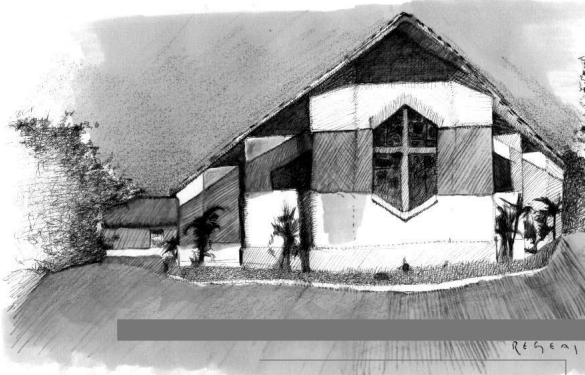


Nativity's Tidings

April 2008
Volume 24, Issue 4



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

The Right Reverend
Dabney Smith, D. Min.
Bishop

The Reverend
Charles H. Mann
Rector

Church of the Nativity
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Rector's Reflections:

Just a Coincidence?

As many of you know over two years ago our daughter Jamie worked at the now closed, Pelican Man. During her time there she directed hospital activities as an animal rehabilitator. It was also during that time that she got engaged and was married. Within two months of her marriage Jamie had taken off her engagement ring and wedding band to do some work on an animal. She had done this before and had them in a "safe" place. Well, they turned up missing. There was a police report management investigation, etc., but no rings. Two weeks after they were missing Jamie and George were at the Pelican Man together and their cat jumped out of the car. Jamie bent down to pick up the cat and saw something shiny in the sand...it was the wedding band. That was a big relief. But where was the engagement ring? Our middle son had a metal detector so we combed the parking area to search for the engagement ring...with no success. We figured it had been pawned somewhere.

The Pelican Man closed, Jamie and George moved to NY. This past week (Holy Week) our oldest son became engaged. His fiancée was here visiting as was our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. She got to meet Jamie and George and of course the tale of the lost rings came up. A year and a half has gone by since the rings went missing. Well, Jamie and George, just on a whim, drove out to the old Pelican Man location just to

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ChurchOfTheNativity.com

Our Diocese:

DioceseSWfla.org

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Rector's Reflection

(Continued from page 1)

see what has changed...just for old times sake. They parked the car in the lot adjacent to the buildings. George gets out of the car and just happens to look down at the ground. There right next to his tire he sees something shiny in the sand. He reached down to pick it up and you guessed it...it was Jamie's engagement ring. What a huge event! He jokingly says, "I got to give Jamie the same ring twice."

Now, one can look at this and say, yeah, just a huge coincidence. And, yes, coincidences do happen. But I believe God directs us through many coincidences to bring about His glory and His purpose. There are just too many variables for this to be any ordinary coincidence. I believe through the events of the week, through trust and guidance by the Holy Spirit...that God led them to that ring. They got to experience the joy of having something that was very precious to them and was lost...returned in a most unusual way. There is no amount of odds that I could begin to place on having George pull up to the very spot in this huge open space and have him stop right next to that ring.

But that is what God does. He works in and through our lives, guiding us to the right places at the right times. Over the next few weeks we will explore just how the disciples were so moved and guided through some very real coincidences that God used mightily. I believe He is still using us as long as we are open to do what He says. Even since our Don Francisco concert some very unique happenings and contacts have been made that will bless us greatly in the future ministries of this parish. We serve a wonderful God who wants to do wonderful things through those who call upon His name. May God continue to bless each and every one of you through this Easter season as we celebrate our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Chuck

April Singles Get-Together

We will meet for luncheon on Friday, April 25th at 12Noon at the Grill in beautiful University Park Country Club. If you need a ride or have any questions, please call Kay Graham (359-3876). Watch for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Altar Flowers

The giving of altar flowers to the glory of God in honor of or in memory of a loved one is a gift of love. Most churches offer this opportunity to their parishioners weekly, and, in turn, the money is used to support a flower fund.

Like other expenses, the cost of the arrangements has been steadily increasing over the years. The most optimal solution is having a Flower Guild of church women who are artistically inclined, who have flowers, and who have in their hearts to buy flowers and make weekly arrangements.

Until this happens, we have decided to lower the price of Sunday altar flowers to \$35.00 - in the hope that more of you will fill up the pages throughout 2008. Spend a few minutes leafing through the sign up book, and see where you can add your name and that of your loved one(s).



Wellness Program for April

On Tuesday morning, April 15, 2008 at 10:00 am, we are going to have a speaker, Cindy Marino, covering the topics of where we go after we can no longer live independently.

Our speaker will talk about retirement living, assisted living, nursing homes and dementia care. She will also explain cost, what is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, etc.

Join us as we all learn and get answers to the many questions we all have regarding these topics.

Sally Sloman

UTO Ingathering

UTO Ingathering will be held on Sunday, April 13, at all services.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this worthy cause.

Liz Cramer

God Stories

God Stories

“Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.”

Psalm 31:5

When I volunteered to write about how I am blessed by my Lord, Jesus, streams of ideas came to my mind. Perhaps I should relate to you a life-changing event in 1967, or my return home to the U.S.A. in 1975, or the Cursillo in 1981 when I committed my life to Christ, or the time in 1989 when my car rolled over on an icy road, or my leap of faith to write how Jesus worked in my life for the monthly newsletter for St. Mark’s in Maine?

NO. I feel like roaring ahead, like water on rocks, to more recent times, where the streams of my life turned into a river of joy and an ocean so vast that possibilities and dreams come true and the love of my Lord is everywhere!

I always wanted to be an artist, but many, many times I was told: “You have no talent. You’d better quit.” “You’re dreaming. You’ll never be an artist.” I prayed, started reading the Bible and began to draw and paint.

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven” really seemed to “sock-it-to-me”. I immersed myself in the Word, and painted, and worked at it for the Lord. He has blessed me. People came into my life with encouragement, commissions and purchases of my paintings. I pray before starting a painting or a drawing and I am always blessed.

A year ago an opportunity opened to teach acrylic painting. Then I was told “You can’t teach; it will be too exhausting for you!” I was furious. Later, sitting in my orange chair I prayed, and I asked others to pray for me. Alleluia! The way was made - I taught.

At present I continue to teach and paint. The Lord has been and IS with me. Thank you, Jesus. “*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*” Psalm 37:4

June Carol Hines



God Stories

God Stories

Dates are important here, so bear with me. On January 22 I took a chunk out of my shin by bumping into the corner of a piece of metal. Being a “Mom”, I cleaned it and dressed it. Six days later, it looked pretty angry and I went to my doctor who gave me 2 antibiotics and an appointment in 6 days. When he saw it on the second visit he said “I’ve done all I can; you need to go to the Wound Care Center” - and he immediately made an appointment.

My first visit to the Wound Care Center was February 8. This doctor said that the wound would take 3 to 4 months to heal from the outside in. They dressed it with medicated gauze and a pressure stocking. The wound measured 3 centimeters, and I was told to return in 2 weeks. At my second visit on February 22, my wound measured 2.7 centimeters.

On March 2, I saw Ros Hall before the 9:00 service. As we chatted, she asked me about my leg because of the obvious white stocking. She then asked me if anyone had prayed “on” my leg. When I said no, she asked if we could sit down so she could pray by laying hands on my wound.

My next visit to the doctor was March 6, four days later. They expressed surprise when measuring the wound because it now was 1 centimeter. By March 12, it was completely healed! From God, through Ros’ healing hands and prayer, it took only 4½ weeks instead of the 3 to 4 months they projected. As I am normally a slow healer with my bangs and dings, I could only give Thanks to Our Lord through Ros’ hands and prayers. YES, there are still miracles, even if they are small ones. Thanks be to Our Lord and Healer.

Shirley Miska

Fr. Alan Hansen on the Healing Ministry

As part of our ongoing training, the Prayer Ministry Teams have invited Fr. Alan Hansen of Acts 29 to give a presentation on praying for healing on Monday, April 28 from 7-9 p.m. Anyone in the parish who is interested in learning more about the healing ministry is welcome to attend this evening’s program.

Helen Collins

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King held their annual election of officers on March 9th. Officers for 2008 are:

President: Judi McCullough
Vice-President: June Hanley
Secretary: Nicki Vance
Treasurer: Nancy Hurley

As you know, our dedicated knitters and crocheters keep us supplied with prayer blankets and shawls, which are blessed by Fr. Chuck and prayed over by the Daughters, and are then given to people going through a difficult time. If you have extra yarn around the house, we'd be happy to receive it and pass it on to those who knit and crochet for us.

Nicki Vance

WORSHIP NEEDS

Do you have a calling to be a Lay Reader, Acolyte, Crucifer, Torchbearer, Lay Eucharistic Minister, part of the Prayer Teams, Usher, Greeter, Sound Board person or help run the overhead projection system? If so, **NATIVITY NEEDS YOU!**

We are in need of volunteers in all of these areas, especially at the 11:00 a.m. service. The only "qualification" is a love of the liturgy and Lord; we will provide the training.

If you are interested, please contact Annette Wilson at 284-1823, Nicki Coffaro at 355-7165 or Elly in the church office at 355-3262.



P. S. As a result of the article by Joan Combs in last month's Tidings, the Altar Guild now has two new volunteers. Praise God.

ECW VISIT TO THE SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOG FACILITY

On Friday March 14, 15 ladies from the E.C.W and their two body guards, Warren Hill and Dick Wernick took a trip to the Southeastern Guide Dog facility. Upon arrival, we were afforded a presentation in which we learned that this organization was established in 1962 for the purpose of providing professionally trained guide dogs to the blind, **at no charge**. It takes approximately two years to train and place a guide dog, at a cost of \$40,000. Guide Dogs learn over 40 commands, as well as an essential skill called intelligent disobedience – the refusal to obey any command that would put the blind master and dog in danger.

We then viewed a short film in which we saw some of the actual recipients of these guide dogs. Seeing how happy these animals made these people was very touching, especially when we realized that because of these animals these people are now able to travel alone with safety and dignity. We were pleased that the E.C.W. could make a \$100 donation to help support this worthy organization.

After the film, the really fun part came - we got to see and pet the puppies. Petting and holding a puppy is in a special class of joy all of its own. We had a little difficulty getting some of our ladies to leave the puppies and move on to see the guide dogs in training. But once they were there, they all agreed how beautiful, smart, and gentle these animals are and then we all picked out which ones we wished we could take home with us.

We were a little sad to leave this special place, but when we saw our mystery place for lunch, Goodson's Farm, we perked right up. A yummy lunch was afforded us at Goodson's and an even yummiest strawberry shortcake or strawberry sundae dessert.

To sum it up, we all spent a truly nice day together and we thank the Lord for the blessing it was and thank Irene Wernick for organizing it.

Bobbi Uttich



Elaine Hill cuddling the puppies.



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Thank You, Lord, for:

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



Welcome

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:

7:30am Quiet Eucharist
9:00am Traditional Eucharist
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Praise Eucharist

Every Wednesday
10:00am Healing Eucharist

April Birthdays

- 1 Janet Harle
- 2 Barbara Barden
- 5 Linda Sheffer
- 6 Gabrielle Piekunka
- 6 Emily Hagerman
- 6 Rhoda Bishop
- 9 Carole Patrylow
- 12 Syd Salt
- 14 Laura Sturtecky
- 14 Dorris Housel
- 14 Deborah Searcy
- 17 Pat Berg
- 19 Tom Badger
- 26 Edith Foley
- 30 Elly Freyer

April Anniversaries

- 5 Brian and Barbara Bain
- 7 Art and Dorothy Riley
- 9 Vincent and Denise Catalfomo
- 10 Steve and Meredith Byers
- 12 Benjamin and Joan Combs
- 12 Robert and Janet DuBois
- 15 Jim and Linda Sheffer
- 22 John and Lila Bunt
- 24 Henry and Sarah Paul
- 25 Russ and Dorris Housel
- 30 Ron and Shirley Cork



ECW CALENDAR REMINDERS

- April 9: 11am Field Trip to WSMR 89.1 Radio Station
- April 13: UTO Ingathering at all services
- May 10: 10am Mothers and Others Brunch with guest speaker from Resurrection House.

Golf League News

Weekly golf scores for the preceding month are as follows:

Feb. 19: A fine 3 under par 33 was recorded by the team of Ina O'Reilly, Tom Badger, Bill Belshaw and Jim Kruggel to claim top honors.

Feb. 26: Once again 33 was the winning score which was fashioned by Barb Angel, Allan Cage, Ron Hurley, John Pleva & Chuck Seybold

March 11: A terrific 32 was the best score this week. Carol Seybold, Tom Badger, Jack Wentworth & Rich Zang comprised the winning team.

The highlight of the day, however, was a HOLE IN ONE recorded by Ina O'Reilly. GREAT SHOT!!!!!!

Dick Berg

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

THE 11TH ANNUAL NATIVITY

GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP WILL

BE PLAYED ON SATURDAY,

MAY 10TH. SEE MARGUERITE

HATFIELD OR MARK PEELOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Nativity-April 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING 2ND SUNDAY EACH MONTH AT 12:30PM**	GIFTS FROM GOD MINISTRIES 4TH SUNDAY EACH MONTH AT 2:30PM*	1 No Golf this week	2 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brigade	3 7:00pm Choir Practice	4 5:30pm Toastmasters	5
6 7:30am Eucharist 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	7 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	8 2:30pm Golf League	9 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brigade 11am Trip to WSMR 89.1	10 7:00pm Choir Practice	11 5:30pm Toastmasters	12
13** UTO Sunday 7:30am Eucharist 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	14 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	15 10am Wellness Seminar 2:30pm Golf League	16 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brigade	17 7:00pm Choir Practice	18 5:30pm Toastmasters	19
20 7:30am Eucharist 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	21 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice	22 2:30pm Golf League	23 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brigade	24 7:00pm Choir Practice	25 5:30pm Toastmasters	26 9am Vestry Retreat at Dayspring 7pm HOLY GROUNDS Coffee
27* 7:30am Eucharist 9am Trad. Eucharist 10am Sun. School 11am Praise Eucharist 5pm Youth Group	28 1pm Bridge 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Fr. Alan Hansen	29 10:00am Clergy Meeting 2:30pm Golf League	30 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brigade			