

Nativity's Tidings

September 2007
Volume 23, Issue 9

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

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Rector's Reflections:

Lost in the Traditions...

And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the Lord said to him, "But I will be with you..." (Judges 6:15-16; ESV)

Recently I was in conversation with one of our parishioners about traditions in the church. She shared how a passage in Judges about Gideon had changed how she looked at our opening sentences to the Eucharist... "The Lord be with you; and also with you..." I think many times we gloss over words that that we use in the service and if we're not careful they begin to lose their meaning to us.

Many of the liturgical traditions in the church are a wonderful thing. They remind us of our history and can help us stay on track. But the one drawback, as I see it, is that many traditions become a habit. This can be true of even newer traditions. It becomes so part of what we do the meaning can get lost...much like the peace that we share. It is wonderful that we greet one another in the love of the Lord...but the peace means just that. If you have a grudge against someone...go and make peace with that person before you come to the table. God wants you to have a clean heart.

The acclamation "The Lord be with you" can get lost in its meaning as well...what does that mean?

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ChurchOfTheNativity.com

Our Diocese:

DioceseSWfla.org

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If you look at it through the eyes of Gideon it means a lot. The Lord came to Gideon, one of the least in his family whose clan was among the weakest in the area. But God had a plan...don't worry Gideon; I'm going to be with you. Now we all have to agree, if the creator of the universe says don't worry, I'm going to be with you, then we shouldn't worry...He will.

So, here is a man among the least of the least that God used mightily to carry out His purpose.

The really great news...Jesus has given us the same promise through the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "go...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." That means until he returns, the end of the age, He is going to be us through the promised Holy Spirit that He has given us. How awesome is that! The Lord is with you. So the next time you hear those words, "The Lord be with you; And also with you," remember that promise. They mean what they say. If you are willing to be used, if you are willing to say "yes" to Him...He will be with you. He will guide and keep you.

I hope all of you had a blessed summer and are well rested for an active fall.

Blessings in our Lord,
Fr. Chuck

COME AND WORSHIP

Beginning Sunday, September 16, 2007 Nativity will add a 7:30 am Quiet Eucharist to the Sunday worship schedule.

If you are interested in serving as a lay minister at this service, please contact Elly in the Church Office or Nicki Coffaro or Annette Wilson.

JUST TO JOG YOUR MEMORIES!

#1. Sanctuary Candle and Altar Flower Notebooks are on the credenza outside the Parish Hall. You can remember a loved one in our Sunday Bulletins by signing up in either book. The Sanctuary Candle offering is \$15.00. The Altar Flowers are \$45.00. More than one family can sign up for one specific date, thus sharing the cost.

#2. Are you perhaps interested in possibly having your ashes interred in our **Memory Garden**? You can pre-plan now by contacting the Church Office. We have a brochure and price sheet available for your study ~ as well as a Preplanning for Christian Burial Form to assist your survivors in knowing your wishes for a burial service.

#3. Another way to honor those we loved who have passed away is to **have a brick etched with a message and name and placed for perpetual remembrance** in the walkway adjacent to the Memory Garden where ashes are interred. There are two prices for bricks depending on where they are placed. For more information about this, please speak to Dick Wernick or Rich Cooper. These two gentlemen will be happy to take you for a tour of the Garden. You can catch them during the Coffee Hour.

#4. We hope you are taking advantage of the **hearing devices** which are available for your use during services. You will find them in the narthex. Each week they are checked and the ear lugs are cleaned with alcohol swabs. Dave Roberts and Wayne Gray offer rave reviews!

#5. Four **Prayer Ministers** are available each Sunday during the Eucharist. Please don't hesitate to come forward with your own needs or to ask for prayers for loved ones.

TUESDAYS WITH RUBY...

A few weeks back, a friend (who shall remain anonymous, but is a very well known organist/choir director in these parts) and I shared lunch at Ruby Tuesday's. When the waiter, Skylar, brought the check, it was for an amount calling for small change. (You know where I'm going with this, don't you?)

He returned with the proper change, but not including the pennies, as many wait persons do these days. But, I proceeded to tell him that I really do like to get the pennies and, of course, he wanted to know why. That was all the opening I needed!

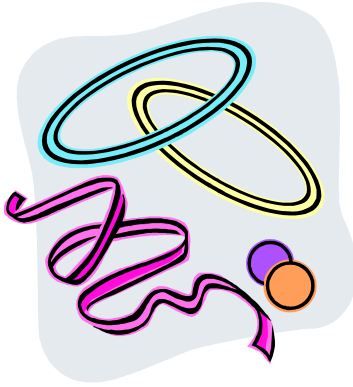
I told him of our Mile of Pennies project that provides printed or taped books and related materials to kids from ages pre-school to grade 12 all over the world. They give grants for the shipping costs of recycled children's books, too.

Well, he seemed to think that was pretty cool. However, he said he didn't have any pennies at that time, but the next time I came in, he'll give me what he has.

On August 5, another friend and I did stop in for mid-afternoon lunch after driving from Orlando. I asked for Skylar, but was told he had finished his shift and had already left. So, sez I to myself, I'll catch him next time.

About 5 minutes later, here came Skylar holding out his hands filled with pennies!! Turns out he hadn't left and he remembered! So, that's 44 cents more for the MOP fund.

And you can bet, the next time I go to Ruby Tuesday's, I'll look for that handsome, nice, thoughtful young waiter called Skylar. (Great name, too!) *Liz Stoner*



FOR THE MANY PEOPLE LIKE EDITH AND MYSELF WHO ARE JUST OVER FIFTY.

Here's an exercise we should all be able to do!?

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms out straight for more than a full minute. (Edith and I are at this level.) After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

~ *Les and Edith Shepherd*

The Christian Path

When we consider the forms of life on this planet Earth that our creator God placed in our hands to manage, we can believe that He gave us many advantages over all other creatures.

We can delight in the gift of memory. It allows us to remember all the good things that have happened in our lives. It also allows us to remember past friends and relations, both in happy and sad times. It is the foundation and the substance of careers. It can safeguard us against repeated mistakes.

What is less obvious is the gift of forward thinking (without the crystal ball) and planning the right path to our perceived goals. When disaster strikes, we hear many comments as summaries of those troubles, some sympathetic, some critical. We look to the future with varying senses of hope and caution.

Optimism and pessimism run together and most of us use either to show our feelings as circumstances evolve. As Christians, we have a special responsibility to look to the future. To see the path of life that Jesus offers to us through His mission life, His death and His risen life. Our faith is based on what has gone before and its effect on our lives will be revealed in what we can achieve in the future.

Christ's mission was served to commission us for God's work here on earth. Our world continues to suffer through man's inhumanity. Wickedness seems to be contagious. The antidote must be compassion.

The need for peace is paramount. Peace within nations and peace between nations so that the world's resources can be used to save mankind and not destroy it. We can play our part through prayer. To pray for forward planning to achieve this end and to be confident that this is what God Challenges us to do in His name.

May God be with us in all these endeavours.

~ *Les and Edith Shepherd*

SOUND THE TRUMPETS ~ POST SCRIPT

Last month I wrote that I would be attending a conducting workshop in early August. Because of the Tidings deadline, I couldn't actually comment on the course as I had not yet attended it. I was at Westminster Choir College (Princeton, New Jersey) for this course and it was WONDERFUL!

The instructor, Sun Min Lee, is an Assistant Professor of Conducting at Westminster and is the Director of the Chapel Choir as well as teaching classes. The class was made up of 10 predominantly church musicians; the environment was most collegial! I find it takes all of my courage to do a conducting course because you must conduct in front of your peers, be critiqued, and also video taped. Sun Min was a wonderful instructor, being able to critique without being "critical". We had a lot of laughs along the way. We all chose an anthem to conduct at the beginning of the week, and at the end of the week did our own mini-concert. (The class members and a few assorted Westminster students made up the choir.) So THANKS once again, parishioners of Nativity, for making this experience possible.



And, it is such an intense week with full day classes and homework, that I didn't even get to see any of Princeton University or the Chapel! For those of you have been there, I did ride the "Dinky" - the spur rail line that gets you into Princeton from Princeton Junction. I guess I will have to make another trip sometime in the future for the rest of the Princeton sights! ~*Karla Porter*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN EVENTS

September is the month that you will be receiving your fall/winter ECW schedule. Please mark your calendars with the dates and be ready to participate.

We always look forward to the **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project**. That program is familiar to many of us. Just ask for flyers in the church office and on the One across from the kitchen. It is never too early and getting special items for your shoebox that project the week **before Thanksgiving**.



about information and there will be a Stop Sign Up Shop bulletin board for now is the time for fall sales gifts. We also need to complete

Our first Deanery meeting this fall is at All Angels Episcopal Church on Longboat Key on Thursday, September 27. That is a special day to meet and share with the other churches in our area. So mark your calendars for that day and look for the sign up sheet on the OSSUS bulletin board.

~ *Irene Wernick*

September Birthdays

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

September Anniversaries

- 1 Jim and Margaret Murphy
- 6 Tom and Rhoda Bishop
- 7 Neil and Celeste Allyn
- 9 Chris and Norma Youngs
- 12 Dick and Inge Gerhart
- 17 Henry and Karen Bruenning
- 21 George & Sandrene Bispham
- 25 Art and Wendy Littman
- 30 Wildey and Carolyn Johnson

NAME TAGS

Please remember to wear your name tags. This is a great way to help our visitors get to know us and for us "long-timers" (like myself) to put a name to a face.

Need a name tag? Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the parish hall.

JUST FOR FUN

OCCUPATIONAL HYMNS

The Politician's Hymn: Standing on the Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn: Open My Eyes That I Might See

The IRS Agent's Hymn: I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn: Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn: Send the Light

The Shopper's Hymn: Sweet Bye and Bye

Golf League News

Weekly golf scores for the preceding month are as follows:

July 17: All teams finished 3 under par or better. The foursome of Veronica Cooper, Candy Frey, Terry Honroth and Dick Berg were the champs today with 31.

July 24: The dedicated golfers prevailed as weather was trying to derail today's game, but failed. 3 teams competed. All teams finished within one stroke, but the group of Veronica Cooper, Marguerite Hatfield, Mark Peelor and Dick Berg won with 33.

July 31: Playing in between the rain showers we finished the round. Coming out on top this week was the foursome of Andrea Honroth, Fr. Gerry, Bill Belshaw and Joe Wasilnak with 34

August 7: Even par 36 was the winning score this week. Veronica Cooper, Bill Belshaw (is that 2 weeks in a row?), Ed Jandro and Gerry Morrissey were declared winners.

August 14: Dick Gerhart, Gerry Morrissey and Mark Peelor fashioned a 35 to win this week.

Dick Berg

Nativity-September 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
GIFTS FROM GOD MINISTRIES 4TH SUNDAY EACH MONTH* 2:30PM	DAUGHTERS OF THE KING 2ND SUNDAY EACH MONTH AT 12:30PM**	HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE 3RD SATURDAY EACH MONTH 7:30PM				1
2 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	3 Labor Day — Office closed.	4 1:30pm Golf League 7pm VESTRY MEETING	5 10am Healing Eucharist 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	6 7pm Deanery Convocation at St. Wilfred's 7pm Choir	7 5:30pm Toastmasters Youth at <i>Rock the Universe</i> Men's Ministries	8 Men's Ministries at Day Spring
9** 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	10 7pm Praise Team Practice	11 1:30pm Golf League	12 10am Healing Eucharist 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	13 7pm Choir	14 5:30pm Toastmasters	15 Bishop Smith Investiture 7:30pm Holy Grounds
16 7:30am Eucharist 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	17 7pm Praise Team Practice	18 1:30pm Golf League	19 10am Healing Eucharist 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	20 7pm Choir	21 5:30pm Toastmasters	22 Family BBQ and Playground Blessing
23* 7:30am Eucharist 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	24 7pm Praise Team Practice	25 1:30pm Golf League	26 10am Healing Eucharist 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	27 ECW DEANERY MEETING All Saints on Longboat Key 7pm Choir	28 5:30pm Toastmasters	29
30 10am Blended Service 11am Pot Luck 5pm Youth Group						

Words to live by. . .



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

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

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Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Thank You, Lord, for:



**On Christ,
The Solid
Rock,
I Stand**



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, September 2, 9, 16, 23

7:30am Quiet Eucharist (beginning on September 16)
9:00am Traditional Eucharist
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Praise Eucharist

Sunday, September 30

10:00 a.m. Blended Service followed by Pot Luck

Every Wednesday

10:00am Healing Eucharist

