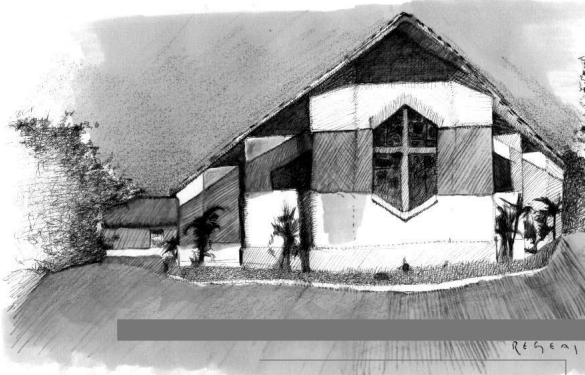


Nativity's Tidings

April 2009
Volume 26, 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
5900 N. Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, Florida 34243

Telephone: (941) 355-3262
Fax: (941) 358-8930

Rector's Reflections...

Holy Week Preaching Mission

What a blessing it has been to reconnect with Bishop Tunde and get to know Bishop Segun. As of this writing our Nigerian guests have been to three geographical locations and have visited four parishes in our diocese. By the end of Holy Week that will increase to five locations and seven parishes. The evangelism committee had one purpose and one purpose only for this mission...to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and what He is doing around the world. We truly serve only one God and He is doing a mighty work around the world.

The feedback I have gotten from this mission has been nothing short of outstanding. People are saying to me; "We don't want to give them back." That is the testimony of the message they are bringing to us. I have been extremely encouraged and blessed by what God is doing. Sometimes it takes someone who truly lives by faith to really open our eyes to the faith that is available to all of us. That is what I want us to get from this door that is opened for us.

The other day I had a conversation with Bishop Segun in my office. He said that he never asks anyone for anything. When there is a need...he asks God for the need...and he knows that God answers all our needs. Then he waits. In a way we at Nativity have been living like that. We have

(Continued on page 2)

Web Pages:

Our Church:

www.churchofthenativity.com

Our Diocese:

www.episcopalswfla.org

Rector's Reflection

(Continued from page 1)

been blessed so much by simply having God provide the need rather than trying to short circuit God by trying to make something happen under our own power. That is why prayer, fasting, and seeking God are so important.

That is why we had the course on Discovering

God's Will. God really does want to bless us with His presence and provision in our lives. Not that we seek Him to just get...but we seek Him to be interactive in our lives and to be guided by Him. Our goal is to truly please Him.

I encourage you as we enter this most holy of weeks in the church calendar, that you take advantage of the opportunity we have before us. Come and hear what God is doing in other parts of the world. Come and expect to be encouraged in your faith. Come and allow yourself to be open to what God wants to do through you. And as we continue on this road together I pray that God would fill us with His presence and direction for a harvest that is ready to be brought in. May the Lord bless each and every one of you in this Easter season as we celebrate our risen Lord.

Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Fr. Chuck

Church Secretary

Elly Freyer

Treasurer

Bob Hines

Financial Administrator

Karla Porter

Music Director

Karla Porter

Praise Team Leader

Debbie Mann

Youth Minister

Debbie Veldkamp

Minister of Buildings and Grounds

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Bruce Simington, Junior Warden

Outreach

Rich Uttich

Larry DuBartell

Evangelism

Brenda Bunker

Pastoral Care

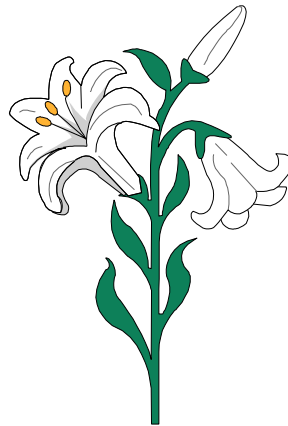
Irene Wernick

Marilyn Davis

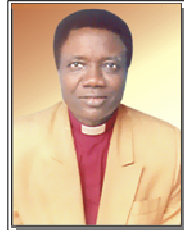
Christian Formation

Laura Plush

Jeannine Martin



Holy Week and Nigerian Preaching Mission



Rt. Rev.
Olusegun Adeyeme



Rt. Rev.
Tunde Adeleye

Holy Week Schedule

Tuesday, April 7:

7pm - Nigerian Preaching Mission

Wednesday, April 8:

5:30pm - Parish Dinner/Reception

(Shepherd's pie meal and question and answer session with the bishops – culture and life in Nigeria – signup sheet at one stop sign up shop)

7pm - Nigerian Preaching mission

Thursday April 9:

6pm - Maundy Thursday service – stripping of the altar

7pm - Nigerian Preaching mission

Friday, April 10:

12noon & 7pm - Good Friday services

Homily by Guest Bishop

Saturday, April 11:

5pm - Holy Saturday service

Sunday, April 12:

Easter Sunday

7:30 sunrise; 9 Contemporary; 11 Traditional

NATIVITY REACHING OUT TO HAITI



The HBS (Hopital Bon Samaritan)* Foundation, Inc is celebrating 50 years of missionary work in Haiti. They are requesting donations to help fund the shipping of bandages, food and clothing to Haiti. This year four surgery teams with different specialties are scheduled to come and perform one week of surgery.

We can't imagine what it is like living in poverty in this hot and humid country. The bandages we create out of old white sheets are sorely needed. They are used to cover sterile gauze over wounds. The Doctors are always in short supply and are truly grateful for what we send.

We are in need of: People to rip the sheets; People to sew and cut into 30ft. Lengths; People to roll the bandages.

We could use any old sheets you might have. Importantly we will need money for shipment to Haiti. We as a small group have in the past contributed the monies to ship our bandages ,but, as you know, costs have risen and any small (or large) donation toward this cause is gratefully accepted. As of now we have \$28 in our kitty. The last shipment we made was around \$100. We also try to send loose cotton dresses for the girls and the many single mothers. T-shirts and shorts for the boys. BANDAGE BRIGADE needs HELP. Will You?

Subsequent to writing this message, I had a lengthy conversation with Gil Hodges in Lake Worth. He emphasized the need for the bandages, and gave me information on how to proceed with the packaging and sending the bandages to the East Coast. From there, the Foundation will forward to Limbe in Haiti.

Please see the white cash receptacle in the Parish Hall. Your donations will help with shipping costs.

Shirley Miska

**French for
Hospital of the
Good Samaritan*





Nativity Youth News

6th-12th grade



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

1 Peter 1:3



Extra, Extra Read All About DINNER AND A MOVIE

April 1st 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Nativity Youth invites you to join us WEDNESDAY, April 1st (no fool'n) for dinner and a viewing of Lee Strobel's inspiring DVD, "The Case for Christ".

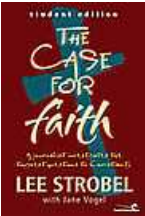


E.T.C.

(Equipping Teens for Christ)

Our mid-week gathering for all youth 6th-12th 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, fellowship, and study!

The votes are in and we were so inspired by Strobel's journey and search for the truth in his award winning book The Case For Christ that we have decided to continue our studies during the month of April with his book The Case For Faith! In this book Strobel investigates and shares some powerful insight into tough questions such as: Why is there suffering? Doesn't science disprove miracles? What about hell—and the millions who've never heard of Jesus? Is God unjust?



April Calendar and Events!

April 1st- 5:30-7:30 E.T.C. Dinner and a movie parish event, "The Case For Christ"

April 5th- IGNITE! Drive In Movie (Monster vs. Alien) Ruskin, FL

April 8th- NO E.T.C. tonight due to Lock In

April 9th-10th -IGNITE Lock In "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

April 12th- HAPPY EASTER

April 15th- 5:45-7:30 p.m.- E.T.C. Dinner & The Case for Faith

April 17th-18th - Relay For Life @ Sarasota High School

April 19th- NO IGNITE due to Relay For Life

April 22nd- 5:45-7:30 p.m.- E.T.C. Dinner & The Case for Faith

April 26th - 6:00—8:00p.m. IGNITE! Siesta Key Beach Volleyball Night!

April 29th - 5:45-7:30 p.m.- E.T.C. Dinner & The Case for Faith



A LOOK AHEAD! SAVE THE DATE!

May 9th- Busch Gardens "Glory in the Gardens" with Relient K

May 24th- Reception for Graduating Senior Youth members

Blessings,
Debbie Veldkamp



GUESS WHO DOES WHAT, WHY, WHERE, WHEN??

Every now and then it's appropriate to recognize those special people who have special talents and do special work for our church.

NUMBER ONE on this month's list is the creator of most of our sign up sheets and event notifications which you see on the doors and on Parish Hall tables. She has a plethora (means a lot) of cute and colorful artwork to pique our interest.

WHO IS IT? Liz Stoner 

NUMBER TWO (and no less in importance) is the incredible lady who crochets almost all of our afghans for our Daughters of the King to present to those who are hospitalized, who are undergoing chemo treatments and who are experiencing chronic health problems. (She can always use gifts of skeins of yarn...)

WHO IS IT? Gabrielle Piekunka 

NUMBER THREE is a lady with a green thumb. She is a wizard with the weeds, knows how to clip, trim, replant and tenderly care for all God's greenery. Added to all this, she is responsible for the small floral arrangements you see on our Parish Hall tables.

WHO IS IT? Barbara Barden 

NUMBER FOUR are two faithful ladies who come to the church each Friday morning to prepare the Sunday bulletins ~ including cutting, collating and stuffing.

WHO ARE THEY: Kim Linder and Shirley Miska 

MORE IN THE MONTHS TO COME.....



DEAR FRIENDS ~ PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT THE OFFICE TO LET ELLY KNOW WHEN YOU WILL BE DEPARTING AND RETURNING TO YOUR SUMMER HOMES. YOU GO WITH OUR PRAYERS FOR YOUR TRAVEL SAFETY AND GOOD HEALTH IN THE MONTHS TO COME. AND...YES...WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ONCE AGAIN IN THE FALL.



Join Us for our Annual Easter Fun Day

The Annual Easter Fun Day will be held on April 11th from 10:00-11:30 am. Please join us for crafts, games, egg dying, Cupcake decorating, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring your own basket to collect eggs. If you wish to sign up, help, or donate supplies please see the Sunday School bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Jeannine Martin.



Music Notes – April, 2009 Hallelujah!



We will soon be in the joyful Eastertide season. On the morn of our Resurrection Celebration, we will once again fill the church with sounds of joyful Hallelujahs and the choir will sing for the first time the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. Did you know...

- Handel actually named it *Messiah* and not *The Messiah*?
- That it was done for secular theatre and was first performed during Lent?
- The text for the Hallelujah Chorus is taken from the book of Revelation and not from the Gospels?

And that Handel actually changed it to suit whatever voices and instruments he had available for any particular performance, thus, there is no one “authentic” version. Not to mention that no one really knows why King George II stood at that part of the Oratorio causing the whole audience to rise ~ which created a custom that has attached to the Hallelujah Chorus for years.

But whatever the history, people have been inspired by the sounds of the Hallelujah Chorus for years; the choir and guest choristers are prepared to present this music offering to our risen Lord on Easter morning, and we pray that all who hear will be blessed and inspired to share their joy!

Karla Porter

**Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them. BCP 502**

- Robert Benjamin Halliday Jr.
 - Robert Williams
- Dorothy Ann Fleischmann
 - D. Wayne Gray



**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 shotgun 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.

Checks should be made out to Church of the Nativity.



ECW
NEWS &
EVENTS
FOR
APRIL



PALM CROSS
MAKING

On Saturday morning at 10am the ladies will be gathering to create crosses with strips of palm. Don't worry. We have some ECW-ers Who are real pros and will teach you in a couple of minutes.

Remember. Many hands make light work.



Palm Sunday Bake Sale

This is one of our ECW fund-raising events. In the last issue of Tidings you read about where our outreach money goes. The Bake Sale will help us to continue to make donations in our community which are in need of help.

Bake something and buy something for yourself or for a friend or neighbor.



Day of Inspirations
Presented by the
Diocesan Episcopal
Church Women

Saturday, April 18th at DaySpring.
Registration at 9am.

Program theme: Human Trafficking and How it Relates to Southwest Florida
Cost: \$25.00

????????????????
MYSTERY TRIP
April 25th
????????????????

April Birthdays

2. Barbara Barden
2. Maureen Borger
6. Gabrielle Piekunka
6. Emily Hagerman
6. Rhoda Bishop
9. Carole Patrylow
12. Syd Salt
14. Laura Sturtecky
17. Patty Berg
19. Tom Badger
20. Bobbi Uttich
23. Anise Veldkamp
23. Eden Veldkamp
26. Debbie Veldkamp
30. Elly Freyer



April Anniversaries

5. Brian and Barbara Bain
7. Arthur and Dorothy Riley
10. Steve and Meredith Byers
22. John and Lila Bunt
24. Sarah and Henry Paul
26. Bobbi and Rich Uttich
30. Ron and Shirley Cork



Golf League News

A monthly column written by Dick Berg

2/17—7 teams played on a beautiful day. The scores were all under par, but not as low as the previous week. In the end, 31 was recorded by Nancy Hurley, Rich Enyart, Marvin Hoeing and Dick Berg to win.

2/24—Today was a duplicate of last week as 7 teams completed. Same winners, same scores, on another lovely day.

3/3—On a cool, sunny, breezy day, the group of Mary Breen, Ina O'Reilly, John Lukac, Ed Jandro and Mark Peelor scored 32 to claim top honors.

3/10 The weather was absolutely lovely. 7 teams participated with 3 new players. In the end, 32 (4 under) was the score it took to be victorious which was recorded by Andrea Honroth, Jack O'Reilly, Jud Higgins and Dick Berg.

Nativity-April 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	*PREACHING MISSION ~ NIGERIAN BISHOPS TUES.-WED.-THU.		1 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages 5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha	2 5:30pm Handchimes Practice 7pm Choir Practice	3 FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	4
5 PALM SUNDAY 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	6 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice	7* 2:30pm Golf League Preaching Mission 7pm	8* 5:30Ppm Shepherd's Pie Dinner and Q&A session With Bishops. Preaching Mission 7pm	9* MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:00pm Stripping of the Altar Preaching Mission 7pm	10 GOOD FRIDAY Noon and 7pm Stations of the Cross and Eucharist	11 10am EASTER FUN DAY HOLY SATURDAY
12 EASTER SUNDAY 7:30am Sunrise Service 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 2:30pm Golf League	15 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages 5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha	16	17 FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	18 NATIVITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RELAY FOR LIFE
19 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	20 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice 7pm Vestry Meeting	21 2:30pm Golf League	22 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages 5:15pm Dinner and Lessons/Alpha	23 7pm Choir Practice	24 FREE COFFEE 7:30-9:30 5:30pm Toastmasters	25
26 7:30am Said Eucharist 9am Praise Eucharist 10am Sunday School 11am Traditional Eucharist 5pm YOUTH	27 BRIDGE 1pm 7pm Praise Team Practice	28 2:30pm Golf League	29	30	To read about Youth Activities be sure to read Page 4 of Tidings.	

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

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Thank You, Lord, for:

Greetings
at Eastertide

April 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

**Please see calendar inside for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and
Easter service times**