



BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

THE GOOD NEWS

Rev. Bobby Dickerson

April 2008

Volume 38, Issue 4

“Are You Blessed, Do You Believe?”

At Easter these words rang out. Hallelujah He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! These words are some of the most important words ever spoken. Words of praise and hope. Words of thanksgiving and encouragement. Wonderful words of life.

At Easter we were reminded that death is not the end but only a beginning. The beginning of new life in Christ. We have all experienced death in our lives. The death of a pet, neighbor, friend, family member or spouse. The death of a plan, idea, dream or relationship. Much has been written on the stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression and Acceptance. I’m sure the apostles and many of Jesus disciples experienced many of these stages of grief in the days after his death. We see them clearly in the Gospel of Luke in regards to Jesus resurrection. Denial: “They told this to the apostles but they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.” Depression and Anger: “They stood still, their faces down cast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, ‘Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?’” Denial, Bargaining, and Acceptance: “But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe’.” “Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hand. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe’.” “Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ “Then Jesus told him, ‘because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’.”

For us the acceptance of Jesus’ death is the easy part. It’s accepting that he’s not dead and is risen that is the hard part. We are all like Thomas, we want proof. Let me touch his hands, his feet or his side. Then I will believe. But Jesus says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Are you blessed, do you believe? Do you believe that Jesus is truly alive and living among us? Do you believe that he wants to offer you hope in your own grief and loss? Are you willing to accept this blessing of hope?

May these words of hope ring out everyday. Hallelujah He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Pastor Bobby †

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

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What A Pleasure!

By Jane Wyatt, Growth Chair

What a pleasure it is to welcome Rev. David and Kitty Polk into the fellowship of Beneva Christian Church. They added to the happiness of a great Palm Sunday worship service. David edited our red Chalice Hymnal and has taught at Lexington and Brite Theological Seminaries. Kitty will soon be leading Christian Women's Fellowship in the Florida Region. Wow! Besides all that, they are natives of my home state, Indiana. They live in North Port and may be emailed at DPPKMP@comcast.net. So nice to have them in our family!

We have several new members and many regular visitors, so we are planning one of our fun Newcomer's Socials. It will be in Fellowship Hall Friday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. We will have plenty of food--appetizers and desserts. If you would like to help host and get to know these fine people, give me a call at 484-0198. A good time is always had by all. We thank God for sending us so many wonderful new people! †

February Financial Update

By Duane Wyatt, Stewardship Chair

	February 2008		February 2008 YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$15,269	\$12,883	\$31,002	\$26,566
Expenses	18,522	18,796	35,799	34,914
Gain(Loss)	(3,253)	(5,913)	(4,797)	(8,348)
Checking Bal.			\$2,176	

Income was over budget by \$2,500 and our expenses were right on target, so our loss for the month was almost \$2,700 lower than anticipated. Our YTD income is \$4,500 above budget while our expenses were \$900 higher than expected, but our YTD loss is lower (by \$4,500) due to the higher income.

We did borrow \$10,000 late in February as we said in the March Newsletter. So our actual checking account balance was \$12,176, which will definitely be needed in March because we have an insurance payment of \$7,000 due.

Overall we have a good start for 2008, but we still anticipate the loss to be well over \$45,000 with a debt of approximately the same. †

Food Pantry Update

By Jackie Hazen

The month of March was the busiest month yet at the Food Pantry. During the month we had over 120 families come in to see us with over 1000 pounds of food going out each week. Although we are hearing a few stories of folks finding some work and slowly getting back on their feet, there are still so many out there not knowing what tomorrow will bring. They are so grateful to have us here to get them through, to listen to their stories and give them support in any way we can. With that said, I am sending a big THANK YOU to everyone who have helped support this most valuable program. I would like to encourage everyone to dig into your pockets and give just a few dollars a week. Your donations are desperately needed to keep this program going and just a few dollars a week can be a tremendous help.

During the month of April we will continue to look for help with condiments, (ketchup, mayo, mustard, sugar, salad dressings etc).

These are items that are always being sought and unfortunately are hard to come by at All Faiths Food Bank. Please drop off all donations in the basket outside of the Food Pantry.

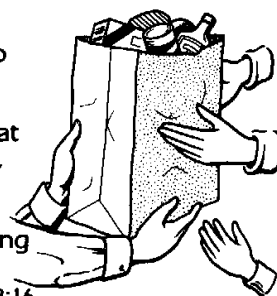
Lastly I would like to thank all of those folks who have been helping me out on Fridays. I would especially like to thank Bob and Nancy Horch, Chuck and Lauralyn Smith and Mary Caress. I never could have done this job without you! Safe travels to all of you as you head back north and I will look forward to seeing you all again next year.

With the above said, I am desperately seeking help on Fridays. If you are able and interested in participating, please let me know.

Happy Spring! †

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. †

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
-Hebrews 13:16



World Outreach

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

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16

TRANSFORMATION

Not long ago I visited the section of Concepcion, Chile’s second largest city, where the Bio Bio River, one of the largest rivers in Chile, flows into the Pacific Ocean. It is a beautiful place with a new avenue following the curves of the banks and a river walk jeweled with green parks and spaces for picnics near modern playgrounds. How this community has changed since I first visited there ten years ago!

Back then, it was a neighborhood of despair, a squatter’s community where homeless people coming into the city looking for jobs used tin, wood, cardboard or whatever else they could find in the dump to build a makeshift shanty on abandoned



government property. Whenever the river flooded beyond its banks, it washed away the makeshift houses. When the water receded, the people kept coming back. When the government tried to eject them from the land, they refused to leave, and managed to hold onto these homes they eked out of nothing.

Today, I stand in a tiny apartment with running water and cheery curtains. It belongs to a family who once lived in a cardboard-walled and tin roofed shack. They are long - time members of the Pentecostal Church of Chile. In this modest, little church they discovered something of value in themselves and each other. With laughter and tears, they speak of the slow, but steady, transformation from the dark fear of streets run by drug lords to kites, bikes, and soccer games. Their tiny congregation has been a light in the middle of the darkness, and continues to be a beacon of God’s life giving power.

Elena Huegel is a Global Ministries missionary with the Pentecostal Church of Chile. She works as an environmental and Christian education specialist. Mary and I met her last summer in an Ohio outreach program.

Week of Compassion — Special Giving

Special Giving was great. We beat last years giving amounts. Jesus would be proud of each and every person at Beneva. We raised \$1,500 + for the Week of Compassion. Remember, you can give money to the Week of Compassion any time. There are, according to Johnny Ray’s office, at least 3 catastrophic events everyday somewhere in the world. Week of Compassion is our first help with emergency supplies.

Crop Walk

Our Crop Walk raised at least \$400 this year. A small amount of money added to other money quickly adds up and becomes a lot of money. Every bit of money you can afford to give is appreciated. Thank you, Your Outreach Team.

Walk on the Beach for the Cleveland Christian Home April 5th at 8:00 am.

The World Outreach committee will be sponsoring and representing you at the annual “Walk on the Beach “on Siesta Key Beach April 5th.

The annual walk helps raise funds for the Christian Home. The Home has been a haven of hope and healing for children, youth, and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. The CCH provides residential treatment, foster care and adoption services, out- patient counseling, family preservation programs and independent living support to over 500 children and their families each year.

To sign up for the 3 mile walk from Siesta Key Beach to Point O’ Rocks and back, please call Mary or Dave Harlow at 966-3007. When you register you will receive a T-shirt and a pledge sheet. Kathy Bearden will be leading a walk in the Myakka back country for the home. You may walk anywhere. Involve others from outside the church as well as your friendly church members.

What a great way to invite people to see a church in action. In the past, we have seen dolphins, pelicans, sailboats and seagulls. *Sometimes we have seen weird people too.* †

“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. †

Meet Our New Church Secretary

Hi! My name is Caitlin McDowell, and I'm the new church secretary here at Beneva Christian.

Fortunately, it's likely that most of you either know me now or remember me from when I was younger. I've recently returned to Sarasota after living, working, and going to school in Ft.



Myers for a few years. I can hardly express how excited and pleased I am to return to my church home and serve God and all of you to the best of my abilities. It has been so wonderful to be back and to be again in the company of the members and friends of Beneva's congregation. Thank you all so much for your open arms of welcome, it really has meant a lot to me.

I'm in the office Mon-Fri; 9am-1pm, so if you have any questions or problems please call me and let me know how I can help. Remember that I'm always happy to hear from you, so never hesitate to call :) †

Calling JOSHUA'S MEN

April 7th — 7:00 pm



All men are invited to the gathering of Joshua's Men. We will be meeting on Monday night April 7th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for Fellowship, Prayer, and Bible Study.

We will continue our Bible study and prayer time. Also we will be discussing a possible work day at the church and what ministries we want to support in our church and in the community.

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

2008 Easter Lily Donations

<u>Donor Name(s)</u>	<u>In Honor or Memory of</u>
Dan & Sarah McNabb	In honor of Jerry & Mary Caress
Larry & Jackie Hazen	In memory of Joshua Lisowski and Tracey Clark
John & Charlotte Green Bo Bragg	In memory of loved ones Harold Bragg
John & JoAnne Humbert	In honor of Debbie Humbert & Emily King. In memory of Betty & Dale Humbert; Bea & Bill Trimbur
Frank & Sara Metheny	In memory of Howard Metheny & Cleona Doran
Betty Freant	In honor of my daughter, Beth Freant
Florine P. Blake	In memory of my sister, Elaine
Pauline Totten Charles & Wanda Rabjohns	In honor of my family Parents Harold & Ruth Rabjohns; Parents Willie & Jessie Melton

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. †

Sunday Nite Live

By Patricia Poquette, Education Chair

Sunday Nite 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 April 6th.

End of youth groups May 18th.

Youth Groups

Little Bits (ages 3,4,5)

Dale & Brenda Root

Genesis (Kindergarten & 1st grade)

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:

April — Olevia Fulkert

May — Corry Pruner

Children's Worship and Wonder Story List

By Sandy Mackey

Apr 6 - Jesus Appears to Thomas

Apr 13 - Jesus Commissions the Disciples

Apr 20 - Jesus Appears to Disciples by the Sea †

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. †

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. †

Easter Egg Hunt 2008

By Rea Davies

Wow! What a good time we had. We had to alter our plans a little because of the rain. However, lots of children came and seemed to enjoy themselves very much. There were about 100 people present.

I'd like to say a big thank you to all of you who participated in some way. First of all, Bob Evans, for his very generous donation of all the door prizes (because we can't call it a raffle). Next, Dale Root, for his very generous donation of eggs and cookies. Thirdly, Matt and Kat, perhaps better known as Pastor Bobby and Sarah Methany, for their superb puppeteer performances. I'd like to thank the Easter Bunny for popping in to see the children and have his photograph taken many times. I

didn't see him leave because he is a bit like the tooth fairy and Santa Claus. Who else? There is my able assistant Deanna Root. Also, the anonymous people whose donations of many plastic eggs, hard-boiled eggs, cookies, candy, and egg dies, etc. led to the success. Thanks to the C.Y.F. and Chi-Rho volunteers for their efforts, and to Frank Methany and Greg Fulkert for vacuuming the floor. Lastly, to my Mum and Dad and sisters for their support, time, effort, patience, guidance and space in the living room.

To all the other unsung heroes who I don't know the names of — a big thank you to all. As a post script we took \$50 in donations to go to the Food Pantry and the Church in the Park. †





2008
Camps and Conference
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Florida



Early Registration fee for all camps ends May 9th 2008**

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cost</u> Post Marked By May 9, 2008	<u>Cost</u> Post Marked By May 9, 2008
Genesis Camp (4-7th Grade)	June 8 — 13	\$285	\$300
CYF Conference (9-12th Grade)	June 15 — 21	\$295	\$310
3rd Grade Camp (3rd Grade)	June 22 — 26	\$245	\$260
Primitive Canoe Camp (9-12th Grade)	June 22 — 28	\$255	\$270
Spiritual Arts Camp (8-12th Grade)	June 29 — July 5	\$335	\$350
CHI-RHO Camp (6-8th Grade)	July 6 — 11	\$280	\$295
Junior Camp (4-5th Grade)	July 13 — 17	\$245	\$260

Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

2008 Directors

Genesis Camp (4-7th Grade)	Rev. Donn Brammer
CYF Conference (9-12th Grade)	Libby Snyder & Rev. Suzanne Stout
Third Grade (3rd Grade)	Rev. J.C. Steele
Primitive Canoe Camp (9-12th Grade)	Steve Turrentine
Spiritual Arts Camp (8-12 Grade)	Lora Davis-Henningsen
CHI-RHO Camp (6-8th Grade)	Rev. Jeff Smith
Junior Camp (4-5 Grade)	Pastor Roslin Springer

Handle With Care

****Early Registration must be post marked by May 9, 2008 and must include full payment less any scholarships awarded.**



- Apr 01 Danielle Walsh
Apr 02 Joyce Brown
Apr 02 Bobby Blanton
Apr 02 Jonathan Case
Apr 03 Dottie Weil
Apr 03 Kathy Bearden
Apr 04 Tim Murphy
Apr 06 Danny Eastman
Apr 06 Antonio Trujillo
Apr 07 Marie Oberle
Apr 08 Bob Evans
Apr 10 Jan Schroeder
Apr 15 Taylor Swartz
Apr 16 Timothy Brodkorb
Apr 16 Linda Giordano
Apr 18 Jennifer Fulkert
Apr 22 Gail Boggs
Apr 22 Mary Lawton
Apr 23 Jon Hart
Apr 23 Rebecca Garapic
Apr 26 Michael Root
Apr 28 Jacey Byrd
Apr 29 Shari Fruehwald
Apr 30 Claire Rieser

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, April 4th at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall.

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



- Apr 06 Glenn & Jane Oneal
Apr 07 Edward & JoAnn Kelly
Apr 10 Tim & Nadia Murphy
Apr 10 Charlie & Paula Martin
Apr 13 Marko & Maggie Sumney
Apr 14 Nathan & Debra Byrd
Apr 16 Bob & Shirley Blanton
Apr 19 John & Marti Albritton

Martha Circle By Carole Platt

The Beneva Church Martha Circle meeting will be April 17th at 7:15 pm in the home of Carole Platt, 3733 Malec Circle (2nd street on right, headed east from Beneva Church). When you enter onto Malec Circle go straight and it will be 5th house on your left, right after the white fence of 4th house. All ladies are invited to come and Carole would appreciate your RSVP by the 16th if you are coming. Telephone 922-4762 or email" daplatt1@aol.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU Thursday the 17th. †

Bifocal Bunch By Shirley Blanton

We are scheduling only two events during April due to many of our group being away.

Saturday, April 5th at 7 pm — Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday, April 8th at 9 am — Breakfast at Sugar & Spice restaurant on Cattlemen Road. (Please RSVP to Shirley Blanton for the April 8th breakfast.)

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

We enter into April knowing that the calendar is not slowing down one little bit and we still have sooooo much we want to do together! We will be closed for the week of March 31st and hope everyone enjoys a beautiful Spring Break. We reopen on Monday, April 7th with just 7 weeks left in this school year (where has the time gone?!)

Be sure to join us for our upcoming Spring Concerts!! The children will be dancing and singing a medley of songs about careers they might choose "When I Grow Up" on Thursday and Friday, April 17 & 18. Concerts start at 11:30 am both days and will be followed by a delicious reception in Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a glimpse of the future!!!

In the week following our Concerts, our Parents are invited to come share their jobs with us during Career Week. We hope for a great response (watch for a detailed RSVP to come home of all our end of year activities) so be sure to sign-up and come in to share with us all the possibilities for future careers.

On April 24th and 25th, we will begin each day at 9:20 am with our Annual Umbrella Day Parades in the courtyard. We hope everyone will stay a little longer in the morning and enjoy these must-see parades! We will also hold our final Chapel Moments those days. We have had so much fun in our Chapel Moments with Pastor Bobby this year (see our Hallway Photo Bulletin Board J). Come see why Pastor Bobby is such a hit with our preschoolers! This is also your final chance this year to

enjoy Musical Moments starring your preschoolers!

Summer Camp 2008 is getting ready and flyers have gone home with the children letting them know dates, times, and fees. Registration begins on April 8th and on April 15th we will open Registration to our '08-'09 incoming students. It's time to secure your summer camp adventures and get ready for a wonderful summer!

Registration for the 2008-2009 school year continues, and while many, many, many classes are already full, vacancies do remain. If you or someone you know is interested in fall enrollment, please contact the preschool office soon to schedule an appointment.

Teacher's Tidbits

By Mrs. Christian

Happy Spring! We hope everyone is having a wonderful and relaxing spring break. April brings the outdoors into our classroom as we learn all about insects. We will explore the life cycle of caterpillars and watch them become beautiful butterflies. Our exciting and entertaining spring concerts will be in mid-April as we share with everyone what we want to be when we grow up.

Please join in our fun as we learn about careers with the help of parent volunteers later in April. We will end our month with a unit on weather and learn about our Florida seasons. †

Jesus, Forever

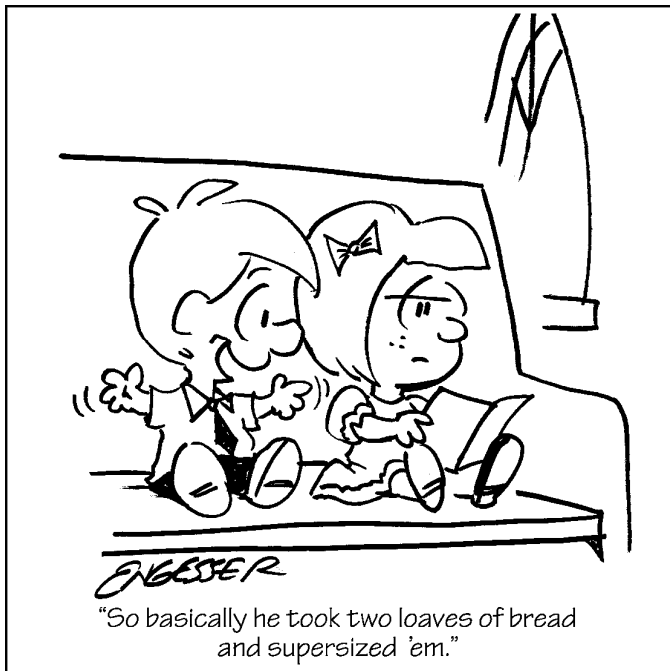
Faith may languish; creeds may be changed; churches may be dissolved. But one cannot imagine the time when Jesus will not be the image of perfection. He can never be superseded. He can never be exceeded.



ROMANS 7:25, NRSV

Religions may come and go, the passing shapes of eternal instinct, but Jesus will remain the standard of the conscience and the satisfaction of our needs, whom all seek and in whom all will yet meet.

—John Watson



"So basically he took two loaves of bread and supersized 'em."

Bible Book of the Month

The First Letter to the Thessalonians

What makes 1 Thessalonians unique?

This short letter provides a close look at the personal relationship Paul had with the Thessalonian church. More than half the letter is devoted to his prayers and thanksgiving for their faith. Paul writes like a pastor who is concerned for his congregation and thankful for the time he has spent with them. He repeatedly uses phrases like "You know" and "You remember," and then reminds the Thessalonians what they have learned from him. This makes it clear that Paul is writing to people who are already followers of Jesus Christ.

Why was 1 Thessalonians written?

Paul wanted to greet the Thessalonians and thank them for their faithfulness. He also wanted to let them know that he intended to come and see them again (3:11). Apparently some of the Thessalonian followers had questions about what would happen to followers who had died before Christ came back again (sometimes called the "Second Coming"), so Paul included an answer to this question (4:13-18). He followed up his advice by reminding them to be on the lookout for Christ's return at all times (5:1-11). As in most of his letters, Paul offers advice about how to live in a way that pleases God (4:1-12).

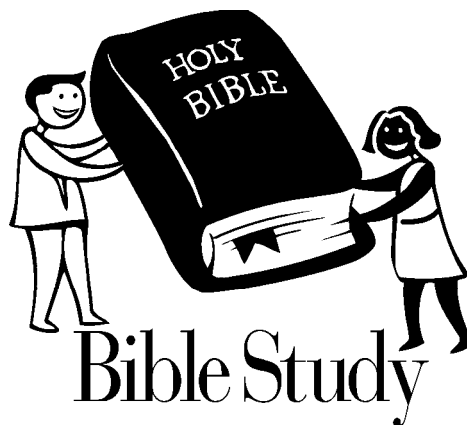
Scholars debate whether or to what extent Paul is writing to defend himself, perhaps against accusations that he was profiting from his ministry and neglecting the congregations he had established (see e.g., 2:3, 5,6). When one takes into account the complex rhetorical techniques of ancient letter-writers, however, it seems unlikely that this would have been Paul's primary concern. Regardless of how precisely one chooses to identify the rhetorical form Paul is using, it is safe to say, in general, that Paul's intent was to "exhort" or "encourage" and to "build up" (5:11) the Thessalonian believers. Beverly Roberts Gaventa summarizes Paul's purpose this way:

Having received the report of Timothy about the continuing faithfulness of the Thessalonians, Paul writes to consolidate or confirm that faithfulness. He does so by recalling the initial visit he and his coworkers made to Thessalonica and the close personal relationships they established, by celebrating the response of the Thessalonians to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and by urging

behavior that marks the Christian community as distinctive but not closed. All of these concerns he locates firmly in the realm of God's power, a power that brings faith into existence and will sustain believers until and beyond the return of Jesus Christ. (7)

What's the story behind the scene?

The author of ACTS describes the time of Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians (Acts 17:1-10). Just how long he stayed in Thessalonica is not clear, but Paul says in this letter that he worked long and hard to support himself (2:9) while starting the church in Thessalonica. This suggests that he must have stayed for at least several months.



Thessalonica, the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia in northern Greece, was located on a major east-west highway. Many of its people had worshipped idols before becoming Christians (1:9). But now they were faithful to the Lord, and because of them the Lord's message had spread everywhere in the region (1:7, 8). This letter may be the oldest of Paul's letters found in the New Testament, and may even be the earliest of all the New Testament writings.

How is 1 Thessalonians constructed?

The letter can be outlined in the following way:

The Thessalonians' Faith and Paul's Work (1:1-3:13)

Paul sends greetings to the followers of Christ at Thessalonica. He thanks them for becoming examples of faithfulness and love for all the followers throughout Greece. He praises them for turning away from idols and facing mistreatment because of their faith in Christ. Paul reminds them about how hard he worked when he was staying with them and giving them God's message. Although Paul's co-worker, Timothy, has given Paul good reports of their faith, Paul now hopes to visit them once again.

Christian Living and Christ's Return (4:1-5:22)

Paul reminds the Thessalonians that God wants them to be holy, which means treating one another with respect and avoiding immoral behavior. He then explains what

(Continued on page 10)

When We Are Gone

My wife and I have a living trust. Our home, car, financial resources and all else we own are in the name of the trust. This means that when we die, our estate will avoid going through probate court.

The living trust and our wills state clearly who will be beneficiaries of our estate. The will also states what will be left to organizations we support now, including our church. All our concerns are expressed explicitly regarding the dispensation of our possessions.

Furthermore, we have clearly spelled out what is to be done with our bodies and even planned our funerals.

What does this mean to us? It means relief. It means we have left in responsible hands all our worldly goods. Therefore, we know that everything we desire to happen upon our "transfer" will take place.

Why do I tell you this? Mainly because I want you to have the same peace of mind that we have.

And, frankly, not to have a trust and a will is to leave worries (or perhaps cause spats) you wouldn't want your heirs to have at all.

—Charles Ferrell

Some Quotes

"Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep."

—Carl Sandburg

"There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference."

—Juan Montalvo

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

—Calvin Coolidge

"To have grown wise and kind is real success."

—Anonymous

"It is important that people know what you stand for. It's equally important that they know what you won't stand for."

—Mary Waldrop

Church Announcement Bloopers

These sentences actually appeared in a church bulletin or were announced in a church service.

- Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
- Don't forget the National Prayer & Fasting Conference. The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
- Our closing hymn this morning is "Just as I am Without One Flea."
- The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.
- Potluck Supper Sunday at 5:00 pm. — prayer and medication to follow.
- Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- And finally, "The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast." †

Bible Book of the Month

(Continued from page 9)

will happen when Christ returns, a day Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be watching for at all times.

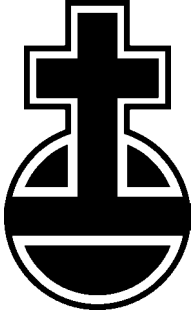
Final Greetings (5:23-28)

Paul's warm greetings show how much he loved and appreciated the Thessalonian Christians. He prays that God will help them remain holy until Christ returns again.

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

Christian Symbols

Cross of Triumph



Also known as the Cross of Victory, this cross symbolizes Christ's final triumph and his reign throughout the earth. The Cross of Triumph is often depicted atop Jesus' scepter when he's shown in his kingly office. †

An Ancient Prayer

God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, we beseech Thee; turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to Thy honor and glory.

—Saint Augustine

Short And Sweet

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Haddon (C.H.) Spurgeon was known as the "prince of preachers." He founded a seminary in London, now named Spurgeon's College, and taught young pastors-in-training how to prepare sermons.

Spurgeon often gave students a Scripture text and then had them deliver extemporaneous sermons. One afternoon, he assigned Luke 19:1-10 to the shortest class member.

The student immediately stood up and said, "Mr. President and brethren, my subject is Zacchaeus, and it is therefore most appropriate to me. First, Zacchaeus was little of stature, as am I. Second, Zacchaeus was up a tree; so am I. Third, Zacchaeus made haste to come down; so will I."

When the young man sat down, his classmates urged him to continue. But Spurgeon loved the sermon, saying, "No, he could not add anything to such a perfect little speech without spoiling it." †

The 10-Foot Rule

Some churches follow the 10-foot rule: When anyone is within 10 feet of another person on church grounds, he or she offers a warm welcome and cheerful greeting.

This rule originated with Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, who encouraged store employees to look customers in the eye, greet them and ask if they needed help.

As an ambitious college student in Missouri, Walton discovered that "one of the secrets to campus leadership was the simplest thing of all: Speak to people coming down the sidewalk before they speak to you."

Walton used the person's name if he knew it. "But even if I didn't, I would still speak to them," he said. "Before long, I probably knew more students than anybody in the university, and they recognized me and considered me their friend."

No sincere welcome is unimportant, even if necessity requires brevity. †

Grace

Grace is like getting two more days to complete an assignment even though you've goofed off for six weeks and missed the deadline.

Grace is getting another chance even though you haven't earned it or deserved it.

Grace is God's unmerited favor, mercy and love, by which we are justified freely.

—Fritz Ridenour

The Friendly Church

A friendly church is one where worshipers greet one another warmly and sincerely.

A friendly church is one where members seek out newcomers and make them feel welcome and important. Visitors hear that the congregation can help meet various needs: spiritual nourishment, Christian education, fellowship, friendship, service opportunities, support and comfort during difficulties and more.

A friendly church has something for everyone. It becomes a loving home where people desire to return frequently for spiritual, social, physical and emotional support. †



Beneva Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

2008 General Board Members

Church Officers

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

Elders

<u>Expires 2008</u>	<u>Expires 2009</u>	<u>Expires 2010</u>
Sara Metheny	Garland Poquette	Charles Rabjohns
Frank Metheny	Jane Oneal	Bob Blanton
Oleivia Fulkert	Glenn Oneal	Shirley Blanton
Greg Fulkert	Duane Wyatt	Bob Evans

Department Chairs

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

Deacons

<u>Expires 2008</u>	<u>Expires 2009</u>	<u>Expires 2010</u>
Gail Brodkorb	Lori Walsh	Cindy McDowell
Brenda Root	Debbie York	Suzanne Pruse
JoAnn Kelly		Tim Brodkorb
Amy Abbot		Becky Brodkorb
		Jan Bogart
		Dean Hoover
		Joyce Hoover
		Nila Valvo

Staff

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

Youth Deacons

Expires 2008

Deanna Root

Trustees

<u>Expires 2008</u>	<u>Expires 2009</u>	<u>Expires 2010</u>
Glenn Oneal	Bob King	Jerry Caress

Group Chairs

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:

Committee Chairs

Little Disciples Preschool: Melanie Bussiere
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

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 April 2008

April 6

L Shirley Blanton
R Bob Blanton

April 13

L Frank Metheny
R Sara Metheny

April 20

L Bob Evans
R Charles Rabjohns

April 27

L Garland Poquette
R Greg Fulkert

Elders of the month: Frank & Sara Metheny (shut-ins, lockup facilities)

Deacon Serving Schedule for April 2008

Elements Preparation for April — Dean & Joyce Hoover

April 6

1 Debbie York
2 Cindy McDowell B
3 Nila Valvo C/B
4 Jan Bogart

April 13

1 Tim Brodkorb C/B
2 Amy Abbot
3 Joyce Hoover B
4 Dean Hoover

April 20

1 Brenda Root C
2 Deanna Root
3 Lori Walsh
4 Suzanne Pruse B
JoAnn Kelly B

April 27

1 Amy Abbot
2 Nila Valvo B
3 Dean Hoover
4 Joyce Hoover 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.

Please Remember our Homebound

Ruth Martin
Thelma McKahan
Oscar Thomas

Blood Pressure Check

By Pauline Totten, Healthcare Services

For April the blood pressure check will be April 6th 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. †

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
-

May Good News

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

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

Important Dates for Our Youth

Jigsaw is August 15-17, 2008

CYF Assembly is January 23-25, 2009

Beneva Youth please put these important dates on your calendars.

We hope for a great attendance to these events. †

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
Nursery Attendant: Stephanie Ward
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>



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

Meet Our New Nursery Attendant



Stephanie Ward
Nursery Attendant

The Life of Beneva in April 2008

April 1, 2008 Tuesday
Elder Meeting—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

April 2, 2008 Wednesday
Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:00 pm
Worship Team I Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:00 pm

April 4, 2008 Friday
Naomi Circle—Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon
Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

April 5, 2008 Saturday
Walk on the Beach—Siesta Key 8:00 am
Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm
Concert Handbell Ringers—Pine Shores Pres. Church 7:00 pm

April 6, 2008 Sunday
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
Blood Pressure Check—CYF Room 11:30 am
Faith Seekers—Nursery 10:30 am
Children Worship & Wonder—Fellowship Hall 10:45 am
No Sunday Nite Live

April 7, 2008 Monday
Joshua's Men Group—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

April 8, 2008 Tuesday
Bifocal Bunch Breakfast—Sugar & Spice 9:00 am
Cabinet Meeting—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

April 9, 2008 Wednesday
Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:00 pm
Worship Team I Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:00 pm

April 11, 2008 Friday
Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

April 12, 2008 Saturday
Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

April 13, 2008 Sunday
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

April 14, 2008 Monday
Christian Education Meeting—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

April 15, 2008 Tuesday
Elder Training Meeting—Fellowship Hall 6:45 pm

April 16, 2008 Wednesday
Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:00 pm
Worship Team I Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:00 pm

April 17, 2008 Thursday
LDP Spring Concert—Sanctuary 11:30 am
Martha Circle—Carole Platt's home 7:15 pm

April 18, 2008 Friday
LDP Spring Concert—Sanctuary 11:30 am
Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm
Newcomer's Social—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

April 19, 2008 Saturday
Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

April 20, 2008 Sunday
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

April 23, 2008 Wednesday
Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:00 pm
Worship Team I Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:00 pm

April 24, 2008 Thursday
LDP Umbrella Parade—Courtyard 9:20 am
LDP Chapel Moments—Sanctuary 11:45 am

April 25, 2008 Friday
LDP Umbrella Parade—Courtyard 9:20 am
LDP Chapel Moments—Sanctuary 11:45 am
Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

April 26, 2008 Saturday
Girl Scouts—Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

April 27, 2008 Sunday
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

April 28, 2008 Monday
LDP Fundraising Event—Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm-5:00 pm

April 30, 2008 Wednesday
Worship Team II Rehearsal—Sanctuary 6:00 pm
Worship Team I Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:00 pm

April 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

What Do Disciples Believe?

Like most Christians, Disciples affirm:

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

Beliefs and practices usually associated with Disciples include:

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



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

Discover . . . Spiritual growth

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

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

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

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

Sunday Schedule

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 April 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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