



**Christ Community Church**  
Orlando, Florida

## The Merrie Month of May

The Communists hijacked May Day as ostensibly celebrating the victory of the proletariat, but in reality a demonstration of military power. Remember the great displays in Red Square, Moscow, in the old Soviet Union? Long before that, although it was a day when ordinary people celebrated a day free from work it was a happy carefree day of enjoyment.

In England, Roodmas (from the Old English 'rood' meaning rod or cross) was celebrated at the beginning of May as the 'Feast of the Cross'. It commemorated the finding of the true cross by St. Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, in Jerusalem in AD 355.

In England, before the coming of Christianity, May 1<sup>st</sup> had been a pagan festival, involving fertility rites. With Christianity it became a celebration associated with agricultural feasts. By May 1<sup>st</sup> seeding was complete and it was convenient to give farm laborers the day off. In towns and villages there were revelry, fetes and community gatherings. Since the fifteenth century Morris Dancing was part of the celebration. The Morris Dance is performed by men wielding sticks and waving handkerchiefs. Although it is regarded as essentially English there are some 150 sides (as the teams are called) in the United States. Other revelries include dancing around the May Pole and the crowning of the May Queen. In Oxford, May Morning revelers gather below the Great Tower of Magdalen College at 6:00 am to listen to the college choir sing traditional madrigals. In the seventeenth century, during the Commonwealth, the Puritans abolished May Day but it was reinstated at the restoration of Charles II in 1660. In February 2011 the UK Parliament began considering scrapping the May Day holiday replacing it with a bank holiday in October, possibly coinciding with Trafalgar Day (celebrated on October 21<sup>st</sup>), to create a United Kingdom Day.



May Day was also celebrated by some early European settlers in the New World. In some parts of the United States, May Baskets are made. These baskets are small and usually filled with flowers or treats and left at someone's doorstep. The basket giver would ring the bell and run away. The person receiving the basket would try to catch the fleeing giver. If they caught the person, a kiss was to be exchanged.

**May Day festivities at National Park Seminary in Maryland, 1907**

*May ~ 2011*

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This year, May gives us a whole month between Easter and Pentecost. The Gospels do not tell us a great deal about these weeks following Jesus' Resurrection. We do know that during that time Jesus appeared to his disciples on many occasions. Paul tells us a little bit more:

*1 Corinthians 15:3 - 7* <sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

During this time Jesus must have continued to teach his disciples, preparing them for the mission to the world that they must undertake. It was during this time that Jesus re-commissioned Peter. Three times Peter had denied knowing Jesus. He must have felt he had blown it, but Jesus brings him back and three times Peter says he loves Jesus. Fired with that love he would preach the Good News to Jews and Gentiles and one day give his life for Christ.

And so the life of our church goes on. We continue to learn more, to come closer to Christ, to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit within us. Let me take you back to that early and almost forgotten May celebration, the Feast of the Cross. (In the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches it has been officially moved to September which is when the Orthodox Churches celebrate the 'Triumph of the Cross'.) Let us remind ourselves that the Cross stands at the center of our devotion and witness. Have you noticed our new logo? CCC is in a triangle to represent the Trinity and in the center stands the Cross. At the Lord's Supper we **proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes**. Without the Cross the price of sin could not have been paid. Without the Cross salvation could not have been accomplished. This is what Christ did for us.

We sing the praise of Him Who died,  
Of Him Who died upon the cross;  
The sinner's hope let men deride,  
For this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see  
In shining letters, "God is Love";  
He bears our sins upon the tree;  
He brings us mercy from above.

The cross! it takes our guilt away;  
It holds the fainting spirit up;  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,  
And sweetens every bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave,  
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
It takes the terror from the grave,  
And gilds the bed of death with light.

The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner's refuge here below,  
The angels' theme in Heav'n above.  
*Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855*



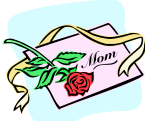
### **JOHN'S SERMONS ~ MAY & JUNE**

#### THE EASTER CHURCH

May 1	Living for the Present	1 Corinthians 15:29-34
May 8	Living for the Future	1 Corinthians 15:50-58
May 15	Living for Fun	Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

June 5 (Ascension)	Wait for Power	Acts 1:8
June 12 (Pentecost)	Water and Spirit	Acts 1:5
June 19 (Trinity)	Wash me Clean	Psalm 51:5-12
June 26	Fill me with Your Fullness	Ephesians 3:14-19



*Easter at our church this year was festive, joyous, memorable and unique! Good Friday Service ~ Love Feast with Communion ~ "The Broken Easter Egg" Sermon ~ Fun and Fellowship during Brunch ~ Thank you to everyone for being a part of this special time of year at CCC!*



## May 2011 Newsletter

### Christ Community Church

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ALL NEW AND UPDATED WEBSITE [www.orlandoccc.org](http://www.orlandoccc.org)

*Ladies Luncheon, Thursday, May 5 ~ 12 Noon*  
*Men's Dinner, Thursday, May 5 ~ 5:30 PM*  
*O'Charley's Restaurant*

### *Sundays*

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

### *Wednesdays*

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

## COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES

Easter is always a special time at Christ Community Church. It's a time to reflect on our history as our church was started on Easter 1987. The church has never looked more festive ~ the Easter Garden in the Narthex, the Palms, and Easter Lilies and Hydrangea in the Sanctuary. Easter activities included a love feast on Wednesday, April 20th, and a Good Friday Service. Special guests joined the choir on Sunday, and having both the piano and organ during our service added a robust sound. Our annual Easter Brunch that followed the service was delicious as always. Many thanks to all who participated in the festivities.

While April was a month of reflection and celebration, there was also an abundance of work being completed:

- The Strategic Planning Committee has been working hard for over a year to revise our Church Constitution & Bylaws. The committee members have done a great job taking on this demanding task that took persistence, patience and dedication. Once the framework was complete, the draft had to be sent out for legal consideration and review. By now, all church members should have received a copy. On May 8th, we will conduct a congregational meeting immediately following our worship service to call for a vote on whether or not to adopt these new bylaws. I encourage you to take time to read through this document and if you have any questions, please contact me or any of the council members. A huge thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee for their efforts on completing this important church document.
- The Land Use Committee has been meeting regularly. They are in the process of researching the possibilities and limitations in which our land can be used. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Richard Reaves.
- We are quickly approaching August when we will elect two new council members to replace Barbara Sheridan and Nadine Pasquot, who have selflessly given their time and support. To nominate yourself or someone you feel would readily serve as a church council member, please speak with a current council member before the end of June.

*Diane Reaves*  
**Church Council Chairperson**