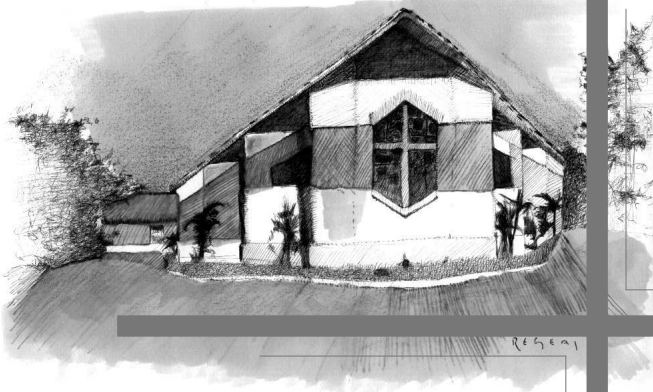


Nativity's Tidings

September 2006
Volume 22, Issue 9



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
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What About All These Letters?

Rector's Blog:

Since I was out of the office in July and not able to report to you in the August Tidings, I felt I needed to make sure you understood the details behind the letters that have been written to our bishop. As many of you have heard, either in the newspaper or by word of mouth, some letters have been initiated to our bishop concerning the recent events at General Convention 06. The wildest spin on one of these letters is that Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota, had left the Episcopal Church. Nothing could be further from the truth. To set the record perfectly straight, Redeemer did not leave the Episcopal Church nor did they request to. However, many church rectors and vestries, including our own, have written letters to our bishop with their concerns and in supporting him in the recent actions that he himself has taken.

After GC06, Bishop Lipscomb met with the clergy of the diocese. I then met with him personally to air some of my own concerns and he met many of us in another meeting later. As you know, our bishop signed his name to a letter with many other ECUSA Network and Windsor bishops that disassociated themselves from the divisive actions of General Convention. That is the convention's unwillingness to come completely into alignment with the requests of the Windsor Report. Failure to adopt the Windsor Report could jeopardize ECUSAs participation in the

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Web Pages:

Our Church:

ChurchOfTheNativity.com

Our Diocese:

DioceseSWfla.org

Rector's Blog:

(Continued from page 1)

Worldwide Communion. The two big issues were to place a moratorium on future consecrations of same gendered persons and to express regret for what we had done in the past. That did not happen.

Only a very watered down attempt was made.

In addition, the election of Katherine Jeffers Schori presented some additional issues. Mainly, for me, it is her theological views on who Jesus is and her blatant public remarks, even after convention, to proceed with an agenda that contradicts what the Windsor Report requests of us.

So, the letter that I and the vestry wrote basically stands by our bishop in dissociating ourselves from the divisive "inactions" regarding the Windsor Report. We wanted to show our support of his stand with other bishops who feel the same way. This diocese at our last diocesan convention voted 2 to 1 in support of the Windsor Report.

The other part of the letter asks the bishop to seek alternative primatial oversight for the diocese. Understand that this is for the diocese not the parish. A parish cannot make such a request of themselves. What this means simply is that if for any pastoral reason the presiding bishop needs to come into the diocese, it is our request that the bishop ask the presiding bishop to have someone else come. The reality of this request is that no one really knows how that can take place — it has never been done before. However, many dioceses have already asked for such a request. This is an action for the bishop, Standing Committee, and possibly even the diocesan convention. Again, and I must emphasize, this is not a request to leave ECUSA. It is simply a pastoral request. It is very rare that a presiding bishop comes to the diocese anyway.

As I reported to you in the July issue, this matter is now in the hands of the 38 primates of the world. What remains to be seen is how they handle the actions made at General Convention. There are meetings in September and a full meeting of the primates in February. This will be high on the list of issues discussed. I will certainly keep you informed of the happenings that are going on.

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

Annette Wilson

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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

Youth News

The Youth Group is once again planning their annual trip to a night of Christian concerts and fun as they take part in Rock The Universe to be held at Universal Studios in Orlando on Friday, September 8. The youth and chaperones will leave the church at about 2 p.m. and return in the wee hours of the morning. Christian recording artists Newsboys, Reliant K, Skillet, Kutless, and seven other bands will be playing throughout the theme park.

Each year, both Disney (Night of Joy) and Universal Studios hold these special weekend events for the Christian community and youth groups. People come from all over the state to hear their favorite groups. Last year, our youth visited Night of Joy at Disney.



Youth Group Growth

The Youth Group continues to grow as our youth invite friends to come and join in the fellowship. Each Sunday evening, the group gathers at 5:00 p.m. to share a meal, have some time of fellowship, take part in a special teaching, and enjoy some fun time together. The group has about 16 middle and high school age youth in-

(Continued from page 2)

As of the date of this writing I have just received a response from Bishop Lipscomb to our own letter. In it he expressed his □ gratitude for our words of support to him and the Windsor Report. Regarding alternative primatial oversight, he feels, as I have pointed out, that it is hard to define this. However, he already feels that through our constitution that he is already under primatial oversight, at least collegially, with the Archbishop of Canterbury. He intends to take our letter, along with several others, before the Standing Committee. In closing, Bishop Lipscomb reiterated, "You may be assured that we will continue to uphold the doctrine, discipline and worship of the church as we have received it and not as it continues to be abused by the General Convention."

So, the letter we have written and that of Redeemer, and apparently several others as well, are simply to show support and solidarity with our bishop and with others who have taken such a stand. I am encouraged by the actions of our bishop and I am confident that God is certainly in control. And for that I am extremely grateful. *Blessings in our Lord Jesus, Fr. Chuck*

Youth Group Rallies for Relay for Life

On Friday, May 29, 2006, our Youth Group had a great time while raising money for cancer research and services. We met at around 5 p.m. at Sarasota High School and began to set up for our all night event. Many parents came and helped out as well, staying well into the night! We sold hot dogs (we won the prize for the best hot dogs at the Relay), chips, soda and other snacks to raise money during the event. Our extraordinary Youth Group had already raised about \$500 from a Saturday morning car wash we'd held a few weeks earlier (thanks to the support of our great congregation!). We raised more money during the event and our grand total was over \$1,000!

All in all, it was a wonderful event and I am so proud of the great work our Youth Group did! In fact, we voted unanimously to do it again next year and were the first team to sign up for the 2007 Relay for life. Look for more information about our upcoming fund raisers.

Janet DuBois

Stable Worship Schedule Set

Over the past couple years, Nativity has been blessed with growth, a new Sunday school curriculum and a wonderful growing adult education program. Last year, at the request of many parishioners, we added a contemporary praise service that is now starting to see some growth in numbers as well. These are all wonderful things in the life of our parish, but at the same time, it creates timing issues so that everything can happen in a logical and meaningful way. The timing has to be set so the Sunday School can happen in between services, and the services have to be set so that it doesn't press too far into the afternoon hours. That has been the issue for our later service. It is difficult to plan afternoon family activities when the service extends too far into the afternoon. There are also issues of setting up and breaking down of equipment, choir warm up, and other logistical issues that have to happen between services to allow a smooth transition.

With the summer hours currently in place, we are starting to see considerable growth in the numbers attending our Contemporary service at 11:00 a.m. as well as our 9:00 a.m. service. It is encouraging and exciting to see all our services growing. Through meetings with the Worship Commission, Vestry and the Rector on ways to best handle scheduling, Sunday School and growth, we have come to the conclusion to keep the services as they are. That is, the services will be as follows: **9:00 a.m. Traditional Service** and **11:00 a.m. Contemporary Praise Service**. This schedule would also prevent any confusion with the changing of service times twice a year. In surveying many multi-service congregations in the area, it was found that these are the preferred times as well. Although, many variations of these schedules can be found. During Advent and through the season of Easter, we will hold a third service at 7:30 a.m. if there is a large enough demand to hold such a service. Please call the church office if you would like to attend a 7:30 a.m. service beginning December. This is the time when many of our winter residents will have returned.

In addition, some of the regulars at our Saturday evening service have now expressed a desire to attend on Sunday mornings. This service was scheduled to resume on September 17. However, we need to know if there is a large enough demand for this service to continue. If there is such a demand, we will continue that service as well. We ask that you call the church office to let us know if this is a service you would like to attend.

We know that schedules can be difficult for some and there is probably no perfect time for everyone. This decision was not made lightly; it has been prayed over and struggled over for quite some time. The most important issue to remember is that this is the Lord's Day.... a day where we come together to worship and give this time to Him and in addition have a time of fellowship with each other and grow in our faith. With that in mind we have tried hard to put together a workable schedule for Sunday mornings.

Fifth Sunday Food Fest

Many have expressed what a joy it was when we all met together on the first Sunday of the summer months for one worship service followed by a pot luck lunch. Since this service was so well received, the Worship Commission and the Rector have decided to carry this format into what will be known as the **Fifth Sunday Food Fest**. In those months which have a fifth Sunday, we will have one service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a pot luck lunch in the parish hall.

The dates for the Fifth Sunday Food Fest are as follows: **October 29, December 31, and April 29**. Mark your calendars for a day of worship, fellowship and our now legendary pot luck feast.

Set Sail for Fall



Sunday School

We are looking forward to a great new year of Sunday School. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 17. The times are 10:00—10:45 a.m. There will be four different classes: toddlers, elementary K-2, elementary 3-5 and middle/high school. Please register and join us for a great adventure.

Crew Wanted

Please consider being a teacher or helper with Sunday School. There will be a short training session on September 10 at 10:00 a.m. Please fill out a teacher/helper registration form if you are interested. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannine Martin at 351-1972.

ECW News

September is the month that we try to return to our regular schedule, whatever that may be, as well as the cooler weather and return of our friends and families from up north or abroad. Some of the programs that will be the same this year are the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. It is never too early to think about these boxes because now is the time for fall sales and getting some special items for your shoebox gifts. If you need ideas, there are flyers in the office and also on the One Stop Sign Up Shop Bulletin Board.

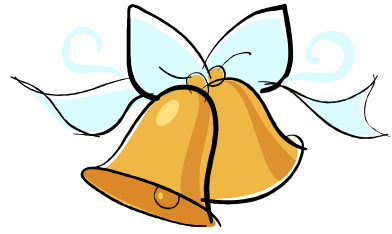
Ladies, you will be receiving the fall and early winter ECW calendars soon. Please mark the dates and look for more information about the monthly events and field trips in the church bulletin and Tidings.

Upcoming ECW Dates:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept 28: | 8:00 a.m. President's Council Meeting at St. Edmunds, Arcadia, FL. |
| Oct 10: | 8:45 a.m. "Welcome, We Care" Meeting at DaySpring. |
| Oct 17: | 10:00 a.m. Ladies Field Trip — Destination to be announced |

A Big Thank You to All of You!

Several months ago, Rich Cooper (your Senior Warden) sat down in my office to discuss the wedding of our daughter Jamie to George Zehr. In our discussion, I revealed to him that we would be inviting anyone in the parish that wanted to come. Jamie has taken on the position of our Youth Minister and the whole congregation is so much a part of our lives that we wanted to do that. He then proceeded to ask permission for the congregation to “throw a party” with one of our famous Pot Lucks at the reception. In the truest of Anglican traditions, Rich pulled together a committee into what has become known as “the wedding committee” to come together and handle the main course, side dishes, décor and other little details of the reception. We agreed and thought what a blessing it was to allow all of us to come together and share in this special occasion.



On behalf of Debbie and our family—and especially Jamie and George—I want to thank the committee and other planners, all the food preparers who put together the wonderful dishes, and to the whole congregation for your prayers and support in this special and memorable event that we have now shared together. We are extremely grateful for the love and support you have shown to us.

Our love to you in Christ,

Fr. Chuck and Debbie Mann

“What an Awesome Experience!”

After completing my training to become a chalice bearer and acolyte, I began my new ministry by passing the Chalice at the 11:00 a.m. service. The first few times, I just came up from the congregation in my street clothes to pass the Cup. Last Sunday I decided to take the next step, put on my white robe and take my place in the sanctuary along with the priests, another acolyte and the crucifer. I did the easy part of “acolyting” — I helped light and snuff out the candles, I passed out the collection plates, and of course, I passed the Chalice. (Passing the Cup came easily to me because we always passed the Bread and Wine to each other at



the Saturday service.) But an amazing thing happened to me last Sunday sitting up there in the Sanctuary. I felt a sense of tremendous AWE, a new and different kind of awe that I had never before experienced. Serving the Lord at His Table was not only an awesome experience, it was a blessing beyond anything I would have imagined.

I had been asking God for some time to show me how He wanted me to serve Him. Sometimes we spend so much time asking God that we fail to listen for what He is trying to tell us. Then on Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. service, there was no one assisting Fr. Gerry except the crucifer. As I watched Fr. Gerry passing the Cup after he passed the Bread, I felt a tugging in my spirit: “Nicki, you should be doing that.” So here I am, as in my favorite passage in Isaiah 6:8b, “*Here I am. Send me!*”

Nicki Vance

September Music Notes

Be the first to know! Nativity's Got Talent! Strut your stuff! Show that you (still) have it at Nativity's Talent Show to be held in the Parish Hall on the evening of Friday, November 10. This early announcement is being made so you have plenty of time to brush up/dust off whatever it is that you do (did). But, leave time for others. Talent presentations will be limited to five minutes. So, if you sing, dance, play an instrument, act, have a special craft that you do, get it ready. We will call for "bookings" in October, so watch this space and be ready to sign up. (This talent evening is a joint presentation of the Music Dept., ECW and Christian Formation.)

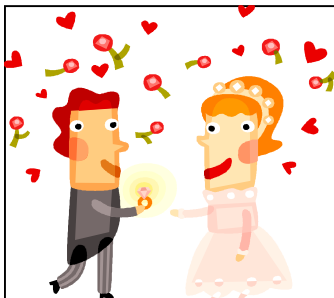
In July, I attended a Choir Director Institute held at Regis University in Denver. It was a small group consisting of about 50 choir directors at all levels. We had an intensive week of study, small group work, and, of course, conducting in front of our assigned small group and the large group. It was a great week with very supportive people. The clinicians were excellent and we were all invigorated. Thank you people of Nativity for making this possible!

Choir has already begun. If you wish to join, please come to rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

Karla Porter

Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is in need of replenishing. Please place your donations of canned goods in the basket in the church narthex. Thank you for being so generous to those in need.






Thank You, Lord, for:

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5900 North Lockwood Ridge Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34243-2523



Words to live by...

*“Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our
God! How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!”
From Psalm 147:1*



**“Here I am
Lord, Send
Me”**

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 (Sept. 3 and 10):

- 9:00am Traditional Eucharist
- 11:00am Praise Eucharist
- 5:00pm Youth Group

Sunday (Sept 17 and 24):

- 9:00am Traditional Eucharist
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Praise Eucharist
- 5:00pm Youth Group

Wednesday:

- 10:00am Healing Holy Eucharist

September Birthdays

- 3 Lora Salt
- 3 Helen Martin
- 4 Jeannine Martin
- 10 Liz Stoner
- 13 Les Shepherd
- 15 Anne Brahler
- 15 Daniel Dowling
- 16 Inge Gerhart
- 16 Denise McCann
- 18 James Boyd
- 18 Charles Plush
- 19 Janet DuBois
- 21 David Roberts
- 22 Terry Harle
- 23 Betty Belshaw
- 23 Janet Poles
- 25 Dana Catalfomo
- 25 Cille Dantini
- 26 Mabel Callender
- 26 Jo Davidsmeyer
- 29 Jane Read
- 29 Rick Teigland

September Anniversaries

- 6 Tom and Rhoda Bishop
- 9 Chris and Norma Youngs
- 12 Dick and Inge Gerhart
- 17 Henry and Karen Bruenning
- 21 George and Sandrene Bispham
- 25 Art and Wendy Littman
- 30 Wildey and Carolyn Johnson

Alpha

The Alpha course scheduled for September has been postponed until January for upcoming issues of the Tidings for dates and information about the next Alpha scheduled for January 2007. It was determined that more people would be able to

take part in the leadership and as participants at that time. Please mark your calendars for January 17 for the Alpha BBQ informational dinner. The course will begin on January 24.



Name Tags

Remember to have pity on those of us who have “senior moments” — wear your name tags! It’s great for our guests and those of us who are still learning who all the wonderful people of our Nativity family are.

Golf League News

Weekly golf scores for the preceding month are as follows:

July 18: A very fine 33 (3 under par) was recorded by June Cooper, Candy Frey, Sherry Sutliff and Alan Taggart to win.

July 25: 4 under par 32 claimed the top spot this week. The foursome of June Cooper (the Star), David Miller, Alan Taggart and Dick Berg shot that number.

August 1: June Cooper (again?), Bill Hatfield, Ed Jandro and Gerry Morrissey were in the win column with 33. All teams were under par.

August 8: A solid 4 under par 32 was recorded by Fr. Chuck Mann, Andrea Honroth, Marshall Naimo and Dick Berg to claim top honors this week. Once again, all teams were under par.

Dick Berg

Nativity—September 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Trad. Eucharist 11a.m. Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 1pm Golf League ELECTION DAY Voting Precinct In Parish Hall	6 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade, Library Crew 7pm Bible Study	7 7pm Choir Practice	8 2pm Rock the Universe—Orlando 5:30pm Toastmasters	9
10 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. Sch. Training 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	11 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Vestry Meeting	12 1pm Golf League	13 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade, Library Crew 7pm Bible Study	14 7pm Choir Practice	15 5:30pm Toastmasters	16 7am Habitat for Humanity
17 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	18 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	19 1pm Golf League	20 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Bandage Brigade Library Crew 7pm Bible Study	21 7pm Choir Practice	22 5:30pm Toastmasters	23
24 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	25 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	26 1pm Golf League	27 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30am Library Helpers, Bandage Brigade Library Crew 7pm Bible Study	28 8am ECW Pres. Mtg., St. Edmunds 7pm Choir Practice	29 5:30pm Toastmasters	30