

Nativity's Tidings

May 2006
Volume 22, Issue 5



An Episcopal family serving Jesus Christ, caring for one another.

The Right Reverend
John B. Lipscomb
Bishop

The Reverend
Charles H. Mann
Rector

The Reverend
Gerald L. Bennett
Assisting Priest

Church of the Nativity
5900 N. Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, Florida 34243

Telephone: (941) 355-3262
Fax: (941) 358-8930

From the Rector: Tug of War

You walk into a bookstore and pick up the latest bestseller. It is about a new finding based on an archeological dig. The author touts the findings as those which contradict what Bible scholars have held for centuries. You pick up another book, and it begins telling you about how Jesus never really did die. He escaped to Egypt with his wife, and the claims go on. You pick up yet another book, and it refutes the first book you picked up based on Biblical findings and yet another archeological work. And the struggle continues. As I mentioned in my Easter sermon, in some people this confusion for truth may create a tug of war that goes on inside of you. You might ask yourself, who's right? First, I want to tell you I love books. I love the freedoms we have to read, write, and explore the many wonders of life. We certainly have a plethora of works to choose from, and I generally will sit down and see what some of the authors have to say about some of these topics.

After I mentioned this issue in my Easter sermon, I was amazed that the following day I picked up an email that came from an Associated Press article and another from the London Times. Wow, it seems that the Archbishop of Canterbury and I used the same topic in our Easter sermons when referring to the new book *The Gospel of Judas*. My point is that the issue of conspiracy theories and the search for truth is on a lot of people's minds now, or the books wouldn't be selling so well.

(Continued on page 2)

Web Pages:

Our Church:

ChurchOfTheNativity.com

Our Diocese:

DioceseSWfla.org

Church Secretary

Elly Freyer

Treasurer

Dick Gerhart

Financial Administrator

Karla Porter

Music Director

Karla Porter

Youth Minister

Jamie Mann

Minister of Buildings and Grounds

Dick Wernick

Tidings Editor

Carolyn Johnson

Webmasters

Jon Wunderlich

Jo Davidsmeyer

Vestry:

Administration

Rich Cooper, Senior Warden

Bruce Simington, Junior Warden

Outreach

Jon Wunderlich

Evangelism

Raymond Kow

Nicki Vance

Pastoral Care

Helen Collins

Irene Wernick

Christian Formation

Janet DuBois

James Martin

Worship

Nicki Coffaro

Jo Davidsmeyer

From the Rector:

(Continued from page 1)

When issues like this creep into my life, I have to rely on what I know to be true. And that truth comes from listening to God's Word, both historically and theologically. As Jesus was comforting His disciples before His arrest, He said, "Trust in God; trust also in me..." Jesus knew that His

disciples would be pulled in all sorts of directions. There would be a tug of war going on in them as well. He knew that they would need strength to stand up in times of trouble. Therein lies the purpose of the promised Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the third person of the Trinity.

Before Pentecost, the disciples were troubled and confused. After the anointing of the Holy Spirit on them at Pentecost, they were sure-footed and strong in faith no matter what conflicts befell them—prison, beatings, spat upon, you name it. But the difference was that even though they faced difficulties, their spiritual strength continued and was not swayed.

It is no different today. We will be ridiculed, called names, and made fun of. Some even face death for their belief in Christ. We will be hearing about some of that when our Nigerian guests come to visit us June 1 through June 4. But when the anointing of God's Spirit is upon us, we don't have to be shaken or torn. Even though the latest book would try to persuade us otherwise, we can stand on the truth that is in us. So when someone challenges us about the latest and greatest fiction that many will say holds truth, tell them, "I have found the truth; do you want to meet Him?" As we continue in this Easter season and move into Pentecost, let's remember that He is with us always. We don't need to be shackled by the things of the world that would try to keep us from the truth. Allow Him to break the chains that hold you and to free you into a life full of His mercy and power.

"I have found the truth; do you want to meet Him?"

God bless you all as we celebrate our risen Lord and sustainer in all truth: Jesus Christ.

Fr. Chuck

Nigerian Bishops at Nativity

The Diocese of Southwest Florida will be hosting Bishop George Lasebikan and Bishop Tunde Adeleye from Nigeria May 6 through June 5. The bishops will be preaching and teaching on how the Holy Spirit is working in the African people. The bishops will be in Ft. Myers, Tampa, Largo, Dade City, and Sarasota. They will be teaching at Nativity June 1 through June 4, Pentecost Sunday. This will be an amazing opportunity to learn how God is moving through Nigeria and touching His people.

We are looking for people to step forward and help during this time. Marilyn Davis graciously has opened her home for their stay. I also need help with transportation, meals, and a local sightseeing trip. Let's welcome our guests with our warm Nativity hospitality. Please contact the office or me to offer your help.

In His service,
Ros Hall



Bishop George Lasebikan (l.)
Bishop Tunde Adeleye (r.)

Summer Service Times

Beginning the Sunday after Pentecost, we will have just two services on Sunday—9am (traditional) and 11am (contemporary).

Please note, however, that on the *first* Sunday of each of the summer months beginning on June 4 (Pentecost Celebration) there will be only one service at 10am. The service on July 2 will be traditional and on August 6 contemporary. Each of these three services will be followed by a potluck brunch and fellowship.

The 5pm Saturday evening Communion service will be suspended for the summer months beginning June 3 on Pentecost weekend. The Wednesday morning Healing Eucharist at 10am will continue through the summer.

Summer Partings

Many of you, our dear Nativity families, will be making your way back to your summer homes in many parts of the country and the world. Your vestry sends prayerful wishes to you for safe journeys, joyous summers, and speedy travels back to Nativity again. May God bless you and your families and friends. May He guide you and care for you each and every day. We will hold you in our prayers throughout the summer awaiting your safe returns to Nativity.

Rich Cooper, Senior Warden, and Vestry

In Memory: *Chuck Honaker*

Remembering our brother Chuck brings to mind a man who rested in God's peace. During Alpha we had quite a lively bunch of well-educated folks at our table, and when Chuck would speak, it was like the old EF Hutton ad—we would listen. His continual study and deep immersion in the Bible set an example for us that we can all aspire to. Even within the peace that he cultivated with the Lord over the years, Chuck experienced separation and loss from loved ones for many years; yet the Lord saw fit to restore them this past year. Indeed we are here just a short time, and our character is in constant development for our perfect and specific purpose here and the one awaiting us. I so much look forward to seeing Chuck again and appreciate the leadership of his example. Can you help but smile thinking of him in paradise?

Jeff and Cindy Mertens



I got to know Chuck and Millie Honaker during our last Alpha course and became very fond of the two of them. At the time, Chuck was undergoing treatment for a malignant tumor, so the other Daughters of the King and

I decided to give him a "prayer blanket."

The blanket was blessed by Fr. Chuck and prayed over by the Daughters.

Chuck was obviously moved, and I understand he took the prayer blanket with him when he went to the hospital. Both he and Millie have been in our prayers ever since.

We were saddened to learn of his passing, but we know he is happy and healthy in the presence of the Lord. Our prayers continue for Millie and his family for God's comfort and peace. Chuck was one of the sweetest and gentlest persons I have ever met, and I am honored to write a few words in his memory.

Nicki Vance

Many Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the support they have given me since Chuck passed away. You have been so wonderful. I appreciate the flowers, visits, donations, and the many beautiful cards I have received. Thank you to all who helped serve at the reception. I am most grateful for everything.

In Christ's Love,
Millie Honaker

Mothers and Others



Rebecca Sommers, a storyteller and quilter, will be the speaker at the Mothers and Others luncheon at noon on Saturday, May 13. Her philosophy of life closely follows her philosophy of quilting:

- You choose combinations carefully
- Right choices will enhance the creation
- There are few rules to follow
- You often have to go by instinct
- You have to be brave
- With a few changes it all comes together in the end

This is not a typical mother-daughter luncheon. If you are a daughter, you are invited.

Please bring an item that can be used in a baby layette by the Sarasota Council of Concern which provides layettes to Healthy Start to give to first-time mothers in need. The item should fit an infant up to one year old. Check the sign up sheet for a list of specific items.

Also, please bring a favorite salad to share. Mark your calendar and then register on the Mothers and Others sheet on the new “One Stop Sign-Up Shop” bulletin board at the end of the hall opposite the kitchen, and we’ll set a place for you.

Helen Collins, Pastoral Care

Treasurer’s First Quarter Report

I am pleased to report the Church successfully completed the first quarter of 2006 with total income slightly above budget and expenses under forecast resulting in a surplus of \$2,604. A copy of the Financial Summary is posted on the bulletin board containing more detailed information for the period.

A number of events occurred during the quarter which financially benefited the Church including the following:

- Flower Festival proceeds of \$3,500 to be used for outreach programs
- Charlie and Mary Burke cruise proceeds of \$500 deposited to the building fund account.
- Men’s Pancake Supper of \$182 deposited to the operating account

Pledge accounts continue to grow, and if you haven’t submitted your pledge, please see the financial administrator for a pledge envelope.

Richard F. Gerhart, Treasurer

One Stop Sign-Up Shop

Have you seen the new “One Stop Sign-Up Shop”? It is located on a bulletin board across from the kitchen in the office building, just before the fellowship hall. The idea is to make it easy for each of us to locate the sign up sheets for any of the activities we want to participate in. Sign up sheets are necessary for planning any of our events. To have them all in one place should show us at a glance what is going on and what we can attend and perhaps be a part of as helpers. You can even sign up for helping with the coffee hour for whichever service you attend at the One Stop Sign-Up Shop. We are trying something new, so please sign up to enjoy fellowship and to help serve.



In His Love, **Irene Wernick, Pastoral Care**

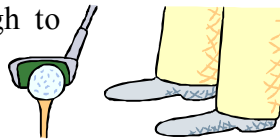
Golf News (by Dick Berg)

The ninth annual Nativity golf championship on April 8 was a big success. An absolutely phenomenal score of 62, ten under par, was recorded by the team of Candy Frey, Lora Salt, Dick Gerhart, and Raymond Kow to win. Two teams shot impressive 65s. The closest to pin number three was shot by Sherry Sutliff and to pin number thirteen by Alan Taggart.

More weekly scores are as follows:

March 21: A very impressive four under par 32 was scored by the team of Lorraine Peters, June Cooper, Mel Zang, Ed Jandro, and Alan Taggart in very windy conditions.

March 28: Two under 34 was enough to win this week. It was posted by the foursome of Nancy Lukac, Art Riley, Dave Houlcroft, and Mark Peelor.



April 4: A fine three under 33 was scored by the group of Tom Quinn, Tom Badger, Barb Angel, and David Miller to win.

April 11: All six teams were par or better. In a one-hole playoff, the foursome of Nancy Hurley, Walt Irvine, Dave Houlcroft, and Bill Hatfield won with 34.

Praise Report

Two parishioners have volunteered to be bread bakers along with Bob Halliday. They are Larry DuBartell and Gabrielle Piekunka. Both are new to Nativity. Thank you, thank you Larry and Gabrielle. Now we need someone to take over this ministry while Marilyn Davis is in Michigan. If no one comes forward, this very important welcome ministry will not be carried on. Please call Marilyn for an explanation of the responsibilities.

Singles Happening



The next singles gathering will be on Sunday, May 21, at the home of June Carol Hines in Palm Aire. We will carpool from Nativity at 2pm. Look for more information to be posted on a bulletin board in the church office building and in the Sunday bulletins.

Nativity—May 2006




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	2 1pm Golf League	3 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	4 7pm Choir Practice	5	6 8:30am Prepare lunches for homeless 5pm Holy Communion
7 Worship Services at 8am, 9:30am, and 11:30am 10:30am Sunday School 5pm Youth Group	8 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Vestry Meeting	9 1pm Golf League	10 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	11 7pm Choir Practice	12	13 10am Daughters of the King 12 noon Mothers and Others Luncheon 5pm Holy Communion
14 Worship Services at 8am, 9:30am, and 11:30am 10:30am Sunday School 5pm Youth Group	15 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	16 1pm Golf League	17 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	18 7pm Choir Practice	19	20 5pm Holy Communion
21 Worship Services at 8am, 9:30am, and 11:30am 10:30am Sunday School 2pm Singles Outing 5pm Youth Group	22 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	23 1pm Golf League	24 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	25 9:30am LOS Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	26	27 5pm Holy Communion
28 Worship Services at 8am, 9:30am, and 11:30am 10:30am Sunday School 12:30pm Potluck 5pm Youth Group	29 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	30 1pm Golf League	31 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	Across the Waters Preaching Mission (Pentecost weekend) Thursday through Saturday, June 1 through 3, from 7pm to 9pm: Preaching Mission followed by refreshments Sunday, June 4, at 10am: Pentecost Celebration followed by potluck buffet		



Thank You, Lord, for:

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Manasota FL
Permit #45

Church of the Nativity
5900 North Lockwood Ridge Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34243-2523



Words to live by...

“Everything comes from the Lord. All things were made because of him and will return to him. Praise the Lord forever! Amen.” Romans 11:36 (CEV)



Sign Board

Sorrow looks
back,
Worry looks
around,
Faith looks
up.

The **Episcopal Church of the Nativity** is located on Lockwood Ridge Road one block south of University Parkway. Our telephone number is (941) 355-3262, and our service times are as follows:

Saturday:
5:00pm Holy Communion

Sunday:
8:00am Traditional Eucharist
9:30am Traditional Eucharist with choir
10:30am Sunday School for youth, 10:45am adults
11:30am Praise Eucharist
5:00pm Youth Group

Wednesday:
10:00am Healing Holy Eucharist