

# Glad Tidings

Lent

March 2006

The Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft  
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## *Vestry*

### CLASS OF 2006

Neal Baroody  
David Drebing  
Amy Heffernan

### CLASS OF 2007

Amanda Cunningham  
David B. Daniel  
Justin Dowding

### CLASS OF 2008

Jo Ann Brooks  
Margaret Dowding  
Vincent Monti

## *Officers*

Douglas E. Vaughan  
*Senior Warden/Treasurer*  
Leslie W. Smith  
*Junior Warden*  
Alice E. B. Smith  
*Registrar*  
George T. Tyler III  
*Chancellor*  
John T. Starr  
*Senior Warden Emeritus*

## *Staff*

The Rev. Thomas B. Carter  
*Rector*  
Wallington Hankerson, Jr.  
*Director of Music*  
Llewellyn E. Jones III  
*Christian Education Director*

The time has finally arrived! Sometime in March we will begin our long-awaited project to make our facilities accessible to anyone that comes through the door. When we have completed the project everyone, whether member or guest, will be able to join us for worship and fellowship. We will have a new elevator to connect the vestibule with the second floor. The restrooms will be larger and completely accessible, and the offices will be reconfigured to make room for the above components. The construction should begin sometime in March and last until late September or early October. This is truly an exciting time in the life of the Church of the Nativity.

Some of you may be saying, "I thought we were in a budget crisis." Well, that is correct. Our operating budget has been stretched, and it necessitated making some drastic changes. In order to bring our budget close to balancing, 18 of the 32 line items were cut, I refused a pay raise that I was scheduled to receive, and we were forced to cut the parish secretary's job from full-time to half-time. All of those decisions were very difficult. Most of all, I grieve that Beth determined that she was not able to remain with us in the part-time position. That being said, I am very proud of the members of our vestry. No one wanted to make the hard choices that were necessary. The decisions were not made lightly. They were made as compassionately as possible under the circumstances.

Now, what you need to know is that several people who had not pledged have made pledges. Others have increased their pledge. With the combination of those pledges and the cuts that were made, we are now looking at a deficit for the year of approximately \$7,000. That number is more manageable.

As far as the capital campaign is concerned, those monies are separate from the operating budget and the endowment fund. Our project is on target. We have pledges and bequests that reflect the amount of the project, and the operating budget concerns will not impact this project. The people of Nativity have given generously, and we will be able to fulfill our dream of accessibility for all. Some of you have expressed concern that we shouldn't proceed, given our present budget situation. Please know that your vestry has done what is necessary to ensure the fiscal viability of the parish, and all of you are doing what is necessary to fulfill our dream.

We will all need to be patient. It will be very trying at times over the next few weeks and months as we move furniture from the offices to other locations in the building to make room for construction. We will also find it necessary to enter and leave the church from Cedarcroft Road while the link between our two buildings is demolished and then reconstructed. Please keep your church family in your prayers as we tackle the challenges of construction together.

I promised our 96-year-old Senior Warden Emeritus, Mr. John Starr, that I would come pick him up in Annapolis when we dedicate the elevator and additions. He said that he wanted to ride up on the elevator with Priscilla Vaughan (his former Sunday School student) so that they could join the rest of us on the second floor for the dedication. Exciting things are happening. Thanks be to God for your love and devotion to our beloved church.

Tom+

## What Is Lent?

**L**ent is a 40-day period associated with repentance that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. However, whether we repent, fast, give something up, take something on, pray, or meditate, Lent is essentially a nice chunk of time which we might use to get a little closer to God. Some Lenten basics follow.

The word “Lent” conjures up a variety of images and feelings, often from childhood memories of being required to “keep a holy Lent.” This generally meant no feasting, no parties, no fun; for some it also meant going to confession and fasting on certain days of the week.

The word “lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton*, referring to the springtime of the year when the days grow longer and warmer and brighter. It is during the weeks of Lent that (at least spiritually) we begin to emerge from our protective winter burrows, to stretch our legs and sniff the air for new signs of life.

In the early church, Lent began as a period of intense preparation for the baptisms that would be celebrated on Easter, and eventually settled into a period of forty days (not counting Sundays, which are feast days, and not considered part of the Lenten fast).

This time of preparation for baptism became known as the *catechumenate*, from the Greek word for catechism, meaning to hear and instruct. Lent is now associated with Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness and his suffering and death at Passover. This association developed over time.

### Fasting

One tradition many of us grew up with is the custom of “giving up” something for Lent—like chocolate or alcohol or sweets. This modified fast is rooted in the very early Jewish and Christian practice of fasting on certain days of the week and throughout the year.

In some places, especially in the desert and medieval monastic communities, Lent was indeed kept as a forty-day fast, though acceptance of the practice in parishes seems not to have been widespread even then. In the Middle Ages, the keeping of a Lenten fast became associated with Jesus’ forty-day fast in the desert following his baptism.

Today the church encourages us to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday during Lent, and many find this way of expressing their Lenten devotion through their bodies very helpful for cleansing their mind and focusing their soul.

### Taking Something On

Another approach is to “take on” a spiritual discipline or practices. Some find it is not what they eat or drink that is separating them from God, but their lack of time spent in prayer or study, their neglect of worship, their self-centeredness in relationships, or the ways they spend time or money or energy.

For them, making a commitment to spend a half-hour a day in prayer, or to attend a Bible study once a week, or to devote an evening or weekend to doing something special for a friend or spouse, or to take a meal to a homeless shelter, can be a useful Lenten discipline. Lent can thus be a time for clearing away those things that stand in the way to a vibrant spiritual life.

### A Spiritual Check-Up

A friend of mine thinks of Lent as an annual spiritual check-up. He visits his doctor once a year to check on the state of his body: he rejoices in the ways it is healthy and he learns what steps he needs to take to repair those parts that need some medical attention or a little exercise.

In the same way, during lent we as individual Christians and as a church—the Body of Christ—consider our spiritual health. How are we living the gospel in our lives, our homes, our churches, our towns, our schools, our places of work? What areas of growth or signs of renewal should we celebrate with gratitude and joy? In what ways have we fallen short, grown stagnant or cold-hearted, or failed to love God by embracing new life when we encounter it? These are the kinds of questions we ask of ourselves during Lent.

By Vicky K. Black, Episcopal deacon living in Bethesda, Maryland, from her book *Welcome to the Church Year*, Morehouse Publishing, 2004. Posted on Trinity News, February 3, 2005 (<http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/resources/article.php?id=677>)

### Nativity’s Lenten Program Book

**I**f you want “to take something on” as part of your Lenten observance, plan to attend the dinners and program that start **Thursday, March 9**. This year’s Lenten program is based on the C. S. Lewis book *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. If you would like to purchase a copy at the discounted price of \$5.24 available to the Church, please let me know. You may get hooked on C. S. Lewis and want him to be a part of your own personal library!

— Pat B. Carter



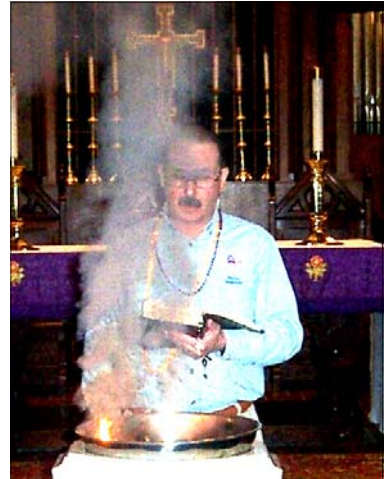
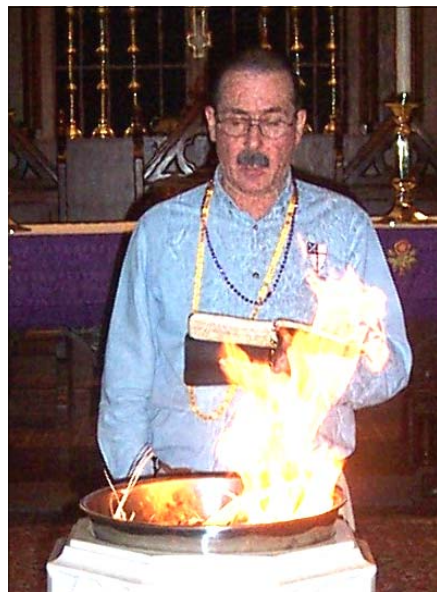
Mardi  
Gras



Farewell  
to the  
Alleluias



Church of the  
Nativity, Cedarcroft





## Nativity Outreach

### Nativity Host Week Is Almost Here!

Nativity's first week to host families overnight in the parish building begins on Sunday evening, March 12, and goes through Sunday morning, March 19. Father Tom has arranged for four large tents to be set up in the Great Hall. The tents will be the families' own private space for their week as our guests. There are a few volunteer spaces still open for meal prep and host, evening host (7-9 p.m.), and overnight (the easiest job!). If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact Julia (410-302-3288 or [jvandewille@earthlink.net](mailto:jvandewille@earthlink.net)).



### Volunteer Training

A very successful volunteer training session took place on Tuesday, February 21, at Nativity. It was very well attended, with over 40 people, mostly from Nativity and our buddy congregation, St. Pius. Volunteers are required to attend a training session at least by our second rotation at hosting. The next training is as follows:

#### March 30: Volunteer Training

6-9 p.m. at Day Center, 4213 Loch Raven Blvd.

This training session is open to all volunteers that have not yet been trained. If you are interested, please send an RSVP to Julia at 410-302-3288 or [jvandewille@earthlink.net](mailto:jvandewille@earthlink.net) or to Allie at 410-235-2111 or [allie.pearlman@baltimoreihn.org](mailto:allie.pearlman@baltimoreihn.org).



### Other Ways We Can Help

**FURNITURE:** One of our families will be moving into housing in the next few weeks and has need of the following items: tables, lamps, beds, curtains (black or red), carpet, blankets, sheets, pillows, chairs, silverware, cups/glasses, plates, pots, living room set, towels, tv, stereo, dvd, or vcr. **If you have any of these items please let Julia know!**



### BIHN Shower

A great big thank-you to everyone who attended the shower and brought in "gifts." The support of the parish in this project is overwhelming. Thanks to Amy Norwood for the wonderful idea; to Pati & Tom Carter, Margaret Dowding, Julia Van De Wille, and Debby Tupper of the Outreach Committee for hosting the shower; and helpers Nancy Monti and Justin Dowding. (Left, pictures from the shower.)



## A Life in Faith / The Ministry of Music

**M**y middle sister Mary, named for our mother, is quite different from the other four of us. Formerly an elementary school teacher and married to a fellow teacher, she has always exhibited, in her special, quiet way, a flinty kind of independence.

Living most of her life in upstate New York, she raised her children in imaginative ways. Her house was always filled with arts and crafts projects, mostly in a state of construction on near completion. "Organized chaos," she called it, as she pushed aside the crayons and construction paper on the dining room table, always remembering to carefully close the paste jar.

Her next-door devotion to our mother and father was total and complete to the end, and her church life has always carried almost a daily responsibility. She will step up and run the church kitchen for the homeless. She has managed the gift shop, taught and schooled the acolytes—even carried the solid-brass processional cross on Sunday mornings at the 11:00 o'clock service—always at her beloved Grace Episcopal Church, Middletown, New York. As if all of that is not enough, saintly Mary's middle name is Martha.

The last eight years of her life have been filled with a true-grit battle against breast cancer. She ran the whole, ugly gauntlet: from radiation to chemotherapy to a complete mastectomy. And she ran it without complaint. Mary became gray and skeletal. She lost her hair. Her voice may have wavered, but I never heard her whimper. Sustained by her family and her church, she battled her way through the trauma of radical surgery and then went nonstop into rehabilitation.

Upon recovery, she and her husband, Satch, spent two months touring North America in a motor home and singing hymns. They must know 200 of them. She came back so strongly that we four siblings have taken to calling her by her baby name: she is, once again, known as "Mighty Mo." Returning from their earnest attempt to see the entire continent, Mary quietly resolved to pick up some of her church activities, including that of crucifer at Grace Church. She wanted to return to her friends in Christ, carrying the cross again. Her only concern was the solid-brass weight she would have to heft and carry. Satch was apprehensive and said so, but Mary's will was firm.

She assured everyone that she was capable, yet, as the choir formed in the rear of the church and she was joined by the taper bearers, she began to pray that the Lord would help her make it up the long center aisle. The organist chorded the opening bars of the processional hymn and Mary's eyes instantly widened. A joyous smile crossed her face as she picked up the cross and prepared to stride forward. Unknown to her—until that precise moment—was the fact that the hymn chosen for that Sunday morning was number 473:

***Lift High the Cross, the love of God proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.***

I'm sure you know by now that sister Mary Martha, "Mighty Mo," made it up the aisle triumphantly. And that's the precise word: triumphantly.

By John F. Waldron, Virginia Beach, Virginia,  
*The Anglican Digest*, Lent A.D. 2006, pages 22 and 23.

## The YAC Times

**H**ey, Nativity! YACs here.

We want to thank all those of you who purchased submarine sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday. The project was a great success!

YAC coordinator Justin Dowding has been elected to the Nativity Vestry to replace Jessica Knowles, who resigned when she became an Epiphany intern. Justin will serve until the next annual meeting.

## Baptisms

### Brayden Douglas Garrison

Date: February 5, 2006  
Parents: Michael Joseph & Robin Miller Garrison

### Graham Victor Dahle

Date: February 26, 2006  
Parents: Chris & Maureen Dahle (pronounced "Dale")

The family became members of the parish on the same date.

## Birth

### Luke Edward Daniel

Date: February 8, 2006  
Family: Parents David & Melissa Daniel; brother Evan  
Weight: 6 pounds, 14 ounces  
Length: 19¾ inches long

## Easter Lilies



**I**f you wish to place a lily on the Easter Altar, please contact the parish office. The cost is \$15 each, with the deadline on Sunday, April 9, 2006, for payment and memorial information.

## Church of England Disinvests from Companies Profiting from Occupation

As the parents of Rachel Corrie, 23-year-old American peace activist who was crushed and murdered by an Israeli soldier driving a Caterpillar bulldozer, are preparing to commemorate their daughter's murder with national demonstrations on March 16, 2006, the General Synod of the Church of England overwhelming voted in favor of divesting its £2.2 million shares from bulldozer manufacturer Caterpillar. The vote, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, sends a clear message to Caterpillar that profiting from human rights violations is not compatible with socially responsible business practice.

The General Synod of the Church of England voted yesterday evening (February 6, 2006) "to disinvest from companies profiting from the illegal occupation, such as Caterpillar Inc, until they change their policies." Caterpillar has been singled out by the United Nations for complicity in human rights abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In the past 5 years, Caterpillar has enabled the destruction of 4,170 Palestinian homes and the uprooting of more than one million olive trees. Caterpillar is also being used to build the Annexation Wall deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice in its July 2004 Advisory Opinion.

Our next **Peace Service** is on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. at The Mission Helper Center, corner of Joppa and Chestnut Street in Towson.

By Neal Baroody

## Desmond Tutu's Golden Anniversary

*Tobit 8:7-8: "Grant, O Lord, that Sarah and I may find mercy, and that we may grow old together." And they both said: "Amen, amen.")*

When Nomalizo Leah Shexane and Desmond Mpilo Tutu married in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Munsieville, outside Johannesburg, in 1955, they had every prospect of careers as schoolteachers stretching out ahead of them.

Leah was teaching at a local primary school, and the inspector said Desmond was on the fast track to an appointment as a secondary school principal.

Then the apartheid government forced on the country an inferior system of education for black South Africans. Neither of the Tutus could live with the idea of educating children for servitude, and they left teaching.

Leah chose nursing, left her children with her parents-in-law, and went to train at a remote rural hospital. Desmond decided to test his vocation as priest and went into single quarters at seminary for three years.

During the ensuing 10 years, after Desmond's ordination, he and Leah spent long periods separated from their children because of their desire to keep them out of the black education system. At the beginning of every school holiday, they drove hundreds of kilometers to Swaziland to fetch or drop the older children at school.

As apartheid intensified, it destroyed many institutions and places dear to the family. Townships, schools, homes, and colleges—even St. Mary's Church—were all either closed or razed because of government policy. There were death threats and attempts on Desmond's life, and Leah was abused and harassed by authorities.

Despite it all, their marriage triumphed, and on July 2, 2005, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Preaching at a Eucharist in Holy Cross Church near the Tutu's home in Soweto, Johannesburg, Bishop Michael Nuttall, who has become known as the bishop who was "Number Two to Tutu," summoned up his opening Old Testament reading: "God has been merciful to you both through all these years, with that 'enduring kindness' of which the psalms love to speak. What is more, you have been able to grow old together."

Noting the anniversary's proximity to the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the adoption of South Africa's Freedom Charter, he added: "Today, as you come to celebrate these fifty golden years and to renew your marriage vows (your personal freedom charter), you are saying like Sarah and Tobias 'Amen, Amen,' your 'yes,' and your 'thank you' for the blessings you have had."

Bishop Nuttall's words were underlined when the Tutu's youngest daughter, the Rev. Mpho Tutu Burris, led her parents in the renewal of their vows. When Leah was asked to repeat the words "for better, for worse," she departed from the text. With a little giggle, she said: "**For better and better.**"

By John Allen

[The writer is the author of *Rabblouser for Peace*, the authorized biography of Desmond Tutu, which is scheduled for publication by The Free Press in Autumn 2006]. From *The Anglican Digest*, Lent A.D. 2006, pages 57 and 58.

## Profiles of Nominees for Presiding Bishop

The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop has announced the names of those bishops it will place in nomination for election as 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The nominees' names will be formally submitted to the General Convention at a joint session on June 18, 2006, the day prior to the day appointed for the election by the House of Bishops. The bishop elected will succeed the 25th Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold III, whose 9-year term concludes later this year. The 26th Presiding Bishop will be installed November 4, 2006, at Washington National Cathedral. The nominees are the following:



### The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta.

He serves a diocese of 55,000 members in 93 congregations. A presenter at the 2005 meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council. Chair of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. Former professor at General Theological Seminary & taught at Yale and Drew. Former Lutheran pastor, author, married, aged 52.



### The Rt. Rev. Edwin Gulick, Jr., Bishop of Kentucky.

He serves a diocese of 10,66 active members in 36 congregations. Experienced in ecumenical and inter-religious relations, with appointment by Archbishop Carey to Anglican-Roman Catholic commission. Member Advisory Committee for College of Bishops. Member 2000 General Convention committee on questions on homosexuality. Married, aged 57.



### The Rt. Rev. Katharine J. Schori, Bishop of Nevada.

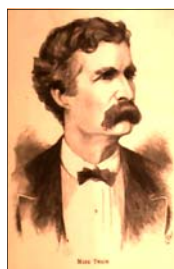
She serves a diocese of 6,000 members in 35 congregations. An oceanographer and active pilot. Ordained deacon & priest in 1994 and consecrated bishop in 2001. Member House of Bishops' pastoral development, racism, and planning committees & Court for Review & Trial of a Bishop. Member General Board of Examining Chaplains. Married, aged 51.



### The Rt. Rev. Henry Parsley, Jr., Bishop of Alabama.

He serves a diocese of 35,000 members in 92 churches & 8 campus ministries. M.Div. from General Theological Seminary in 1973 & studied at Oxford. Elected bishop coadjutor in 1996 and became diocesan bishop in 1999. Chair of Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development. ERD Board, Cur-sillo director, Sewanee Chancellor, married, aged 57.

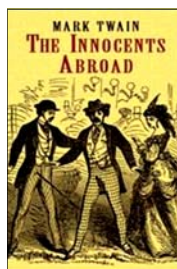
For more detailed biographies compiled by the Episcopal News Service:  
[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577\\_71139\\_ENG\\_Print.html](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_71139_ENG_Print.html).



## Nativity Book Club

*The Innocents Abroad*  
 By Mark Twain

Home of Dorothy Brown  
 April 2, 2006, at 2:30 p.m.



## "Stains on My Alb"

Spread like empty crucifix,  
 my alb rests not on the flat  
 space of sacristy preparation but  
 on white porcelain of a wash-day  
 tub.

Examine each part, observe stories  
 expressed. Mist gently, ablu-  
 tion for absolution.

Around the collar, uneven pattern  
 of stain, intense legacy of fune-  
 real paradox: grief and hope.

At each shoulder, beige joy  
 pressed by faces, darker red of  
 lips—a head buried in sorrow.

Around each cuff, rubbings:  
 wrists lifted high, tucked low,  
 repetitious offering.

At the front, small red splash, left  
 as trace of blood on a bandage.

Under each arm, warm scents of  
 labor, midwifery of liturgy and  
 word; honest toil of birthing  
 souls.

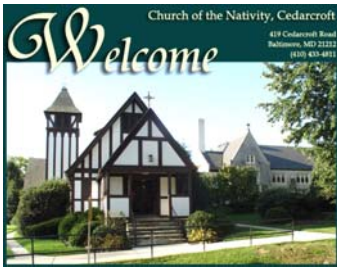
Along the sides, erasure from  
 smaller hands of children,  
 smudge of crayon tucked in tiny  
 hands at sacramental rail.

At the hem, dark trail, catch of  
 heels folded under, obeisance to  
 the mystery of reserved holiness.

The stains of my alb mix with the  
 water that dilutes and purifies all  
 outward signs of inward grace.

The palette fresh for the next  
 portrait: giving, sharing, holding,  
 letting go, lifting up, bowing low,  
 dance of vocation caught in the  
 mundane.

By the Rev. Anne Weatherholt,  
 St. Mark's, Boonsboro, Maryland;  
*The Anglican Digest*, Lent A.D. 2006,  
 page 50.



**T**he 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.

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### ***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.*



**Lent  
March 2006**

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