

By Transfer...

Sherelle & Cherie Darroch (4/3)
12903 Mia Circle, Largo 33774

Shannyn Darroch (Jade—11 mos.)
12903 Mia Circle, Largo 33774

Cheryl Donnally (4/10)
8320 Denise Dr., Seminole 33777



“It’s with grateful hearts that we thank our church family for the prayers, cards and calls during and after Hank’s back surgery. We also want to thank our ‘moving team’ for moving us to our condo. God blessed us with a very caring and loving church family!” Love in Christ, Hank & Phyllis Gerdes

“We want to thank all of you for your prayers for our grandson Ryan and praise God for the wonderful answers to your prayers.” Rick & Janice Beyer

BIRTHDAYS...

1 Mark Pippin; 5 Caleb Guerin;
6 Connie Rundle; 8 Daniel Perry;
9 Forrest Barr; 10 Patti Jaqua;
13 Tom Becker; 17 Adam Ballou; 19 Holli Wood; 21
Tori Vargas, Rachel Perry; 22 Debbie Gerdes; 25 Col-
leen Vanhaerants; 27 Virginia Dooley, Heather Kray



ANNIVERSARIES...

3 Larry & Karen Peggs, Al & Nancy Miller; 4 Tom & Betsy Kray

Stewardship & Attendance

March 20, 2011

Bible School	82	Worship	249
Tithes & Offerings		\$5,599.99	
Faith Promise—Missions		\$1,203.00	
Youth Building Loan Fund		\$302.00	

March 27, 2011

Bible School	74	Worship	198
Tithes & Offerings		\$4,526.75	
Faith Promise—Missions		\$1,130.00	
Youth Building Loan Fund		\$307.00	

April 3, 2011

Bible School	78	Worship	245
Tithes & Offerings		\$7,593.50	
Faith Promise—Missions		\$2,582.50	
Youth Building Loan Fund		\$332.00	

April 10, 2011

Bible School	100	Worship	250
Tithes & Offerings		\$4,782.50	
Faith Promise—Missions		\$1,478.50	
Youth Building Loan Fund		\$302.00	

Church Staff
Sr. Minister: Andy Mason
Associate/Youth Minister: Aaron Rosenberg
Living Link Missionaries:
 Don & Aleta Hulsey
 Larry & Mandy Renfro
Secretaries: Phyllis McKneelen & Betsy Kray
Phone: (727) 393-2136
FAX: (727) 398-1482
Website: www.fccseminole.org
Sunday Services
 Traditional Worship – 8:30 a.m.
 Bible School for all Ages – 9:45 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship – 11:00 a.m.
 Kids for Christ Worship - 11:00 a.m.

The Signal

April 13, 2011 Volume 40 Issue 4

Easter Sunday Services

7:00 a.m. Beach Sunrise Service
 Redington Shores Beach Access
 18200 Gulf Blvd. Park in public access lot.
 Bring blanket or beach chair.

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship
 Join us in praise and worship
 of our Risen Savior.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Jean Varterasian and family in the loss of her husband Chuck.

There will be no memorial service held. However, Jean would like to invite everyone to an open house on Saturday, April 16th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at her home. She would like an opportunity to thank you for your love and support during Chuck’s illness. Her address is 9903 120th Court N., Seminole.

Children's Cooking Class

Due to work schedules, Karen Hetrick and Julie Pippin can no longer hold cooking classes for our young ladies. If there are a couple of ladies who would like to continue with this ministry, the lesson plans and books are available for your use. Please contact Karen Hetrick.

If you would be interested in attending this event, please contact Tori Spear or Debbie Gerdes for more details.

The total 'lodging package' which includes hotel and conference is \$169 per person with 4 women per room. This is lodging for 2 nights at the Marriott, free parking and all event participation.

Deadline to register is June 22nd. Speakers will include Kay Arthur, Karen Kingsbury, Liz Curtis Higgs, and Shaunti Feldhahn. Worship will be led by Charles Billingsley with an evening of worship with Casting Crowns.

For more information visit their website at www.womenofjoy.org

Home Field Advantage

Andy Mason

Sports fans around the world can rely on one fact about their sport: the home team wins more often than the visiting team. A 2011 *Sports Illustrated* article concludes: "Home field advantage is no myth. Indisputably, it exists Across all sports and at all levels, from Japanese baseball to Brazilian soccer to the NFL, the team hosting a game wins more often than not." What explains this fact?

A wealth of evidence disputes the most common theories behind home team advantage. For instance, thousands of cheering or jeering fans didn't change a team's performance. On a number of statistics—such as pitch velocity in baseball or free throw percentage in basketball (which over two decades was 75.9 percent for home and visiting teams)—home field advantage didn't make a difference. Their research also eliminated other likely theories based on the rigors of travel for the visiting team or the home team's familiarity with their field, rink, or court.

So what drives home field advantage? According to the authors of the article, "Officials' bias is the most



significant contribution to home field advantage." In short, the refs don't like to get booed. So when the game gets close, they call fewer fouls or penalties against the home team; or they call more strikes against visiting batters. Larger and louder fans really do influence the calls from the officials. The refs naturally (and often unconsciously) respond to the pressure from the crowd. Then they try to please the angry fans and make the calls that will lessen the pain of crowd disapproval. In the end, the refs' people-pleasing response can have an impact on the final result of the game.

Living for Christ in this world means that many of the calls are going to go against us because we are not playing for the "Home" team. As the "Visitors" we have to step up our game if we want to overcome the "official bias" (both natural and unconscious) that is against us. I like how The Message translates I Peter 2:11-12. "Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives."

I'll See You Sunday, Andy

Youth News...

Aaron Rosenberg

Many of you probably know by now that I'm a big Rays fan. The franchise came to St. Pete in 1998 when I was at the ripe old age of nine years old. I loved baseball growing up and I loved the Rays. Sure they were terrible; sure I got made fun of for proudly sporting their gear when they lost twice as many games as they won, but I didn't care. The Rays were my hometown team and I was always rooting for them no matter what. I always have a good laugh when I see some of my old baseball buddies on facebook cheering for the Rays today. Those friends were the ones who gave me a hard time for rooting for the Rays in their early years. They'd talk about how the Rays stunk and they'd never go anywhere, and in the meantime they'd pick a team like the Atlanta Braves or the Marlins to root for. (There were always the ones who took the easy route and embraced the Yankees.) To those kids I would always say you've gotta root for your home team no matter what. They'd shrug and say if that's what you want to do, go ahead, but that's not me. When the Rays went to the World Series in 2008, things changed. All of the sudden the kids I grew up with were Rays fans, they'd sport their gear and talk about how awesome the Rays were and that they'd been fans all along.

It's easy to be a baseball fan and root for your team when things are going great. In fact that's probably why the Yankees have such a huge fan base. It's easy because it's what we naturally do as humans. We have a tendency to withdraw when things get tough. With the Rays it was hard for me not to do that as well. But when things get challenging, when they get difficult, when we go through a storm, we sometimes withdraw.

It's easy to do the same in our walk with Christ. We serve and follow Him when things are

great, when things look positive, when we have a good job, a good marriage and a good life. But when things fall apart, sometimes we fall away. I am guilty of it myself. Bad things happen, things that challenge our beliefs, things that make us question God, and we start to fade away, or, we start to root for another team. Our faith is not completely lost in those times, but it is gasping for air to hang on.

Paul is a great example of a life lived in hard times. The amount of storms he endured during his ministry were countless. My favorite letter from Paul is his letter to the Philippian church. In Philippians he is joyful and talks about being content even through he writes the letter in a terrible, stinky, rotting Roman prison. These places were the end of the road for most people, but not for Paul. Paul endured the storms of persecution and that resulted in the strengthening of his faith. The storms he faced fueled his faith and did not tear it down. For Paul it looked like he was rooting for a team that had nothing but a losing record, but he knew God had a plan, and he trusted that his entire life. And needless to say, God used him for amazing things.

So, I'd like to ask you.... Which team are you rooting for? If your life is not going great right now, if you're in a valley, a storm, or a time of doubt, stick with the team that never has a losing record. God often uses the times in the valley to show us how awesome, powerful, and graceful He really is. And remember... you've got to root for your home team, no matter what happens in your life.

We won 16-5 last night.... Maybe there's still hope for the season!

Love you all in Christ, Aaron

Getting 2 KNOW You!!



Cris Bentley

- **How I first came to FCCS:** Kathi found it on the internet and I started attending with her
- **My hobbies:** Working out, spear fishing, trading stocks
- **My family:** Mom and Dad, Abuela, 3 sisters, 1 brother, 6 nieces and 4 nephews, 1 great niece & 2 great nephews
- **My current job:** Captain with Tampa Fire Rescue
- **3 Favorite Movies:** Unforgiven, Rambo, Rocky
- **One thing I would like to do before I die:** Make a will
- **A personal goal for 2011:** Get in shape
- **Last book I read:** Smuggler's Ghost
- **Favorite season of the year:** Summer

- **Simplest Pleasure:** relaxing on the beach
- **What is your "hidden talent?":** If I told you, it wouldn't be "hidden".
- **Favorite meal:** Filet, asparagus, baked potato, salad
- **What did you want to be when you grew up:** A baseball player
- **My Favorite TV shows:** Seinfeld
- **Best advice I ever received:** Don't look down on someone unless it's to help pick them up
- **Farthest you've been from home:** Italy
- **Favorite book of the Bible:** John
- **Favorite Bible verse:** John 3:16

C.I.Y. Fund Raiser

We need quite a bit of fundraising to go to CIY this year. If you have any creative ideas for fundraising projects, please let Aaron know as soon as possible!



Ridgecrest Vacation Bible School

Our next meeting for all VBS volunteers will be Sunday, May 1st, following 2nd worship. We are in need of several more adults to help. Please attend if interested. Dates are June 13-June 16.



Kids to Camp

There will be a mandatory workday for all kids going to Lake Aurora this summer on Saturday, April 30th, at 9 A.M.

at the church. This workday will allow for half of the tuition paid for cost of Lake Aurora. The workday will be around the church and will also be involved in helping several of the church family members with yard work. After we are done, we'll have a time of bible study and scripture memorization.