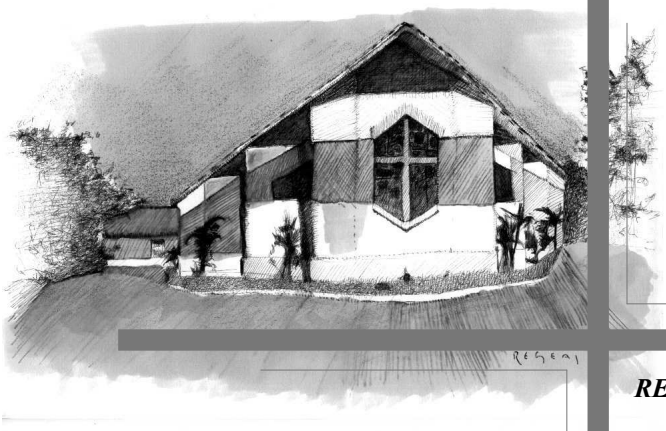

Nativity's Tidings

February 2012
Volume 29, Issue 2

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

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RECTOR'S REFLECTION

So, what are you giving up for Lent?

I don't know how many times I have been asked that over the years. Practically everyone, Christian or not, has probably admitted to giving up something for Lent at some time in their lives. Most of the time this temporary sacrifice is nothing more than an attempt of a self serving virtue of willpower over cravings of the flesh. A chocolate lover will give up chocolate for forty days and then sing praises that Lent is over and wolf down a whole chocolate bunny or a case of Cadbury's on Easter. Then we congratulate ourselves on the wonderful thing we have done by casting chocolate out of our lives for forty whole days. It was a touch and go for a while there, but I survived.

Now, I have written this little scenario in fun because some do seem to trivialize Lent in such ways. So, what do we do? First of all let's look at what Lent is. The season of Lent is represented by a period of time that leads up to and through the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Since the early periods of the church it became a tradition to set a period of time for fasting and praying prior to Easter. This was because of the tremendous magnitude and power of what Easter means. Let's face it; there is no other event like it. Since Jesus spent forty days in the desert praying and fasting prior to His ministry, forty days became the period that was recognized for Lent. But wait; there are 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter! The church also recognized that Sundays were special days and was not typically recognized as a fast day. After all, we do celebrate communion together on this special day of worship. So, six Sundays of Lent are not counted in the official recognition of Lent. Some might try to say, well, that discounts Holy Week and we don't count that as Lent. But if you look at the Great Easter Vigil, it is at that time, on Saturday night, we officially call an end to Lent. (BCP pg 292)

Continued page two

Web Pages:

Our Church:
www.churchofthenativity.com

Our Diocese:
www.episcopalswfl.org

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Treasurer

Financial Administrator
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Christian Formation
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Rich Swithers

So, can I eat chocolate on Sundays? I'll leave that up to you. But, let's look at what fasting is and what we are working up to in Christ. Christ on that special day of remembrance took the sin of the world on His shoulders. He died so that you and I can have new life, a new life for eternity. It is sin that separates us from God. So a fast, in a nutshell, is a period of time without food – and replacing that time with a time of prayer. It is not a diet plan. Now, I will say this. If chocolate is a big stumbling block between you and God, then by all means give it up and during those times you crave chocolate give that time to the Lord in prayer. The purpose of a fast is to get closer to God – to confess those things that do separate us from Him. When Jesus went into the desert He was tempted by the devil. We are also told He was hungry. But, He was also strengthened to do what He did when He came out of the desert – released into ministry. At that time He conquered what Adam and Eve failed to do. He overcame temptation that we so often give in to. That is why He is also called the second Adam – the perfect man. But, He is also God.

So, during this time of Lent that we are about to enter on February 22, you might want to consider fasting – food not fluids. It might be short periods of time like one meal or two meals at a time. Some can fast for several days or more. But many, because of medical reasons, can't fast or have a modified fast – like taking something routine they really like out of their routine. But the important thing to do, as you fast, is to spend some time with God. But as I have always said about every liturgical season, this is something we should be doing all year long – as with every season we celebrate. Prayer and fasting is emphasized and remembered in Lent, but it doesn't stop in Lent.

I pray that as you seek a closer walk with our Lord that you would truly be touched by the Holy Spirit. I pray that you will be strengthened in your walk with the Lord and that He would truly guide you on this earthly journey we have together. May His blessing be on each of you.

In Christ,
Fr. Chuck

Nativity Youth Ministry

LEGO CLUB

Our next meeting is:
SUNDAY, Februay 19, 3:00—5:00

At Church of the Nativity

FOOD THEME

Build Lego Sets, Building Contests, Lego Prizes, Free Pizza, and More!

For more information call:
Mark Lafler @ 355-3262

Parents are encouraged to stay and join in! For age six and up.

Donations are Appreciated.

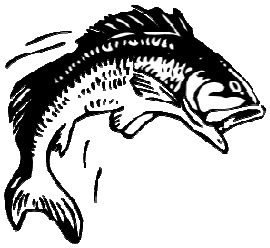
ignite

Wednesday Nights
5:30 to 8:00

For 6th graders and up
Call Mark Lafler @ 355-3262
For Info on Weekly Meetings and Special Events

Youth and Family Fishing Night

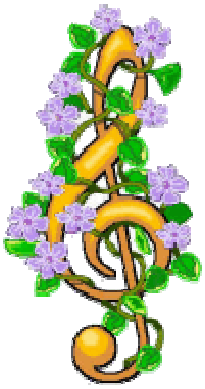
Sunday, March 4th — 4 to 6 pm
Everyone is Invited.



PANCAKE SUPPER

Join us Shrove Tuesday
as the youth prepare and serve a pancake supper
in support of the youth ministry
of Church of the Nativity

5:30 to 7:00 pm
February 21, 2012



Music Notes

Flower Festival 2012 — Not to be missed...

As usual, the flowers are the MAIN EVENT, but please plan to attend one of the music events. Some very special *Musicales* are on offer this year:

Friday, February 24

11:00 a.m. Bonnie Caplan, Harpist

Join us for "The Sound of Elegance" as Bonnie Caplan, resident harpist for the Ritz-Carlton plays light classics amongst the flowers!

Bonnie has played in numerous venues all over the country and has appeared on stage with Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Marvin Hamlish, Barry Manilow, Bernadette Peters, and many others. One of Sarasota's jewels!

2:00 p.m. Sarasota Music Academy String Trio

Come and hear these high school virtuosas! Natasha Snyder, violin, Joy Chatzistamatis, violin, and Ariane Beauchamp, cello... **Natasha Snyder** began violin studies at the age of 3 and has won the prestigious Edward and Ida Wilkof Young Artist Concerto Competition TWICE which brings with it a concert appearance with members of the Sarasota Orchestra. **Joy Chatzistamatis** has been playing the violin since shortly before her third birthday. Joy has also won the Wilkof Young Artist Competition leading to a performance with the Sarasota Orchestra, and won the Anna Maria Island Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Solo Competition last year. **Ariane Beauchamp** began playing the cello at the age of eight and combines this with a love of choral singing. She sang with the Tampa Bay Children's Chorus and is a founding member of the Sarasota Young Voices. In 2008, Beauchamp played Gwyneth Walker's *North Country* concerto in competition which led to an opportunity for Ariane to work with the noted composer.

Saturday - February 25 - 2:00 p.m.

GRAND MUSICALE - *Tribute To "Those Who Serve"*

featuring

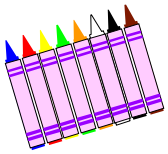
Church of the Nativity Musicians

Martha Lopez-Leschke, Soprano

Gary Reinstrom, Pipe Major

Lurray Myers, Pianist

and Guest Choristers



Great Job!

Can you believe it? The official count of "GO" Shoe Boxes collected from the U.S. and from Puerto Rico last fall is 8,630,458! They're Called GO Boxes (Gospel Opportunity boxes.)

Your contribution of Time (thinking about it,) Talent (shopping,) and Treasure (cost of gifts and shipping) made it possible for 150 children to have the chance to receive Christ.

Some of you may have already received notification of where your GO box is headed. Thanks for giving on line.

OCC (Operation Christmas Child) is a 12 month opportunity to participate in mission to lost children of the world. During the coming year, maybe you could purchase items on sale for next fall's boxes. Be on the look out for deeply discounted products. It might be a good time also to thank the store owner or manager. Remember, we'll be gathering supplies for more than 13,000 children –
They need to know we (Operation Christmas Child) is greatly contributing to their bottom line.

WOW! Maybe we could pack 250 next year with the continued support of our church, our youth ministry and the New Town Youth program.

Valentine's Day is coming up…watch for goodies! And once again, thanks for your participation.

-Becky Carlson

A Note from the Penny Lady

After a bumper crop of pennies deposited in December, the red basket is crying for contributions. It has occurred to me that happily, we have many new faces here at Nativity, but some may not know about the MOP…Mile of Pennies Fund.

We've been seeking your spare pennies for several years now. The MOP granting fund is for children only, pre-school to grade 12…all over the world. It provides printed or taped books and related materials, as well as shipping costs of recycled books.

A grant can be no more than $844.80 (the amount in a mile of pennies.)

This is a national fund, part of the Episcopal Church Women. You might be interested to know that our Diocese of Southwest Florida raises more money for the MOP than any other diocese in the country. One in California is next, but we leave them in the dust!

So, get that weight out of your pockets and bring those pennies to put in the red basket on the table in the hall across from the kitchen. The penny angel will watch over them until I get a chance to count and wrap them.

-Liz Stoner

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING ?

The ECW has planned a **Mystery Trip** for March 3rd. It is one that can be enjoyed by all ages. We can't tell you where we are going, but we know that you will have a good time, with this shared experience.

More details and a sign up sheet will follow in early February. Everyone can be surprised.

Irene Wernick, and Phyllis N. Gipson

? ? ? ?

On Site Paper Shredding

The ShredQuick people will be coming to Nativity on March 15.

Some of you have already called about this service, and the March issue of Tidings will have more details.

Start thinking about boxing up all the papers you want to dispose of "safely!"

Call Elly with your questions

Dear Nativity Family:

I cannot begin to thank you for all your prayers, cards, concerns, and love you showered on Ron and I during my recent neck surgery and ongoing recovery. The surgery was a success and I am getting better with each day.

You are the most wonderful family not only of believers but also lovers of each other. This experience has even deepened my relationship with my Lord and Savior. He is an awesome, loving, and healing Lord.

Again, many thanks for all your love and kindnesses to us.. God bless each and everyone of you.
Nancy Hurley

BANDAGE BRIGADE REQUEST

We would like to ask that you once again help us in our effort to send clothing to Haiti along with our bandages. This may necessitate your doing a bit of shopping, or perhaps you have light weight, summer-y shorts, tops, capris, etc. to donate. Men's, women's and childrens wear are needed

Please make sure the clothing is clean and neatly folded (which makes our work a lot easier and less time-consuming).

We are so thankful for the group of people who work on Wednesdays bandage rolling. This is a wonderful, ongoing ministry, and we invite anyone who is interested to join us.

English Flower Festival and Tea

2012 Theme - *God Bless America*

Friday and Saturday - February 24 and 25 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday - February 26 - Noon to 3:00 pm

Flower Viewing and Concerts — Free Admission (donations gratefully accepted)

Come for Tea — $12.00 per person

Traditional English Tea served:

Friday and Saturday	Sunday
10:30 am to 4:00 pm	Noon to 3:00 pm

Friday Musicales

11:00 am
Bonnie Caplan, Harpist
"The Sound of Elegance"

2:00 pm
Sarasota Music Academy String Trio
Natasha Snyder, Violin
Joy Chatzistamatis, Violin
Ariane Beauchamp, Cello

Saturday Musicale

2:00 pm
Church of the Nativity Musicians
"A Tribute to Those Who Serve"

Featured Guests
Martha Lopez-Leschke, Soprano
Gary Reinstrom, Piper Major
Jacobites Band
Lurray Myers, Pianist
and
Guest Choristers

Church of the Nativity (just south of University Parkway)
5900 North Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34243 355-3262

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR?

"Mr. Alright" was his nickname in high school. Our neighbor was born in Spanish Town, Jamaica. He was the eighth child in a family of twelve children. His dad owned a mini supermarket in the town and his mom was a seamstress and she also worked in the supermarket. From the age of 10, our neighbor remembers working with his dad, helping out in the supermarket or working on an ice truck that provided ice to the communities from Kingston to Spanish Town. He remembered how they would pick up 300 pound slabs of ice in Kingston and chip off pieces as they traveled to customers along the way. He cashiered for the supermarket when he was not in school. He was raised as a Roman Catholic and attended the local church and school, even serving as an altar boy. He was very good in sports and at age 11, when he went to High School, he excelled in cricket, soccer, track and field and was his High School's champion in tennis and the shot put. He graduated with a GCE "Advanced Levels" and because he had taken advanced levels of study in High School, he was awarded a scholarship and a waiver when he was accepted to Bowling Green State University in Ohio in 1972. This scholarship and waiver greatly helped him ease the financial burden on his parents but he still had to work throughout his years in college, to meet expenses. His parents were very proud of him and he was the first one in his family to attend college.

Going from Jamaica to Ohio was a rude awakening for our neighbor. He never realized how cold it was in Ohio. The first thing he did when he arrived in Ohio in September was to buy ear muffs. It didn't bother him too much, when he was referred to as the "weird guy on campus" who wore ear muffs in September. He majored in business and graduated with a marketing degree. While in college he continued to play sports and was captain of the intramural soccer team, which he proudly named "The Foreign Invaders".

While in college he met his wife and her family. He had fallen away from the church prior to their meeting and she and her family were instrumental in introducing him to the Episcopal Church. They married the day after they graduated from college and he was happy that his mom and some of his aunts and relatives were able to attend not only his graduation but also his wedding.

After graduating from college, he was offered a management job at a fledgling chain called Wendy's Old fashioned Hamburgers.. In a short period of time, he worked his way up to General Manager. By the time he was 25, he was Director of Operations for 16 Wendy's franchise restaurants. The family moved around quite a bit during this time. His three children were all born in Ohio. Jason and Jessica were born in Toledo, and Jillian was born in Bellefontaine. While they were living in Bellefontaine he became very active in the Episcopal Church. He held the position of Treasurer at the age of 25. Dur-

ing this time, he and his wife became foster parents. They cared for two teenagers, a boy first and then a pregnant teenager. On Christmas Day 1982 he and his wife became foster grandparents.

In 1983, one of the owners of Wendy's had an idea of opening a restaurant in Ft. Myers, Fl. Our neighbor still did not like the cold weather in Ohio so he applied and received a new position in this warmer location. After this position in Ft. Myers, he next applied for a position in the Wendy's Tampa regional office, where he became the Franchise Area Director for South Florida, the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas. This involved a lot of traveling. However, he always had a dream to own his very own restaurant. Finally, his dream came true and soon thereafter he found himself the owner of 3 restaurants in the Florida area with one being a Wendy's in Sarasota. Then in 1995, he decided it was time for another change in his life. He and his wife started a vascular testing business lab. After a while, they decided that this wasn't where they really wanted to be. The next chapter led him back into the work force. One day he woke up and he was Group Sales Manager for Standard Coffee Service in San Antonio, Texas, with a vast area to cover. In retrospect it appears that the move to Texas was the Lord's way of preparing him for the future as he was selected to the search committee for a new rector in San Antonio. That rector is now the Bishop of the Southwest Diocese of Texas.

Then in December 1999, a new chapter began. He came back to Florida as a Sales Executive and in 2001 got his Real Estate license. Just when things were about to take off in the Real Estate business, he found out he had cancer. In order to retain his health benefits, he worked both businesses as he underwent treatment. During this time, he also addressed his faith and his relationship with the Lord. He felt that the Lord was asking him, what are you made of and what are you going to do? Take a selfish route or do what is right? All these circumstances and life experiences helped him to make a decision for life. His life changed and so did his career. Now he serves the Lord. He feels it is not just an intellectual service, but to serve in a deeper connection. He is grateful that throughout his adult life, he has had a faithful wife who has always been by his side, encouraging and praying for and with him. He is also grateful for his family and the joy in his life, his granddaughter Hailey, and in June of this year his son will present him with his first grandson.

Our neighbor was one of the instrumental players in starting our parish Men of Nativity (MON) group. He hopes through this group they can get younger families involved and they can influence men to become the spiritual leaders of their families as it seems that that responsibility has been left to the women of the American society. He believes that we have to reach out and "touch" the guy next to you and "meet them where they are" if you really want to be effective in Ministry. He has also served as our Senior Warden and was instrumental in starting our Joy In The Morning Coffee Ministry. He invites everyone to come by on Friday mornings, catch a wave and let him and his group serve you with some hot coffee, a smile and fellowship.

Yes, "Mr. Alright" is Raymond Kow and now he is "All Right" in his walk with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Bobbi Uttich

Stewardship Update

Dear Members of Church of the Nativity: The 2012 pledge campaign has ended but we are still shy of our intended goal because there are a number of outstanding pledges that have still not been received. The Vestry needs to complete this year's budget so we can plan for our upcoming needs.

If you have graciously submitted a pledge card , I thank you ~ but I urge everyone who has not had a chance to complete their pledge card to do so as soon as possible so we can finalize the budget and move forward.

Bruce Simington

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Peggy Amos
2	Donald Frayser
3	Marguerite Hatfield
6	Dick Berg
8	Jeffrey Lewis
12	June Carol Hines
14	Ann Gurley
15	David Eller
23	Jane White
24	Madeline Lafler
25	Jacquie Eller
26	Shirley Accardi
26	Helen Collins
28	Mark Lafler
28	Tera Lafler

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10	Ron and Rita Mix
14	Tom & Margie Badger
20	Mabel & Ian Rice

GOLF LEAGUE MONTHLY NEWS
BY DICK BERG

12/20 ~ What a day on the links!! Perfect weather and great golf. Sll seven tems shot 34 or better. Two teams tied withstrong 31's (5 under Par). In a seven hole playoff the group of Yvonn and Jerry Collins, Marcia and Jud Higgins and Bill Peterson were declared champs for the day.

12/27 ~ The skies cleared about the time we started playing after inclement weather in the A.M. 5 teams competed. The quartet of Candy Frey, Tom Brahler, Allan Cage and Kirk Martin shot a solid 4 under 43 to win by a shot.

1/3 ~ A very, very cold frigid wind did not deter 23 golfers from participating today. A rock solid 34 was fired by Theresa Meyers, Jim Ashby, Rich Butler, Jerry Davis and Jack Donlan to win by 2 strokes.

1/10 ~ 32 was the best score this week which was fashioned by the team of Sarah DeZago, Cheryl Kail, Jerry Collins, Charley Daniels and Tom Dederer.

117 ~ The group of Theresa Meyers, Jim Ashby, Rich Butler, and Jack Donlan fired a 31 (5 under Par) to win by one.

If anyone would like to donate a door prize for the Annual Nativity Golf Championship, please contact Marguerite Hatfield or Dick Berg.

There are still opening for golfers and diners (only). Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

Tidings February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brig.	2 Choir Practice 6:30PM	3 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	4 **MON BREAKFAST**
5 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	6 1:00pm Bridge	7 2:00 Golf League	8 10am Healing Eucharist 10:30 Bandage Brig. **DINNER & MORE 5:30PM**	9 Choir Practice 6:30PM	10 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	11
12 ** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	13 1:00pm Bridge 7:00pm **VESTRY MEETING**	14 2:00 Golf League **VALENTINE'S DAY POT LUCK BY NORTHMINISTER PRESBYTERIAN**	15 10am Healing Eucharist. 10:30 Bandage Brig. **DINNER & MORE 5:30PM**	16 Choir Practice 6:30PM	17 FREE COFFEE MINISTRY 7:30-9:30am	18
19 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist	20 1:00pm Bridge **OFFICE CLOSED IN RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENTS' DAY**	21 2:00 Golf League **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**	22 . **ASH WEDNESDAY Noon and 7pm**	23 Choir Practice 6:30PM	24 **FLOWER FESTIVAL**	25 **FLOWER FESTIVAL**
26 *** 8:00am Said Eucharist 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Traditional Eucharist **FLOWER FESTIVAL**	27 1:00pm Bridge	28 2:00 Golf League **ANNUAL MEETING**	29	****DOK Meeting Second Sunday of the Month ***4th Sunday Outreach**	**YOUTH GROUP EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM (SEE Youth Page 3)**	

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

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

CURRENT RESIDENT

ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL & ENGLISH TEA ~ 2/24,25,26 2/24,

February 2012

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

ASH WEDNESDAY ~ FEBRUARY 22 ~ Noon and 7pm

Visit God's House

THIS WEEKEND