



# ST. MARK'S NEWS

January 2009

## **Contents:**

*A Word from our Rector*

*Bishop Howard*

*Altar Guild*

*DOK*

*Food Pantry*

*Library*

*Sunday School*

*Schedule of Ministries*

*UF Chapel*

## **Individual Highlights:**

*Special Occasion*

*Footnotes*

*Calendar*



Father Dennis O'Neill

## A Word or Two From Our Rector

Father Dennis and Marianne went on vacation to North Carolina after Christmas, and while there his mother took ill. She was hospitalized for surgery.

Then his younger brother had a serious incident. He was rushed to the hospital in Charlotte, apparently with a heart attack and seizures. He was placed in a drug-induced coma to stop the seizures because they were worried about brain damage. His mother is now home, but they are still waiting for the doctors to determine whether his brother will have a lengthy recovery.

Please keep Father Dennis, Marianne and the family in your prayers. We all know miracles can and still do happen.

(At this time, Father Dennis and Marianne are still in North Carolina)



## ST. MARK'S NEWS



**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard**  
**Bishop of Florida**

Trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund recently awarded the Episcopal Diocese of Florida a grant of \$225,000 for general operating support. According to Bishop John Howard, included is an opportunity for matching funds for which the diocese will be seeking contributions over the upcoming months.

"The Episcopal Diocese is grateful to the trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund for their generous support at a critical juncture in the life of the diocese," Bishop Howard said. "It represents the respect the trustees have for the important work we're doing in this community and we appreciate their investment in our efforts. Their investment allows the Diocese of Florida to carry on our long tradition of serving our churches and supporting their ministry.

"We accept the trustees' challenge for matching funds with eagerness and confidence that the Episcopal Diocese will find individual donors and other contributors willing to assist." To date, the diocese is two-thirds of the way toward meeting the match.

The bishop will meet with the Finance Committee and others to consider where the funds can be most helpful, assuring that the most pressing needs for rebuilding and advancing our capacity for ministry are prioritized and effectively addressed.

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund makes grants to more than 330 eligible organizations identified by Mrs. duPont in her will. The Episcopal Diocese of Florida is privileged to be one of them.



## CHURCH SEASONS AND SYMBOLS

Do you know what they are and what they mean?

### **EPIPHANY** – (from the Greek, "to show forth")

The Feast of Epiphany falls immovably on January 6. It is sometimes called Twelfth Day because it falls twelve days after Christmas and is the end of the Christmas season. Epiphany Commemorates the showing forth of Christ by a star to the Gentiles, the Magi or Wise Men, non-Jews. The message of Epiphany is to send the light of the Christian faith to those who are not of the Christian church throughout the world.

### **EPIPHANYTIDE** –

The Epiphany Season extends from January 6 to Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. It includes from one to six Sundays, according the earliness or lateness of Easter. The liturgical color is white for the first eight days of Epiphany; the remainder of the season's color is green. Normally, in the crèche scene in our narthex, one would not see the wise men present until Epiphanytide.



## ST. MARK'S NEWS



I just want to wish every one a Happy and Healthy New Year. Please keep Praying for all your family and the Church family. I am still trying to get together a training class for every lady who is interested in becoming a Daughter of the King. Please let me know because we need to order the training material.

Faye

## **FOOD PANTRY**



Please continue to remember the food pantry. The holidays are over, but there is still a need in our community. Many thanks to all who have donated and continue to donate to this very worthy cause.

## **LIBRARY NOTES**



There are many ways to pray, but not many are grounded in the Christian doctrine. Lord I Believe by Austin Farrer guides us to one of the sources of all prayer: The Apostles' Creed, the root of our faith. Farrer presents the breadth of Christian belief – from Creation, through the person of Jesus, to life everlasting, and shows us how to pray.

Michael Card, the author of Immanuel, suggests the perfect reading for Epiphany. "Our journey in this book begins where the wise men's journey ended. We have found that wisdom has to do with life. Here we walk with Jesus through His life for a new understanding of the meaning of 'God with us' and a closer relationship with the Lord."

Take a devotional journey during Epiphany! Imagine walking through the Holy Land, the people and places of Scripture coming vividly to life. Touch the stones in the valley where David defeated Goliath; come closer to Jesus as He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. Let this book, Meeting God in Holy Places, lead you into this land that Jesus called home through meditative parables.



### ***SUNDAY SCHOOL***



The Sunday school students, with the help of a few adults, presented "A Candy Cane Christmas" at the church Christmas party on December 21<sup>st</sup>. For some of our students this was their first experience speaking before a group, and they all did extremely well.

The program traced the history and legend of the candy cane being shaped like a shepherd's staff reminding us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, but if we turn it upside down, it's a J, the first letter of Jesus' name. Its sweetness reminds us that through Christ we have received the gift of peace and salvation and that the sweetest gift of all is God's Son, Jesus. The hardness of the candy cane helps us remember that Jesus is our firm foundation. The white color symbolizes purity, and the three small red stripes symbolize the marks of the whip that scourged Jesus when he was arrested and taken before Pilate, and also the Holy Trinity. The large red stripe represents the blood Jesus shed on the cross. The peppermint flavor tastes similar to hyssop. In the Old Testament, hyssop was used for purifying and cleansing.

During the Passover Moses directed the Israelites to brush their doorframes with hyssop dipped in blood. By doing this, the Angel of Death passed by their doors and the people were saved.

At the conclusion of the program small candy canes with this legend were given to each person present.

After refreshments and a very loud chorus of Jingle Bells, Santa arrived and passed out presents to each of the students.

Many thanks to Hanna Johns, Marianne O'Neill, and Susan Worthington for taking parts in the program at the last minute and to Cindy Palmer for playing for us to sing.



## ***SCHEDULE OF MINISTRIES***

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
Chalice Bearer	Elzie Sanders	Jean Isaac	Mike Goldwire	Marianne O'Neill
Lector 1	Randy Johns	Judy Perkin	Susan Worthington	Linda Hopkins
Lector 2	Elzie Sanders	Jean Isaac	Mike Goldwire	Marianne O'Neill
Usher	Ilse Griffis Tommy Blackshear	Judy Perkin Kenneth Grider	George Winkler Frank Palmer	Millard Brown Arthur Winkler
Oblationer	Millard and Applean Brown	Paul and Ann Andrus	Arthur and Millie Winkler	Kenneth and Jackie Grider
Acolyte	Jacob Slayton	Alan Hopkins	Emily Luke	Jacob Slayton
Library	Ilse Griffis	Marianne O'Neill	George Winkler	Burney Winkler

***IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON YOUR SUNDAY - PLEASE  
CALL ANOTHER FOR YOUR REPLACEMENT***

## ***UF CHAPEL SUPPERS***



Due to the Christmas break at the University, we didn't serve supper to the students in December, but will resume on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who wishes to help by preparing a dish or contributing to the cost, please contact Barbara Noegel or Virginia Johns.

If you haven't already seen them, in the November and December issues of "The Diocesan" have been articles written by two of the students about the reasons they attend the chapel. The articles also list the activities the chapel members are involved in on campus and in the Gainesville community.



## SPECIAL OCCASIONS

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Jean Isaac
- 6 - Polly Eagerton
- 6 - Bessie Isaac
- 10 - Pat Hatcher
- 13 - Elise NesSmith
- 14 - Julia Dyals
- 14 - Clark Dyals
- 14 - Rick Johns
- 19 - David Reynolds
- 29 - Jewelle Brown
- 31 - Ann Andrus



### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 - Gene & Lucille Noegel

## FOOTNOTES:



**Ultreya** is a monthly gathering for Eucharist and fellow-ship after Cursillo. One does not have to have attended a Cursillo to go to an Ultraya. The next Ultraya is scheduled for January 2<sup>nd</sup> at **St. Alban's in Chiefland**. A covered dish supper precedes the Eucharist. If you need a ride, please call the office.

### Altar Guild for January:

MillieWinkler



### TREASURER'S REPORT \$

As of 11/30/08

Annual Budget	\$108,480
Contribution to date	81,651
Richard Trust to date	14,613
Bank Interest	98
Misc Income	<u>142</u>
Total to date	96,504
Expenses to date	\$104,059
Current deficit	7,555

## **Free of Anxiety**

*Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry!*

Psalm 88:2

Our minds can be kept free of anxiety as we dump the load of our cares on the Lord in prayer.

By getting rid of the stuff that drags us down, we create space for joy to take place.

Think of it like this: Circumstances occur that could easily crush us.

They may originate on the job or at home or even during the weekend when we are relaxing.

Unexpectedly, they come.

Immediately we have a choice to make ... an attitude choice.

We can hand the circumstances to God and ask Him to take control

or we can roll up our mental sleeves and slug it out.

Joy awaits our decision.

Submitted by your Senior Warden  
George Winkler

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