



# Christ the King Episcopal Church

## The GOOD NEWS letter

“To know Christ & to make Him known”

January, 2006

### Your Rector’s Reflections

#### The Word for the World

“The Living Creche,” “Songs of Christmas Praise,” our Spirit-filled worship, wonderful fellowship and delicious finger foods – God blessed us so richly as we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh! I don’t remember a more inspired use of the gifts and talents of so many parishioners to make the Nativity come alive in a new and meaningful way. Other than a fuller church, how could it have been better? So we’ll continue praying for a fuller church in 2006!

Please allow me to take this opportunity also to thank all those who contributed to the beautiful trumpet I received at the Christmas Eve reception. I’ve already practiced! And God bless you also for recognizing Pastor Sonia’s devotion to Christ the King with the gift certificate to one of her favorite stores! You are truly generous as well as faithful, and we are blessed by God to serve and lead in such a loving group of Christians.

The Christmas season ends with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This feast, and the season which follows it, serve to remind us that Jesus came among us not simply as the Messiah long foretold by the people of Israel, but as the Savior of all – the Word for the World.

This Word came into our world to show us what God is like.

The Father of Jesus is a God of infinite love, of a justice which consists not of retribution but of mercy – and Jesus calls us to lives of love and merciful justice as well.

The Father of Jesus is a God of forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace – and Jesus calls us to love our enemies, to forgive seventy times seven, and to be peacemakers rather than purveyors of war and violence. (To recall one of my recent favorite quotes: “God is not the enemy of my enemies. God is not even the enemy of his own enemies.” Amen!)

The Father of Jesus is a God who listens to the prayers of all who call upon him – and Jesus calls us into an intimate relationship of prayer, meditation, and study to draw us ever closer.

The Father of Jesus is a God who heals the wounded, binds up the broken-hearted, and sets the prisoners free – and Jesus calls us to reach out to the sick, the grieving, and those in any kind of bondage. (See elsewhere in this issue news about our service to the homeless through the Interfaith Hospitality Network and our *Walking the Mourner’s Path* grief support group.)

The Father of Jesus is a God who rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep – and Jesus calls us to share our lives with each other, particularly within the family of faith we call Christ the King and with other Christians. (Praise God that we are growing in our partnering relationships with other Azalea Park congregations.)

The Father of Jesus is a generous God who pours out blessings in abundance – and Jesus calls us to be good stewards of all that we have.

The Father of Jesus is a God who cares for us like a loving parent – and Jesus, who welcomed children and blessed them, calls us to raise our children in the knowledge and love of God through Christian Formation, the Episcopal Youth Community, and weekly worship.)

Jesus is the Word to the World. If we don’t listen to and obey that Word, who will? Let us recommit ourselves in 2006 to faithful discipleship – not just in Sunday worship, but in daily prayer, service, and witness to the living Word who is the Lord of our lives.

#### Christ the King Episcopal Church

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## The Senior Warden's Corner

Greetings everyone, hope you all had a joyous holiday. I'd first like to thank Lisa Hines for the wonderful play she put together for us, "The Living Creche." The whole production was excellent and the singing performances were great. It ministered to all of us including several people who were visiting us that evening. Thank you, Lisa, for using your gifts to serve the Lord.

Mission in our neighborhood is finally upon us. Our recent mission work has usually served others remotely from us, whether it be hurricane relief, tsunami relief, or youth mission to West Virginia. But now we have the opportunity to serve families in our area via the Interfaith Hospitality Network. This is a very worthy cause that I feel the Lord has led our congregation to and He wants us to serve Him by helping others. He has provided so many blessings to us and will continue to do so. As I've said before, both the giver and receiver are blessed when serving others in His name. The most valuable gift you can give the Lord is your time spent serving Him out of thanksgiving for His love for you. There are jobs of all types, big and small, that can use the special gifts you have. Please consider this ministry; it will help you grow in your faith and bring you closer to the Lord.

In thanksgiving for the Lord's many blessing to CtK. Ron//

## Around the Parish

### A Ministry of Servant Leadership: Calling Nominees for Christ the King's Vestry

At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, four CTK members will be elected to serve three-year terms on our parish Vestry. In partnership with the Rector, the Vestry discerns and seeks to implement God's will within the Body of Christ at CTK. It is both an honor and a responsibility to serve the Lord in this way.

Any member of CTK, 18 years or older, may be considered for nomination to the Vestry. Nominees need to satisfy certain requirements and fulfill certain commitments. Some of these are related to diocesan rules arising out of our continuing desire to protect the children of the Church.

- First and foremost, nominees must be committed to serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the work of the Vestry, if elected, using the gifts given them by the Holy Spirit.
- Nominees must maintain their status as a communicant in good standing; this includes faithful attendance at public worship and "working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."
- As a part of the previous commitment, nominees must be financial stewards of record (pledgers) to God through Christ the King, seeking to move their stewardship toward (or beyond) the Biblical tithe.
- Nominees must complete an informational form (which includes a release to perform a background check) and a biographical sketch to be included in parish bulletins in the weeks preceding the Annual Meeting.
- Nominees must agree, if elected, to complete a three-hour misconduct prevention course entitled *Safeguarding God's Children*. This course will be offered at CTK on Saturday, February 11.
- Nominees must commit to attendance at monthly meetings, periodic retreats (some of which involve overnight travel), and specially called meetings when these are necessary, unless for good cause prevented and with prior notification to the Rector or Senior Warden.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Fr. Steve, Sr. Warden Ron Schoemaker, or another Vestry member. In order for biographical sketches to be compiled for distribution on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> (so that members can pray and discern God's will in this important matter), they must be received no later than Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Revision to Parish By-Laws Slated

A long-overdue revision to the parish by-laws have been proposed by the Vestry for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting. Copies of the proposed by-laws are available in the back of the church, in the parish hall, from the parish office, and can also be accessed online through our parish website.

## Reaching Out

### Interfaith Hospitality Network

We are blessed to have the opportunity to serve on a team with First Church of God and Azalea Park Methodist Church in a new outreach opportunity called Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). The IHN is a national organization which helps communities develop services to help families that have been displaced for unfortunate reasons.

The Methodist church is the host church and we are a support church. Our local IHN agency screens families and chooses only those which meet strict requirements. The family is served for a period of months during which time they must be striving to become self-sufficient. Our role is to house, feed, and provide additional services for up to 14 individuals on a weekly rotation with 7 other church teams. The following is a sample weekly schedule:

- ✓ Sunday afternoon - receive a trailer with beds at the Methodist Church; set up sleeping spaces

- ✓ Sunday at 5:00 p.m. - receive the families, feed them dinner, provide an orientation session, provide food provisions so sack lunches can be made for the next day; someone from one of the 3 churches spends the night at the Methodist Church
- ✓ Monday - Friday at 7:00 a.m. - set out continental breakfast for the families; all leave the church by 7:30 a.m.; at 5:00 p.m. - receive families back at the church, feed, and be available to help with homework, provide games, etc.; provide food provisions so sack lunches can be made for the next day
- ✓ Saturday - provide a hot breakfast at the Methodist church; set up activities for the families for the day; serve dinner at a time arranged with the families
- ✓ Sunday - transport families to the service center at 8:00 a.m.; pack up beds into the trailer and deliver it to the next church on the list

As you can imagine from reading the schedule, there are many ways for us to participate as individuals and as a church family. There are six dinner meals to prepare and serve, 5 continental breakfasts and one full breakfast to be prepared and served; there are linens to be washed; children to tutor; adults with whom to have conversations and play games; transportation to be provided; lunch foods to be provided; supervision nights to be spent; and miscellaneous odds and ends.

The Vestry is convinced that God is calling us to reach out and serve those in need. Forming partnerships with others who are also called to this ministry is a blessing which will allow us to be more faithful stewards of our gifts.

Look for our first hosting session to happen in February or early March. You'll hear much more as we get closer to the time!



### P.I.G.S.

#### Parishioner Involvement Group

Please sign up to feed our teens on Sunday evenings. Tacos, pizza, hamburgers, chicken, and baked potatoes are favorites. We ask that dinner is ready at 6:15 pm and that you stay until 7:30 pm. The sign-up sheet is in the Parish hall.

#### Fellowship Hosts

Fellowship hosts are needed for Sunday mornings. You are asked to provide finger foods of your choice for sharing after the 9:30 am. service. We have someone who has volunteered to provide the 8am goodies. The sign-up sheet is by the water fountains in the Parish hall.



### Upcoming Events

#### Annual Parish Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year officially ends with our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***There will only be one celebration of the Eucharist on that day – at 9:30am.*** Fr. Steve will give his annual Address on the State of the Parish at the time of the sermon. A Fellowship Brunch will follow the service, followed by the remainder of the Annual Meeting.

Vestry elections, a vote on revised parish by-laws, a presentation of the finalized operating budget for 2006, recognition of outgoing Vestry members, and other items will be included on the agenda.

Please plan to attend this annual “family gathering”!

#### This Newsletter is Going Electronic!

Beginning with this issue, our monthly newsletter can be read or downloaded from our parish website! Just go to <http://www.christthekingorlando.com> and click on the “Monthly Newsletters” link.

#### Walking the Mourner’s Path Grief Support Group Begins January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Christ the King will offer its first series of grief support sessions entitled *Walking the Mourner’s Path* on eight Monday nights beginning January 23<sup>rd</sup>. A small group experience, *WMP* explores the many facets of grief and lifts up the Christian hope. At press time, there were still some openings in this group. If you or someone you know would like more information, please call Mary Haddad at 407.

#### “Praise on Wednesdays” Resumes with Parish Supper on January 4<sup>th</sup>

We will celebrate (by anticipation) the Feast of the Epiphany at the first **POW** of 2006. The evening will begin at 6:30pm with a Parish Supper, followed by worship and the fourth session of the Old Testament Survey class. Come and enjoy wonderful food, worship, fellowship, and learning – and make POW a habit in the New Year!

## Christian Formation Classes Resume January 8<sup>th</sup> – and Don't Forget Breakfast!

On January 8<sup>th</sup> our normal Sunday schedule resumes with our rescheduled monthly HOT Breakfast and our variety of Christian Formation classes for children and adults. Adult classes include: *Christianity 101*, *The Ten Commandments in Today's World*, *Coping with Loss*, *The Gospel According to Luke*, and *God is Crazy About You!*

## Thirty-Seventh Diocesan Convention Slated for January 28<sup>th</sup>

Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy in Melbourne will be the site of this year's Diocesan Convention. Christ the King will send three lay delegates, in addition to Fr. Steve as a member of the clergy, to the gathering. Please keep the Convention in your prayers.

## Revised Committee Meeting Schedule for January

Due to the New Year's Day observance on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the Annual Parish Meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, our usual schedule of committee meetings will be different this month, as follows:

- January 8: Buildings and Property, Marketing
- January 15: Christian Formation
- January 22: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Healing Ministry
- January 29: Outreach

## Annual Dinner Auction

We are very excited about our annual dinner auction coming up Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the major fund raiser for our youth outreach projects and so we hope everyone will participate. For now, mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us for a great evening of fabulous food, entertainment, and a little shopping to finish it out!

## Odds & Ends



## Christ The King's 50th Anniversary

# STOCK IN A SQUARE

Purchase your personalized **STOCK IN A SQUARE** tile.

Tiles can be purchased in groups, for family or in memory of a loved one. We encourage creativity.  
Example: 2003 Vestry Group

Tiles will be created by our Youth Group here at Christ the King and will be used as the backsplash in our newly remodeled kitchen.

Each Tile costs \$125.  
Payment plans are available over a six month period. (or longer if needed)

Contact Terri Imperato at 407-281-8253.

Order yours today and show your support for Christ The King's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
Make an impression that will last a lifetime!

### Youth Committee

We will meet through email and informally as needed during January. There is a lot going on, but not a good Sunday for us to gather. So, check your email and let's work electronically this month.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Please join us for our last meeting on Sunday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> after the Annual Meeting luncheon! We will evaluate what we did, make notes for the next group who will plan a major event for the parish, and make a list of the remaining gifts we'd like for the parish to have in commemoration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### ATTENTION!!!!

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Breakfast moved to Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>

# Youth News



## EYC News

We will resume regular meetings on January 8<sup>th</sup> gathering for dinner at 6:00 p.m. and finishing about 7:30 p.m. All youth in grades 6 and up are invited to join us for lots of fun!!

### Happening - A Christian Experience

Can Christianity penetrate the reality of a teenager's world? Can today's youth turn on to Christ's love instead of drugs or violence or apathy? The Happening movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but does provide a method through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in fellowship with Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an on-going manner.

Happening is led by teenagers. The few adults present will be chaperones. Two priests will be there as Spiritual Directors. A very important element of Happening is that *everyone* is accepted for just who he or she really is by a bunch of teenagers who aren't afraid to be themselves.

The Happening experience is a powerful instrument of renewal in the Church. Its aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Happening seeks to give those who attend the desire to understand and serve Christ.

A Happening can only be made once in a lifetime, so it is not like any other retreat. During the weekend the teachings of Christ are discussed through large and small groups. There's lots of music and lots of fun. Teenagers return to a Happening weekend by serving on the staff.

Any high school student in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade can attend Happening. Persons of any denomination are welcome so bring a friend! Happening weekends are held at Honey Creek (an Episcopal conference center just north of the GA-FL east coast border). The next weekend is Jan. 13-15 and so sign up NOW is a must!!! Please speak to Fr. Steve or Pastor Sonia!

### Teens Chosen for Happening Staff

**Ashley Ogle, Justin Higley, and Christopher Sullivan** have been chosen to serve on the staff of the Happening weekend in January! Please keep them in your prayers as they join about 30 other teenagers in putting on this very special retreat weekend!

### Youth Outreach on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

We'll meet at church at 3:00 p.m. and travel to Hubbard House where we will help cook and serve dinner to residents of Hubbard House. It's a home away from home for families who have a loved one in the hospital. It's similar to Ronald McDonald House. You don't have to know how to cook to participate and we guarantee you will have a good time. We'll serve about 50 children and families and turn the dining room into a restaurant. We'll also eat dinner there.

Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend!

### Vestry notes:

- Pastor Sonia gave an overview of the Fiftieth Anniversary costs and gifts. The gifts purchased were excellent.
- Youth report – Dine & Dash was a huge success; eight students are going to Winter Blast @ Honey Creek; Christopher Sullivan, Ashley Ogle & Justin Higley are serving as staff for the next Happening in January, 2006.
- Christian Formation is offering more adult classes with more of our congregation becoming a part of this area of ministry.
- Fr. Steve has been meeting with the Altar Guild, LEMs, Ushers, etc. to implement up-to-date policy/custom. Response has been favorable.
- Delegates to Diocesan convention were discussed.
- Adult Mission trip will be sometime in February, 2006.
- February 10, 2006 is the date for the annual youth fund raiser Italian dinner and silent auction.

### REVISED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 8	Building & Property, Marketing	January 29	Outreach
January 15	Christian Formation	January 23	Walking the Mourner's Path
January 22	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Healing Ministry	January 30	Walking the Mourner's Path

# Camp Coast Care

## Lutheran Episcopal Disaster Response



### Adult Mission Trip February 23 - 27, 2006

Join us on an adventure to the Gulf Coast to help those who are still suffering from the effects of Katrina!  
***No special skills are required, just a servant heart!***

#### General information:

We will be staying at and working through Camp Coast Care. Camp Coast Care is a hurricane relief facility of Lutheran Episcopal Disaster Response, operating under the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. They have a food distribution center, a free medical clinic, as well as an outreach program to help those affected by Katrina to rebuild their homes and their lives. They also offer hospitality and community to those who go to work on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



We will be doing whatever needs to be done – it's too early to be very specific. General needs are cooking, cleaning yards, light and heavy construction, staffing relief centers, sorting clothes and food, staffing a medical clinic, etc. If specific professional skills are available to be offered, please speak to Pastor Sonia and she will make that known to the coordinator with whom we are working.

Flexibility and patience are the best skills you can bring with you

#### Some other details:

Tetanus boosters are **REQUIRED!**

Please bring plenty of changes of clothes. The work is hard and grimy. There are no facilities to do regular loads of laundry. Please make sure you bring several extra changes beyond the number of days you are staying to ensure that you have clean, comfortable clothes for the duration. Heavy pants (denim jeans, etc) and close toed, leather soled shoes or boots are recommended at all work sites.



Bring your own sleeping bags, pillows, towels, and toiletries, Restroom facilities are available, including showers. All food for feeding volunteer groups is now available on site.

Sun block and insect repellent are your best friends. Also, even in cooler temperatures, sunburn is something to watch for when working outdoors for long periods of time.

**If you are interested, please complete the following.**

**A pre-trip meeting will be held in early February. A final commitment is due January 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Dates:** Feb. 23 - 27 (Thursday - Monday)

**Cost:** \$100 per person (some scholarship assistance is available, please speak to Fr. Steve or Pastor Sonia)

**What to bring:** Lots of work clothes, all personal items, sleeping gear (cots provided), towels, favorite snacks, gloves, work shoes, etc.

***Must have a tetanus shot within the last five (5) years!!!!***



Please turn this form into the parish office or put in the envelope on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of work interest: \_\_\_\_\_

## SHARING CHRISTMAS EVE GIFTS



Pastor Sonia sharing a Christmas Eve lesson with the children of the congregation.

The next Louis Armstrong???????

And, it's off to Casual Corner for Pastor Sonia – Hurray!!!!



- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 2 Edith McClure    | 13 Eric Bunn  |
| 7 Katie Carlton    | 23 Pete Blake |
| 8 Debbie Donaldson | Nick Tamney   |
| 12 Richard Walters | 26 Peggy Levy |
| 13 Dorothy Walters |               |

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 4 Bob & Katherine Johnson

Some don't forgets!

- Jan. 8 - 15 Hosting Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Jan. 13 - 15 Happening retreat
- Jan. 22 - Annual Meeting - Combined Service and Luncheon
- Jan. 27 - 28 Diocesan Convention

### January's Holy Humor

Taken from More Holy Humor  
By Cal & Rose Samra

- \*\* New Year's Scripture: "Behold, all things are become new."  
II Corinthians 5:17
- \*\* New Year's Thanksgiving: "Thank you, Lord, for fresh starts."  
*Witness, Bethany Lutheran Church, Indiana*
- \*\* New Year's Reflection: "When you toss out the Christmas tree, be careful you don't throw out the Christmas spirit with it."  
*Rev. Felix A. Lorenz, Jr. Northville, Michigan*

**The God Who Comforts Us**  
Taken from God is in the small stuff  
By Bruce & Stan

Comfort is a rare and wonderful gift. Do you remember a time when you were a kid and you badly needed some comfort? Perhaps it was something as simple as a skinned knee, but your mother took it seriously and gave you comfort by kissing and then bandaging the hurt and telling you everything would be all right. Or maybe as you got older and someone you cared about hurt you deeply, a friend comforted you with words of encouragement.

Such memories are warm and wonderful. Yet sometimes the comfort of a loved one isn't enough. Sometimes the hurt is so deep that no human words can help relieve the pain. No mere bandage can cover the damage.

That's when you need to look beyond human comfort to something much more effective - the comfort of God. This isn't some mystical, faraway concept. God really does provide comfort to those who call upon Him in times of need. The trouble is that many people are so busy blaming God for their troubles that they don't even realize how close He is and how much He wants to comfort them. Unlike human comfort, which feels good for a moment, God's comfort supplies strength for a lifetime.

The meaning of comfort takes on significance when it describes God's actions towards us. When the Bible talks about God's comfort, it describes a comfort of strength and refreshment. At the root of God's comfort is the idea of nearness. Indeed, when He comforts us, God calls us near.

Is God calling you near in your time of trouble? Go to Him in prayer and through His Word. There you'll find strength, safety, and solace. Are you hurting? Do you struggle with loneliness? God wants you to draw near to Him so you can feel His overwhelming love. Go ahead. Ask God for His comfort in every detail of your life.

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26 Willow Drive  
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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**  
**11:30 a.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**