



Your Rector's Reflections: The Joy of Being Family

I know that not everyone spends time on the Internet most days of the week as I do, and some have never spent any time at all there! However, I do hope that those who are computer literate check in from time to time with our parish website, www.christthekingorlando.com. We are aware of several folks who have come to us, at least for a visit, as a result of finding us on the Web. On the home page of our site is this description of Christ the King:

Christ the King is a diverse community seeking to know Christ and make Him known. Our family is composed of infants, folks in their 90s, and every age in between. We are single, couples, and families from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. WE WELCOME ALL to join our fellowship -- for a single occasion or for a lifetime! We value children as full members of God's family, and provide a nursery with qualified staff at all times when we gather.

This is to me one of the great strengths of Christ the King, our diversity. In addition to the growing diversity we enjoy in age and ethnicity, we are diverse in many other ways as well. Some like classic hymns on the organ, while others enjoy the praise choruses and contemporary songs we sing using piano, guitar, or even drums! Some are "cradle" Episcopalians (or Anglicans from elsewhere in the worldwide Anglican Communion), while others are just coming to embrace our rich tradition within the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. Some like lots of ritual (incense, sung prayers, making the sign of the cross, raising hands, and the like), while others prefer things much more simple. Some are "conservative," some "moderate," and others "liberal" -- to the extent that such labels are useful at all. Some prefer "teaching" sermons, while others prefer more "personal experience" preaching. Folks read and understand the Scriptures in various ways, and for any "issue" facing the nation or the church there are not one, not two, but several perspectives represented -- all of which make an effort to be faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Some even like to see plastic flamingos on their front lawn, while others would prefer a bird-free yard.

Recently there was a "thread" (a series of messages on a single topic) on our parish newsgroup related to the "flamingo flocking" phenomenon. I will not repeat the content of the thread here, but I will say that my heart was warmed by the loving way that different members -- some longtime, some quite new to the family -- expressed themselves without causing harm to those holding different opinions. One of the sentiments expressed more than once was precisely that -- a sense of joy and gratitude that here at Christ the King we can disagree without the need to insult or demonize a brother or sister. Having been in parishes that did not behave this way, I cannot tell you how wonderful it is! Just as in any family, conflicts are bound to arise, occasionally even to the exchange of pointed, heartfelt words; but at the end of the day, we are still called to be family.

At the beginning of every service of baptism, we recite some verses from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, but, it is the end of a slightly longer passage, which I believe, must be at the heart of who we are as Christ the King Episcopal Church:

I...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

As our family continues to grow, my prayer is that our diversity will increase -- and along with it our ability to live into Paul's words. In the months to come, for instance, the Episcopal Church will once again be in the news as our General Convention meets in June. One thing is certain: some of the decisions to be made at that gathering will not be equally pleasing to each of us at CTK. However, the Episcopal Church at large, and the Anglican Communion of which we are a part, is also a family -- a diverse multitude of faithful witnesses to the Risen Christ. I predict that we at Christ the King will continue to be a shining example of how to live together in a diverse family. Even if we think that "Uncle Gilbert" or "Cousin Esmerelda" is a little loony at times, or even occasionally an embarrassment to the family name, we still love them and still embrace them as brothers and sisters. In humility we have to admit that we do not have a monopoly on the truth, that the Spirit reveals God's will and purpose anew in every age, and that it is in community -- in gatherings of the family -- that the truth is revealed as we pray, work, and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

It is a joy to be a part of such a loving, welcoming, and diverse family! May God bless each of you as you continue to be a part of the growing, evolving creation of God called Christ the King -- and as together we "make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Your fellow servant in the Lord Jesus,

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The Senior Warden's Corner



*The Lord is my constant companion.
There is no need that He cannot fulfill.
Whether His course for me points
to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy
or to the valleys of human suffering,
He is by my side.
He is ever present with me.
He is close beside me
when I tread the dark streets of danger,
and even when I flirt with death itself,*

*He will not leave me.
When the pain is severe,
He is near to comfort.
When the burden is heavy,
He is there to lean upon.
When depression darkens my soul,
He touches me with eternal joy.
When I feel empty and alone,
He fills the aching vacuum with His power.
My security is in His promise
to be near to me always,
and in the knowledge
that He will never let me go.*

Do you recognize the 23rd Psalm? I received this version (from "Psalms/Now" by Leslie F. Brandt) at Florida Hospital when I was visiting someone. It has comforted me and I want to share it with you. The 23rd Psalm is so beloved and so well-known that when we studied the Psalms at POW, we were asked to name our second-favorite! Like probably most of you, throughout the years I have read or heard this psalm in the traditional King James. More recent translations modernized the language, but the imagery stayed pretty much the same; that is, the Lord literally as our shepherd. I can just imagine green pastures and still waters, a banquet table and being anointed with oil. How often have we heard it read at funerals and memorials, to comfort the grieving? There is definitely a time to hear those beautiful, uplifting words. And yet...sometimes I just want to hear of God's love for me in a direct way; not with metaphors, but with "hit me over the head" truths. In plain language, the psalm above acknowledges all the bad stuff -- the suffering, pain, heavy burdens, depression and loneliness. It speaks about the real lives we live. And where is God when these problems come? Well, that's the part that absolutely grabs me -- the last line -- HE WILL NEVER LET ME GO! When I stumble, He's the Abba, the Daddy who's still holding onto me. That is His promise, throughout the ages, in all the translations of His word. Praise God, we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever...because He will never let us go!

Blessings,
Carol.

A Note of Gratitude

Please allow me a moment to thank everyone who helped to make the holiest week of the Christian Year truly special here at CTK! They are too many to name, but a few special folks come to mind: Debby Donaldson and the untiring work of the Altar Guild; Bob Johnson and the talented work of our musicians and choristers; Peggy Lang and Pat Roberts for taking charge of various tasks of cleaning and hospitality; Ed Wojchick, Michael Matheny, and our dedicated Lay Eucharistic Ministers; and of course Pastor Sonia, whose ministry made it possible for me to share a special experience with my daughter Catherine over Easter weekend. May God bless them richly, along with the others I didn't name!

Wonderful Work on a Delightful Day! As of the last count, ***forty-three folks*** came together on the day before Palm Sunday to clean, spruce up, repair, rearrange, install, and otherwise improve our facilities in our annual Spring Work Day. Under the able guidance of Senior Warden Chuck Baker and the inspired coordination of Building and Property Committee Chair Kent Roberts (whose motto was "let's make work days fun again!"), an amazing amount and scope of work was completed, lunch was enjoyed, and door prizes were distributed to lucky participants. Keep your ears open for the next scheduled Work Day!

From the Rector: Thoughts on our Healing Ministries

As most of you know, an emphasis on the healing power of God has long been a part of the life of Christ the King. Members of our Healing Ministry Committee are currently completing an extensive training course through the Glennon House at All Saints' Parish in Winter Park. As they continue to learn and grow in the use of the healing gifts of the Spirit, some thoughts come to mind about the Committee's vision for healing ministry at CTK:

In most cases, healing prayers at the Altar Rail are reserved for acute needs that can be known publicly. The congregation is asked to maintain silence and pray for each person at the rail, and for those participating in the laying on of hands and anointing. Most healing prayers will be offered in the Chapel during and after Communion. Trained members of the Healing Ministry will be present to offer these prayers; for reasons of privacy, those who are present to receive intercessory prayer are asked to refrain from taking an active role in prayers for others. (This will also allow everyone to return to the worship in the church in a timely manner.)

A Healing Service is offered each Thursday morning at 10:30am. In this service, all who are present are invited to come forward and participate in the laying on of hands; the clergy and trained healing ministry members will be invited to pray aloud for the needs of those who come forward for prayer.

If anyone has questions about these procedures or the work of the Healing Ministry Committee, please speak to me or to committee chair Don Harden.

Flamingos Flocking Everywhere! Our main fund raiser for Relay for Life has been incredibly successful in raising funds for a well deserved cause and for bringing much laughter to many! Many thanks to Chuck and Jade Baker who have been our faithful flockers! Flocking will continue even though Relay is past. All monies raised from Flocking from this point forward will go towards our Youth Ministry Outreach Fund. If you would like to adorn the yard of someone dear to you, please call Jade Baker at 407-273-8501. She'll be glad to shoo the flock in the direction you choose!



East Orlando Relay for Life
April 28-29, Timber Creek High School.

There are many people to thank for pulling our Relay for Life team together! We are very grateful for everyone pitching in to help and especially for the leadership of Sharon Jones, Mary Haddad, Mary Lou Brannin, Bert Weldy, Carol King, and Pastor Sonia. There were many who donated items, many who participated in the raffles, many who provided food and supplies, still others who walked and chaperoned our tent, those who set up and cleaned up, and then those who did things behind the scenes that made everything go so smoothly! At press time for this newsletter, Christ the King had raised about \$1200 for cancer research and support services for cancer patients.



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|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 05. Ted/Jennifer | 05. Fran Delano | 19. Alonzo Valdez |
| 22. Nick/Rosie | 06. Jade Baker | 20. Alexander Witham |
| 23. Rita/George Cunningham | 06. Mary Haddad | 23. Kevin Ogle |
| 23. Hilda/George Waage | 10. Doris Wiley | 24. Sharon Bass |
| 29. Ralph/Barbara Jones | 1. Lizette Montano | 24. Peggy Lang |
| | 1. John Przeclawski | 24. Tommy Walters |
| | 12. Scott Walters | |



Youth News

Congratulations Graduates! We are very excited for our young people who are graduating from high school this year! They have accomplished much and all have bright futures ahead of them.

Kimmie Imperato (Colonial High) is still choosing between Jacksonville University and Valencia, Tiffany Morningstar and Jared Ravenscroft (Boone High), will both attend Valencia in the fall. Justin Hunter will be graduating from University High in the International Baccalaureate program and attending Stetson University. Terhys Persad will be graduating from Trinity Prep and attending Turfs University .



Scholarship Fund

It has been said "it takes a village to raise a child." We believe that it is our responsibility as a church family to help the young people in our midst grow up in a Christian community and be challenged to own their faith. One way young people do this is through experiences in camps, retreats, and trips.

As the spring and summer approach, we have many opportunities for our youth to participate in a variety of camps and retreats. Unfortunately, each of these costs money. Often it is a difficult burden for a family to bear the expense of the activities in which their youth would like to participate.

To this end, we are asking those in our "village" (our church family) who would like to make a contribution to a scholarship fund to please do so. Just mark "scholarship" on the memo line of your check. You can be assured that when a young person needs financial assistance to participate in an event, it will be provided for them.

Mission Trip to New York City

Our youth will be embarking on a mission trip to New York City this summer. They will focus on urban ministry opportunities in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and elderly respite centers.

They will leave Orlando after church on Sunday, July 9th to arrive in New York and settle at the International Youth Hostel (891 Amsterdam Ave at West 103rd St) in the Upper Westside of Manhattan [www.hinewyork.org]. They will spend Monday through Friday working in different venues which are coordinated by the Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) [www.ysop.org]. In the evenings, they will have some light educational and recreational opportunities in which to participate. The Saturday and Sunday following their work week will be spent sharing fellowship and visiting some famous New York sites. They will return to Orlando on Monday, July 17th.

If you are interested in attending, you must speak to Pastor Sonia immediately. If you are interested in helping support a young person in this endeavor, financial gifts toward scholarships are always welcome!

Upcoming Events

Vestry "Day" Retreat

Our Vestry will go on a day long retreat on **May 20th** in addition to their normal monthly meeting in May. They have committed to spend this extra time to pray and discern where God is leading Christ the King. In particular they will be working on a mission statement that will exemplify who we are as a congregation and that will lead us where we believe God is calling us to go. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this day away.

Confirmation

Many of us were baptized as infants or children and adults made promises for us. Others of us were baptized as young children, but didn't really understand what was taking place. Confirmation is an individual's adult affirmation of the promises made for them when they were baptized as much younger children. It is also the sacramental rite in which individuals who would like to join the Episcopal church participate.

Bishop John Howe will join us on **May 7th** to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation at the **9:30 a.m.** service. If you'd like to join Christ the King (you have been a member of another denomination or never been a member of a church), affirm the promises made for you when you were baptized, or reaffirm your commitment to God this is the service for you. Please speak to Fr. Steve or Pastor Sonia as soon as possible!



Interfaith Hospitality Network

God has used the partnership of **Christ the King, First Church of God, and Azalea Park United Methodist** churches in some amazing ways. The Interfaith Hospitality Network is just one example and the current way we are working together. For a week, about every six weeks, we host up to four families who are making the transition from homeless to self-supporting. They arrive at the Methodist Church on Sunday evening and depart the following Sunday morning. Several of the Sunday School rooms at the church are converted to bedrooms and each family is assigned their own space. Between the three churches, we provide meals, overnight supervision, help with homework, and recreational activities throughout the week. Our next Host Week is **May 28th thru June 4th**. About the **2nd week of May**, we will know specifically what responsibilities we will need to fill during our host week. There will be a notice posted on our email list and on the bulletin board at church. If you are able to help in any of the ways needed, please do volunteer.

Wet n' Wild
May 25th
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Save the date – individuals and families are welcome for part or all of the day!



P.O.W Dinner
 Wednesday, 3rd May
 6:30pm. Worship and
 Choir practice to follow.

1st Annual Christ the King Coffee House



Sunday night, **May 21st, at 6:30 p.m.**, our first ever Coffee House will open! Great desserts, beverages, and phenomenal entertainment will fill your evening! We have incredible talent here at Christ the King and it's time for us to enjoy the offerings of our members. If you would like to participate – playing the spoons, reading original poetry, singing, playing an instrument, sharing some good clean jokes, dancing, displaying artwork, or anything else that others would enjoy – please speak to Pastor Sonia before **May 14th**.

Parish Picnic at the Hardens

May 7th, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Our annual parish picnic at the Hardens will be the first Saturday of May following our Confirmation Reception with Bp. Howe. The Hardens will provide the meat and buns. We each bring side dishes to finish out the meal of hot dogs and hamburgers. Make sure you bring a lawn chair and a lawn umbrella if you'd like. There will be boating, tubing, yard games, and just some good ole' conversation and fellowship! The Hardens live at **1720 Hoffner Ave.** about 3.2 miles west of Semoran on Hoffner) Their phone number is **407-855-7960**.



Vestry

Notes

At its regular meeting on April 11th, the Vestry received reports from several committees.

- ❖ The Finance Committee detailed the good financial health of the parish, and discussed possible changes in the weekly financial synopsis printed in each Sunday's bulletin.
- ❖ The Building and Property Committee reported on the tremendous success of the April 8th Parish Work Day. Over 43 people participated, completing a variety of task. An ongoing task list is being developed for volunteers to complete.
- ❖ The Christian Formation Committee described plans for a meeting in midsummer with parents of Sunday School-aged children to determine the educational needs of these families.
- ❖ The Healing Ministry Committee reported that several members are attending training classes at All Saints' Church.
- ❖ The Marketing and Outreach Committees, which are still in the organizational stages also reported.
- ❖ The Youth Ministry Committee had ten youth and two adults attending the New Beginnings weekend. Plans are underway for a Coffee House on May 21st.

Other business discussed; Anne Browder requested that the Orange County Jail Ministry be considered as an outreach recipient; this has been delegated to the Outreach Committee.

The vestry authorized Fr. Steve was to write a letter to Bishop Howe requesting that Michael Matheny and Pat Roberts be assigned to CTK following their ordination to the diaconate, and shared with him some thoughts about the placement and length of the Sunday morning announcements.

A roof leak in the chapel, and the procedure for repairing and upgrading our irrigation system were also discussed.

May 20 as been scheduled for a one day retreat; the agenda will include the development of a mission/vision statement for CTK.

Meet Our Members

Watch this space each monthly for a brief profile of a member or family here at Christ the King. This month features yours truly, Ms. Merlin Brookes-Romney.



I want to begin by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to be editor of the Chi Rho. May I add in chief? I like the sound of that. Merlin Brookes-Romney, Editor-in-Chief. One thing you will find out if you hang around me long enough is that I have a great sense of humor. (At least I think so. My children laugh at my jokes sometimes and they are my worst critics).

That been said, what can I tell you about me that you may not already know? I am the grateful mother of two wonderful children, Terhys, who is completing her final days as a high school senior, and Taz who is completing his first year of high school. I am an Anguillian citizen, a British subject, and an American immigrant. I've worked as a Guidance Counselor with Orange County Public Schools for the past eight years, and before that, as a Mental Health Counselor with the Alpha Program and Spouse Abuse Inc. I am a voracious reader (I've been known to stay up all night reading) a music fanatic, (yes I said fanatic) and an avid gardener (well, avid might be perpetuating just a tad, but I love working out in my yard). I love cooking, the out-doors, traveling, playing tennis, and puttering and tinkering around my home. I am very conscientious about how I treat the earth, and grieve every time I see another swath of land mutilated and animals displaced for yet another subdivision and storage place. When does it end? I'm an ex-member of the Sierra club, (my renewal notice is still with my to do list). I also subscribe to the notion of 'no blood, no bones', hence my vegetarian lifestyle. I'm disheartened by homelessness.

I discovered Christ the King through Karen Friday although she had nothing to do with it directly. I had not met her at the time I started attending, but her sister-in-law is my sister-friend. I told her I was looking for a new church home but I needed something 'Anglican'. When I described to her what Anglican meant to me, (it is amazing how few people are familiar with this word) she assured me that Karen attended a church that sounded like I was describing, and was very satisfied with it. We attended one Sunday and have been coming ever since. I will be the first to say I am not the easiest person to get to know and I smile when I reminisce on our first visit. At the end of the service, Tom Ravenscroft approached me. After the initial pleasantries, he inquired if I had filled out the visitor's card. I assured him that I hadn't but that I was taking the it with me. He insisted that he could wait while I filled it out and shepherded me into the fellowship hall. I had no intentions of filling out the card or attending the fellowship hall for that matter, but almost three years later, we are still here. Go Tom!

My spiritual walk began conscientiously as a young teen and has been quite an experience. My initial aspirations were to be an Anglican minister, but I became disillusioned after being told time and time again, women could not be priest. I was allowed to lead 'evensong' and 'prayer meetings', but I could not be in the pulpit on Sunday morning. My how times have changed! Through it all, I have maintained an attitude of servitude hence my volunteering to act as Editor in Chief of the CHI RHO.

Palm Sunday and Easter Review



CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

1. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come here Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
2. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
3. "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
4. The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
5. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
6. Don't let worry kill you off--let the Church help.
7. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
8. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
9. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
10. Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
11. The rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."
12. Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
13. The Lutheran men's group will meet at 6 p.m. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.
14. Please place your donation in the envelope along with deceased person you want remembered.
15. The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality.
16. Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. --prayer and medication to follow.
17. This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
18. Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.
19. Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

Christ the King Episcopal Church
26 Willow Drive
Orlando, FL 32807

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SUNDAY SERVICES
8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist – English
11:00 a.m.–Sunday school
11:30a.m. – Holy Eucharist -Spanish

Office hours – Mon.-Thurs – 9-3
Fri – 9-noon
Church Phone: (407) 277-1151
Fr. Steve's cell: (407) 340-8489