

ST. MARK'S NEWS

February 2009

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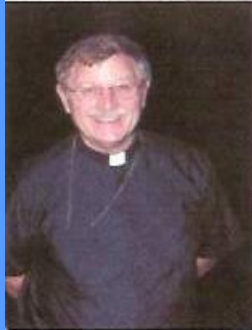
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Father Dennis O'Neill

A Word or Two From Our Rector

BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM

One of the most amazing things we know about Jesus of Nazarus, Jesus whom we call the Christ, is that he didn't then and doesn't now look like what he is. He is – we rightly believe – the Son of God, yet he gave up his divinity to be just like you and me – an ordinary human being – yet without sin. And the “yet without sin” is the more amazing because he did have the same free will you and I have, but never said “no” to his Father.

He was and is a revolutionary, yet he was not recognized by those who were politically oppressed because he had no army, no visible political organization, no hierarchical management system. Those who he recruited to follow him in fact were the least likely to effect the revolutionary change he preached – common fishermen and despised tax collectors. Yet, the revolutionary social platform he put forth continues to be embraced two thousand years later.

He had grandiose dreams for the world and humankind – the ushering in of the Kingdom of God – and yet he sees this dream being fulfilled not in

overturning governmental power structures or economic systems, but in changing individual human hearts – one at a time. He sees this dream of the Kingdom of God being accomplished one opportunity at a time, one day at a time, one encounter at a time, one event at a time, one expression of love at a time, one act of generosity at a time. And this is where our faith in God and Jesus is most significant – over time, in time - God's Kingdom begins to be visible in the hearts and lives of God's people everywhere. Over time and in time God's Kingdom is being built as we seek to be Jesus' hands and heart to the world.

One opportunity at a time
One day at a time
One encounter at a time
One event at a time
One act of generosity at a time

The building blocks of the Kingdom of God. The bringing into being of the Peaceable Kingdom of God.

God's Blessings,
Fa. Dennis



ST. MARK'S NEWS



The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard Bishop of Florida

February 14: Quiet Garden Days - The Cathedral Center for Spirituality is offering a tranquil place to draw apart for a while, to restore your spirit and rest deeply in the Lord within the Cathedral gardens and chapels of St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville. You are invited to join them from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on February 14, March 14 and April 18, 2009. Rev. Bernie Dooly will present insights and reflections from *The Inner Experience** by the late Thomas Merton. A brown bag lunch follows the noon Eucharist. * *The Inner Experience* - you may want to order a copy of your own in advance.

CAMP WEED EVENTS

FEBRUARY

3	LARC Fellowship & Lunch
20-21	DOK Winter Retreat
27	ECW Overnight Board Mtg
28	ECW Winter Meeting

MARCH

6-7	Clergy & Spouse Lenten Retreat
9-10	Lenten Retreat
12-15	Men's Cursillo #121
14	Annual Diocesan Altar Guild
19-21	Women's Cursillo #121



CHURCH SEASONS AND SYMBOLS

Do you know what they are and what they mean?

Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Observed on February 2, this minor festival is in commemoration of the Infant Jesus' presentation at the Temple, when forty days old, where he was received by Simeon. Sometimes called Candlemas, (in remembrance of Simeon's words, "a light to lighten the Gentiles"), in the Eastern Church it has been called The Meeting of Christ with Simeon. Such a variety of names is testimony of the spiritual meaning that generations of Christians have placed on this small incident. WHITE is the liturgical color.

The Presentation reminds us of the Jewish law (Exodus 13:2; 22:29) that every firstborn son had to be dedicated to God in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, when the first-born sons of the Egyptians died and those of Israel were spared.

When Mary and Joseph placed their small son in the arms of Simeon (Luke 2:22-40), it was a new and perfect

offering in the temple. God had provided himself a lamb for the burnt offering (Gen. 22:8), his only Son. The offering was to be made once for all on the cross.

It was during this visit to the Temple that Jesus was received by Simeon who said his beloved thanksgiving to God, sometimes called the Nunc Dimittis:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
to which thou has prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

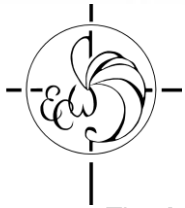




ST. MARK'S NEWS



The Daughters of the King meet the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to become a member, please contact Faye Noegel at your earliest convenience. A class is being planned for new members and Faye needs your name so she can order enough books for everyone.



Episcopal Church Women - ECW

The **Annual Pancake Supper** will be held on Tuesday, February 24th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The supper will be held on the Tuesday before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. St. Marks will be participating in the **Cancer Relay for Life** to be held on April 24 at the Bradford High School Track Field. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy cause, please make checks payable to American Cancer Society and send or bring them to the church office. Contributions made in memory or honor of loved ones are always special.

On February 14th we will be going to Jacksonville as a group to see a performance of "Menopause, The Musical" at the Times Union Center. We will meet at the church at 12:15 to car-pool to Jacksonville.

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Florida have been meeting together since the 1800's. We are women who make a difference in our communities and in our Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Florida.

The next Diocese ECW meeting will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009, at Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center. For more information visit: <http://diocesefl.org/ecw/topic-page.php?page=143>.

For more information on the diocese ECW visit: <http://www.diocesefl.org/> and click on Mission & Ministry, or contact Mary Agnes Goldwire, President, ECW - St. Marks at (904) 964-5697.

FOOD PANTRY



Dear Barbara:

I just wanted to thank St. Marks Episcopal Church for adopting my daughter and her boys for Christmas. It was a joy to watch them on Christmas morning open up their gifts and play with their toys. My daughter Tamika was very pleased with her gifts also. I want you to know that I really appreciate everything that each and everyone did. We also had a very nice dinner with the food given by you all. The ham was so big that we were able to freeze some and have with breakfast several days after. Please let every one know how thankful we were! God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Hampton

To St Marks Church
Thank you for making
me and my children's
holiday one of the best
yet. May God bless you
and your families.
Tamika Hampton

Thank you for GWP cool
presents god bless you.
Love, Jaylon Terrell and Nick



KAIROS



New River West #9 Kairos Weekend March 19 – 21, 2008

A new Kairos weekend will be held at New River West C. I. at Raiford beginning Thursday, March 19th and ending on Sunday, March 22nd. Your prayers and support are requested as over 40 inmates gather with over 40 volunteers from inside and outside the prison.

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions. The Kairos program starts with a weekend event which allows participants to witness Christ's love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. Kairos is active in the US (33 States), Costa Rica, England, Australia, South Africa and Canada.

Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and is supported by volunteers from Cursillo and other movements that consider Cursillo as their root. "Kairos" is a New Testament Greek term that means "God's Special Time," often expressed in scripture as "in the fullness of time."

For additional information, visit Kairos International website at <http://www.kairosprisonministry.org> or contact Mike Goldwire at (352) 275-8531. Mike, a member of our parish, is on the New River Kairos volunteer team.

LIBRARY NOTES



Pre-Lent is upon us.....PREPARE!

Are you Running on Empty? Feeling burned out? Unfulfilled? Drained? Jill Briscoe offers comfort for those times in life when we feel empty and tired. She draws lessons from Bible characters who often felt the same way:

- Elijah was "too pooped to prophesy"
- Leah was ugly and unloved
- Hannah found midlife depressing
- Jonah battled constant fears
- The Prodigal Son ended up in a pigsty

to name a few:

The author provides spiritual refreshment and renewal when we are running on empty.

The desert, with its great emptiness and silence, has long been a symbol of solitude. In our spiritual lives, sometimes we seek solitude to give ourselves completely to God. Other times, solitude comes unwelcome, as we find ourselves alone and lonely.

The Desert, an Anthology for Lent, offers a collection of writings by churchmen of today as well as by ancient authors. These readings are ideal Lenten devotionals as one answers his or her own call of the desert. John Moses, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, has arranged the readings daily during the entire Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday to Easter day.

Your library has many tracts and magazines for your browsing.



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SCHEDULE OF MINISTRIES

OFFICE	1	8	15	22	25
Chalice Bearer	Mike Goldwire	Jean Isaac	Elzie Sanders	Marianne O'Neill	
Lector 1	Randy Johns	Judy Perkin	Barbara Noegel	Linda Hopkins	Susan Worthington
Lector 2	Mike Goldwire	Jean Isaac	Elzie Sanders	Marianne O'Neill	Marianne O'Neill
Usher	Ilse Griffis John Maddox	Tommy Blackshear Judy Perkin	George Winkler Joe Lukas	Kenneth Grider Frank Palmer	Millard Brown Arthur Winkler
Oblationer	Sharon DeWitt Jewelle Brown	Ilse Griffis Angie Williamson	Millard and Applean Brown	Paul and Ann Andrus	
Acolyte	Jacob Slayton	Alan Hopkins	Emily Luke	Annie Luke	
Library	Ilse Griffis	Marianne O'Neill	George Winkler	Burney Winkler	

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are continuing our study of Jesus' life from the visit of the Wise Men to the time he went to the temple in Jerusalem with his parents to his baptism and temptation in the wilderness. The students are getting more familiar with finding the Gospels in their Bibles and finding which of the four books our lesson is in.

Some of our older students are now attending church either as acolytes or in the congregation. We're proud of these young people for taking an active part in our church life.

UF CHAPEL SUPPERS



January 25th was an exciting night for the Chapel of the Incarnation and for those of us from St. Mark's who served dinner there. Bishop Howard was present and preached a wonderful sermon telling the students they were loved and cared for by all the churches within the Diocese of Florida.

Two students were confirmed, one was received, and seven people (including Mother Nancee) renewed their baptismal vows. As we shared the Peace, there was a lot of joy, hugs, and a great feeling of community and love.

We served dinner to 55 people, the most we've ever had. Since this was such a special occasion, after the service we prepared a small reception with punch and cake. These people really love their sweets and, as always, were so appreciative of everything we do for them.



SPECIAL OCCASIONS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alan Greenough
- 10 Kenneth Grider
- 11 Ethan Grove
- 24 Amanda Smock
- 25 Fr. Roland Raham
- 27 Millard Brown
- 28 Joshua Slayton



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Arthur and Millie Winkler
- 27 Harry and Pat Hatcher

FOOTNOTES:

Ultreya is a monthly gathering for Eucharist and fellowship after Cursillo. One does not have to have attended a Cursillo to go to an Ultreya. The next Ultreya is scheduled for February 6th at **St. James in Lake City**. A covered dish supper precedes the Eucharist. If you need a ride, please call the office.

Altar Guild for February:

Virginia Johns

Vestry Member:

Charles Dell-Ross

FLOWER CHART:

The 2009 Flower Chart is now in the Narthex to sign up for altar flowers for the coming year. The cost is \$45.00.

SANCTUARY CANDLE:

Sign up for the sanctuary candle by calling Barbara. The cost is \$4.00.



TREASURER'S REPORT \$

As of January 26, 2009 the Treasurer of St. Mark's reports that only twelve (12) Pledges have been received for the year 2009. The total amount of these pledges is \$27, 508.

We the Vestry earnestly ask those of you who haven't made a pledge for this year please do so at your next attendance in church.



Tuesday, February 24th, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Make plans to attend.

No One Is Insignificant

*The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
that shines brighter and brighter until the full day.*
Proverbs 4:18

Have you ever noticed how uniquely adapted each animal is
to its environment and its way of life?

On land, a duck waddles along ungainly on its webbed feet.

In the water, it glides along smooth as glass.

The rabbit runs with ease and great bursts of speed,
but I've never seen one swimming laps.

God has placed you in His family and given
you a certain mixture that makes you unique.

No mixture is insignificant! That mix pleases Him completely.

Nobody else is exactly like you. That should bring you pleasure, too.

When you operate in your realm of capabilities, you will excel
and the whole Body will benefit and you will experience incredible satisfaction.

Submitted by your Senior Warden
George Winkler

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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