

Nativity's Tidings

June 2006
Volume 22, Issue 6



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
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From the Rector: Don't Blow Out the Flame!

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4, ESV)

Typically when we celebrate a birthday, we blow out the traditional flames of the candles. But on Pentecost day some 2000+ years ago, the Holy Spirit lit a flame that has been burning mightily ever since. It is the flame that, through Jesus Christ, has birthed a church and continues to burn in the hearts of men and women who want to be used and are being used by God through the Holy Spirit. However, some do indeed try to blow out this flame. They blow it out by suppressing the moving of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, each one of us has the capability to be used by God in ways we can't even imagine. Things happen when they need to happen. God begins to orchestrate activities in our lives that not only enhance the kingdom but bless us as well. Things

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Our Church:

ChurchOfTheNativity.com

Our Diocese:

DioceseSWfla.org

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From the Rector:

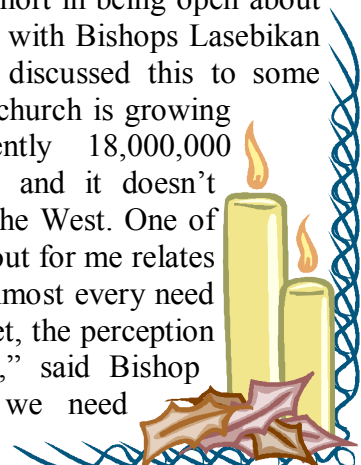
(Continued from page 1)

don't happen when we begin to tell ourselves that God is too busy or question why God would want to do this or that for us. You see, God wants to be involved in our lives. He created us to have fellowship with Him. For us

to say that God is not interested in our lives,

would be similar to saying my mother, dad, sister, brother, or friend would not be interested in my life. In some instances that might be the case, but that is certainly not the norm. We are relational people. That is how God made us. It is when people see the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives that they begin to ask questions. They know something is missing in their own lives that needs to be filled. This opens the door to conversation about the reality of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

But our culture seems to fall short in being open about our faith. In my conversations with Bishops Lasebikan and Adeleye of Nigeria, we discussed this to some length. I asked them why the church is growing so fast in Africa (currently 18,000,000 Anglicans in Nigeria alone), and it doesn't seem to grow as fast here in the West. One of the quotes that seems to stick out for me relates to how we in the West have almost every need met. "When your needs are met, the perception is that you don't need God," said Bishop Lasebikan. "Rich or poor we need salvation; we need to fill the void and be used for service."



"We in Nigeria know what our needs are. We take what we have and use it to His service. God honors that," reiterated Bishop Adeleye. To these bishops evangelism is not just another program on the church calendar; it is a mandate from Jesus himself. There is no question that the mandate given to the church to go and make disciples and to be filled with the Holy Spirit is as natural as breathing the air we breathe. The Holy Spirit is not someone to be afraid of. He is how God interacts in our lives. Jesus left so that the Holy Spirit could come and be among us.

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From the Rector:

(Continued from page 2)

As we begin this season of Pentecost, let us remember the promise that Jesus made to us: that He is with us, that He will guide us, and that He will empower us to do His service. I pray that each one of you will experience Christ to the fullest and that you will allow Him to use you for His service. Let us not blow out the flame of the Holy Spirit but allow Him to burn from within and anoint us with His grace and presence.

Blessings in our Lord Jesus,
Fr. Chuck

Music in the Garden

A special weekly summer event called Music in the Garden is set to take place in the Memory Garden. Join us on Saturday evenings from 6pm to 8pm for music, food, refreshments, and fellowship. Saturday, June 24, is the kickoff date. Do you have the Nativity spirit in you? Then show your support and by all means bring your friends. Music will be performed by local musicians. Blankets and lounge chairs are suggested. See you there.

Raymond Kow, Evangelism

Our Sympathy

The members of Nativity were saddened to learn of the parting from his earthly life of John Gipson, Phyllis's husband. John was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

John was born on March 28, 1925. His family helped motivate him at an early age to get a good education and to strive to become an effective leader. In 1942 John entered a writing contest given by the Howard University Alumni Association. He won first place and a scholarship including



John Gipson

room and board to Howard University, one of the top universities for Negro students at the time, in Washington, DC. He became president of his senior class and was voted the "boy most likely to succeed." An impressive article was published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on March 5, 2006 about John's early years. A copy of this article is available in the church office for you to read.

John served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the Korean War. He also became the first Black officer in the elite 82nd Airborne Division.

John and his first wife Ellariz had three children: Sheryl, Mark (deceased), and Scott. Later in life, in a second marriage, John wed Phyllis and shared twenty-two wonderful years with her and her daughter Sharon.

For over forty years John was an avid bridge player. He became President of the Long Island Duplicate Bridge Club, President of the Metropolitan Bridge Unit, and Vice-President of the American Bridge Association. He was the founder of The Bridge Home, a \$2.5 million community center for clubs and political activities in Cambria Heights, NY.

Phyllis describes John as a "gentle giant," tall not only in stature but in whatever he tried to do. We pray God has now taken John home. May He comfort Phyllis and keep her an active part of our parish life. We extend our deepest sympathy to her and to John's children.

Nativity Family

Yanks, Kwitchercomplainin

Chris and Roy Williams returned to their home in England in April. Some excerpts from an email from Chris are shown below. Their journey was good, but...

- The bill for their auto car tag was £195 (pounds). That's like about \$300 here. Their Ford was \$36 here.
- Petrol/diesel is 95p/98p (pence) per litre, making it nearly \$10 a gallon.
- Their property tax has doubled for the year.
- Gas and electric for domestic use has gone up 22%.
- Chris decided to "hoover" (vacuum) after unpacking, but the cleaner blew up.
- Then she thought she'd mow the lawn, and the mower wouldn't work.

And you thought you had problems! Well, we keep trying to tell those Brits to stay here.

We hope your summer improves, Chris and Roy. We miss you (and all of our snow angel friends).

Liz Stoner



It's a Scoop

Coming out of the South Florida Museum from our Mystery Trip, I found a penny on the pavement. Of course, it went into my pocket.

Later we stopped for lunch at Mixon's fruit grove where I was telling some folks of my great find which led them to empty their pockets and purses of their pennies.

My pocket is getting heavier.

Some of these Nativity folks were not familiar with the Miles of Pennies fund, so I told them about the red basket that resides on the table in the hall across from the kitchen and how the money from this fund provides books and related materials for children all over the world.

More pennies in my pocket!

To top it off, when I went up to get a scoop of ice cream, the young lady at the cash register asked about the pennies. When I told her, she gave me three more to pop into my pocket. (The cone was of soft ice cream, so I really didn't get a scoop. But you get the idea.)



We collected 33 cents that day which may not seem like much, but it goes a long way in many countries of the world.

Remember to keep those pennies coming no matter where you may find them.

*"How sweet are thy words to my taste,
O Lord, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"*

Psalms 119:103

Liz

Miles of Pennies

Miles of Pennies

Miles of Pennies

Toastmaster Champion

Every year Toastmasters International holds two progressive contests for club members. In the spring it is the International Speech and Table Topics Contest, and in the fall it is the Humorous Speech and



Jo Davidsmeyer

Evaluation Contest. The Toastmasters Division F International Speech and Table Topics Contest was held Saturday, April 22. Our own multi-talented Jo Davidsmeyer won first place in the International Speech competition. How about that!

Individual clubs compete and send winners to the area level. The area winners go on to the division level. Division winners advance to district contests. District champions go to the regional level, and the regional winners compete at the final international level. So Jo is moving on to the district level next. Many congratulations to her!

Jeff Mertens

Mystery Revealed

Most of our friends have heard about our yearly mystery trip, and of course, now we can tell you where we went. Fifteen men and women started from the Nativity parking lot on Saturday, April 29, and headed north towards Bradenton. Our destination was the South Florida Museum including Bishop Planetarium and Parker Manatee Aquarium. Among three shows at the planetarium and the manatee presentation plus many interesting displays in the museum, we spent about four hours with everyone having a different experience. After the last afternoon planetarium show at 2pm, we left to have lunch at Mixon's, and everyone enjoyed homemade sandwiches and, of course, their vanilla-orange ice cream swirl cones.

We are sorry that some of you could not join us. We will try to plan our mystery outing earlier next year. Larry DuBartell said, "Although this was a mystery trip, the one thing I knew would not be a mystery was the camaraderie and the good time spent with people of faith." I am sure that was felt by all who were with us. So please plan to join us next year. Look for sign up sheets for Nativity events on our new "One Stop Sign-Up Shop."



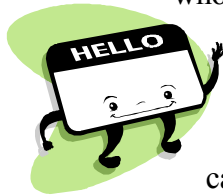
God Bless You All,
Irene Wernick

I had been to the South Florida Museum a number of times but had never before noticed a map of our world from millions of years ago—when all the continents were one huge land mass. There is a wheel showing the progression of how the lands separated, creating the various oceans and continents. Fascinating!

Liz Stoner

Name Tags

Please try to remember to wear your name badges. They are a big aid to newcomers and to many of us oldcomers who are name-challenged. If you don't have a name badge, you can sign up for a magnetic one for \$7 on the bulletin board outside the church office. Or see Elly to obtain a no cost paper tag in a plastic holder.



Is it Lost or Found

A flannel-lined, royal-blue jacket with black stripes, size 18-20, is looking for its owner. It was found on a chair in the large Sunday school room. If anyone has a clue to whom it belongs, please deliver it to them or inform them where it is. Also, if you've misplaced an umbrella, you might check with Elly in the office. She has quite a collection of them.



Golf League News

Weekly golf scores for the preceding month are as follows:

April 18: In a one-hole playoff, Ray Kinzel, John Pleva, Karl Miller, and Bill Hatfield claimed top honors this week with a solid 33.

April 25: All six team finished within one shot. The foursome of Marguerite Hatfield, Donna Pleva, Fr. Chuck Mann, and David Miller were the winners in a three-hole playoff at 34.

May 2: Thirty-two, four under par, was the winning score this week posted by the team of June Cooper, Walt Irvine, Mark Peelor, and Dick Berg.


May 9: After a most welcome rain storm in the morning, the skies cleared for us. Andrea Honroth, Dick Gerhart, Tom Badger, and Mark Peelor scored an impressive 32 to win today.

Proceeds of \$930 from the ninth annual Nativity golf championship were donated to our church building fund.

Dick Berg

Nativity—June 2006




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <p>Music in the Garden June 24, 6pm to 8pm</p>					
4 10am Pentecost Celebration 11am Potluck Brunch 5pm Youth Group	5 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	6 1pm Golf League	7 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Library Helpers, Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	1 7pm Across the Waters Preaching Mission	2 7pm Across the Waters Preaching Mission	3 8:30am Prepare lunches for homeless 7pm Across the Waters Preaching Mission
11 9am Traditional Eucharist 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	12 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Vestry Meeting	13 1pm Golf League	14 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Library Helpers, Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	8 5:30pm Toastmasters	9 5:30pm Toastmasters	10 7am Habitat for Humanity 10am Daughters of the King
18 9am Traditional Eucharist 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	19 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	20 1pm Golf League	21 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Library Helpers, Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	15 5:30pm Toastmasters	16 5:30pm Toastmasters	17
25 9am Traditional Eucharist 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	26 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	27 1pm Golf League	28 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Library Helpers, Bandage Brigade 7pm Bible Study	22 5:30pm Toastmasters	23 5:30pm Toastmasters	24 6pm to 8pm Music in the Garden



Thank You, Lord, for:

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Church of the Nativity
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Sarasota, FL 34243-2523



Words to live by...

*“For the LORD takes delight in his people;
he crowns the humble with salvation.”*

Psalm 149:4 (NIV)



Sign Board

We're too
blessed
to be
depressed.



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:

Sunday (June 4):
10:00am Pentecost Celebration

Sunday (June 11, 18, and 25):
9:00am Traditional Eucharist
11:00am Praise Eucharist
5:00pm Youth Group

Wednesday:
10:00am Healing Holy Eucharist