

Glad Tidings

Pentecost/Advent

November 2010

The Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft

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This month we once again celebrate Thanksgiving. Most of us will gather with friends and family. We will feast sumptuously, probably eating more than we need to. But, hey, it is just one day! We can diet after the holiday. That is, after we have finished off the left over turkey and dressing, sweet potato casserole, and pumpkin pie.

But, more important than the food, is the fellowship! The main reason I love Thanksgiving is because I get to visit with and spend time with people I love, people I am thankful to have in my life. Gathering with those who bring richness to our lives makes us aware how important they are to us, especially those that we don't get to see as frequently as we would like.

At a recent Vestry meeting, the officers and vestry acknowledged that our church is also a family. Just as in any family, some are not able to join us as regularly as they would like for worship and fellowship. At this time of year we also become aware of stewardship of all that God has entrusted to our care. Part of what God entrusts to us is the care and nurturing of the relationships that make Nativity such a wonderful worshipping community. In an effort to foster those relationships, and share what we are thankful for at this time of year, the vestry has decided that they want to visit with all the members of this parish during this special time of year. Before you get anxious about people coming to your home to twist your arm for money, let me assure you that that is not what these visits are about. Yes, they will leave behind a pledge card. However, the visits will be focused on visiting with friends. Some of you may be visited by parishioners you have known for many years. Others may have visitors that you have never had the opportunity to interact with. The idea is to foster relationships and visit one another as family.

On the afternoons of November 14th and November 21st. Officers and Vestry members of the Church of the Nativity will be visiting with you, their extended family. They will call first to set up an appropriate time. Again, they are not coming to solicit a pledge. They are coming to enjoy fellowship with family. In the meantime, be thinking of those things that you are thankful for, both about your church, or you personal life. Then welcome your church family as we share a time of thanksgiving with one another and make sure that everyone feels included in the family. We are trying hard to make sure that we don't overlook anyone. However, glitches could happen. So, if you have not had a call from anyone by the evening of November 14th to set up an appointment, rather than having hurt feelings, please acknowledge that something has burped in the system and call the church office on November 15th to schedule a visit.

I feel the love and support of this wonderful church family on a daily basis. I pray that this series of visits can draw everyone in this parish into even deeper bonds of love and affection. Please make every effort find a time when you may extend hospitality to your brothers and sisters in Christ, so that we may celebrate together those relationships that bring richness to our lives.

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. . . " Romans 1:8 Tom +

As we continue celebrating our Centennial Year, I have the pleasure of inviting you to our **afternoon tea** which will be held on **November 13th, 2010** in our newly named Hart Hall. We have been truly blessed as a parish, and our previous centennial events have been fun and family filled but more so a time of fellowship with each other. This event promises to be a classic British High Tea with a menu comprising strawberry jam, Devon double cream, scones, lemon curd, which will all be served on fine china. Entertainment will be provided in the form of dance, poetry reading and song.



Tickets are now available and costs \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. If you need any further information on this event, you can email me at emkaydee@comcast.net; nativity.treasurer@verizon.net; or call me at 410 296-4577. I am looking forward to hearing or seeing you at this event.

We continue to pray together as a church family, for the many blessings that God has bestowed on us , and I thank you for your continued support to the Church of the Nativity.

God Bless Margaret Dowding Chair/Afternoon Tea Church of the Nativity

Fr. Carter Invited by Rosalyn Carter to be Guest Panelist at Symposium on Mental Health at the Carter Center in Atlanta



November 3-4, Fr. Carter will be the guest of former first lady Rosalyn Carter at a mental health symposium entitled *A Veteran's Journey Home: Reintegrating Our National Guard and Reservists into Family, Community, and Workplace*.

The symposium will include participants from all over the country discussing ways to more successfully reintegrate the large number of National Guard and Reserve soldiers returning from war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Fr. Carter is to present the Partners in Care program of the Maryland National Guard and participate as a panelist in the discussion.

Over five years ago Nativity became one of the first two congregations to become a Partners in Care congregation. Now there are congregations in the program in every county in Maryland. Partners in Care was conceived of and begun by CH (COL) William Sean Lee, the Joint Force Headquarters Chaplain for the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Maryland Defense Force, and Maryland Emergency Management Agency. CH Lee began this program to help to address the unique challenges facing National Guard soldiers and their families. Soldiers in the regular Army are stationed at major military facilities with hospitals, counselors, Veteran's Administration officials, and other resources to help them handle the challenges of returning

from war. Plus, they are still with the soldiers they fought with, so they can process together the many conflicting emotions that they are experiencing. National Guard soldiers, however, often come from the streets of Afghanistan or Iraq to Main Street, within 48 hours. They live miles from all those they fought with and often quite a distance from the services available at military installations. Partners in Care operates on the premise that the most logical place for a person to begin to look for assistance is the local congregation. Soldiers, or their family members, are referred to the Partners in Care congregation in their community by the chaplain or family readiness personnel at the armory where they drill on a monthly basis.

Partners in Care congregations sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Guard that they will offer services and referrals to any soldiers or families that are referred to them regardless of religion and they will not require anything in return for their assistance. In the years that Nativity has been in the program we have assisted soldiers and family members with rental assistance, food, referral to counselors, eviction protection, and spiritual support to soldiers suffering from PTSD, while they receive mental health support from professionals.

This program is very near and dear to Fr. Carter's heart. And, he feels quite honored to be able to participate in this symposium to attempt to develop policies to address the unique problems National Guard and Reserve troops have with reintegration after the horrors of war.

CENTENNIAL EVENT CALENDAR



November

- 7th Baptism-Kate Foy
- 13th Afternoon High Tea 3 p.m.
- 14th Seafarers Packing Party
- 15th Outreach Committee Meeting
- 19th Feedmore Fridays 5-7:30 on van
- 21st Nativity Book Club
- 21st Outreach Coffee Hour
- 21st WORLD, Inc.
- Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- 22nd Peace Service,
Cathedral of the Incarnation
- TBD Celebration of International
Diversity at Nativity

December

- 5th Ascension Homes Christmas Party
- 5th St. Nicholas Day Presentation-Pray for
the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem
and the Near East
- 18th Sandwich Saturdays for the homeless
- 19th Greening of the church
- 22nd Peace Service, Calvary Baptist Church
- 25th Christmas Day
- 31st New Year's Eve Party



ST. NICHOLAS DAY –Dec. 5

Join the spirit of St. Nicholas, patron saint of needy children with needy children in the Holy Land today.

Mite boxes will be available so we can respond to the needs of our Holy Land children and Olive Wood Crosses from Jerusalem will be offered to celebrate the Advent season.

SHOEBOXES FOR SEAFARERS

Sponsored By
Baltimore International Seafarers' Cen-

This annual gift distribution to crews of all nationalities and faiths make a big difference in their lives. Months or years after Christmas, crews returning to Baltimore thank us for their gifts. Many seafarers can't even do their own shopping because of tighter security rules and port stays as short as 5 hours.

Christmas at Sea Wish List

Please include the following in each box:

- A paperback Bible or New Testament, in a modern translation readable by those whose first language is not English.
- A greeting or a piece of paper with the name and address of your church, in case the seafarer is able to send a thank-you note. (Most can't, but a few do.)
- Toiletries, sealed (no unwrapped soap or toothbrushes etc;) and please remember that almost all our seafarers are male.
- A warm hat or a warm scarf.
- And some of the following: pens and pads, warm socks or gloves, playing cards, postcards of Baltimore, etc.



Packing Party November 14

Please join your fellow members at a Packing Party for the shoeboxes after the 10:30 service on Sunday, Nov. 14th.

Blessing of the Animals

October 3, 2010



Nativity Book Club

Catherine Bishop

The next meeting of Nativity Book Club will be at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 21st. The book we are reading this month is *My Name is Mary Sutter*, by Robin Oliveira.

“This historical novel opens on the eve of the Civil War. Mary Sutter is a brilliant, headstrong mid-wife from Albany, New York, who dreams of becoming a surgeon. Determined to overcome the prejudices again women in medicine—and eager to run away from recent heartbreak—Mary travels to Washington, D.C. to help tend the legions of Civil War wounded. Under the guidance of William Stipp and James Blevens—two surgeons who unwittingly fall in love with Mary’s courage, will, and stubbornness in the face of suffering—and resisting her mother’s pleas to return home to help with the birth of her twin sister’s baby, Mary pursues her medical career in the desperately overwhelmed hospitals of the capital.”

The above quotation is from the dust jacket’s outline of the story. Particularly important to me as I reread the novel is how each character in the story is described in his or her history and the motivations of each is explored.

As always, we invite other readers to join us on the 21st to discuss the novel.



Fire Destroys Chapel — Not Faith *Oct 23*

(A Wonderful reflection on the fire that destroyed the Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary on Oct. 22, 2010) Tom+

Posted by [Cody C. Unterseher](#) in [Art and Architecture](#), [Episcopal/Anglican Liturgy](#) | [7 Comments](#)

Church, *ecclesia*, is people: those called out, gathered, set apart, by the Lord. But the places to which the church is called out, the places where it gathers, are important: church buildings are the house of the *ecclesia*, signs of its presence within a larger community — and therefore signs of the presence of the living God, indeed the very house of God.

What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.

*Walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.*

Yet it becomes a body that lives

when we are gathered here,

and know our God is near.

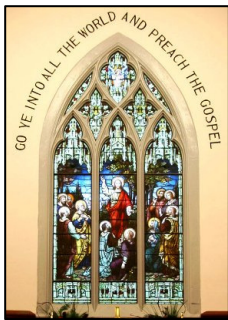
Huub Oosterhuis, "What is this Place?" tr. David Smith. See ocp.org for ordering information.

When a church building is destroyed by fire, whether accidentally or deliberately, the church hurts: it grieves a loss, becomes homeless, wanders in the wilderness — but it survives nonetheless.

It has become my custom to check in on Facebook before Evening Prayer, particularly to glean from the posted needs and desires of my friends a short list of pressing intentions for remembrance during the Office. Yesterday, the first status update I read was "N. knows that life can change so suddenly — praying for the VTS community."

VTS: the initials stand for "Virginia Theological Seminary," in Alexandria, VA, the largest of the [eleven accredited seminaries](#) in the Episcopal Church. A quick glance at some other postings indicated that no one had died, but that a tragedy had unfolded nonetheless. Immanuel Chapel, the historic 129 year-old heart of the seminary campus and one of two worship-sites for [Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill](#), had been completely [destroyed by fire](#).

Now, the students of Virginia Theological Seminary and those of New York's General Theological Seminary, my alma mater (one of them, anyway), have had a long-standing rivalry that extends from the football field to — yes — the chapel. Virginia Theological has a "[low-church](#)" reputation among the largely "[high church](#)," Anglo-Catholic population of General's students — though in fact VTS is squarely at the center of the Episcopal Church's "[broad-church](#)" tradition. (The Wikipedia articles to which I've linked these intramural Anglican terms are, surprisingly, rather accurate.) No doubt, Virginia's students have their own ideas about those crazy "Penguins" to the north, who can't seem to show up for an inter-seminary football match without bringing a thurible. . . or cassocks, surplices, tippets and everything else a liturgics squad (the seminary equivalent of a pep-squad?) might need. But last night



these rivalries fell away as many of General's students, faculty and alumni posted prayers and notes of concern for their sisters and brothers at VTS; and today many GTS Penguins have changed their Facebook profile picture to one of the now-ravaged window over the Immanuel Chapel altar with its iconic framing words, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

East Window, Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary

The rivalries fell away because every seminarian knows and experiences the importance of worship in theological education. Most Episcopal seminarians take part in some aspect of worship on a daily basis, whether through the Holy Eucharist or the Daily Office, or both. Being "in chapel" is for many the most formative experience of their seminary years, for it is there that the seminarian is steeped in the traditions she or he is expected to carry on. Chapel is the place to which one brings her or his pains, struggles, frustrations — as well as joys and triumphs; chapel is the place where one learns to sing boldly the everlasting hymn of "Angels and Archangels and. . . all the company of heaven." Chapel is the place where "we believe" and "we confess" are held together and wonderfully transfigured into "send us out." Chapel is the place of worship, the place of formation — and of transformation, as E. Byron Anderson points out: *(cont'd p.6)*

*(cont'd from p.5) Formation through worship is. . . an apprenticeship in the Christian life. We practice living as Christians in prayer, song, bath, and meal; we practice a new language as we hear and tell a new family story; we practice a way of keeping time that has its own new year, its own days for celebration and lamentation; we practice being a people called to holy living. Formation through worship acknowledges that liturgical experience is a personal and communal **experience** that we know but cannot name. While its meaning can be interpreted (mystagogy) and anticipated (instruction) that meaning cannot be communicated other than through the ritual event itself. This is why what we say, sing, and do in worship is so important.*

*Therefore when we approach questions about the role of the seminary chapel in pastoral formation. . . [we] begin to rediscover the intrinsic formational and educational possibilities of worship for the church as a whole. We discover that the liturgical sacramental life of the church is perhaps even **the** primary formative and transformative practice of the church, through which we offer ourselves to God with all that we are, in which we encounter the tangible, tastable [sic] love of God for the world, and by means of which we are compelled to loving service in the world.*

*E. Byron Anderson, "Worship and Formation for Ministry," in Siobhán Garrigan and Todd E. Johnson, eds., **Common Worship in Theological Education** (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2010), 175-176.*

Yesterday's fire at Virginia Theological Seminary has deprived that community of its worship space, its chapel — its place of gathering and prayer, of memory and hope. But no fire can destroy the faith of a community, no conflagration can terminate its gathering, singing and praying — even if these be, for a time, disrupted. In the immediate aftermath (barely a day later), little else is certain, as the Very Reverend Ian Markham, dean of Virginia Theological Seminary, [reports](#). Certainly a new house for God and God's *ecclesia* will be built at Virginia Theological Seminary in time; but for now, faith will sustain, and the transforming power of worship will go on. Thanks be to God for that!

Copied with permission from *Pray Tell* blog at www.praytellig.org.)

WOMEN ORGANIZED RESOURCES FOR LIBERIA'S DEVELOPMENT, INC.

W.O.R.L.D, INC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2010

19TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:30 AM

FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON: 12:30 PM

THEME: *Service Through Connecting and Networking-*

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

(Entrance at York Rd.) 419 CEDARCROFT ROAD

BALTIMORE, MD 21212

DONATION: \$20.00 each

Children under 12: \$10.00

Menu

JOLLOF RICE	FRIED PLANTAIN
BAKED FISH	BAKED CHICKEN
STRINGS BEANS	DESSERT & DRINK

Contacts: Ameera Ballard 443-722-1509

Dr. Roseda Marshall-Ochillo 443-352-8851

Thank You

Mere words cannot convey the love and thanks we feel toward our Nativity family, past and present. You have been there to share our joys, comfort us in sorrow, and in just being our friends. We will miss you a lot. We especially wish to thank you for the lovely *Liturgy of Leave-Taking* on Sunday, October 24. Please continue to be there for each other in the days and years ahead as you have been there for us.

As we, literally, move onward to a new chapter in our lives, our memories of you will live on. We hope that we also stay in touch with each other. As an added note: be assured that we will still be attending *The Church of the Nativity*, albeit the one in Sarasota, FL. We already know that we will be welcomed there as Nativity here welcomes all who enter.

Our new address:
3690 Bonaventure Court
Sarasota, FL 34243-4801

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we travel onward.

Nancy, Vince & Gina Monti

Outreach Committee

Scheduled Activities



11/14-Shoeboxes for Seafarers Packing Party

11/15-Outreach Committee Meeting 7 p.m.

11/19 and 12/17-Feedmore Fridays- 5:30-7:30 p.m. on van

11/21-Outreach Coffee Hour— an explanation of the volunteer opportunities at organizations mainstreaming the homeless

12/5-Ascension Homes Christmas Party



For the Christmas Party for Ascension Homes on December 5th.

Eight (8) volunteers needed

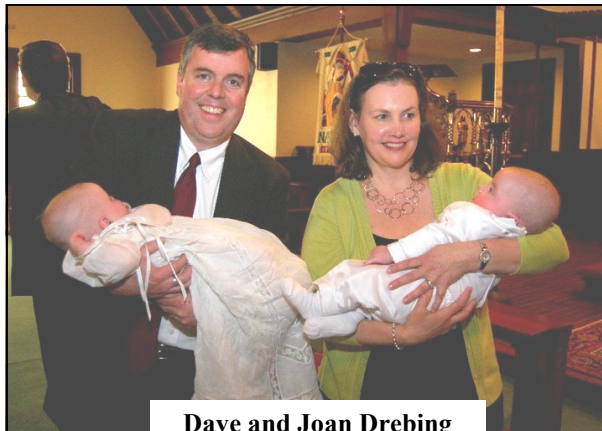
12/18-Sandwich Saturdays For the homeless

Please contact Frank Russell for any questions, concerns or to volunteer.

410-433-1234

russellfb@gmail.com

Baptisms at Nativity



**Dave and Joan Drebing
And Emma and Ryan**



**Matt and Tricia Anderson
And Lily**



**PENTECOST/
ADVENT
November 2010**

The mission of the Church of the Nativity is to faithfully love and serve Jesus Christ by embracing all people through worship, outreach, and fellowship in His name.



**Remember our
Nativity members who
are home-bound or
in health care facili-
ties :**

The Chimes
Georgie Berberich

Edenwald
Josephine Disney

***Genesis Health Care
Center***
Betty Hall

Fairhaven
The Rev. Fred Hanna

Trinity House
Eileen Magaha
Stella Maris
Peggy Tice

Active Day at Parkville
Stephanie Yateman

Shut-ins at Home
Charles Clayton
Lovejoy Clayton
Chuck Dunn
Mae Hofmann
Rachel Marshall
Helen Whiteman
Isabel Wilner

THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, CEDARCROFT
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED