

FEBRUARY 2009

Volume 33 No. 2

Christ Church



Dear Friends in Christ/Queridos amigos y amigas en Cristo:

Many things are happening in the Christ Church “extended family:” young people are preparing for “Happening” at Camp Mikell; a mission team is getting ready for another home-building and person-to-person encounter in Mexico; the Rainbow Village leadership is contemplating long-range plans for an expansion of its mission to families on the way to security and employment; the Haitian community of Sabbath-Day Christians (7th Day Adventists) are singing their way to heaven; and the Regina Caeli kids and faculty are busy teaching and learning, of all things, Latin!

The Hispanic community both thrives and suffers as friends slip away to their countries of origin, some of them by way of detention; while at the Eucharist every Sunday we “sing our song in a strange land” as the Bible said, while at the same time baptizing and first-communioning and confirming and making a good beginning at stewardship and pledging.

Save the evening of February 12, Lincoln’s Birthday (not a holiday much observed in Georgia), for a prayer service to hold up the longings of the immigrant community for stability and a legal path to residency and citizenship (7:30 pm with a candlelight procession from the Youth Center to the Church).

Oh yes, let’s not forget that Lent will begin on February 25, Ash Wednesday. There will be a Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 am, noon and 6:15 pm; and at 7:30 pm in Spanish. After the 7 am Mass there will be a simple breakfast (no meat, butter, eggs, cheese etc., goodness what does that leave?) There will be an on-going Lenten Series on Wednesday evenings (see online calendar). And, lest I forget, a new Rector will be with us very soon!

All of these events, whether on-going or a single date, represent the movement of the Holy Spirit in and through the Christ Church community. And this is just scratching the surface! My ministry and my life have been enriched in being here, and by being your Acting Rector during the latest hiatus. Each of these endeavors and events illustrates that before being an institution, the church is no less or more than Jesus Christ working through those baptized into his Body, each of us, each of them, all of us esteemed by God and if all is working properly esteeming each other in the process. St. Paul said that “we shall meet the Lord in the air!” My prayer for Lent: may our feet not touch the ground!

God bless you all/que Dios vos bendiga. Jeffrey

Christ Church

Stewardship - A New Era

By: Karl Woltersdorf

As you read this, you will likely know the identity of and will possibly have met our new rector. This is an exciting and indeed an historic event in the life of Christ Church. The new rector is only the third full rector in the thirty year life of the parish. It is the hope and expectation of the Nominating Committee and the Vestry that all of you will welcome and enthusiastically embrace our new leader. Those who have participated in the search and selection of our rector believe the choice is the ideal one to lead Christ Church into our future of love and service in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I hope that those of us who have been delaying making a financial pledge to support the Lord's work and ministries through our parish will examine, or perhaps re-examine, our hearts and our priorities and prayerfully respond as God calls us to do. You will find pledge cards in the Narthex.

It is fitting that we understand and believe that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. Even in

these difficult economic times, we of the family of Christ Church have among us the resources to sustain our parish and avoid difficult choices that could affect church operations. As our new rector comes among us, let us capture the spirit of generosity and experience the joy of being cheerful givers.

Barbara Brown Taylor



Episcopal priest, theologian and author, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at Agnes Scott College's Gaines Chapel in Presser Hall. Her lecture title is "Downtime: The Sacred Art of Stopping." The event is free, but tickets are required and may be ordered by calling 404-471-6430. A book

signing and reception will follow the lecture in Rebekah Scott Hall. The sacred art of stopping is one of 12 spiritual practices Taylor addresses in her new book, *An Altar in the World*, to be published in February by HarperOne.



Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

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St. Swithin's
by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham
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Lectionary for February 2009 <i>*Readings subject to change</i>					
Date	Sunday	Lesson	Psalm	Lesson	Gospel
February 1	<i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1Corinthians 8:1-8:13	Mark 1:21-28
February 8	<i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 42:21-31	147:1-12, 21c	1Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 15	<i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	2 Kings 5:1-14	30	1Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
February 22	<i>Last Sunday after Epiphany</i>	0 Kings 2:1-12	50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9

Annual Meeting February 8th

We are moving the date for the annual meeting to Sunday, February 8, right after the 9:30 service. We apologize for this rescheduling which was necessitated by the illness of one of our rector candidates, which delayed our interview process.

Norcross Cooperative Ministry

By: Barbara Kasbo

Our sincere thanks to all of you who contributed toys to the Daughters of the King toy drive for the NCM, to the Daughters of the King for conducting this toy drive, and to the Prime Timers who donated money to purchase gifts for the Teenagers.

The NCM helped 1170 families with a total of 3148 children with toys and gifts to brighten their Christmas. An additional 75 children received toys and food through the hotel outreach program thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers on Christmas Eve.

In 2008 our ministry served 12,067 families. A total of 37,998 bags of food were distributed and 98,373 items of clothing. Without the help of individuals, our churches, civic groups, corporations and foundations this would not have been possible.

The NCM is in desperate need of more volunteers to do a variety of jobs. Please consider giving a few hours of your time once a month. You could make a difference.

Thank you and God Bless

Recycle your Christmas Cards

If you have Christmas cards you would like to recycle, the church can use them for our Mexico and Haiti missions. Please cut the fronts off the cards, bring them to church, and put them in the designated box in the Narthex. The children enjoy using them as Christmas decorations or to make gifts for their family, friends and teachers. Religious themes are best, but animals, nature pictures, Christmas trees, etc, are great too.

Ministry Fair, Saturday, February 28th

Get the details on the 9th annual Diocese of Atlanta Ministry Fair Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Cathedral of St. Philip now on the diocesan website. Online registration is underway. With the theme "From Fear to Hope: Living Faithfully in Uncertain Times," the day will feature three workshop sessions (there are more than 60 options), the Great Gathering with a welcome from Bishop J. Neil Alexander and speaker Courtney Cowart, a variety of displays and lunch. Cost is \$20 per person, and childcare is available for children 6 years and younger. Information packets will be mailed to parishes this week, but you can view information and register now by going directly to the website www.episcopatlanta.org/ministry/index.html

Medical Trust Fund

As you may recall, we established a Medical Trust Fund several years ago to assist our parish family with medical expenses, which they would not otherwise be able to pay. Requests for these funds are made to the clergy or one of the wardens, who approve the request. The balance in this fund is now about \$1000. Please prayerfully consider a donation to this fund. Indicate "Medical Trust Fund" on the memo line of your check.

ANNOUNCING THE
2009 Rainbow Village Gala!!

Rainbow Village Gala



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! Casino Night at Sugarloaf Country Club!

\$100 buys a night's fun and \$5000 in chips.

6 pm until.....EVERYBODY'S HAPPY!

Dress up (Black tie optional)

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CRAPS
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BLACKJACK
SILENT AUCTION

For more information, please visit our [website](http://www.rainbowvillage.org) or call Vally Sharpe at 770-446-3800 ext: 13.

Dress up (black tie optional)

Support the expanding operations of

Rainbow Village, Inc.

Be the first to see and hear all about our

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...have a ball doing it!

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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

Annual Mexico Mission Trip to Build a Home

By: *Lon Cross*

James 2.14—2.20; 2:24; 2:26

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, **16** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? **17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. **18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. **19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. **20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ... **24** Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ... **26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

This year, as we have every June for the past six years, our Church sent a mission group to Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico for the purpose of building a home for a Mexican family. Every year, it is the same; we are tested physically, mentally and emotionally. The work is arduous, requires constant attention to detail, and can be hazardous. The hours are long; we are up at 4:00 am so we can arrive at the job site by first light to "beat the heat;" and we finally complete our evening activities with our host church congregation and get to sleep after 10:00 pm. The pounding sun, the heat (106° F plus), the dry desert air, and the wind-driven dust all combine to drain the body. For most of us, our emotions are stretched as we are accepted unconditionally and graciously welcomed into the homes of our Mexican brothers and sisters, who appear so grateful and happy, and yet seem to lack most of the material comforts we are so accustomed to in the United States.

On these mission trips to Mexico, we have come to experience the true meaning of service; that is, giving without any expectation of receiving anything in return. Our purpose is to put our faith into action; our intentions are pure; and for one week we put our will and our lives into the care of God and let go absolutely. Our reward is the joy and sense of freedom as we surrender our lives to performing God's work. As the week passes, God rewards us with gifts both big and small. We just have to let go and allow life to come to us. Every year I am not disappointed, I have an opportunity to experience the grace of God for one entire week non-stop. All I have to do is put my brain in neutral and follow my

heart.

Much of the news from Ciudad Juarez, this past year, has focused on the daily violence stemming from the cross-border drug trade. In the first six months of 2008, some 25 groups, who were committed to building homes in Juarez, cancelled their trips. Amongst our group, we never even spoke of these issues. We believed with all our hearts that we were safe under the protection of God's loving care.

In addition to the usual compliment of "veterans," we had five kids on our team ranging from ages 11 to 17. Their presence was truly a blessing. They brought a fresh new perspective to the trip I had not experienced before. They seemed to possess a seemingly endless supply of questions about their unfamiliar surroundings and the culture in which they were living. As I passed the week with these kids, I realized they were modeling true acceptance for the "veterans." They were living one of our group's favorite sayings, "More curiosity, less judgment."

While we are in Juarez, we stay at the home of a Mexican pastor, with whom we have been acquainted these past six years. The pastor, Samuel, has a rambling two-story cinder block house, which is always under construction. Though I had been to Samuel's home many times before, I had never been up to the roof. As soon as we arrived this year, the kids went exploring. Within ten minutes, they had found the way up to the roof. Before too long, they drug me up there. The roof, not unlike many of the roofs on homes in that part of Mexico, is a flat concrete slab. As soon as I saw the roof, I knew where I was going to sleep. The view was breathtaking, there was hardly any threat of rain, and we would be able to catch the nightly breeze regardless from which direction it came. The whole week, the kids and I "camped out" on the roof every night. The surrounding mountains, the sounds of the city as it rested, the hundreds of thousands of lights of two cities (Juarez and El Paso, Texas), and, best of all, the stars above in the clear pitch-dark desert sky; we were truly blessed with the grace of God.

Organizing Meeting for 2009 Mexico Mission Trip

By: *Terry Franzen*

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.

Christ Church

Christ Church Vestry

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Building & Grounds Forum
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efreeman@ccnorcross.org

Pastoral Care Contact Information

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

The Reverend Jeffrey Cave, Acting Rector and Hispanic Ministries

Primary Contact #: 770-447-1166

Cell: 404-775-6621 (Emergencies only)

E-mail: jcave@ccnorcross.org

Regular Day off: Monday

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

February, 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

March Communiqué Deadline

All submissions for the March Communiqué are due by Monday, February, 16th. 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.