

NEWSupdate

- WEBSITE TIP
- LABOR DAY PHOTOS
- MISSIONFEST
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT
- UPCOMING EVENTS



Register Now:

STOP TRAFFIC BY DEBBIE BARTLETT

WOMEN'S RETREAT

www.cofchristfmc.org

OCTOBER 4-6

"CAFÉ CHOCOLATE:

GOD'S GRACE IS EXTRAVAGANT"

Come enjoy French cuisine, music, laughter, (Fair Trade) chocolate, worship, crafts, a movie, campfire and sharing with friends. Teen daughters and granddaughters 15 and older are invited to join the fun as well. Come relax and enjoy a beautiful weekend at Deerhaven.



COST: \$65 DUE SEP 27

Send checks payable to
Florida Mission Center to:

Sue Dillon
3837 Grand Forks Drive
Land O'Lakes, FL 34639

Or, register and pay online:
www.cofchristfmc.org

I recently had the chance to read a good novel and, as often happens with great books, I discovered a world I knew little about. *The Forgotten*, by David Baldacci, tells the story of an investigator that stumbles upon the world of human trafficking when investigating the death of his own aunt. Although the book is fiction, the scourge of human trafficking is unfortunately all too real.

The Human Rights Team of Community of Christ is bringing the issue of human trafficking to the forefront of compassionate ministry in the church. The following information is from their website, www.cofchrist.org/humanrights/stoptraffic/:

Modern-day slavery is found in developing countries as well as impoverished villages, including Cairns, Australia, British Columbia, Canada and Dallas, Texas. (In Baldacci's novel, it takes place in the Panhandle of Florida.) It involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or ob-

taining of a person for labor or services, including commercial sex acts, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude. An estimated 27 million persons are enslaved in our world because of human trafficking, the world's second largest criminal enterprise (behind only the drug trade).

So what can *we* do? The church's Stop Traffic initiative is a resource to answer this question.

First, we study to become informed. If you visit the Stop Traffic website printed earlier in this article you can click the word "study" to find resources for Christian education, workshops, classes and more. The link "worship" will also give you resources to use during worship. Through our study we will learn that one of the primary uses of forced labor is in the agricultural industry. So the next step is to take action. One of the primary ways we can make a difference is with our purchasing power. By purchasing coffee, tea and choc-

olate grown and sold by companies that are Fair Trade certified, we ensure that we are not supporting employers who use slave labor. The action link on the Stop Traffic website will give you resources and information to host a chocolate or coffee/tea campaign in your congregation, your workplace, your family or neighborhood. Let's join together to make a difference. If nothing else, you can use the list of Fair Trade products to make sure your family is not supporting companies that use slave labor with your dollars. Or you can print and sign the letter on the site that is to be sent to your legislature to encourage changes in the laws governing these industries.

Let's get informed and take steps to do what we proclaim when we say we will honor the Worth of All Persons and work to Abolish Poverty and End Suffering. Spread the word and let's make a difference.

LABOR DAY REUNION

Over 80 people of all ages gathered at Deerhaven over Labor Day Weekend for this annual family reunion. A diverse mix of people from all over Florida and North Carolina shared a weekend of fun and fellowship, laughter and worship, classes and music, good food and plenty of talent. Attendees were blessed to share with guest minister Steve Jones at this event.

september

- 2 LABOR DAY—
Office closed
- 7 Night of Joy
- 28 Deerhaven Board Meeting

Bishop Steve Jones and Director Ginger Robertson



october

- 4-6 Women's Retreat
- 18-20 Peace Colloquy
- 25-27 Spiritual Growth Retreat



november

- 8-9 MissionFest
- 9 FMC & Deerhaven Conferences
- 16 DH Workday
- 28-29 THANKSGIVING - Office Closed



FMC WEBSITE TIP: Event Directors can access forms and information helpful in planning events under *Resources—Forms* on the FMC website. Just a reminder, for *any* church event that includes minors without a parent (those under age 18), other than church itself, you must have a signed permission slip with certain legal authorizations. The approved authorization form is available on the website under *Resources—Forms—Activity Consent Form*.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

OCTOBER 25-27 AT DEERHAVEN

In the August issue of *Herald* magazine, Becky Savage of the First Presidency writes:

Priesthood members are reminded to "continually magnify their callings" in a holistic manner focused on "a growing capacity to bring blessing to others." (p. 5)

In order to continually grow in ministry, disciples and priesthood members alike must seek out ways to grow spiritually. The Fall Spiritual Growth Retreat provides just such opportunity for exploration and growth.

This retreat at Deerhaven provides time away from the rigors of daily routine. Participants are blessed by the peacefulness and beau-

ty of Deerhaven as well as by time spent in relationship with the Divine and with others seeking spiritual growth.

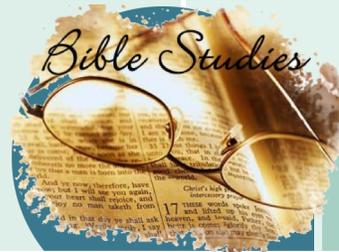
Retired Spiritual Formation Minister Marvin Rice will lead the activities at this particular event. He plans to guide participants in reflection, introduce practices that can help expand spiritual relationship and show how awareness of God can be part of the regular rhythm of life.

Plan now to attend this meaningful weekend. Cost is \$75 and financial help is available if needed. Mark your calendar, register online, invite a friend. Make this time of retreat a part of your fall schedule now!



BIBLES NEEDED...

The Newport Richey congregation is in need of Bibles and reading glasses. If you or your congregation would consider collecting these items (gently used or new is fine) it would be greatly appreciated. Contact the mission center for help getting the items to Pastor Jerome Sauls of New Port Richey.



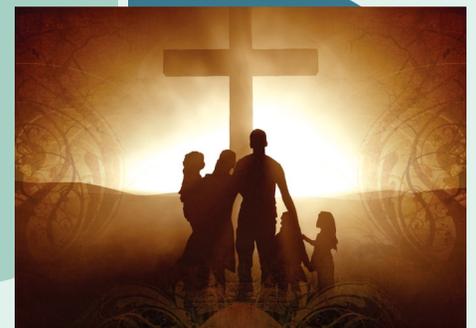
MISSIONFEST

NOVEMBER 8-9 AT DEERHAVEN

This year MissionFest is for all ages! Bring your family and come share in mission together. Friday evening a multi-generational Mission Mixer will kick off the event. Kids can then engage in a movie and fun together while the adults share with Apostle Linda Booth. On Saturday morning, Apostle Booth will share a dynamic new resource specifically for priesthood members. This foldout brochure was created by President Becky Savage and was first unveiled this year at World Conference. All

members will appreciate the connection between priesthood ministry and Mission Initiatives. On Saturday afternoon the business of the Mission Center will be conducted at the annual FMC and Deerhaven Conferences. Throughout the day, children and youth can engage in mission activities, canoeing, court sports, crafts, snacks, a movie, and more.

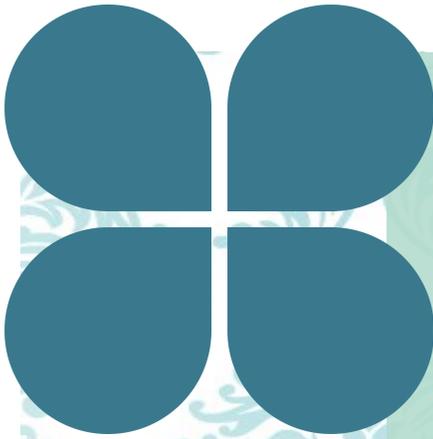
So plan now to bring the family and reconnect with friends at Deerhaven! This is a free event. A support offering will be collected on Saturday to help offset expenses.



MISSIONFEST: LIVE CHRIST'S MISSION

*A family event!
Come see friends,
Enjoy Deerhaven,
Share in the business
of the mission center,
Celebrate -
Reconnect!*

Register online now



UPCOMING EVENTS

Deerhaven Events

PRE-REGISTER AT WWW.COFCHRISTFMC.ORG

- Oct 4-6—**Women's Retreat**, "Café Chocolat: God's Grace is Extravagant," register by September 27
- Oct 25-27—**Spiritual Growth Retreat**, Guest Minister: Evangelist Marvin Rice
- Nov 8-9—**MissionFest: Live Christ's Mission**, Guest Minister: Apostle Linda Booth; the FMC and Deerhaven Fall Conferences will take place on Saturday, November 9th
- Nov 16—**Deerhaven Workday**

REGISTERING EARLY AS WELL AS CANCELLING EARLY, IF NEEDED, HELPS US KEEP THE COST OF EVENTS DOWN AND HELPS DIRECTORS AND STAFF PREPARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

World Church Events

- October 18-20—**Peace Colloquy** (new hymnal launch)

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Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

Mother Teresa

We proclaim Jesus Christ
and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace