernard, the Elders, and other volunteers are available at any time. Please do not hesitate to call if needs arise.

Church email — churchoffice@lifeatbeneva.org
Pastor Luis Bernard — pastor.bernard@lifeatbeneva.org
Church Website — <http://www.lifeatbeneva.org>
Pastor Luis Bernard cell — (941) 735-5355



May 22 Peter & Rebecca Garapic

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

Little Disciples Preschool

By Cindy McDowell, Director

We enter into May knowing this is the end of another wonderful year here at Little Disciples Preschool. For some families, it means the end of four, six, or eight years of schooling with us and the graduation of their second or third child from LDP. You can imagine how proud we are of each and every one of our graduates.

One of my favorite annual events takes place on Monday, May 1st when all of our families gather at Siesta Beach for our "End of Year Family Picnic". Later that same week, we will be with Pastor Bernard for our final Chapel Moments this school year. Thank you Pastor Bernard!

I have three very special people I want to take a moment and recognize. This trio has helped me at more concerts, Open Houses and Graduation ceremonies than I can remember and they have always been the first ones to say "how can I help?" They have poured iced tea and lemonade, cut cake, handed out preschool t-shirts and programs and greeted hundreds (possibly thousands) of families for Little Disciples through the years. All three serve on our Preschool Committee and continue to bless us with their friendship and support. My sincerest THANK YOU to Barbara Clements, and Jane & Glenn Oneal for always being there and for your love for Little Disciples Preschool and our staff and our children. We love you all so much.

On May 8th and 9th we will be turning the playground

into a water park complete with pools and watery tractor rides. It's sure to be a soaking good time!

Our last week of school will be full of end-of-year parties and various activities. On Friday, May 12th, we will graduate 48 very grown up, very loved students. The ceremony begins at 11:00am with a reception in the courtyard to follow. This is also our last day of school for the 2005-2006 school year. Oh and yes, Barbara and Jane & Glenn will be there lending a hand ☺.

We will enjoy three Summer Camp sessions this year. Session #1 runs May 30 - June 9; Session #2 runs June 19-June 23; and Session #3 runs July 10-21. All sessions have a few vacancies that remain. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the preschool office soon. We hope everyone has a summer filled with adventures.

Enrollment for the 2006-2007 year finds us FULL at all age levels!!!! The office will be open through the summer so be sure to stop in and say hi!

Thank you to all our wonderful families for a truly beautiful year. Thank you dear parents for sharing your children with us. Together we have survived booboo's and separation anxiety and we have celebrated birthdays, losing baby teeth, learning to tie our shoes and the birth of many beautiful new siblings (future preschoolers!). May God be with each of you 'til we meet again. †

F.A.M.I.L.Y.

Focus All Minds In Love Year-around

The F.A.M.I.L.Y. group is off to a great start! Our first meeting went very well and everyone is so excited to be part of a new group that will be active and continue to grow. Everyone is welcome at F.A.M.I.L.Y, but events, activities and education will be geared towards people with families. This group is designed for people with children still living at home, single people, single moms, single dads etc. Men and women in the 20's, 30's & 40's usually fit this category. If your children are grown, come and share your experiences with us and we encourage you to join us. If you are young at heart, can tolerate the atmosphere that sometimes includes children, come join the fun. You just might learn something new and have fun doing it! Don't forget the kids, we have separate activities for the kids and also include them in some of our meetings.

Our mission is to provide a Christian based fellowship group to promote family togetherness, learning the gospel and dealing with the day to day struggles of being a good Christian parent in today's difficult world. Through

various fellowship activities, family outings and structured gospel education, our mission is to promote the family unit and to pass on loving Christian family traditions to our children so they in turn will pass on the traditions of a Christian family to their children.

Our vision for this group is to grow the entire congregation at Beneva Christian Church by reaching out to other families in Sarasota, preaching the gospel and spreading God's message. It is the vision and the mission of this group to draw more young families to Beneva Christian Church so that the simple message of God's love can be shared with more people. If you share it... they will come.

Come and join us the first and third Wednesday of every month. There are special dates on Saturdays too. Each meeting will have a selected topic, guest speakers and off-site activities as well. Come join the fun! We would love to have you! For more information, contact Theresa at 926-8052. See you soon! †

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 May 2006

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