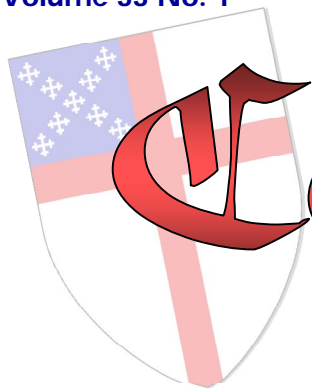


Christ Church



Communique

400 Holcomb Bridge Road ~ Norcross, GA 30071

Musings on Random Acts of Kindness and Thankfulness

A few nights before Christmas while I was lost in thought as I pumped gas at the local Quick Trip, a woman who had been filling her car next to me, approached me. "You don't know me. We're strangers, but in this tough economic time, I just wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas." I'm sure I looked totally surprised. Then I returned the greeting to her. She gave me a big hug, got into her car, and drove off.

Wow! What a difference that simple act made in my mood that evening and during the days since. I've wondered if she thought I looked sad, and needed cheering up, or whether she had decided that day to wish everyone she came upon a Merry Christmas. Maybe she was the Jesus, whom Bob Rae asked if we had seen.

One of my favorite songs is "Thankful" which appears on Josh Grobin's Christmas CD. It's a song which is appropriate any-time of the year, and which declares, "We've so much to be thankful for." Isn't that the truth! I'm thankful for the stranger on that cold pre-Christmas eve, who took time to wish me a Merry Christmas. I'm thankful that we have not had to lay off anyone at my office, despite business being somewhat down. I'm thankful for the sunrise, the sunset, my family, my friends, and our Christ Church community. What are you thankful for? In response to this question in a pre-Christmas email to our Christ Church electronic community, I received short responses, and long heartfelt letters that brought tears to my eyes: our God; Jesus; my wife; my husband; a loving family; blessings of good health; living in a free and proud country; a comfortable retirement; President-elect Obama; my personal relationship with Jesus Christ; my friends who never let me down; abundant food and water; blessings beyond measure; Christ Church and all who worship here; the ever present love that radiates from the hearts of God's children; our grandchildren; for the gifts we have received from a generous God and the opportunity to use them to do His work in the world; my children and my marriage; the opportunity to serve my fellow humans; my par-

ents, my sister and her husband, my aunt and uncle; seeing my children grow into kind young adults; the home I share with my family; the gifts which God has graced me with to achieve so much in my life; the many people that passed into and sometimes through my life – many leaving a mark that they will never know; serving on the nominating committee; to be alive and pain free; my dogs, Christ Church staff and clergy; relatively stable jobs; a roof over our heads; our pets; Christ Church choir; coming back to church; the freedom to not be "OK" and still be valued at Christ Church; the peace that passes all understanding; PJ and Loraine and the healing they have facilitated within our church family; Nancy – our steadfast anchor; the youth of the church who continue to amaze me with their heart, their talent, and their insight into their own spirituality; for a reason to sit quietly and think about my blessings; being licensed to officiate and so exercise the liturgical priesthood God has called me to; wine; doctors who make body parts better; our candidates for rector; the Vestry; our search consultant; beautiful art and music; the spirit of Christ Church which has come alive in me; our country and the freedom it gives us to worship the way we want to, to say and read whatever we want and to be creative without being censored; service on the Vestry.

In 2009, I challenge you all to stop, ponder your blessings daily, and reach out in kindness to a stranger.

In Christ's love,
Terry Franzen, Senior Warden

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ANNOUNCING THE 2009 Rainbow Village Gala!!

The mission of Rainbow Village is to provide families in north metro Atlanta in domestic or economic crisis with a lasting environment to rebuild their lives through a community-based transitional housing program that promotes self-sufficiency.



2009
Rainbow Village
GALA

HEARTS
for the
HOMELESS
CASINO NIGHT

February 28, 2009
SUGARLOAF
COUNTRY CLUB
6:00pm - Until
BLACK TIE optional



Rainbow Village, Inc.
400 Holliston Bridge Rd., Marietta, GA 30067
770-446-3800 www.rainbowvillage.org

Dress up (black tie optional)

Support the expanding operations of
Rainbow Village, Inc.

Be the first to see and hear all about our
plans for the future and...

...have a ball doing it!

POKER CRAPS
ROULETTE BLACKJACK
SILENT AUCTION

BID ON GREAT PRIZES
AT NIGHT'S END WITH
YOUR "AVALANCHE" BUCKS!

\$100 BUYS A NIGHT'S FUN & \$5000 IN CHIPS
MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009
6pm until...EVERYBODY'S HAPPY!

Gala sponsorships still available. For more information, please visit our website at www.rainbowvillage.org
or call Vally Sharpe at 770-446-3800 Ext 13

Rainbow Village is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation open to all without regard to race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, or physical handicap. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Christ Church

Lectionary for January 2009 <i>*Readings subject to change</i>					
Date	Sunday	Lesson	Psalm	Lesson	Gospel
January 4	Second Sunday after Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14	84	Eph 1:3-1:6, Eph 1:15-1:19	Mt 2:13-2:15, Mt 2:19-2:23
January 11	1st Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 42:1-9	89:1-29	Acts 10:34-38	Mark 1:7-11
January 18	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	1Sa 3:1-3:10, 1Sa 3:11-3:20	63:1-8	1Corinthians 6:11	John 1:43-51
January 25	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 3:21-4:2	130	1Corinthians 7:17-23	Mark 1:14-20
February 1	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1Corinthians 8:1-8:13	Mark 1:21-28

Annual Meeting January 25th

Please join us for the Christ Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25. We will not have Sunday School that day. The meeting will start immediately following the service. We will be electing five new Vestry members that day and bidding adieu to our four retiring members. Your vote counts and your input is needed as we begin the next phase of our life together at Christ Church. See you there!

The 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

.... form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Save the Date: February 1st

By: Terry Franzen

Organizing Meeting for 2009 Mexico Mission Trip

Join us for our informational meeting after Sunday School on Sunday, February 1. If you know you want to go this year, or if you think you might want to go, please join us as we discuss our plans for this year's trip, which is scheduled for May 31 - June 6. For questions before then, contact Terry Franzen.

Stewardship Expectations

By: Karl Woltersdorf

As you read this, our Search Committee has completed its work and now your vestry is approaching a decision on the call of our new rector at Christ Church. It is, of course, a time of great excitement, anticipation, and expectation. The installation of our new rector will usher in a new era at our parish.

As we await our new rector's introduction, let us all be prepared to celebrate the arrival in a spirit of joy and ready acceptance. It is a time for warm welcoming and hospitality as we all become acquainted with and support our new spiritual leader.

It is also a time for those who may have waited, to be generous in returning your 2009 pledge as we continue our commitment to do the Lord's work in this time of renewal.

Christ Church

More on the Annual Atlanta Diocesan Council

By: Dennis Marks

Recently, a coalition of 700 parishes announced the formation of a new North American church. Bishop Jefferts Schori said of those who left, "They are no longer Episcopalians." The response was "We are not Episcopalians; we are Anglicans." The crux of the divide is whether the Bible is the inerrant and final revelation of the Word of God, or as theologian Hans Kung states, "Scripture is not revelation; it attests to revelation." The focal point of the controversy is the official Episcopal stance towards homosexuality.

Several resolutions of the recent Annual Diocesan Council bear on this issue. An "Emergency Situation" amendment to the Canons allows the bishop to take over a church and is basically directed to situations where the vestry and/or congregation, in whole or part, attempts to remove the church from TEC, as St. Andrews in Peachtree City did in early 2007, trying to take the money and physical plant with them.

In 2006, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church passed B033 that advised against "*the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church...*" In essence, this meant no more gay Bishops. Our Diocesan resolution asks the next General Convention (national church) to label B033 as "*oppression*" and repeal it with apologies.

A related resolution asks the next General Convention to authorize the development of "*appropriate rites for the celebration and blessing of the sacred unions of gay and lesbian persons, taking into account the variety of civil arrangements for such unions available in the regions served by the church...*"

The two resolutions call for the national church taking a more definitive position on the matter of homosexuality and the status of the Bible. There was lively discussion in small committees, but no discussion from the council floor prior to voting. Apparently close voice votes necessitated a show of hands, indicating the vocal minority was indeed just that, and the resolutions passed overwhelmingly. The council essentially declared that homosexuality is not a moral issue and that you can't pick out parts of the Bible and declare them the inerrant and literal expression of the Word of God.

Hans Kung says that the Word is Jesus and that revelation of the Word takes place within the heart and mind of each person. The Scriptures are the report of those revelations as experienced by the early followers, and while fundamental to faith, are not faith. Faith is the state of being and way of living that results from the internal revelation of the Word, not doctrine or theology or any biblical content specific to a particular place in history. To equate the Bible as the unchanging and inerrant Word seems an attempt to find certainty in an uncertain world and is not the revelation of the Word that leads to the mystery of faith and the peace beyond all understanding.

Cat Adopts Christ Church



If you haven't been in the office lately, come by sometime to meet our newest member, Cat. He's a faithful daily visitor; maybe the food, bed, and cuddling have something to do with it! He "knocks" on Elaine's window, and comes on in. He greets everyone warmly and makes himself at home. Just another member of the community of Christ Church.



Vestry Nominations

By: Dennis Marks

"Without wise leadership, a nation falls; with many counselors, there is safety."
Proverbs 11:14

"When good people run things, everyone is glad."
Proverbs 29:2

"A leader is a dealer in hope."
Napoleon Bonaparte

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
John Quincy Adams

"A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."
Henrik Ibsen

There will be five positions up for election at the annual meeting in January.

Candidates for Vestry must be communicants in good standing, at least 18 years old, be a regular attendant at services in the preceding year and known by the Treasurer to have made and maintained a stated financial commitment in the preceding year. Previous vestry members may run if their service was a year or more ago. Parish staff members and their relatives are not eligible. Two or more members of the same household shall not serve concurrently on the Vestry. One non-voting member age 16 or 17 may also be elected.

Please do not nominate someone without their permission. You may nominate yourself. The qualifications of every nominee will be verified prior to elections.

Five capable servants are needed to assist the new rector in guiding Christ Church into the future. This season, follow the old saying, "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Listen - are you being called to be a vestry member or being called to the dinner table because everyone else is waiting on you. May it be the former.

If you have questions please contact me or any Vestry member. All nominations should be in writing and sent to Dennis Marks by **January 16**. Include a brief biography if possible.

The Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).

The world settles into winter, at least in the northern hemisphere, and life to many seems increasingly bleak. Foreclosures, layoffs, government bailouts and financial failures, continuing war on two fronts, terrorist attacks, murders of some identified only by their faith -- this world is in abundant need of light. We know light that is not overcome by darkness, for God has come among us in human flesh. Born in poverty to a homeless couple, to a people long under occupation, Jesus is human and divine evidence that God is with us in the midst of the world's darkness. Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Divine Counselor is come among us to re-mind, re-member, and re-create. A new mind and heart is birthed in us as we turn to follow Jesus on the way. The body of God's creation is re-membered and put back together in ways intended from the beginning. And a new creation becomes reality through Jesus' healing work. Christians tell the story again each Christmastide, and the telling and remembering invites us once again into being made whole. Our task in every year is to hear the story with new ears, and seeing light in the darkness of this season's woes, then to tell it abroad with glad-some hearts to those who wait in darkness. Where will you share the joyous tale of light in the darkness?



The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

Christ Church

Christ Church Vestry

Terry Franzen - Senior Warden:
Global Mission & Outreach Forum
tfranzen@franzen-salzano.com

Dennis Marks - Junior Warden:
Building & Grounds Forum
Worship Forum
dejmarks@bellsouth.net

Debra Root:
Spiritual Formation Forum
drroot@bellsouth.net

Jane Scott:
Connections - Communications
Forum
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Lon Cross:
Hispanic Forum
loncross@bellsouth.net

Nicki Devillier:
Hispanic Forum
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Sheli Dunn:
Connections - Parish Life Forum
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Channing Haskell:
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Tom Merkel:
Finance Forum
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Pam South:
Connections - Growth Forum
pamela.south@gwinnettcounty.com

Karl Woltersdorf:
Stewardship Committee
karlwol@bellsouth.net

Kathy Smith - Vestry Clerk:
smithk4@fultonschools.org

Rachel Berhannan - Treasurer:
atlberhannan@bellsouth.net

Elaine Freeman - Bookkeeper:
efreeman@ccnorcross.org

Pastoral Care Contact Information

For Pastoral Care needs, please contact one of the following clergy team members:

The Reverend Jeffrey Cave, Interim Rector

Primary Contact #: 770-447-1166

Cell: 404-775-6621 (Emergencies only)

E-mail: jcave@ccnorcross.org

Regular Day off: Monday

The Reverend Jeffrey Cave, Assistant Rector, Hispanic Ministries

Primary Contact #: 770-447-1166

Cell Phone: 404-775-6621

E-mail: jcave@ccnorcross.org

The Rev. Nancy Yancey, Deacon

Primary Contact #: 678-517-4207 (cell)

Office: 770-446-3800

Email: nyancey@rainbowvillage.org

Regular day off: Saturday (Available by cell for emergencies.)

Parish Administrator:

Maria Elena Castro

Office: 770-447-1166

January, 2009



Phone 770-447-1166

FAX 770-300-8730

Email: office@ccnorcross.org

www.ccnorcross.org

Christ Church Worship Services

Holy Eucharist Sunday, 9:30 am

Summer Schedule (May 25-Aug.31) 10:00 am

Christian Education for all Ages Sunday, 11:00-11:45 am

Summer Schedule, No Sunday School

Holy Eucharist Sunday, 1 pm Hispanic Service

Summer Schedule, 12:00 pm

Holy Eucharist Midweek Healing, Wednesday, 12 noon

February Communiqué Deadline

All submissions for the February Communiqué are due by Thursday, January, 15th. Send articles, schedules & notices to **Jane Scott** at jane@scottcreative.com.

Cell Phones for Mission

Donate your old cell phone and help raise money for the mission trip. It's easy! Just put your old cell phone (no accessories or chargers) in the box in the communications breezeway. We'll take care of the rest! It's a great way to recycle and help our mission team to Juarez.