

Glad Tidings

Easter

April 2005

The Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft
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Jo Ann Miller
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CLASS OF 2006

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Alleluia, Christ is risen! I pray that each of you has a blessed Eastertide. As I write this epistle, I have been awaiting the arrival of our second grandchild. Actually, that is why this edition of *Glad Tidings* is late. I have been waiting to make a grand announcement. My apologies to Bob and Amy for holding them up. But, I am pleased to announce that Katherine Seabrook deForest was born at 6:24 p.m. on April 2, 2005. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 ozs., and she is 19 inches long. Needless to say, her grandparents think she is absolutely gorgeous. Suzie, her Mom, is doing well also after giving birth in less than two hours with no meds.

Every year at Easter we are aware of the new life that each of us has in Jesus Christ. However, this year I am even more aware of new life. In addition to having a new granddaughter, on the nineteenth of March Pati and I were blessed with a new daughter-in-law. Our son Patrick and Sally Smith were married at Nativity. For those of you who don't know her, Sally is the daughter of our own Lee and Betsy Smith. When we moved to Baltimore four and a half years ago, we immediately became close to Betsy and Lee. Little did we know that we would become permanently linked together through the marriage of our children. Pati and I are blessed to have Sally as our daughter-in-law, and we pray that they may grow in their love and devotion to one another over the years to come.

Most of us become most profoundly aware of the love of the risen Christ through the love that we feel from other people at critical moments in our lives. Through the joys, and sometimes the tragedies, of our lives, people reach out to us and we become aware that, if the people of God love us, then God must love us, too. At this time, John, Suzie, little Katie, Sally, Pat, Lee, Betsy, Pati, and I feel the love and support of this wonderful congregation. For this, we are eternally grateful. However, we now have the opportunity to reach out to another group of people who need to feel our love and support and who may not have their own faith community. On Sunday, April 24th, at the 10:30 a.m. service, Nativity will officially become a "Partners in Care" congregation with the Maryland National Guard. Chaplain (Col.) William Sean Lee will preach and will welcome us as "Partners in Care." Also in attendance will be the Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard and some soldiers and family members of those serving in the Guard.

This is a pilot program that will offer care to Guard members and/or their families during these difficult times. We will promise to care for anyone who comes to us regardless of race, creed, religion, etc. The Guard is very excited about the potential for this program. There may be members of the media in attendance to call attention to this joint effort. It will also give us an opportunity to show the world what a loving, compassionate place the Church of the Nativity is. Our worship that day will honor those who sacrifice to defend our freedoms. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. It is my prayer that our guests will be overwhelmed by the love and support they feel on a day that is dedicated to welcoming and embracing those that God may send to us. May those who join us on that morning, and in the future, also experience the joy of the risen Christ among us.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Tom+

An Easter Message from the Presiding Bishop

Jesus' resurrection plays havoc with the known, the safe, the familiar, the predictable and opens the way for what is real. And what is real is the unbounded and death-defying love of God which overcomes all estrangement and division and overleaps the chasms between life and death. It is an enduring and tenacious love that embraces all things turning death into life, sorrow into joy, suffering into hope, and bondage into freedom. As we celebrate the Easter feast, may the same love that raised Christ from the dead raise us up in the full freedom of the Spirit to be agents and ministers of God's reality and hope to a world which cries out for healing and repair.

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church, USA

*Al-Masih Qam—Hakkan Qam!**

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

We share with you greetings of Easter joy from the place of the Resurrection!

"I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said. Through the life-giving grace of the new life in Christ we all live and move and have our being. God's mighty act is at once a victory over sin and death and a triumph over all that binds humankind. Yet the first century shouts of "Hosanna!," the urgent pleas to Jesus from those who lined the road into Jerusalem to "free us now," are still echoed by the prayers of those who continue to suffer here. The pain of oppression is as real now as it ever was in this Holy Land. Our joy may give us confidence that we can always trust in God's ultimate sovereignty, but in the meantime the failings of ordinary men and women create the weight of injustice.

The renewed peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians have rekindled a spark of optimism that people might live in true peace in this land where so many have died, and so many more have lost land and hope and future. Yet there is little rejoicing.

The "Separation Wall" continues its way to completion around Bethlehem and its neighbors. It serves not only as a prison barricade for the Palestinians who live under its all-seeing eye, but also as a gargantuan obstacle to a just peace. The people of Jalame and Bardale and Jayyous watch as more and more of their land is taken. The people of Beit Hanina and Ramallah are cut off a little more each day from their neighbors. It is apparent that the promised freedom of movement for

residents of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is circumscribed in reality by fences, roadblocks, and Israeli soldiers barely out of high school wielding automatic weapons. As has happened so often in the past, peace talks and negotiations divert the world's attention from the on-going building of new illegal Israeli settlements and the appropriation of Palestinian land and rights.

So how is it that we send greetings of Easter joy from a place where darkness seems to be all around us?

We can only answer that God's light shines the brightest in the overwhelming darkness of human sin and oppression. On the first Easter morning the women who loved Jesus walked to his tomb in the shadow of both the city wall and the Roman occupiers. They came only to offer a last measure of respect and mourning. They came in fear and in sorrow. They expected to find armed soldiers or, at the very least, a heavy stone blocking their way to the one they had loved. Yet they found not death, but life! Not despair, but joy! They came to anoint a body. They ran from the tomb to tell everyone they encountered that God had prevailed.

It is exactly that truth that lays the ground for our joy. And it is our trust in the bringer of joy—the Christ of Easter—that leads us to know that God is not defeated by mortal deeds. We rejoice in the fact that God has commissioned all of us to follow the women who ran from the empty tomb to spread the news of God's victory. We are strengthened by the hope that you will commit yourselves to speak and act against injustice in all its forms—and that you will join us in proclaiming the Good News that life is not found in oppression or human might ... that life is not found in one's self-proclaimed superiority ... that walls and tears do not bring peace. God has caused light to shine in *our* darkness, "... and the life was the light of all people." [John 1: 4b]

Al-Masih Qam—Hakkan Qam!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

(*traditional Arabic greeting of local Christians shared during Eastertide)

Rev. Alex and Brenda Awad, Janet Lewis, and Rev. Sandra Olewine, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church; **Douglas Dicks**, Presbyterian Church (USA); **Nancy Dinsmore**, Development Officer, Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; **Holly and Allyn Dhynes, Kathy Kamphoefner, and Paul Pierce**, Quakers; **Rev. Russell Siler**, pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Jerusalem; **Rev. Glenn Edward Witmer**, Northern American Mennonite Churches, Jerusalem; **Andrew Willis**, Missionary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft



Shopping at “The Nordstrom of Pigtown”

Professional Clothing Drive

Michelle needed dress clothes for interviews for telemarketing and receptionist jobs, but didn't have the money she needed for a retail shopping trip. Instead, she went “shopping” at “The Nordstrom of Pigtown”—Paul's Place's second floor Clothing Bank. There she found exactly what she needed, even picking up costume jewelry and shoes. “This really built my self-esteem,” she said. She also shops for her five children and five grandchildren at the Clothing Bank, and several of her children volunteer there.

The Clothing Bank provides free clothes, as well as household goods, linens, toiletries, infant supplies, books, toys, and other basic items to those in need. There were 2,586 shopping trips in 2004.

Women shop at the Clothing Bank for one hour on Wednesdays, and men shop there for an hour on Thursdays, after which they can go downstairs for a hot lunch.

A recent tragedy demonstrates the importance of the Clothing Bank to the community. A Paul's Place client, who was also a volunteer, died in a traffic accident. He was laid to rest in a suit obtained from the Clothing Bank. His brother shopped there for a suit to wear to the funeral.

Men's clothing is always in short supply, with donations of new men's underwear, socks, sneakers, new or gently used men's casual clothes, jeans, and work boots very much appreciated. Men's and women's clothes should be bagged separately.

To make a donation, contact Katie Sheffield, Director of Programs, at 410-625-0775.

Outreach News

Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network. The official network launch date is June 1, 2005! What can we provide to be ready for that date?

- Volunteer as Nativity Coordinator or helper. If you feel called to this ministry, please speak with Father Carter.
- Donate equipment. See list below.
- Learn more about it. Attend an information meeting on April 11, 2005, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at All Saints Lutheran Church, 4215 Loch Raven Boulevard.
- Participate in volunteer training. Reserve May 9-10 on your calendar (more details to follow).

Upcoming May Events

- Epiphany House activities and dinner. Keyboard? Guitar? Another portable instrument? We are looking for musicians who could accompany Nativity singers as we lead a sing-a-long at Epiphany House in May.
- Episcopal Community Services of Maryland (ECSM). Extra Mile Walk in Collington Square
- “CARES” collection on Sunday, May 15th

By Debby Tupper



Interfaith Hospitality Network

*Let me find shelter under the refuge of your wings...
Psalm 61:4*

Did you know? In a typical Interfaith Hospitality Network, half of the guests are children, most of whom are under six years of age.

What are host congregations? Host congregations furnish space for the families to sleep, relax, socialize, do homework, or watch television. Guests arrive at 5:30 p.m. and are provided dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch. In the morning, guests return to the day center located next to All Saints Lutheran Church on Loch Raven Blvd. From there children go to school, and adult guests go to work, train for jobs, or look for housing.

Congregations become temporary homes in which families are treated as guests, and individuals are accepted as they are. In this environment, guests are able to maintain their dignity. The kindness of hosts helps to diminish the hurt of homelessness, and both volunteers and guests grow and learn from one another.

What services do volunteers provide? Cooking and serving meals, playing with children or helping them with their homework, and interacting with guests with respect and compassion.

What items might host congregations wish for to do this ministry? Alarm clocks, Baby food and feeding items, Books, Booster seats, Cleaning supplies, including bleach, Crib and crib linens, Coloring books and crayons, Diapers and wipes, First aid kit, Games and toys, High chairs, Infant bathtub, soap, and shampoo, Lunch and sandwich bags, Papers, pencils, pens, Snacks and staples, TV/VCR and videos, Tissues, Toiletries.

Washington National Cathedral Spring Events



Sue Monk Kidd

Wednesday, April 13,
7:30 p.m. Lecture

**The Illuminating
Black Madonna**

Come see a kaleidoscope of 20 of Kidd's favorite images that she says help us "re-examine, re-think and rename a picture of God that includes the feminine."

"What we honor in God is what we honor in the culture," says Kidd. "That impacts how little girls think of themselves, how grown-up women value themselves, and how the culture values things typically thought of as feminine, such as the heart."

In her novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, Kidd features a powerful symbol in the Black Madonna—a symbol of "outrage and boldness for those who are left out," of "the nurturing heart of God," and, because she is descended from ancient earth mother goddesses, of the idea that our bodies and the earth "are sacred and holy."

In addition to feminist theology, Kidd has also written *God's Joyful Surprise* and *When the Heart Waits*. Her latest book, *The Mermaid Chair*, is to be available in bookstores on April 5, 2005.



Ched Myers

Wednesday, April 27,
7:30 p.m. Lecture

**From Country Road
to Mean Streets**

The story of Christ appearing incognito to two disciples on the road to Emmaus is a familiar, almost sentimental one to anyone brought up in the church. But come watch what happens when a social

justice theologian takes a closer read.

Ched Myers will show a famous 19th century painting of three men on a country road, with a backlit sky at sunset—then a photo of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., lying dead on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis in 1968.

"The context for this story is far more like what might've been experienced by Dr. King's lieutenants 24 hours after he was assassinated than like a nice stroll through the park," Myers says.

Myers takes the Bible "out of Disneyland, some world unlike our own," and instead shows it is "like our own, where there are tyrants, political revolution, terrorism.

After the last election many people ended up with those disciples on the road, "perplexed about the role of faith, politics, passion, and values." Myers will meet participants there with a message of purpose and hope.

Registration for these events may be done online at

www.nationalcathedral.org/register

(credit card orders only). Tickets for the Kidd and the Myers lectures are regularly \$15 each, with special prices of \$13 and \$8 for National Cathedral Association members and student/senior/limited income persons, respectively.

Come consider how the circumstances of our lives relate to much larger realities—ranging from archetypes to pop music, ancient icons to poverty.

Nativity Book Club



Harper Lee sets her first and only novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama. It is 1930 and the South, like the rest of the country, is reeling under economic constraints caused by the Great Depression.

Tempers and frustrations in the small town are further ignited by the unthinkable: the rape of a white woman by a young black man. Harsh criticism, racist comments, and threats against his family cannot deter lawyer Atticus Finch, a man whose deep-seated beliefs in justice for all force him to defend the accused. In doing so, Finch's actions expose the bigotry and racism of his fellow townspeople.

We'll gather at the Coxes on Sunday, April 17th, at 2:30 p.m. Pat Brain has kindly offered to present this classic American novel that won the Pulitzer Prize.

Many thanks to Pat for providing us with a tasty, hearty meal at our last meeting. (Harry's cousin Dudley would certainly have approved!) Betty Hall ably presented Harry Potter and *The Order of the Phoenix* (we are wild about Harry!).

The Book Club extends our sympathies to Thelma Crispell whose sister Grace passed away recently.

How nice it was to have Nancy Monti with us in March.

By Judith Cox

Read-a-Thon

Baltimore has the highest illiteracy rate in Maryland. Fundraising in support of the Ripken Adult Learning Center is ongoing. For more information, go to <http://www.baltimorereads.org/>.

Thank You

Dear Brethern:

Lenten greetings. My trip back to Liberia was very successful. I met my Wife and Parish family very well. They remain grateful to God for embracing me and demonstrating love to me in every way while I was with you. My recovery is improving. It is only taking time for the pain to go away totally.

My parish family is excited for the sister church relationship established. The Youth are also extremely grateful that they are with Nativity youth. I pray for more cordial relationship in our affiliation.

My heartfelt thanks to the Ochillos, Father and Mother Carter, and the entire Nativity Family for being a blessing to me while I was with you. I truly miss you all and look forward to being with you again. My Wife and parish family extend their love.

May the Good Lord keep us bonded together as we work in His vineyard.

Yours in His service,

A-Too Williams
Rector, St. Stephen Episcopal
Church, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
Monrovia, Liberia



Congratulations
to

Patrick Arnold Carter
and
Sarah Elizabeth Smith

Who were united in holy matrimony on March 19, 2005, at the Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft.

May they grow in their love and devotion to one another over the years to come.

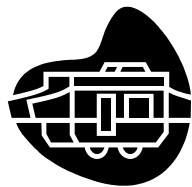
Doug Knowles Retires

News flash.... I have been offered the VSIP (Voluntary Separation Incentive Program) retirement bonus to retire in the next 1-2 months, and I am going to accept it. It will mean doing with some less \$ per month, but all should go well. My last day was **April 1. How fitting!**



The first thing I want to do is head south to do some over-do visiting. First stop is Mayport Naval Base to visit with Henry Russell. Then I'll drive south to Tampa, Florida, to visit my old friend Paul, walk the beaches, and so some serious chillin'. Next is my brother Jon who lives in Boca Raton, Florida.

After coming home for a month, I am going off on a trek about the West. I will hitch my camper (Coleman pop-up type) and drive down through the South toward southern Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, and then up to Alaska, North by Northwest!!!! I plan to camp or sleep in my truck along the way. National forests have a policy called Dispersed Camping, allowing one to drive off the road up to 100 yards and camp, unless otherwise prohibited. So I could find a remote area and chill for 2 weeks at a time, at no cost, or need for a permit, except for a fire. I can smell the forests now!!!



At the present I do not plan to go out and get another job, but I probably will with the state of Maryland if I do get a job at all. Or, maybe I will operate a fixitman business, fixing the faucets and switches, etc., for all the klutzes around the town. I would like that. More as time comes close to leave. I will still have the fixitman98@yahoo.com email address, but not the Army one.



By Doug Knowles, Sr.

Saints & Sinners Fellowship Group

American Indian Museum
Washington, DC



April 30, 2005
(Details to come.)



John and Suzie deForest with newborn Katherine (Katie) Seabrook deForest, born on April 2, 2005.

Urban Women's Day at Claggett

Saturday, April 16, 2005

Women from Baltimore and beyond will look at how they intersect with God and each other while exploring the connections of their ministries in urban environments.

- Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Speaker: Rev. Flo Ledyard, Rector, St. Bartholomew's
- Chaplain: Rev. Mary Fish Walton, Deacon, Old St. Paul's

\$30 includes Saturday lunch, program, and bus transportation.

Bereavement Series at Mercy Medical Center

Pastoral Care Department, 301 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

Beginning Monday, April 11, 2005, the Pastoral Care Department at Mercy Medical Center will present a series of 7 group sessions that focus on emotional and spiritual feelings, along with the physical symptoms that follow the death of a loved one. The sessions and shared experiences will deal with awareness, coping, and enrichment of those experiencing grief and loss.

Seven Mondays: April 11, April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Care Conference Room
Pastoral Care Office, Main Floor, South Building by the Chapel

Fee: \$70.00 for the series (payable to Mercy Medical Center, Pastoral Care Dept.)

Registration: Telephone Brenda Hannon at 410-659-2875

Condolences

The sympathy and love of the parish are extended to the friends and family of Margaret Helen Mackie who departed this life on March 20, 2005. She is remembered as a friend of the parish and as the person who provided Black and Decker products to raffle at the Parish June Fair.

The sympathy and love of the parish are extended to the friends and family of Mary Grace Williams who departed this life on March 10, 2005. She was the sister of our Thelma Crispell, who just recently lost another sister.

Sacred Oceans and Seas

Earth Day Sunday—April 24, 2005

The 35th anniversary observance of Earth Day focuses year-round care for God's creation, the mission of the Environmental Stewardship ministries based at the Episcopal Church Center, New York. "Each year we dedicate one Sunday for creation stewardship and the Earth Day celebration. The emphasis this year is on God's sacred oceans and seas. ... Thanking and praising God for the beauty of God's creation are an essential part of our ongoing faith journey and worship experience."

From the Episcopal News Service, April 4, 2005

Knitters and Chefs

The Church of the Nativity has members with many talents and a great devotion to the church, especially in support of the Forward in Faith Campaign.

Have you seen the beautiful, stylish scarves currently for sale?

Three women—Leona Carter, Jo Ann Miller, and Mary Beth Willett—are taking



orders and sharing the knitting. The scarves are available in a number of colors and can be purchased for \$15.00 apiece. The lighter colors are suitable for summer weather, and of course all colors are appropriate for winter fashion accessories.

With Mother's Day just around the corner, you may want to purchase several as gifts. Proceeds go to benefit the Forward in Faith Campaign.

Did you dine with the Dowdings?

Nativity also has Gourmet Chefs who have already opened their home and hearts



to those seeking a dinner out that would benefit the Forward in Faith Campaign. During Lent, Samuel and Margaret Dowding planned different weekly menus for their guests, who came away feeling that they had just been pampered and served with an elegance rarely seen except in the finest world-class restaurants. This project raised approximately \$500.

As we each assess our talents and gifts, we might think about what we can do to further this campaign to make our church truly a welcoming community. These two projects serve as an inspiration and an example of just what can be done when there is love in our hearts.

Hidden Message Word Search Puzzle

F O P E C I O J E R A O R W R
E A R I L A E P P A C R D I O
N V F G H G N I M O C L E W T
A I I T A S Y R T S E V N T A
S H K L C N W T O U S G O B V
O M R E A E S O S T S H I U E
U H O S P I T A L I T Y T I L
T F W O E R B I C L R A I L E
R A T C R I A S H R E C D D D
E M E W L T U I O C I F D I I
A I N I N C S V S T R F A N V
C L T R O T C E R E E A I G I
H Y H F U E N T R A N C E C N
F X Y R T S I N I M A E T X E
E V O R P M I S R E Y A R P W

ACCESS

APPEAL

DIVINE

FAMILY

HOSPITALITY

NETWORK

PRAISE

REJOICE

TEAM

WELCOMING

ADDITION

ARCHITECT

ELEVATOR

FELLOWSHIP

IMPROVE

ORGAN

PRAYERS

RESTROOMS

USABILITY

YAC

ALIVE

BUILDING

ENTRANCE

FOCUS

MINISTRY

OUTREACH

RECTOR

SACRIFICE

VESTRY

CHURCH LAW & TAX REPORT

2005 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS — WHAT EVERY CHURCH MEMBER NEEDS TO KNOW

In general, the tax law encourages charitable contributions by making them tax-deductible if certain conditions are met. It is important for church members to be familiar with these conditions. Some of them are summarized below.

Personal services. The value of personal services is never deductible as a charitable contribution, but unreimbursed expenses incurred in performing services on behalf of a church or other charity may be. For 2005 you can use a “standard mileage rate” of 14 cents to compute a deduction for any miles you drive in performing services for your church (pending legislation may increase this rate). Be sure to maintain accurate records.

- *Example. John is an electrician. He donates 10 hours of his time to a church construction project. He cannot deduct the value of his donated labor.*
- *Example. Several members of a church go on a short-term missions project to another country. The value of their labor is not deductible, but they can deduct their unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, meals, lodging) incurred in performing their project.*

Year of contribution. Charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered. One exception is a check that is mailed to a charity—it is deductible in the year the check is mailed (and postmarked), even if it is received early in the next year.

- *Example. Mary writes a check to her church on the last day of December in Year A and deposits it in the church offering during the first worship service in Year B. The check is deductible in Year B.*
- *Example. Same facts as the previous example, except Mary mails (and postmarks) her check in Year A. The check is deductible in Year A even if the church does not receive it until Year B.*

If the donor receives a benefit. Charitable contributions generally are deductible only to the extent they exceed the value of any premium or benefit received by the donor in return for the contribution.

Amount of deduction. There are limits on the amount of a contribution that can be deducted. A contribution deduction ordinarily cannot exceed 50 percent of a donor’s adjusted gross income (a 30 percent rule applies in some cases). Donors who exceed these limits may be able to “carry over” their excess contributions and deduct them in future years.

Designated contributions. “Designated contributions” are those that are made to a church for a specified purpose. If the purpose is an approved *project* or *program* of the church, the designation will not affect the deductibility of the contribution. An example is a contribution to

a church building fund. However, if a donor’s contribution specifies that it be spent on a designated *individual*, then no deduction is allowed unless the church exercises full control over the donated funds. “Designated contributions” that ordinarily are not deductible include contributions to a church benevolence fund or scholarship fund that designate a *specific individual*. However, contributions to a church or missions agency that specify a particular missionary may be tax-deductible if the church or missions agency exercises full administrative and accounting control over the contributions and ensures that they are spent in furtherance of the church’s mission.

- *Example. A church member donates \$200 to the church, and instructs the church treasurer to give the \$200 to a specified needy family in the church. This contribution is not tax-deductible by the donor.*
- *Example. A church member donates \$200 to a denominational missions agency, and specifies a particular missionary as the recipient. This contribution is tax-deductible, even though it names a missionary, so long as the mission agency has full administrative and accounting control over the funds.*
- *Example. A church member donates \$100 to a church benevolence fund. No specific recipient is designated. The contribution is tax-deductible.*

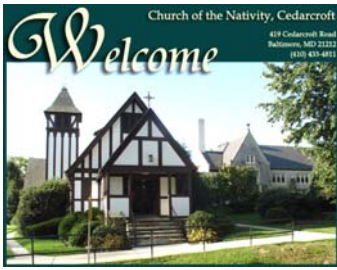
Substantiation. Charitable contributions must be properly substantiated in order to be tax-deductible. If you deduct your charitable contributions on your income tax return, be aware of the following points:

- *Canceled checks cannot be used to substantiate individual cash contributions of \$250 or more. You must receive a written receipt from your church that satisfies a number of requirements. In general, the receipt must indicate whether or not the donor received goods or services for such contributions (and if so, the value of the goods or services received). If the donor received no goods or services for the contributions, then the receipt must say so or indicate that only “intangible religious benefits” were received.*
- *If you’ve made individual contributions of \$250 or more, don’t file your federal income tax return until you receive a contribution statement from your church that satisfies these requirements. Otherwise, your contributions may not be deductible.*

If you make a contribution of noncash property to your church valued at \$500 or more, some other special substantiation rules apply (see the instructions to IRS Form 8283). If the value is more than \$5,000, then you must obtain a qualified appraisal of the property and attach an “appraisal summary” (IRS Form 8283) to the tax return on which the contribution is claimed. Some exceptions apply.

By Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA

About the author: A graduate of Harvard Law School, an attorney, and certified public accountant specializing in legal and tax issues for churches and clergy. From <http://www.miamipresbytery.org/firstmonday/Feb%2005%20FM%20Online.pdf>



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.

Campaign update:

We thank all those who are prayerfully responding to the campaign with their pledges.



**Easter
April 2005**

Forward in Faith

Gracious heavenly Father,

You welcome all who come to you, and you have called us to welcome all people of this community in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Guide us with your Holy Spirit in this campaign to renovate and expand our facilities so that all may have equal access, and that no one may feel outside the embrace of your love.

Grant us the joy of hearts that are ever generous and a spirit of love and self-sacrifice that reflects your love for us.

Instill in us the will and the courage to move Forward in Faith to your honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, CEDARCROFT
419 CEDARCROFT ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21212-2599

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED