

Nativity's Tidings

June 2011
Volume 28, Issue 6

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 Reflection

Noah's Faith!

Before you go any further take a moment and just reflect on what that title says to you. You might ask where that came from. Actually, I have an extensive Bible/Library software on my computer and different headlines come up from time to time and this one just happened to strike me so I read through it. For one thing, the faith of our biblical forefathers fascinates me. Noah is especially intriguing and has been the subject of much discussion and movies over the years. Why would someone even think of doing what he did? He was either crazy, or, he did exactly what he was told to do and benefited from it. Was it true? Did it really happen? I think we can put those questions to rest because Jesus himself references Noah in a matter of fact way explaining how it will be when he returns. So if God says it happened I have no reason to doubt it. There is a tremendous lesson we can also learn from Noah not just in sheer magnificence of this account, but also in his faith.

So let's look at the faith it took to do such an endeavor. The article I read mentions the faith of Noah in three distinct areas: his mind, his heart, and his will. ¹Noah's mind was warned by God as to what would happen; his heart was moved in awe of God; and his will acted on what was given to him. In other words it was his total being that was put into action as God impressed upon Noah to do this monstrous task. Can you imagine the ridicule he might have taken in by following through on what God had said? Can you imagine just the plain hardship there must have been on Noah to just drop everything and build a boat out in the middle of nowhere -- the physical exhaustion it must have had on him and his family.

So, what did the faith of Noah accomplish? As this article points out; it saved his family for one thing. But it also showed the world, as they continued on doing what they normally did, that they missed out on something big -- as his faith brought out

Continued page two

Web Pages:

Our Church:

www.churchofthenativity.com

Our Diocese:

www.episcopalswfl.org

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Treasurer

Bob Hines

Financial Administrator

Karla Porter

Music Director

Karla Porter

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Rich Uttich, Junior Warden

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Judi McCullough

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Brenda Bunker

the unbelief that others had.

Faith is a powerful thing. Most of the time we speak of faith as something we believe in or something we might see in others. We might say to our children, "I have faith in you," meaning: I believe you can do it. We might title our belief system as "my faith" as in saying; my faith is Christianity. That is fine, but faith is also much deeper than that. Faith is also walking out what we know to be true and trusting God to see us through it with our total being. As Hebrews points out – it is knowing and trusting God, and receiving it, even when you may not see the end result yet.

With that in mind let's put us in Noah's sandals for a moment. If you were Noah and God spoke to you with the same request, would you do it? Knowing what we know now we might tend to say, "Sure, I would do it." Okay, great, but remember God is not done with us yet. In our Gospel reading on May 22, Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do." And I spoke to that in my sermon. Do you believe that? If not I pray that you will come to an understanding that Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, wants to use you. He wants us to trust him with our mind, with our heart and then be willing to move in what He calls us to do. What an awesome God we serve that He would even want to use us in such a way – and He does!

I pray that all of you will have a blessed summer and may your faith increase as our Lord continues to call each of us into action for His kingdom.

Blessings in Christ,
Fr. Chuck

1. Logos Bible Software; Weirsbe

LEGO CLUB

Our first LEGO Club meeting was a huge success as we had nine LEGO Fans attend.. The young ones designed, built, and modified their racing cars and challenged each other in a LEGO race car tournament.

It was a blast!

Our next meeting is:
SUNDAY, JUNE 12th 3:00—5:00

At Church of the Nativity

For Ages 6 and up

**Build Lego Sets, Building
Contests, Lego Prizes, Free Pizza,**

ignite : Church of the Nativity Youth Ministry

**Church Wide
Youth and Adults**

Come see the RAYS play!

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17th
Florida Marlins
@
Tampa Bay Rays**

GROUP PRICING

**CALL MARK TO RESERVE
YOUR SPOT 355-3262
MEET AT THE CHURCH
AT 5:15PM**



**HOLY GROUNDS:
a coffee and tea house**

**COME FELLOWSHIP
in a *relaxing* Christian environment**

**THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH
MONTH
8:00 to 10:30 pm
Designed for College Age and Up**

COME JOIN US!

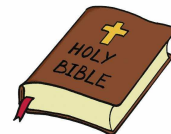


**IGNITE YOUTH
MINISTRY
Give us a call for**

***i
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*"If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk by
the Spirit."*

Galatians 5:25
ESV



C'mon along to

Safari Number Two!!!

Vacation Bible School 2011

Monday, June 20th through Friday, June 24th

10:00am —Noon

A light lunch will be served.

**Children: Bring your friends
Helpers are always needed and blessed!**



Bird Watching!

I suppose you're wondering what in the world "Bird Watching" has to do with Church of the Nativity.

Well, it seems two of our parishioners went to Texas to go "Bird Watching" with 10 of their British friends. They had a "lovely" time spying some feathered friends that they probably will never see in England.

These folks ate their meals together and one day, one said to our member, "It sure is a nuisance to carry around this heavy change all the time," showing her all the coins he had in his pocket.

Whereupon she jumped at the chance to say, "I'll be happy to take all your pennies to lighten your load," (or something like that.) She proceeded to tell him about the Mile of Pennies fund of the Episcopal Church and how the pennies we collect add up to provide reading materials for kids all over the world, from kindergarten through high school.

Well, from that moment on, all the folks on that trip were happy to turn over their pennies for our fund. And, to top that off, as the week progressed, one of the gentlemen came to our gal and said, "Hold out both of your hands." He proceeded to fill both of her hands with more pennies. It seems he was sitting on his little veranda one evening, looked down and discovered a bunch of pennies someone had dropped, so he retrieved them all and presented them to our friend.

The sum total of all this was 203 Texas pennies for our Mile of Pennies Fund! I can't help but think the fun they all had sorting out their coins every evening knowing they were going to a great cause.

P.S. Did you guess that the "Birders" are Chris and Norma Youngs? Thank you both for your faithful contributions. *Liz Stoner*



to

It's a Puzzlement!

Has anyone seen a round table just like the ones in the parish hall? We are missing one of those tables.



We're supposed to have 12 and we only have 11. We've looked everywhere and are wondering if someone borrowed it and has forgotten to return it. There's a rather big event coming up and we need that table. Please check your spare rooms, garages, store rooms, under your bed, etc. We'd

be most obliged if it turns up once more.

Good to Know.....

Since we have many new faces among us, you all might like to be reminded that we have a walker and a wheel chair available for your use. If you can get your loved one into your car, you may leave your wheel chair at home, park up by the doors when you arrive at church and use the chair or walker that reside in Dick's "office"*. If you like, the ushers would be happy to bring the chair or walker out to your car.

(*Dick's office is the 1st door on the right when you enter the church vestibule.)



from The Church Office...

Please give Elly your BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY DATES so that we can add them to our database.

Fr. Chuck wants to make sure we have your email address for his upcoming ***Nativity Now*** communication.

Please remember to wear your name badge!



Special Thanks from Sally Sloman...

Words can't begin to express my gratitude to all of my dear Nativity friends who prayed for me, sent me cards, called me on the telephone, and made me feel so special during my hospitalization and recuperation.

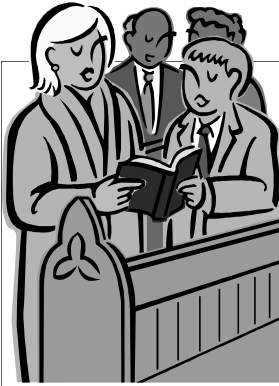
I am beginning to feel more like my "old self," and hope to be back in the swing of things before too long.

In the meantime...your love and caring have meant more than I can say.





Music Notes



So who do YOU think is the most "significant group of singers" in the worship service?

"The most significant group of singers gathered in worship on any given week is the congregation." (Lloyd Larson in the Forward to *Enhancements to Congregational Singing*). And Martin Luther pretty much figured that out a long time ago! Any other instruments (organ included) and choirs are there to assist and be an encouragement to the congregation.

Martin Luther was the father of what we call "popular hymnody." An internet source copyrighted by David Snyder states that "Martin Luther believed that music in general, and congregational singing in particular, has the power to drive away evil spirits and make people happy..."

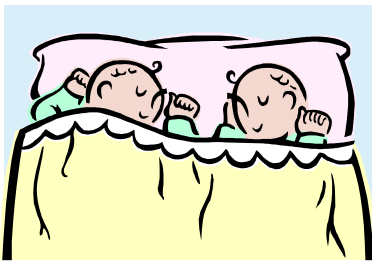
So thank you for singing, people of Nativity! And while most of us have heard the saying (also attributed to Luther) "When we sing, we pray twice," think also on the above paragraph and reflect on the happy mood that pervades the church as people leave each week's worship service!

Karla Porter



Rich Swithers wants to thank all of you who contributed to his participation in the 100-hole golf marathon to raise money for the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center. Rich made a commitment of \$2,000. and as he told us, he came "close" to reaching this goal.

Congratulations to Chuck and Susan Garbett on the birth of their twin granddaughters, Sophie Leah and Micah Natalie Friedman, born Friday, March 13th.



Parents and grandparents are just ecstatic and feel truly blessed





Top: Theresa & Emily Wunderlich; Middle: Jessica & Hailey Block; Bottom: Nancy & Gina Monti

Mothers and Others Salad Luncheon

Those who attended were treated to a beautiful Spring setting with pink flowers in champagne glasses gracing the center of the tables (courtesy of Bobbi Uttich). And the array of salads, delivered eggs and desserts were a treat to see and even better to eat.

Jo Davidsmeyer delighted us with "Mom-isms" which hit home with many of us and our daughters. Especially welcomed ladies were Helen Porter and Mallory Lafler, our eldest and our youngest. And we had a four generation family; Liz Stoner, Sue Kow, Jill Block and little Hailey.

Each youngster received a gift and several prizes were handed out to the winners of a few fun games we all played.

On a more serious note, Helena Stephen's daughter Wendy reported on a volunteer opportunity to make cards and handbags for women who have been rescued by the Florida Coalition on Human Trafficking. If you missed this year's luncheon, be sure to make next year's.

Nicki Coffaro

Retire the Mortgage

We had 3 wonderful "kick-off" luncheons and dinners to present the goal and the plan.

Pam Peelor and Ron Hurley, both of the vestry, were most gracious hosts (along with their spouses), cooking up some marvelous meals.

The presentations were very well received by those attending. The plan to retire the mortgage in 5 years or less through "Sacrificial Giving" appears very achievable.

If you were not able to attend the "kick-off" events, please ask any member of the vestry for your own personal

presentation.

Everyone's participation is greatly needed and so very much appreciated.

There are special "Sacrificial Giving" commitment cards and envelopes on the Baptismal Font. If you have not already done so, please pray what you may give and complete one of the cards ~placing it in the "Retire the Mortgage" basket.

Let's all do this together.

God bless you.

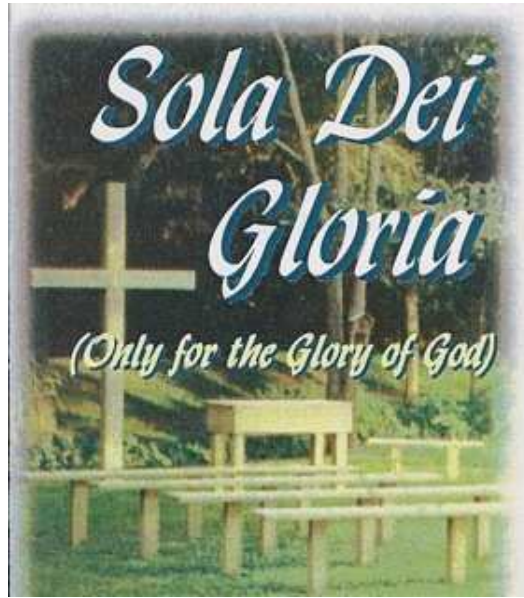
Rich Cooper, Senior Warden

e

MEMORIAL GARDEN

AT CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Photo taken prior to construction of the new
Altar and Chapel .



In the booklet “A History Of The Church Of The Nativity On The Occasion Of Our 25 Anniversary,” some interesting facts were given by Liz Stoner and her committee. It was noted that in 1987 Karen Zittle designed the original layout of the memorial garden and she found a young Boy Scout who assisted her, in order for him to gain his Eagle Scout badge. At a later date, another young man helped in the garden also to acquire his Eagle Scout badge. Then a memorial garden fund was established in 1988 with some donations that were received.

In 1995 Dick Wernick, Liz Stoner and some other parish members, studied the property once again. At this time, they found it was dense with vines and weeds. Dick then proceeded to start some serious cultivating in the area. Fr. Jim Murphy, the pastor at the time, had his father-in-law lend Dick his truck to remove the debris and bring it to the recycling place. It took a full year for Dick to clear the land. One day as Dick was working in the garden, a stranger showed up. He introduced himself as Chris Schmidt. Although he was more or less a stranger, he took an immediate interest in what Dick was doing. Dick explained what his dream was for the garden and the fact that he was walking by faith for the funding of this project. Later that day when Dick went back into the office, he was told that Chris Schmidt had left a very generous check to help Dick with this undertaking. The following year, Dick was in the garden working and once again Schmitt (the name he became known by) visited him. Dick thanked him for his generosity the previous year and showed him the progress he was making. After his visitor left, Dick went back to the office and was amazed to learn that Schmitt had once again left another generous donation to help carry out the project. It should be noted that in the beginning of this gardening project, Jim Murphy (the elder) faithfully mowed the lawn every week.

Plans for the Memorial Garden were designed by Bob Mostertz, with the burial area to be in the shape of a figure eight, beneath two charming old oak trees. A Mennonite mason, by the name of Joe Hostetler installed the low stone wall in the Memorial Garden. Before he started his work, Dick and Joe prayed together and then Joe completed the well-designed and sturdy wall we now have. A special Alabama rubble stone, which is a very hard stone, was used, for the wall. Seven years later, it was decided an altar should be built in the gardens along with a chapel pad and permanent seating, hopefully with the same stone. After much searching, Dick was able to locate not only the same stone, but also Joe Hostetler. Joe showed up with his equipment. He and his helper joined Dick in prayer. Eight hours later, the work was done. Dick explained to Joe that the church treasurer would be leaving soon and asked Joe for his bill. Dick thought it would cost about \$1200. Joe said the cost would be \$250, just enough to cover his helper's pay. Dick said, “This was God's work.”

After this event, some money was generously donated by one of our parishioners, for a sidewalk to surround the garden. Another Mennonite was called. This Mennonite's son came, and he submitted a figure to do the walk that was \$5,000 less than the other estimates Dick had received. Dick asked how he could make money, doing business this way. The father explained that he and his son do the best quality work and never cheat anyone. Then they prayed together and they completed the superior walk we now have.

Dick related how ten years ago, when the new sanctuary was being built, he would work with the foreman every day. However, when they were ready to install the 6 pillars in front of the church entrance, extra laborers were needed. A temporary agency was called, requesting 5 men. A white van came the next morning and dropped off the men, a half hour early. One of these men, during this spare time, walked to the memorial garden to investigate. As he was glancing around the garden, he saw the bronze ribbons with names of those whose ashes had been interred. He read the bottom name on the plaque, *Father Robert Vance*. He sought Dick out and he explained how he had just gotten out of prison and went to the temp agency in Bradenton for a job. He couldn't understand why the Temp Agency would send him to a church in Sarasota. He then related to Dick that while he was in prison, Fr. Bob Vance had been his mentor and had run a course to rehab prisoners. He said he actually appealed to the prison board to stay longer in prison, and was granted permission to stay 3 months longer so that he could finish the course with Fr. Bob. He realized then that the reason he was sent to this church in Sarasota was so that he could see Fr. Bob's name and know that the Lord was guiding his life.

Another incident that Dick related was about the tractor used in the garden. Dick and some friends from Wisconsin would meet together from time to time for lunch. At one of these meetings Dick met Barry. Soon thereafter, Barry's wife died and he needed a place for a funeral. He spoke with Dick who helped arrange for her to be buried in our Memorial Garden. Barry worked for John Deere and about 10 years ago, Dick mentioned how he was in need of a tractor for the church grounds. Barry called Dick up one day and asked how he liked the tractor. Sure enough, when Dick looked outside there was a tractor, which has served Dick well for the last 10 years.

Dick believes that all these people were sent by God. The time and work that Dick does in the garden and the contacts he has made while working there, is really inspiring. I would be remiss if I didn't mention our fairy godmother and angel of the Memory Garden, Barbara Barden. If you're lucky you might catch a glimpse of Barbara weeding, or planting or gently guiding Dick.

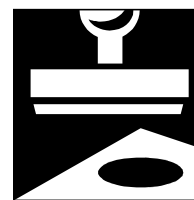
The Memory Garden is a special place for worship, prayer, contemplation, weddings and other special events and of course for the disposition of ashes. It is funded by donations from our parish, or visitors, such as Chris Schmidt, or people who sponsor a memorial brick. All donations are set aside in a special fund to maintain and preserve the beauty of the garden. They are used for this purpose only. Thanks to Dick and Barbara and all the sponsors and friends, we at Nativity are very lucky to have this beautiful Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden is a unique place where we can go alone or bring our friends and relatives, to share the peace and beauty that is there and also a place where we will know where our earthly remains are, while we are holding hands with the Lord.

For more information about our Memorial Garden, please pick up the Sola Dei Gloria (Only for the Glory of God) brochure, found in the Narthex.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Uttich

NEED A NOTARY????

Remember that our church secretary is a licensed Notary and is more than happy to notarize your documents at no charge.





JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rich Cooper
- 1 Dorothy Riley
- 2 Debra Teahan
- 3 Peggy Walther
- 4 Darla Clark
- 4 Roy Williams
- 7 Louise Halliday
- 9 Damian DelGrosso
- 11 Eleanor Rodda
- 11 Michael Bullen
- 20 Mabel Rice
- 21 June Cooper
- 23 Dan Benefiel
- 23 John Baum
- 24 June Hanley
- 24 Jeremy Mann
- 26 Jean Ann O'Hara
- 26 Ian Rice
- 30 Meredith Lafler



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Warren & Elaine Hill
- 13 Raymond & Sue Kow
- 15 Kathy & Ed Reynolds
- 18 Marguerite & Bill Hatfield
- 20 Helen & Beatty Collins
- 20 Tera & Mark Lafler
- 20 Dick & Irene Wernick
- 27 Rich & Veronica Cooper

GOLF LEAGUE MONTHLY NEWS BY DICK BERG

4/19 ~ 7 groups participated in today's competition. All teams scored 36 and lower. 33 was fired by Nancy Lukac, Tom Brahler, Bill Hatfield and Ed Jandro to win.

4/26 ~ One again 7 teams participated with a good wind which helped keep down the "love bugs." 33 (3 under Par) found 2 teams tied. In a one hole playoff, Nancy Lukac, Tom Brahler, Bill Hatfield, Ed Jandro and Michael PEtry claimed the top spot.

5/3 ~ A perfect Elly golf day produced good scoring. 4 under 32 was shot by Martha Brown, Joe Downs, John Lukac and Dick Berg to become champs on this day.

5/10 ~ A warm, but beautiful day produced good Scores. 31 (5 under Par) was scored by Sarah DeZaago, John Lukac, Mark Peelor and Dick Berg to be crowned champs for the day.

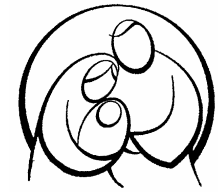



My family and I thank our Nativity "family" for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and food supplied for the celebration of Patty's life

You are all very special people to us.

God bless, Dick.

Tidings June 2011



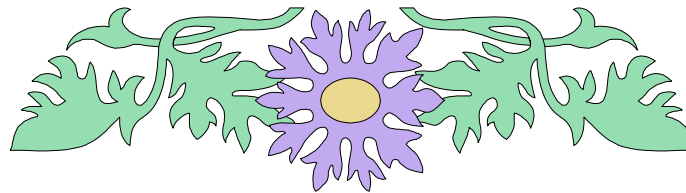
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>**DOK Meeting Second Sunday of the Month ***4th Sunday</p>	<p>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 20-24</p>		<p>1 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brig. DINNER & MORE 5:30pm</p>	<p>2 Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>3 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am</p>	<p>4 MON BREAKFAST</p>
<p>5 ** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist</p>	<p>6 1:00pm Bridge PRAYER & PRAISE 7:00PM</p>	<p>7 1:00 Golf League</p>	<p>8 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brig. DINNER & MORE 5:30pm</p>	<p>9 Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>10 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 ** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist</p>	<p>13 1:00pm Bridge PRAYER & PRAISE 7:00PM</p>	<p>14 1:00 Golf League 7:00pm VESTRY MEETING</p>	<p>15 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brig. DINNER & MORE 5:30pm</p>	<p>16 Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>17 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 FATHER'S DAY 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist</p>	<p>20 VBS 10:00-Noon 1:00pm Bridge PRAYER & PRAISE 7:00PM</p>	<p>21 VBS 10:00-Noon 1:00 Golf League</p>	<p>22 VBS 10:00-Noon 10am Healing Eucharist</p>	<p>23 VBS 10:00-Noon Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>24 VBS 10:00-Noon FREE COFFEE MINISTRY</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 *** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist</p>	<p>27 1:00pm Bridge PRAYER & PRAISE 7:00PM</p>	<p>28 1:00 Golf League</p>	<p>29 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brig.</p>	<p>30 Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>		

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

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Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Manasota FL
Permit #45



CURRENT RESIDENT



June 2011

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