



BENEVA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

THE GOOD NEWS

Rev. Bobby Dickerson

May 2008

Volume 38, Issue 5

Paying Taxes

Luke 20:20-26

21 So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. 22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?" 25 "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." 26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

Even in Jesus' day people hated paying taxes and IRS agents. So much so that they tried to trick Jesus into saying something subversive so that might have him arrested and stop his ministry. But Jesus understood the political reality in which he lived and the spiritual reality for which he stood. The two are not mutually exclusive and Jesus knew that he had come not to establish a new political power base that the Jewish people longed for, but a new spiritual reality.



As Christian's we have a secular responsibility to obey our leaders and laws, to pay taxes, vote and to be good citizens. But we have a greater responsibility to our God. To obey his commands to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbors as our selves; to pay our tithes and give our offerings; to pray and study scripture. But most importantly to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, show hospitality to the homeless, and visit the sick and those in prison.

Then give the Government what is the Governments, and to God what is God's. Give him your self today.

Pastor Bobby †

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

Inside this issue:

<i>Tidbits from the Chair</i>	2
<i>Food Pantry Update</i>	
<i>World Outreach</i>	3
<i>The Sound Team</i>	4
<i>Cornerstone Sunday School Class</i>	
<i>Joshua Men's Group</i>	
<i>You're Invited</i>	5
<i>Summer Youth Programs</i>	
<i>2008 Camp & Conference</i>	6
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	7
<i>Bifocal Bunch</i>	
<i>Martha & Naomi Circle</i>	
<i>Little Disciples Preschool</i>	8
<i>Bible Book of the Month</i>	9
<i>General Board</i>	12
<i>Deacon & Elder Schedule</i>	13
<i>Church Office Hours/Staff</i>	14
<i>Blood Pressure Check</i>	
<i>Church Calendar</i>	15



be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

A Good Time Was Had By All

By Jane Wyatt, Growth Chairman

The Newcomer's Social was a wonderful, warm time of lively sharing our backgrounds and present lives as we walk toward a deeper relationship with God. We know and love each other even more now. What a great group of guests we had! Thanks so much to Jerry and Mary Caress, Dave and Mary Harlow, Glenn and Janie Oneal, Florine Blake and Pastor Bobby for being very special hosts. (We won't tell you how much we ate.)

It's that sad time of year when we say good-bye to our "Snow Angels". We pray that they have a happy summer as they continue to give joy to others in their northern climates. But, HURRY BACK! †

Tidbits from the Chair

Olevia Fulkert

Dates for your calendar:

May 4th – All Church Picnic starting out with Fun and Games at 2:00 pm, followed by dinner at 4:00 pm. The meat will be provided and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for other items.

May 13th – Board Meeting at 7:00 pm Please remember to submit you committee reports to the office by May 2nd.

As many of you know Greg has resigned as Director of Music. His final Sunday will be April 26th. He will still be helping to coordinate special music and other music until the end of the summer. Thank you Greg for all the work you have done over the last several years to make worship a more meaningful experience for all. Never fear, Greg will still be around to play his assorted instruments.

A committee will be formed to select a choir director starting in September.

Other opportunities available are By-Laws Committee and Signage Committee. If you would like to be on any of these please contact Dale or myself.

Thanks again to all for making Beneva Christian Family to all that enter the doors. †

The Good News is published monthly by
Beneva Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
4835 Beneva Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233-2110.

Food Pantry Update

By Jackie Hazen

The Food Pantry continues to look for donations, whether it be money, food items or time. It's time for spring cleaning so clean out those pantries and cupboards and bring in all of those items you haven't used or don't think you will use! Please also remember to put a few dollars in an envelope each week to help out with this worthy cause.

Due to the expense or the unavailability of many items, during the month of May we are looking for your help

with any of the following items: tuna fish, complete meals (ie: hamburger helper, macaroni & cheese, etc), canned fruit or veggies, ketchup, mayo, mustard, peanut butter, jelly, rice or instant potato items. Please drop off all donations in the basket outside of the Food Pantry or in the Narthex.

Again I would like to thank all of those folks who have been helping me out. This is a multi person job so I continue to need your help on Thursdays or Fridays. Please contact me at 918-4814 if you can donate some time. †

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



Blood Drive

May 4th



We are having a Blood Drive on Sunday, May 4th. The Blood Mobile will be here from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Reserve your time slot on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Come donate life! †

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. †

"My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it."

—Mark Twain

World Outreach

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

Global Ministries

Report from Jeffery Mensendiek-Director of the Gakusei Student Center in Sendai, Japan. "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more." Micah 4:3 Learn War No More. Recently I was deeply honored to interpret at the "Inter-Religious Conference on Article Nine of the Japanese Peace Constitution", organized by the National Christian Council of Japan. Article Nine of the Japanese Constitution renounces war as means of solving international disputes and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces. This cross-cultural exchange included over 200 people from Japan, India, Korea, China, and America. Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and Hindus all came together, out of a deep commitment to protect life. It was a community that declared "No More War!" The Japanese constitution is scheduled to be reviewed in 2010, and there is an internal struggle between powerful nationalist political forces who want to do away with Article Nine, and other grassroots people's movements who want to renounce war once and forever. The voices we heard at the conference were voices of religious people who refuse to stand in despair, and who dream of an alternative world where people would learn war no more. One of the closing prayers still stays with me and I share part of it: O God of love into a chalice, we have poured our stories of the wounds of war into this cup; you have dropped your tears of compassion but also your breath, your grace, your power to transform. In moments when we dance on the edge of despair help us remember this cup of stories and longing and drink strength from new global bonds of solidarity. Fuel us to be co-authors to break open a new moment in history and chart a path to abolish war forever, Amen



overseas farmers by providing seeds, water wells, livestock, and education. The Home walk supports abused and neglected children. The Home, a former NBA facility for over 100 years, has been a haven of hope and healing for children, youth and families struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect. It provides residential treatment, foster care and adoption services, outpatient counseling, family preservation programs, and independent living support to over 500 children, youth and families each year. On the Walk on the Beach, Florine and Jane, while pushing Florine's walker through the sand, met a Dona Campbell. Donna was from St. Louis and a former worker at the closed NBA children's home in St. Louis. The home was the first NBA facility. She said maybe if someone walked for the St. Louis home, maybe it would still be serving youth? Your support is vital. Dave and Mary

House of Hope, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world even though it is in our backyard. Week of Compassion helps support this ministry. I thought you might be interested in where some of your money goes? Beneva reaches far beyond 4835 Beneva Rd., Sarasota, Florida. The House of Hope is a program that benefits children laboring as domestic servants, assists young mothers, single girls, and a few elderly women who have been abandoned by providing them with a safe place where they can learn social skills such as conflict resolution and a professional trade. To date House of Hope also has a broader program to promote peaceful resolution of conflict within the community through leadership development for community leaders. House of Hope has started "House of Hope II," in the areas of Carrefour-Feuilles and Lasaline, two shanty towns of extreme poverty within Port-au-Prince. Children of these communities are subject to a modern form of slavery and live in constant danger and threat of rampant violence. It is believed that the grave economic and social circumstances of these communities necessitate the urgency of immediate intervention to assist these children. The project plans to address the needs of 236 children and adolescents. The House of Hope program teaches reading, writing, and faith development, as well as life-skills, and children's rights. In an effort to provide income-producing skills, sewing, meal preparation, artisan crafts, folk dancing, and embroidery are offered. The program runs for a period of three years for adolescents, at which time it is hoped they have learned enough to continue on their own. The program aids in the establishing of personnel

(Continued on page 10)

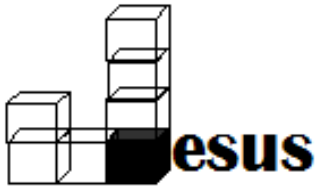
Tentative Walk Donations

As part of our Christian outreach, we sometimes have walks for our various offerings. Recently, we walked for Crop Walk, and the Cleveland Christian Home. The walkers raised lots of money for the worthwhile charities. These walks wouldn't be successful without your support. We raised \$592 for Crop Walk, and \$1,360 for the Cleveland Christian Home. Crop Walk aids

“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 all adults — any age. If you have any questions please feel free 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. †

Beneva Scholarship Fund

By JoAnn Kelly

The Beneva Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for continuing education for any youth or adult in the church. You can obtain an application from Kathy Bearden or JoAnn Kelly.

The money for the scholarships is from interest earned from investments made through the Christian Church Foundation located in Indianapolis. These funds are from contributions made by members of the congregation and from people donating in memory of a loved one.

Thanks for all who have given to the Scholarship Fund through the year. †

The “M” Word

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, “My name begins with the letter ‘m.’ I pick up things with my power. What am I?”

A boy quickly answered, “You’re a mother!” †

Calling JOSHUA’S MEN

May 5th — 7:00 pm



All men are invited to the gathering of Joshua’s Men. We will be meeting on Monday night May 5th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for Fellowship, Prayer, and Bible Study.

Thank you to all of Joshua's Men and others, who were here at our last work day. Much was accomplished but there are still things that need to be done. If you have any spare time and would like a project to work on at the church please give Caitlin a call at the office. She is compiling a "To Do" list. Also, I would like to thank Dale Root and his helpers for the great breakfast to get us all started.

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

The Sound Team

By Marshall DuBois, Technology Chair

If you can hear everyone who speaks or sings during Sunday morning worship, it's probably due to the effort of the Sound Team. Those are the people who operate the Sound Mixer in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Our "S" team consists of Jonathan Case, Marshall DuBois and Larry Hazen. We also have our backup team of Frank Metheny and Charles Rabjohns.



These folks work with the person who runs the video system, and the weekly sermon is recorded and posted to the Beneva website. If you do not have Internet access and would like a copy of a sermon please ask. We'll do our best to accommodate you. †

Ascension Day

Forty days after each Easter, many Christians around the world celebrate the Ascension. It's the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven. The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In his human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time. †

You're Invited Sunday, May 4th

From Youth Groups & Sponsors

Sunday Nite Live would like to invite the congregation to our party on Sunday, May 4th. We are having games starting at 2:00 pm for the kids and ending with a cookout at 4:00 pm. The youth groups will provide the meat, and everyone else please bring a side dish for everyone to enjoy. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex so we can get an idea of how many are coming.



Youths please bring a change of clothes and towel as you will get wet. †

Summer Youth Programs

By Corry O'Carroll

Attention all youth. Beneva Christian Church will be up and running all summer with youth programs.

Starting June 5th from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm the CYF and Chi Rho are invited to come and hang out at Disciple Hall. We will be having games (the Platts have already donated a ping pong table — thank you so much Carole and Dean), fellowship and maybe even live music. This will be a weekly event for the summer, so be sure to schedule us into your summer calendar, and bring a friend.



Not to be left out we will be soon be announcing summer activities for our younger youth.

This is an exciting time to be a youth at Beneva Christian Church and any adult who wants to be involved. We need volunteers as chaperones and helpers, please call Corry O'Carroll at 915-3206. †

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. †



Thank You

By Patricia Poquette, Education Department

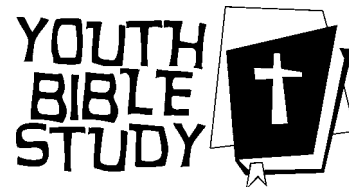
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped with the youth from Sunday Nite Live. Cooking, Bible studies and crafts — your help has been greatly appreciated.

Pastor Bobby
Ann Sullivan
Lori Walsh
Kathy Beardon
Jane Wyatt
Mary Caress
Bob Evans
Dale Root
Brenda Root
Greg Fulkert
Olevia Fulkert
Sandy Mackey
Corry O'Carroll
Garland Poquette
Peter Harris
Lynn Harris
Sara Metheny
Darren Griffin
Joy Byrd
Rea Davies
Melanie Bussiere
Linda Giordano
Marilyn Gerkin
Lisa Morrison

A big thank you to Dean & Carole Platt for the donation of a ping pong table for our youth groups to enjoy. †

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.



Teachers for the month of May are Marilyn Gerkin, grades K, 1st and 2nd, and Lisa Morrison grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

Please consider this worthy endeavor. †



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.**



- May 04 Marko Sumney
- May 04 Nila Valvo
- May 05 C.J. Powell
- May 07 Caitlin McDowell
- May 11 Mary Caress
- May 12 Edd Spencer
- May 13 Donna Shrimplin
- May 14 Diane Christian
- May 16 Edith Davidowski
- May 17 Corry O'Carroll
- May 17 Peg Morey
- May 17 Jared Root
- May 20 Dorthia Rogers
- May 22 Thelma McKahan
- May 22 Jennifer Daniels
- May 26 Jason Hart
- May 26 Millie Neel
- May 28 Roy Fahrback
- May 28 Gil St. Louis
- May 30 Danielle Pruner
- May 30 Robert Ely
- May 30 Pauline Totten
- May 30 Todd Dellit
- May 31 Robyn Brunner
- May 31 Wilma Kaulfuss

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

Three Interwoven Circles



center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity. †

Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity's eternal nature. The circles' interlacing symbolizes unity. In the



May 22 Peter & Rebecca Garapic

Martha Circle

By Carole Platt

We had 10 come to our last meeting here at our home. It was decided at our meeting to send \$100 to the conference center in Silver Springs to help towards the expense of putting in a new pool for the summer camps there this summer. We also decided to give \$50 to the food pantry.

We will all have our next meeting on Thursday, May 1st at the Landings South Trail Olive Garden at 6:15 pm. ALL ladies are invited to come. We do request that you let Carole Platt know by April 29th at 922-4762 or Kathy Bearden 924-9073, who will be making the reservation. This will be our last Martha Circle meeting until we restart again in the fall. HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU LADIES AT BENEVA!!! †

Bifocal Bunch

By Shirley Blanton

This is for those of the group who are still in Florida. We do want to say to you already back home up north that it was a joy to be with you this Winter season at Beneva Christian Church (DOC.) Please pray for our church, it's Pastor and programs.

Thursday, May 8th 9:00 am — Breakfast at First Watch restaurant on the South Trail. Please RSVP to Shirley at 377-7894, 266-1084 or Sailor1954@aol.com †

Naomi Circle

By Barbara Clements

The Naomi Circle will meet on Friday, May 2nd 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. †

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.

On Monday, May 5, we will hold our Annual End of Year Family Picnic with all our families gathering at Siesta Beach. This is always a highlight for me as I get to see all the families come together for a potluck dinner and playtime. We also see many of our alumni students at this event, and enjoy a chance to reminisce over the year's activities.

The following Monday our Graduates-to-be will come together and rehearse for their upcoming ceremony. This rehearsal will be followed by a celebration luncheon. Set up to resemble the "big school's" cafeteria, the children will enjoy a special lunch together in Fellowship Hall. (Do we really have to let them graduate?)



Just a reminder that Wednesday, May 14th is our last day of Extended Care this year. That means there's only a few more chances to be a part of our world-famous "lunch bunch" so come join in the fun soon!

On May 15th and 16th we will be turning the playground into a water park complete with pools and water sports. Be sure to lather those preschoolers with sunscreen, send in a beach towel and we'll all have a soaking good time!

Our last week of school will be full of end of year parties and various activities. On Wednesday, May 21st, we will graduate 40 very grown up, very loved students. The ceremony begins at 11:00 am with a reception in the courtyard to follow. This is also our last day of school for the 2007-2008 school year.

We will enjoy six weeks of Summer Camp this year. Beginning June 2nd, these week-long camps will be available through July 25th. 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 2008-2009 year continues with openings at all age levels. The office will be open various hours through the summer so be sure to stop in and say hi!

Thank you to all our wonderful families for a truly beautiful year. We hope all of our Parent Volunteers had as much fun as we did & that you will consider joining in the fun again next 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. ☩

DISCIPLES MEN: "What are you doing this coming summer?"

By Dave Harlow

If you are ready to renew your mind, prioritize your life, and transform your heart, then look no farther than Sessions 2008. You can accomplish all three things in one action-packed gathering: Sessions 2008. Sessions 2008 takes place July 17 to 20, 2008, where men from across the United States and Canada will gather in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for inspiration, fellowship, education and spiritual renewal. Speakers include the Rev. Rick Lowery, Old Testament scholar, who will lead in scripture explorations. Mark Briley, a Disciples pastor, will focus on worship for those in their 20s and 30s. The Rev. William Lee, will issue the challenge to put "first things first." The Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, Disciples general minister and president, is scheduled to preach at the closing worship.

Additional activities include a visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, The Oklahoma Museum of Art, and The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, and other activities including the traditional pre-sessions Golf Outing.

We have a registration form in the office. Visit the Sessions 2008 Web site for more information including online registration and hotel information. Go to www.sessions2008.org and register today! Early registrations saves money. ☩

Bible Book of the Month

The First Letter of Peter

What makes 1 Peter special?

Although it appears on the surface that 1 Peter addresses suffering and persecution, the letter is, in fact, addressing the issue of Christian identity. It was written in a period when Christianity was just beginning to come of age and to imagine itself in a particular way in relation to Judaism, the Roman Empire, and other elements of the religious, cultural, and political environment of which it was a part. It was not very popular or socially acceptable to be Christian. Believers were struggling against various forms of opposition and pressure from those around them, and thus were forced, in their response to that environment, to negotiate between positions of resistance and rejection on the one hand, and acculturation on the other.

Why was the 1 Peter written?

The rhetorical situation of the letter is one of persecution. Whether or to what extent that persecution is real or imagined remains a matter of debate. A number of questions persist: What sort of persecution is reflected in the letter? Was it due to Roman policy? Or was it of a more unofficial nature? Either way, when did it occur? Roman policies and attitudes toward non-Roman religions and toward volunteer groups (*collegia*) in general was typically one of tolerance, provided such practices did not threaten Roman power and authority. Nevertheless, there was distaste for Jewish religious practices, which often translated into official policy, and which often carried over to Christians. Support for the argument that the suffering undergone by the readers of 1 Peter was due to official persecution is drawn principally from two references-3:15 and 5:9. Most interpreters have tried to locate such official persecution with the reigns of Nero (54-68 CE), Domitian (81-96 CE), or Trajan (97-117 CE), depending in part on when one dates the composition of the letter. There is little evidence to suggest any state-wide persecution in this period. Hence, if the author had in mind any official persecution, it was most likely localized and limited. The persecutions faced by the letter's audience probably had more to do with unofficial harassment than sanctioned policy. It was probably instigated by the *hoi polloi* in reaction against the Christians' lifestyle rather than by Roman officials as a matter of policy aimed at seeking out and punishing Christians.

What's the story behind the scene?

Traditionally, the author of 1 Peter has been identified

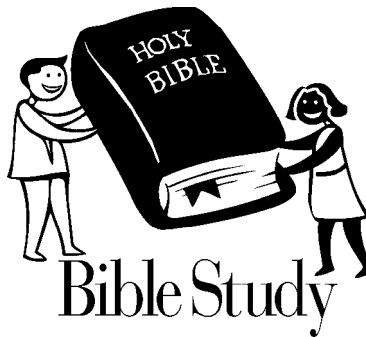
with Simon Peter the Apostle. Those that support Petrine authorship argue that his faith and personality are reflected in the letter and therefore attempt to show similarities between the letter, the speeches of Peter in Acts, and depictions of the Apostle in the Gospels. Unfortunately, general similarities like an emphasis on baptism and resurrection also characterize the rest of the New Testament. Furthermore, it should be noted that the speeches in Acts and characterizations of Peter in the Gospels are just that-characterizations. They are literary constructions of the authors of Luke-Acts and the other Gospels. Consequently, they are of virtually no value for determining the authorship of 1 Peter. Alternative suggestions regarding authorship have rarely been put forward and most are altogether unpersuasive. As a result, authorship remains one of the major literary problems of

the text. The nature of the letter, its destination, and its content only serve to further complicate the issue. For instance, the polished rhetoric of the letter and the level of its Greek, its dependence on the Septuagint, the letter's lack of references to events in the life of Jesus, the strongly Pauline flavor of the letter in both language and content (see e.g., Romans and Ephesians), evidence that the author made use of other early Christian traditions (e.g.,

Qumran materials), and the fact that the situation reflected in the letter (*viz.*, references to persecution and the internal structures of ecclesiastical organization) appears to suggest a period in Asia Minor later than one could assume Peter lived through, all seem to argue against Petrine authorship.

First Peter weaves together church community and Christology, and ethics follow closely. Note, for instance, the way the author interprets Scripture (*cf.* Hebrews) and describes the community in terms drawn from the Old Testament. Christ as the rejected stone foreshadows and parallels the fate of the church. The letter's Christology is built around emphasis on the suffering of Jesus as a necessary prelude to his exaltation. Whereas God is absolute ruler over all creation, lordship is exercised exclusively through Christ, who occupies a position superior to all other powers. In bearing our sins on the cross, he became the pioneer and perfecter of faith and the forerunner of salvation for those who obey him (1:3 - 2:25; 4:1-11). The notion of the church as a body of priests (2:5 and 9) hints at something even more developed than what we find in the writings of Paul, which most scholars believe were written four or five decades earlier. The basic ethical imperative of 1 Peter is

(Continued on page 10)



Bible Book of the Month

(Continued from page 9)

expressed as being holy because God is holy. Christ himself is the model for the Christian way of life. The risen Christ ushers in a new reality, and God's saving grace brings into being a distinctive way of life. The Christian's life in society manifests God's presence. Thus, in 1 Peter, Christians are not called to reform the social order but to exhibit true goodness within it, because carrying out one's responsibilities toward society in obedience to God's will is understood as an act of Christian worship.

Biblical scholar Steven Bechtler uses the work of ritual theorist, Victor Turner, to explore the nature of Christian identity depicted in the text. According to Turner, the characteristic symbolism of liminality is that of paradox, simultaneously "being both this and that" (and hence neither fully one nor the other) in the moment of transition. Bechtler draws on this to speak of the liminality of the Christian life, particularly with respect to a context of suffering and social disgrace. Bechtler argues that 1 Peter offers readers a "liminal self-identity," which is neither assimilationist nor sectarian, neither fully embedded within the larger society nor completely removed from it. For Bechtler, 1 Peter's ambiguous statements and images together construct an identity that is itself ambiguous with respect to the larger society. The implied readers of the letter are marginalized, both literally and figuratively. They are referred to as "children" and "newborn babies." Conversion and initiation into the Christian community is viewed as "birth." The author regards them as "free persons" "but slaves of God"(2:16). Despite the fact that their true identity lies elsewhere, they are admonished to uphold the laws of state, social conventions, and so forth. Is this then a form of cultural adaptation or a means of subtle resistance?

How is 1 Peter constructed?

Greetings (1:1-2)

The Salvation of God in Christ (1:3 - 2:10)

- * God's salvation is a source of immutable hope (1:3-12)
- * God's salvation sets us apart (1:13-25)
- * Excursus: Jesus the cornerstone of God's chosen people (2:1-10)
- * Christians in a Hostile World (2:11 - 4:11)
- * Living as aliens and exiles and suffering as Christ suffered (2:11-25)
- * Family life (3:1-7)
- * Suffering for the sake of righteousness (3:8-22)
- * Living as ambassadors of God's grace (4:1-11)
- * Encouragement for Those Who Suffer (4:12 - 5:11)
- * Personal Greetings (5:12-14)

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

World Outreach

(Continued from page 3)

dignity and gives faith and support, believing in the ability of each participant. Amy Gopp, associate Director of Week of Compassion writes, "I have to tell you when I was in Haiti in November, this was THE project that absolutely blew me away. If I had a million dollars to give away, I would have given it all away to the House...they serve the poorest of the poor among children...those who are sent into the capital city of Port-au-Prince to work as domestic servants. IT'S SO SAD. The leadership is entirely Haitian; they are visionary; they understand sustainable development and the importance of leadership development and education; they are committed Christians. I can't say enough about them, really!" You may give to the Week of Compassion anytime not just during the special offering. PS: a news report on local TV showed the poor people eating dirt in Haiti as they had nothing else to eat!

Pentecost

The beginning of the church began seven weeks after Jesus' ascension to heaven. When Mary and I (Dave & Mary Harlow) were in the Holy Land a few weeks ago and sitting by the empty tomb, it was exciting to hear Christians from all over the world sing in their native tongue songs of joy about Jesus. It occurred to me that a small group of people really did go to all parts of the world making believers. We heard, Nigerians, Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Philipinos, Ukraines, Brits, Canadians, and Americans at the tomb. What does this have to do with Pentecost, you ask? It is our chance to plant new churches with seed money. As in Jesus time, we are asked to go forth and make disciples of believers all over the world. The world being the United States. Our offering will be taken on May 4th and 11th, 2008. Please give what you can afford.

Outreach Committee

Our outreach team includes, Amy Abbott, Mary Carress , and Dave Harlow along with the members of Beneva Christian Church. If you would like to be a committee member, please let one of the heads know. We are open to new ideas. †

"There is only one open door out of guilt — my confession, God's forgiveness."

—E. Stanley Jones

"Prayer is the way we cooperate with God for the release of God's power in ourselves and in our world."

—George Buttrick

Remember To Remember

One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

“That’s the day the swimming pool opens!” answered one eager boy. What he didn’t realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America’s democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom.



Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America’s best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 26. †

Sharing: Multiplying by Dividing

Linda had been teaching 3-year-olds in Sunday School for nearly 20 years. It was time for her to hand over the reins and take a well-deserved rest from felt pictures, glitter glue cards for mom and dad, Play Doh, and the other familiar tools of the pre-school classroom.

In explaining her methods and ideas to the new teacher, a “young adult” taking over the class, she smiled, and gently said, “At this age, all you can really teach is, ‘Jesus loves you,’ and ‘You have to share.’”

That’s not a bad lesson plan for any age group in Sunday School. We’ve all probably sat in some adult classes who seemed to be unclear about the boundless love of Christ, and the many ways sharing makes for a better world. Adults know, but sometimes forget, the wonders of God’s math. By sharing what we have, dividing it in effect, we actually see it multiply—often with amazing results.

This year, through the Pentecost Offering, we have the opportunity to take part in that witness. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering, and support of it in our prayers, share the love of Christ, and the mission and ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in ways and places that may amaze us all. Through the Pentecost Offering, we support the New Church Ministry of the Disciples, throughout the U.S. and Canada, and right here in our region. We help in the recruiting and training of New Church planters, and we share in the fruits of their ministry, bringing God’s message to new places and new communities. We “Share the Chalice,” and multiply the love. †

A Mother’s Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen. †

A Word For Graduates

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension. We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

“Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.” †

March Financial Update

By Duane Wyatt, Stewardship Chair

	March 2008		March 2008 YTD	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$16,181	\$17,583	\$57,183*	\$44,149
Expenses	24,139	23,364	59,644	58,277
Gain(Loss)	(7,958)	(5,781)	(2,461)	(14,128)
Checking Bal.			\$6,221	

Income was about \$1,400 below forecast and expenses were \$1,200 over target which means our March loss was about \$2,000 higher than expected. Our YTD is \$3,000 above forecast (less the \$10,000 loan) while expenses are over by \$2,000 which makes us about \$2,000 better off than expectations (allowing for the \$10,000 loan).

We will have to borrow again in late April or early May as we approach our lower income months - but this has been in our plans since 2008 began.

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



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:
Pianist/Organist: Janene Overley
Custodian: Yves May
Preschool Director: Cindy McDowell
Nursery Attendant: Stephanie Ward

Alicia Brodkorb

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 May 2008

May 4

L Sara Metheny
R Frank Metheny

May 11

L Bob Blanton
R Shirley Blanton

May 18

L Garland Poquette
R Bob Evans

May 25

L Greg Fulket
R Olevia Fulkert

Elders of the month: Garland Poquette & Bob Evans (shut-ins, lockup facilities)

Deacon Serving Schedule for May 2008

Elements Preparation for April — Brenda & Deanna Root

May 4

1 Debbie York B
2 Suzanne Pruse
3 Amy Abbot C
4 Jan Bogart B

May 11

1 Tim Brodkorb
2 Alicia Brodkorb
3 Gail Brodkorb C/B
4 Deanna Root
JoAnn Kelly B

May 18

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

May 25

1 Nila Valvo B
2 Amy Abbot C
3 Jan Bogart B
4 Alicia Brodkorb

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 May the blood pressure check will be May 4th 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
-

June Good News

Deadline for articles sent to the church is May 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

4-2-08

Dear Fellow Christians at Beneva Christian Church,

Thank you so much for all of our prayers, cards and gifts over the last couple of years.

It really lifts your spirit when you know you are being prayed for by so many people.

I am feeling great, and I have won this battle and hopefully the war.

It was so nice to be in worship with you last Sunday, and to meet (again) several of you, and see old friends.

Of course Beneva has never been my home church, but it feels like home because of our kindness.

God be with you,
Cathy Morris

The Life of Beneva in May 2008

May 1, 2008 Thursday
 Martha Circle—Olive Garden 6:15 pm

May 2, 2008 Friday
 Naomi Circle—Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon
Deadline—Board Committee Reports **church office**
 Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

May 3, 2008 Saturday
 Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

May 4, 2008 Sunday
 Cornerstone Sunday School Class—Fellowship Hall 9:00 am
Blood Drive **9:30 am —12:30 pm**
 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
 Sunday Nite Live games—all youth 2:00 pm
 Sunday Nite Live cook-out—all church 4:00 pm

May 5, 2008 Monday
 Joshua's Men Group—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

May 6, 2008 Tuesday
 Elections—Fellowship Hall all day

May 8, 2008 Thursday
 Bifocal Bunch Breakfast—First Watch 9:00 am

May 9, 2008 Friday
 Deadline for Early Camp Registrations see page 6
 Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

May 10, 2008 Saturday
 Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

May 11, 2008 Pentecost & Mother's Day 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

May 12, 2008 Monday
 LDP Graduation rehearsal—Sanctuary 9:00 -10:30 am
 LDP Graduation luncheon—Fellowship Hall 10:30-1:00 pm

May 13, 2008 Tuesday
 General Board Meeting—Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm

May 16, 2008 Friday
 Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

May 17, 2008 Saturday
 Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

May 18, 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

May 19, 2009 Monday
Deadline—Good News Articles for June

May 21, 2008 Wednesday
 LDP Graduation—Sanctuary 9:00 am -1:00pm

May 23, 2008 Friday
 Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

May 24, 2008 Saturday
 Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

May 25, 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

May 26, 2008 Memorial Day

May 30, 2008 Friday
 Food Pantry Open 3:00—5:00 pm

May 31, 2008 Saturday
 Girl Scouts — Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm

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

June 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					

Special Dates

- Ascension of the Lord, May 1, 2008
- National Day of Prayer, May 1, 2008
- Christian Family Week, May 5-11, 2008
- Pentecost, May 11, 2008
- Mother's Day, May 11, 2008
- Trinity Sunday, May 18, 2008
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 19, 2008
- Memorial Day, May 26, 2008

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



THE GOOD NEWS May 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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT #443

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED