

Nativity's Tidings

November 2009
Volume 26, Issue 11

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

The Right Reverend
Dabney Smith, D. Min.
Bishop

The Reverend
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Rector's Reflections...

Finding the Joy!

Recently one of the readings during the healing service was from the book of Jonah. Jonah had essentially lost his joy. He saw no reason to go to Nineveh as God had asked him to do. He saw no reason why that city of wicked people should be saved. So he ran. We know the story of the ship, the storm, and the whale, resulting in Jonah's final submission to go to Nineveh and preach. And look what happened! Jonah preached that God would destroy the city if the people of Nineveh did not repent. He had to be one of the most successful preachers of all time, because the people repented and God saved them. But Jonah was still upset; he went to the outskirts of town and sat, pouting because God was merciful to them. God provided a vine to shade him and he was glad. Then God took away the vine and Jonah wanted to die. The reality of this story is that

Jonah was pretty selfish. He had been chosen to deliver God's message and God had used him to save a city, but that did not satisfy him. Jonah was robbing himself of the Joy.

We will be hosting an ecumenical gathering on Monday nights, seeking to come into God's presence with prayer and praise.

Joy, as I mentioned in my last article, does not necessarily mean we have to be happy. Joy comes in knowing that we are in God's

(Continued on page 2)

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www.churchofthenativity.com

Our Diocese:

www.episcopalswfla.org

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(Continued from page 1)

will. Joy comes when, despite all the things that go on around us, even things we don't understand, we experience the peace that God can bring to us if we are listening and obeying his leading.

Many of us just completed a wonderful course entitled "*When God's People Pray*" during our Wednesday night gathering. This was not a "how to" teaching; it was an "expect something to happen when you do" teaching. We were reminded of the importance of prayer and of the power in knowing God hears us and is working with us and through us in every aspect of our lives. Jonah heard God but he refused to act because he thought it should be done another way – or not done at all. He couldn't rejoice in the results because he was stiff-necked about it. Sometimes we have to remember what one song reminds us: *You are God and I am not.*

The psalmist identifies another source of joy when he says "*In Your presence is fullness of joy.*" David is not speaking theoretically; he knows this because he has experienced that it is pure joy to enter into the presence of God. We can enter His presence through praise, worship, and prayer. His ways, His power, and His love far exceed anything we can imagine on our own.

In the coming weeks you will see something new that was birthed out of prayer for God's will in our ministry and in this community. We will be hosting an ecumenical gathering on Monday nights, seeking to come into God's presence with prayer and praise. Scripture tells us that God delights in the praises of His people. This will not be a Eucharist, neither will it have a sermon, although some informal scripture reflection may occur. Already in my casual conversations with some ministry leaders over the past couple of weeks (one from the Assemblies of God and one from the Roman Catholic Church) sincere interest was expressed in being a part of this. It feels as if God is putting pieces in place.

I know God has great things in store for this community. I know He wants nothing more than to use all who are willing to be used. I know He wants us to experience the joy of His presence. So let us seek God with all our hearts. Let us lift up His Holy Name in prayer and praise. And then let us move in obedience in and under His power and glory.
Blessings to you all, *Fr. Chuck*



Church of the Nativity will be celebrating
our twenty-fifth anniversary on Sunday,
December 6, 2009

To help us celebrate this milestone
Bishop Smith will be in attendance. Other
clergy who have been supportive of
Nativity will also be invited.

A historical booklet has been written and
compiled by Elizabeth Stoner, who, along
with her husband Jim, is one of the
original founders of our church.

There will be only one Eucharist
on December 6 at 10:15am.
A buffet reception will follow the service.

Music Notes

November 1st was All Saints' Day and it actually fell on Sunday this year. As we celebrated the Saints gone before us into the life eternal, it gives one pause to think about what we will be doing when we get to heaven.

The Revelation to John certainly gives us a look at our heavenly home where the Saints worship The Lamb with unending praise and song.

“Then I heard every (underlining mine) creature in heaven and on earth...,
SINGING (capitals mine),

To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!” Rev. 5:13



In an article I read recently in the *GIA Quarterly*, Melissa Nussbaum wrote:

*Human singing is both a sign and a promise
of the reign of God. Not talking, I notice, but singing.
In the kingdom, we sing, all of us, even those
who never sang before.*

Whether it is here or there, singing is definitely part of the plan!

Ringers still needed!

We still need a couple of people to complete the Handchime Choir. It is hoped the Handchime choir can do a presentation in Advent and also on Christmas Eve. Please see/call Karla if you are interested in joining this group!

Karla Porter

Sanctuary Candles

*Sadly the pages of our
sign up book are empty.
Won't you remember a
loved one by dedicating
the Sanctuary candles
to the glory of God for
an upcoming Sunday.*





SECRET ANGELS DINNER CELEBRATION ~ Tuesday, December 15 at 6pm

Many thanks to the following for their participation at the Secret Angels Planning Meeting of October 20. The helpful angels were Darla Clark, Phyllis Gipson, Mary Elizabeth Hamlin, Judi McCullough, Shirley Miska, Helena Stephens, Laura Sturtecky, Sherry Sutliff and Irene Wernick. Anne Brahler and June Carol Hines could not attend, but have offered their assistance in whatever is needed to make the Secret Angels Celebration for 2009 something special for all who attend. Liz Stoner, who is always so willing, will be asked for specific help.

After a “spirited” discussion, a theme was selected. This year’s theme will be, “SECRET ANGELS, PRAYER FRIENDS FOR ALL SEASONS.”

Chair Phyllis Gipson provided an agenda for discussion of topics such as how to improve the Secret Angels Program for 2010, the Celebration Dinner Program, and the solicitation of volunteers for all the suggestions that were given.

It was decided that we’ll have an Italian meal this time, with salad, hors d-oeuvres, and two kinds of dessert. The program will feature prayer, song and specific suggestions as to how to improve the program for 2010.

We look forward to seeing our past angels, present angels, and anyone interested in becoming a Secret Angel at this year’s celebration. Look for reminders in the Sunday service bulletins.

Phyllis Gipson, Chairperson

*Thanks to all the people who prayed for me and sent cards
and calls during my recovery from my hip surgery.*

Gabrielle Piekunka



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
2ND ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009
9:00am – 11:00am
Theme: God Answers Prayer**



Please plan to join us.
Guests are welcome.

Our Sign-up Sheet is on the church bulletin board.
Enjoy a delicious and nutritious breakfast.
Our program will include:

- Daughters of the King Prayers of Thanksgiving
- Additional Prayers of Thanksgiving
- (We welcome everybody to join us with their prayers and testimonies of answered prayers and healings.)
- Music, Praise and Testimony from the (280 Member) Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir- DVD entitled, "I'm Amazed...Live" and CD entitled "Hallelujah! The Very Best of The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir"

Join Our Group!
We meet after the Healing Service on Wednesdays to roll bandages for a hospital in Haiti.
This has been an ongoing ministry here at Nativity for years.
We need you!



**COME
AND PRAY**

At 1:00 on Tuesdays a small group meets in the sanctuary to pray for an hour. We don't talk about what we are going to pray about; we just pray for the church, the nation, the world, individuals needing healing - however the Spirit leads us to pray. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you don't want to pray out loud you can just pray with us silently. Or you can give Elly a prayer request and we will pray for it.

CAN ONE SHOEBOXES



HUNDRED (100) BE OUR GOAL?

Do you remember how many shoe boxes you made last year? In a recent article about last year's gift-filled shoe boxes, it was stated that 7.6 million hurting children in 100 countries received these gifts. It is awesome to see how God's people working together can really make a difference in so many lives. We have usually completed about 75 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child at Nativity and I truly think we can exceed that number so let's get started NOW.

By the time you read this Tidings you will be seeing shoe boxes and all the information you need for your gift box in the Fellowship Hall. We even have some items to share with you for your shoebox so please use the items available and get an early start. You will find the Operation Christmas Child brochure has very complete directions and it is your choice to do a girl or boy and there are three different age groups. Maybe you have friends and family that would also like to get involved with our shoebox outreach program.

Each shoebox has a story and will affect another child. Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project of this kind.

REMEMBER.... START NOW SO WE CAN BEGIN OUR COUNT!!

Deadline: Sunday, November 15

ECW DATES AND NOTES

Hopefully you all received your Episcopal Church Women calendars and have marked down the following dates. Please call the Office if you did not receive one.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 10th – 9a.m. To 3 p.m. The ECW annual meeting at DaySpring. Cost \$25.00 per person. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan, Rector of St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel Island. All women are invited to attend. We will car pool from the church at 8:45 a.m..

Sunday, 15th – The Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be blessed at both services. .

Monday, 16th – Norma Youngs will have a video presentation of the Flower Festival held at her home church in England. Beginning at 6:30 with sweets, coffee and tea being served to set the mood. Everyone welcome.

Sunday, 29th – Bakeless Bake Sale!! Remember no calories and no baking. Please make generous monetary donations, as this is our Adopt – A – Family fund raiser. We have two families counting on our Christian Love.

DECEMBER

Sunday, 6th – 10a.m. Single service to celebrate Nativity's 25th Anniversary Followed by brunch. Bishop Dabney Smith will share the day with us. Look for more details and join the Nativity Family for this special event.



Tuesday, 8th – 7p.m. Wrap party for the Adopt – A – Family gifts. Bring cookies to share and tea and coffee will be provided. A fun night to start your Christmas season.

Tuesday, 15th – 6p.m. Secret Angel Dinner Party for past, present and future angels. Watch for the sign up sheet and come to here about and be a "secret angel".

"SPARES & PAIRS"

What is this? ? ?

This title was suggested by a Nativity "spare" for what has transpired from our most recent singles meeting. It seems that the singles activities have been so interesting that there were some individuals who wondered if they too could take part. We thought it was a good idea, so all, parishioners as well as friends, who are interested are welcome to participate in what "Spares & Pairs" will become.

The primary focus for this group will be friendship, fellowship and fun. If you have a good idea for an activity, contact Marilyn Davis.

Our next gathering will be hosted by Annie Brahler. Watch for an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin and sign up on the "One Stop Sign Up Bulletin Board.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

What is this?

We are a gathering of folks who meet once a month for prayer, praise, sharing, and bible study from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. We meet presently at the home of Marilyn Davis on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Each "family" brings a small munchie to share and beverages are provided. Everyone is welcome. Come and bring a friend and find out more about us.

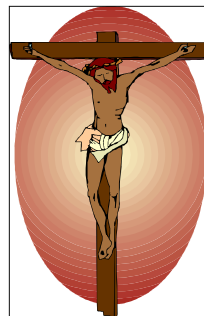
Marilyn Davis

See the...

REFORMATION SITES
PLUS
OTHER MAJOR CITIES IN GERMANY AND
FEATURING THE FAMOUS OBERAMMERGAU
PASSION PLAY

Marilyn Davis is planning a trip for next fall, Sept. 16 - 26, 2010, and must have a minimum of 10 persons to make up a group.

If you are interested, It is imperative for you to make an initial commitment or I will need to cancel this opportunity. There are some brochures located on a table in the parish hall which have all the information.



ECW Trip to Fort Myers

OR

Really going Miles for Pennies!

What a glorious day nine of us had when we journeyed to Fort Myers to see Carolyn and Wildey Johnson at their new home at The Island at Shell Point...a retirement community for about 2,000 residents and situated on the Caloosahatchee River. (There oughta be a song!) It's located just before the toll booth to Sanibel Island.

In the crafts rooms, we discovered men and women working on an extensive miniature railroad display in the shape of Florida; folks doing beautiful wood carvings; lovely jewelry and various handbags made from plastic bags; plus much more.

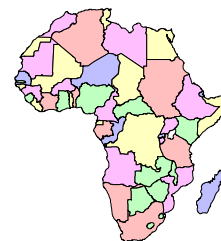
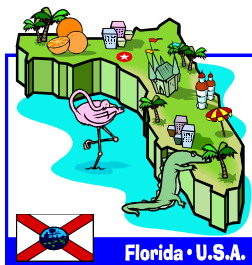
But, mostly, we enjoyed seeing Carolyn and Wildey looking so well and loving their new 6th floor apartment. We were looking down on the canal where Wildey photographs the different water creatures he emails us when, low and behold, there was a big manatee lumbering up for breath. Thank you God for these wonderful creatures we find in Florida.

We toured the area and then went for lunch...always an important part of any of our trips! The food was excellent. But now comes my favorite part...the bills! Almost everyone's bill ended in 9 cents, so I knew each person would get at least one penny back. So, I jumped up, ready to collect those pennies when our waitress returned. (By the way, this lovely gal was from Africa.)

Each lady cleaned out the pennies in her purse and I wound up with 42 cents for the MOP Fund. After telling our African friend about what the MOP Fund does, not to be outdone, our waitress contributed 2 more cents from her pocket and another worker found another penny somewhere...so we now have 45 cents more.

Wouldn't you like to think maybe some of this money might reach her home country some day to provide some books for the children there? God does do wondrous things as we all know. Thank you God!

-Liz Stoner



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6. Carole Harris
- 6. Chris Mann
- 7. Art Bieser
- 7. Rina Becker
- 8. Brenda Bunker
- 10. Philip Mann
- 11. Albert Wildgoose
- 15. Kay Graham
- 16. James Martin
- 17. Ros Hall
- 20. Mickey Lindfors
- 25. Liz Teahan
- 26. Jodi Belmore
- 27. Jean White
- 29. Chris Williams



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9. Bruce & Marcia
Simington
- 11. Hunter & Vanessa
Hagerman
- 20. James & Jeannine
Martin
- 29. Jane & Todd Read



Golf League News

A monthly column written by Dick Berg

9/22 ~ Sunday's heavy rains were a big factor today. As the course was soggy, team scores were very close as 4 out of 5 four-somes finished within 1 stroke of each other. In a one hole playoff, team of Marguerite Hatfield, Tom Badger, Ron Hurley, and Jack O'Reilly were declared champs with 34.

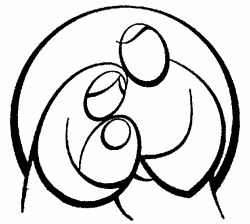
9/29 ~ 32 (4 under Par) was posted by Mark Peelor, Joe Downs, Mel Zang and Dick Berg to beat 2 other teams who fired 33's.

10/6 ~ 3 teams tied for first with 32 (14 under Par). In a one hole playoff, the group of Lorraine Peters, Gerry Bennett, Bill Hatfield, Raymond Kow and Mike Petry were declared winners.

10/13 ~ 5 teams completed today with all at even Par or under. The quartette of Nancee Dixon, Marguerite Hatfield, Fr. Chuck Mann and Mark Peelor were victorious with 32.

Mark your calendars! Golf League Christmas Party Tuesday, December 8th after golf. Place: Mark & Pam Peelor's home. Spouses welcome.

Tidings November 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL SAINTS' DAY 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	2 1pm Bridge	3 1:00pm Golf League	4 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages	5 7:00pm Choir Practice	6 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	7 DAUGHTERS OF THE KING BREAKFAST 9:00am
8 *** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	9 1pm Bridge VESTRY MTG.	10 1:00pm Golf League	11 VETERAN'S DAY Office Closed	12 7:00pm Choir Practice	13 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	14
15 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	16 1pm Bridge	17 1:00pm Golf League	18 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages	19 7:00pm Choir Practice	20 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	21
22 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	23 1pm Bridge	24 1:00pm Golf League	25 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandages 7:00pm Service at Northminister Church	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	28
29 * ** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	30 1pm Bridge	***SECOND SUNDAY AT 12:30 DOK MEETING	*4th Sunday: Gifts From God Ministries ** Outreach Ingathering			

Church of the Nativity
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CURRENT RESIDENT



November 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

8:00am Said Eucharist

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Eucharist with Music

Wednesdays

10:00am Healing Holy Eucharist

Visit God's House

THIS WEEKEND