

# Nativity's Tidings

March 2009  
Volume 26, Issue 3

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

The Right Reverend  
Dabney Smith, D. Min.  
Bishop

The Reverend  
Charles H. Mann  
Rector

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## Rector's Reflections...

### **Don't Worry Be Happy!**

I know what you're thinking...here we go with another silly cliché from a song of the past. But as silly as it is Bobby McFerrin was on to something whether he knew it or not. As I talk with parishioners and others there is a common thread in these uncertain economic times. Many are worried. They are worried about life savings, retirement portfolios, business declines, and employment stability. Many around us are indeed concerned about more personal issues such as college education, gas in the car, or even where their next weeks groceries will come from. These are indeed tuff times and when tuff times hit it is hard to focus on much else. But that is exactly why our Lord encourages us to build our faith on a solid foundation. That is exactly why He tells us to put our trust in Him. Because if we put our trust in anything else...whatever that might be...when that "thing" isn't there anymore we begin to panic and lose sight of fact that the Father really does care about us.

In our Lord's sermon on the mount Jesus was trying to instill this fact when He was talking about not being anxious. He gives these wonderful examples about how God cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field and how they are provided for...then if He cares for them, how much more does God care for us. Jesus then said, don't worry...your heavenly father knows what you need. Seek first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you. What these words ask of us is a simple question...is God first in everything?

However, when we hear that truth, our thoughts may

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Web Pages:**

**Our Church:**

www.churchofthenativity.com

**Our Diocese:**

www.episcopalswfla.org

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**Christian Formation**

Laura Plush

Jeannine Martin

## Rector's Reflection

*(Continued from page 1)*

tend to fall into one of two categories. One, okay Lord I'm seeking you...now give it to me. Or, two, yeah right...I'll believe that when I see it. In either one of those attitudes there is no faith. David, we are told, was a man searching after God's heart. In spite of the heaviest of

burdens, turmoil, not to mention a really bad decision or two, he knew where his strength came from. When he messed up he paid for it...but he didn't turn away from God. Job was another man who lost everything, I mean everything. He was advised to curse God...but he kept on pressing in to His Lord. And that is the question for us...are we pressing in to our Lord?

We have to understand that our God is real. The Father is real. Jesus is real. The Holy Spirit is real. And He wants us to be real with Him. So, in these times of uncertainty when everything seems to rest on what man may do, or not do next...let us put our hope and trust in a loving God who truly knows our needs before we even ask. But don't let us trust and hope because we have a need...but because He loves us so much that all He wants is our love in return.

*...your heavenly Father knows that you need them [provisions]. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. (Matt. 6:33-34, NIV)*

Blessings in our Lord and provider,  
*Fr. Chuck*

### ***A 4 WEEK VIDEO SERIES IN LENT***

*Featuring Pastor Andy Stanley*

*North Point Community Church, Atlanta*

***When: Wednesday Evening***

***Beginning March 4th***

***Dinner: 5:30pm***

*Teaching & Discussion following dinner*

discovering  
**God's  
will**



## March, 2009 Music Notes

The curtain's down and the lights have dimmed, but a good time was had by all at the Family Fun/Talent Night on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to all the participants – instrumentalists, singers, kazoo choir (well, really tin whistles as one very savvy parishioner pointed out) – and everyone else! And thanks to all the helpers – the show couldn't go on without all that assistance with set-up, the food, and the kitchen as well as the clean-up which had to be done that evening.



AND MOST OF ALL – THANKS TO ALL THE ATTENDEES! A show wouldn't be a show without an audience.

The choir is working very hard on a special anthem for Easter and I am happy to say that the Handchimes Choir is the largest ever with 11 people turning out to play with this group. We'll be hearing the sonorous sounds of the chimes soon!

SPECIAL NOTE: We are in need of volunteers to join the sound and video teams. If you are interested in this ministry, please see me...thanks. Karla

*Karla Porter*

## ELVES WANTED

Remember the story of the Elves and the Shoemaker? Every night the impoverished shoemaker would cut out leather for shoes to be made the next day, but in the morning he awoke to find the shoes finished and ready to sell, made by two elves.



At Nativity we have several 'elves' – Dick Berg and Mark Peelor -who silently serve the housekeeping needs in the sanctuary and offices under Dick Wernick's direction.

But there are chores that still need to be covered.

Ladies, could you spare 2 hours to help out once a month on a Monday, Thursday or Friday? You pick the day and the week of the month. The parish hall needs weekly vacuuming and spot cleaning. You would not believe how much ends up on the floor there and in the hall. Irene and Dick keep up with the kitchen but they could use help in that room also.



We have self-cleaning ovens and self-defrosting refrigerators, but, alas, no one has yet invented the self-cleaning church. Please contact Elly and volunteer.

*Helen Collins*



# Nativity Youth News



“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations”



Isaiah 61:11

### Thank You Parish Family!

Thank you Church of the Nativity for your generous support to our youth! We are well prepared with our **first aid kit** and can't thank you enough for all of your donations, care and concern! Our **Shrove Pancake Dinner** was a huge success as we raised over \$400.00 to benefit the American Cancer Society. We hope that you all enjoyed the car wash, lunch and yard sale on the 7th we were glad to see so many of you out participating and taking advantage of our services! Thank you once again for cleaning out, cleaning up and donating to this years yard sale! We are blessed by such a loving parish community that supports our endeavors.

### Nativity Youth Give Back!

On February 22nd our youth gave back to the parish by bringing canned items to support and stock the food pantry here at Nativity. Our group also made toiletry bags to store in the pantry closet for those less fortunate that may have need of personal hygiene items. We were also able to do a little cleaning in the parish hall closet and organize some of our youth games. Our hope is to give back to the parish and be a blessing to Nativity.



### E.T.C.

*(Equipping Teens for Christ)*

Our mid-week gathering for all youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade continues on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-7:30p.m. This mid week study is a great way to get connected with other youth at Nativity and enjoy an evening of food, fun,



### March Calendar and Events!

- March 1st- 5-7p.m.-IGNITE! Food, Fun, Fellowship and Guest Speaker Clayton Brumby!
- March 4th- 5:45-7:30 p.m. E.T.C. -Dinner & The Case for Christ
- March 7th- 8am-1pm. IGNITE! Car wash, Yard Sale and lunch provided by Nativity youth!
- March 11th- 5:45-7:30 p.m. E.T.C. -Dinner & The Case for Christ
- March 15th-5:00 - IGNITE! Food, Fun, Fellowship and Bunko with ECW
- March 18th- NO ETC THIS WEEK!
- March 22nd- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Dream Center “Church in the Park”
- March 25th 5:45-7:30 p.m.- E.T.C. -Dinner & The Case for Christ
- March 27th-29th -Happening High School Retreat!
- March 27th-Nexus Concert at Riverview High School (Adoration Band and Matt Leicht)
- March 29th -4:00- IGNITE! Happening Closing followed by dinner out!

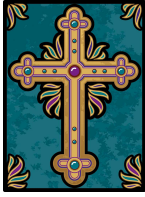


### ***A LOOK AHEAD! SAVE THE DATE!***

- April 9th-10th -Youth Group Lock In
- April 12th- Parish Easter Egg Hunt hosted by IGNITE youth
- April 17th -18th - Relay For Life- Youth- Please sign up to join our team!
- May 9th- Bush Gardens “Glory in the Gardens” with Relient K

Blessings,  
Debbie





## *How We Found Church of the Nativity!*

*Reminiscences by Mary & Charlie Burke*

When we came to Sarasota in the fall of 1985, Charlie's friend, who lived in Gaithersburg, MD., asked Charlie to look up his minister who just transferred to Peace Lutheran Church on the corner of Beneva Road and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. We went there, and when Charlie asked to see the minister, Charlie, (in his best straight face) told him he was sent from the IRS to investigate the pastor. At first the poor man was speechless, but soon recognized Charlie was kidding.

Since Charlie was confirmed in the Lutheran Church, we thought we had found the church we would regularly attend. One Sunday we could not make the 10 a.m. service and we had noticed an 8 a.m. service was listed on the board. We arrived at 7:50 a.m. but did not recognize a soul, and there may have been 12 people at most gathered! That included the acolyte!

That was our first Episcopal Mass ~ the beginning of what is now our church and Nativity's congregation. After the service, many of us regularly met at a coffee shop, Sean's, at the Town & Country Shopping Center. Eventually Peace Lutheran's congregation grew to the point where they needed two services, so we had to move.

Our next home was located at what was then First Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Lockwood Ridge Road and 17<sup>th</sup> Street, behind a gas station. We were at this location until the new Church was built, probably until 1987.

Now I would like to tell you a little about our BEGINNINGS.....

With the help of many churches and the Diocese of Southwest Florida, we had a "Pre-Fab" building go up. It looked like a motel until the cross went up and the doors were painted red.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, on the corner of Bee Ridge Road and Beneva Road, was in the midst of refurbishing their church and had their old pews (with blue seats,) altar, lectern, and pulpit for sale. We were able to purchase these items, but had no place to store them until our building was ready. Duane Dueul, (now head cook at DaySpring) worked at a nursing home off Fruitville Road and found that the owners would let us store these things there. I can't remember who all the men were that helped move the pews to the nursing home and then again from there to the new church.

We were still snow birds at the time. When we left in April, all able bodied persons were painting to get the church ready for Easter Sunday.

Duane's parents in New Port Richey made the hangings for the new altar and I understand that Duane's mother took care of them until the new church was ready. Duane's father made the first priest's chasuble, white for Easter, weddings, etc.

We had a working party to clean, scrub and paint the building before we moved in. (That's when we met Dick Wernick.)

When we returned in October 1987, there were more people attending; we still had one service at that time.

When we moved into the new church, someone donated an old organ (which was off key.)

We had coffee hour sitting or standing in the hallway. We hired a baby sitter to look after the young ones to encourage families to attend services. Many a time the only one in the nursery was the sitter. The congregation just did not have young families. If we did have a need for a sitter, one of the women would take care of the need.

Through the efforts of the late Betty Daniels, we had the window treatments done in the front windows and we bought red dishes. Also, along the way, Betty helped get the Mustard Seed started on 17<sup>th</sup> Street and eventually it moved to its present location on Fruitville Road.

*-continued from page 5*

We had a young man (Michael Bayus) who was our organist. Mike was a very gifted musician who, incidentally, was blind. He and our priest, Fr. Stan Carter, left about the same time.

We had many priests and deacons to help us along the way. One Sunday, Fr. Magill, our interim priest at that time, made an announcement reminding us to keep praying for an organist to turn up. A woman who happened to attend our service that day for the first time inquired about the position, saying she had played some years ago and was willing to brush up on her skills if we were willing to give her a try. She was hired. Her name is Karla Porter! Not only did we get an organist, but a choir director as well.

On another Sunday, we asked a gentleman sitting behind us to help us usher. He was a bit hesitant at first, but agreed to give it a try. That person was Dick Berg! I'm sure each one of us has a story to tell how he/she started coming to Church of the Nativity.

We ENCOURAGE...URGE...everyone to tell their his/her experience when they came to the church so we can have some record of our first 25 years of the church's history.

The two people responsible for the success story of Nativity are Liz Stoner and her late husband, Jim. A lot of people did their bit to help Nativity grow, but it is no question that Liz and Jim were the driving force. We recommend naming the library "The Stoner Library" or "The Stoner Chapel" Something to recognize their dedication and hard work which is long overdue.

P.S. I recall having a conversation with Gebby (Gebhard, our first acolyte) and he told me that a group of people were saying Mass at a private home. Then they held Mass at the Kensington Club House on 17<sup>th</sup> Parkway, now Calvary Chapel and it was he and his wife who came up with the name for our church.

I'm sure there are people out there that can be more specific on some of the things I mentioned.

*Charlie and Mary Burke*



## Holy Eucharist & Healing Service Wednesdays at 10am

So many people, here and throughout the world, are experiencing difficult and troubled time. However, wonderful things are happening at Nativity. Wednesday's Holy Eucharist and Healing Service is just one example.

We have been truly blessed as our Lord stands among us, and we share and witness special experiences. Sometimes testimonies are given, on personal healing, family or friends healing, discipleship or spiritual growth. Healing prayers on a personal level are offered for self or others, and there is a warm feeling of fellowship and camaraderie as the brief but great feeling service (30-40 minutes) moves along.

Outreach blankets (homemade) are also blessed to help someone less fortunate stay warm in God's Love.

We are experiencing growth in attendance, moving from a few to the twenties, so more and more are experiencing the love of our Lord and His healing powers.

Mark your calendars for Wednesdays at 10am at "Nativity." Be a disciple. Bring a friend. Let others discover His love and healing.

*Rich Cooper*

## GOLF LEAGUE CONTINUES TO SWING IN ACTION



Bill Hatfield (L) and Senior Warden, Ron Hurley (R) tee it off during our Tuesday Golf League.

The Golf League at Church of the Nativity has been an ongoing ministry that continues to draw over 25 people every Tuesday. Ministry you say! Yes, there is fellowship, there is pastoral concern for others, and yes, even times when we pray for one another...not to mention a having a great deal of fun. The League welcomes golfers of all levels of skill to join...there are duffers and there are some who have played for some time. But all play on equal ground. Foursomes play nine holes of golf using the rules of a scramble. That is everyone in the foursome plays from the location of the best ball. The League takes place on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 in the winter (earlier in the summer) at Rolling Green Golf Course. Interested persons should contact Dick Berg or the church office for more information.

### **12th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT APRIL 18TH**



A sign up sheet has been posted in the Parish Hall. We will meet at noon at Rolling Green Golf Club, and have a shot gun start at 1:00pm (with dinner to follow) The cost is \$50. for golf and dinner and \$20. for dinner only.

The FUN is unlimited ~ but golfers are limited to 72. Please call Mark Peelor (751-4334) with any questions.

# **ECW NEWS AND EVENTS FOR MARCH**

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

We are involved in many programs that touch the community at large. In addition to giving our time and talent, we also give of our "treasure" through donations. Listed below are the most recent recipients of these donations

\$100.00	Sarah Howell Fund
100.00	All Faith's Food Bank
50.00	Manatee Community College Chaplaincy
50.00	Resurrection House
100.00	Nigerian Bishops (to help with ( their expenses during their stay.)

Submitted By Phyllis Gipson

**UNITED THANK OFFERING  
INGATHERING March 29th**

## **BULLETIN BOARDS**

Our goal is to have informative, enjoyable and attractive bulletin boards for your perusal.

When you have photos or articles of interest, please give them to Elly in the office, and we will arrange them on a bulletin board. Be sure to put a caption with each photo indicating the activity or event, date and names of those pictured. For letters, articles or newspaper clippings, provide the date and source. We look forward to receiving your suggestions, news and photos. Dated materials will be carefully preserved in a drawer in the office.

You would be surprised at the number of people who travel down the hallway slowly to peruse all the interesting things on the boards!

Manasota Spring Deanery Meeting  
March 12, 2009  
Church of the Annunciation,  
Holmes Beach

*9:00am Coffee and Registration*  
*Speaker: Joe Mercado, Director of*  
*Community and Services for the*  
*Food Bank of Manatee County*

See sign up sheet on the One Stop  
Sign Up Sheet Bulletin Board

## **BUNCO PARTY**

**SUNDAY, March 18th**  
**6:30pm**

**Bunco/Games/**

**Strawberries, Ice Cream/Prizes**

**Everyone is invited to join our**  
**Youth Group**

**For a fun evening of fellowship**



*Welcome to our new Vestry Members*  
*Brenda Bunker*  
*Marilyn Davis*  
*Rich Uttich*



### *Flower Committee*

There is a story about a little town in Spain and every year they conduct a spelling bee with their children. The third prize winner receives a silver rose, the second prize winner receives a gold rose and the first prize winner receives a real rose. A real rose because nobody can make a rose as beautiful as God.

In an effort to try and save a little money, during these trying economic times, Marilyn Davis suggested that we form a committee and prepare our weekly church flower arrangements using the talents of our own parishioners. So a call went out and 10 ladies stepped up to the plate and volunteered. They are: Faye Robertson, Bobbi Uttich, Elaine Hill, Brenda Bunker, Norma Youngs, Marcia Simington, Sarah DeZago, Elly Freyer, Veronica Cooper and Marilyn Davis. It was agreed at a meeting, that each week two of our members would purchase the flowers on Friday, arrange them and then place them in our church.

Everyone on the committee is excited about this endeavor and we hope we can cut our present flower costs in half. This new committee will start right after Easter. If anyone is interested in joining our group, please let us know.

So now when you come to church after Easter you will not only notice in our church the beautiful flowers that the Lord has created, you will also see that they were arranged with love by your fellow parishioners.

*Bobbi Uttich*

### **An Irish “Penny” Tale**

I’m always discovering someone who doesn’t know about the Mile of Pennies fund that provide reading materials to kids all over the world. Those are the pennies (nickels and dimes, too) that find their way to the red basket on the table in the hall across from the kitchen. It’s always great to discover new coins there each week. In March of 2007, my Tidings article told how the “Lucky Penny” key chain from Ireland came to be attached to the red basket.

It was given to me by my niece whom I visited in Norfolk, England that year. She enjoyed hearing about our fun and fund and wanted to contribute even tho that coin has no value to us here. A Multiple Sclerosis victim, and later a cancer patient as well, she died earlier this year. She was 52 year old. You didn’t know her, but perhaps you’ll say a prayer of thanks for her life and her thoughtful gift to the Mile of Pennies basket.

Her name?

Linda Penny!



## March Birthdays

1. Warren Hill
4. Marie Fromow
9. Eileen DuBartell
11. Ralph Alee
13. Kim Linder
14. Gene Olsen
19. Faye Robertson
19. Joan Baum
21. Dick Wernick
24. Michael Sailer
25. Art Riley
25. Lois Toepper
26. Vanessa Hagerman
28. Larry Reams
31. Stacey Lewis



## March Anniversaries

We have no anniversaries recorded for the month of March. If you haven't been getting greetings, please let us know so that we can add your birthday and anniversary to our database.



## Golf League News

A monthly column written by Dick Berg

**1/20—On a very cold, windy day, 18 golfers played. All four teams finished at 2 under Par or better which was remarkable. The quartette of Tom Breen, Ed Jandro, Mark Peelor and Jack Wentworth were the victors scoring 33.**

**1/27—Versus last week, today was perfect for golf. 5 teams played. Two teams tied at the top with 3 under Par 33. It took only one hole to break the deadlock. Tom Badger, Rich Enyart, Andrea Honroth, John Pleva and Ed Reynolds were the champs.**

**2/3—Five foursomes battled another very windy and cool day. 3 teams tied with 34 (a good score considering the elements). In a one hole play-off, the team of Brian Bain, Ron Hurley, Mark Peelor and Carol Seybold were the winners.**

**2/10—It was a lovely day (thanks Elly). The scores were low-low-lowest ever! Two teams tied at 31 for second place. The quintette of Marguerite Hatfield, Tom Breen, Terry Honroth, John Pleva and Chuck Seybold set a new record low with a scorchin' 7 under Par!**

# Nativity-March 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	2 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice	3 12Noon : Bible Study 2:30pm Golf League	4 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages <b>5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha</b> 7pm Men's Bible Study	5 5:30pm Handchimes Practice 7pm Choir Practice	FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	7 <b>YOUTH ~ CAR WASH LUNCH YARD SALE</b>
8 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	9 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm <b>VESTRY MEETING</b>	10 2:30pm Golf League	11 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages <b>5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha</b> 7pm Men's Bible Study	12 5:30pm Handchimes Practice 7pm Choir Practice	13 FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	14
15 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist <b>5 pm BUNCO &amp; ICE CREAM</b>	16 BRIDGE 1 pm 7pm Praise Team Practice	17 2:30pm Golf League	18 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages <b>5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha</b>	19 5:30pm Handchimes Practice 7pm Choir Practice	20 FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	21
<b>22 *</b> 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	23 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice	24 2:30pm Golf League	25 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages <b>5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha</b>	26 5:30pm Handchimes Practice 7pm Choir Practice	27 FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	28
<b>29</b> 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	30 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice	31 2:30pm Golf League	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SAT. NIGHT, MARCH 7TH</b>			

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

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*Thank You, Lord, for:*



## March 2009

**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:

### **Sundays**

7:30am Said Eucharist

9:00am Praise Eucharist

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Eucharist

### **Wednesdays**

10:00am Healing Eucharist