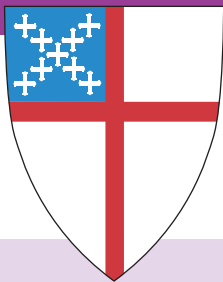


The Vineyard

Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

July 2008



Mark Your Calendar

June 29 - July 5
Camp St. Peter @
Honey Creek

July 4
11 am Eucharist &
hot dog lunch

July 6 - 12
Camp St. Joseph
& Mary @ Honey
Creek

July 8 - 12
EYE, San Antonio,
Texas

July 13 - 19
Camp St. Francis @
Honey Creek

July 30
6 pm Drive-In Movie

August 1
Happening #81

[www.christchurch
valdosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)

IRREPRESSIBLE TOMATOES

I attended Nashotah House, the Episcopal Seminary in southern Wisconsin. The area is a mixture of very expensive resort property with summer homes around beautiful lakes, and farmland, principally corn. The soil is deep and rich and black; perfect for farming or for gardens. Happy and I lived in "The Fort" on the Nashotah campus, a large brick building built in the 1860s. Next to "The Fort" was a field, much of which was leased for farming, the remainder available for gardens for the seminarians. Many seminarians planted gardens in the very short summer growing season. Unfortunately some had to travel and couldn't tend their gardens; some simply lost interest. For those who persisted the crop of vegetables, corn, carrots, radishes, beets, beans, and lots of tomatoes made it worthwhile. Happy and I planted wildflowers which was, I suppose, rather countercultural. Once the plots had been harvested, the gardens succumbed to weeds, great tangles of weeds, and were submerged and disappeared. I found that to be a very sad fate for something that had received care and patience and love. I was feeling that sadness one crisp, frosty September day, looking at the mass of weeds, when a spot of bright red caught my eye, then another and another. There, under the weeds, were beautiful ripe tomatoes, survivors.

"The harvest is plentiful; laborers are few," said Jesus to His disciples. How true that is today, in this age of weeds; weeds such as pride and false idols. So little in today's culture extols Our Lord's commission to us. And our church itself may seem choked with the weeds of dissension and division. It is as though the garden were overwhelmed with weeds while the harvesters stood aside arguing about the fine points of agriculture. But we have been here before, and we have survived the weeds of dissension and the frost of neglect. The faith is utterly irrepressible and tenacious, there beneath the weeds waiting to be discovered once again.



Peter+

The Vineyard

The Vineyard On the Web

The Vineyard is posted to the Christ Church Valdosta Web site in color at <www.christchurchvaldosta.org> . Double click *The Vineyard* tab to view this publication.

The Vineyard Deadline

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send information to <juliacariail@bellsouth.net> or phone 229-559-7329.

Christ Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Henry I. Louttit,
Bishop of Georgia

The Rev. Peter Ingeman, Rector
The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Priest
in Residence

Stella Clark, Deacon

Patricia Marks, Deacon

Molly Greneker, Parish Secretary

Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper

Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist

Kathy Armstrong, St. Gregory
Choir Director

Dr. John Curtis and Maggie Roberts,
St. Francis Choir Leaders

Julia and Julius Ariail, Newsletter

Vestry

Mimi Allen	Sandra Fletcher
Hugh Bailey	Phyllis Holland
Clinton Beeland	Pepi Nelson
Charles Boatwright	Bill Nunn
Tom Carroll	Buddy Pitts
Jan Carter	Joe Singletary
Carolyn Eager	Al Turner
	Sylvia Warrick

Phone Numbers

Church Office	242-5115
The Rev. Ingeman	245-0799
The Rev. Drazdowski	249-0895
Deacon Clark	559-6159
Deacon Marks	244-5159
Molly Greneker	292-8215

www.christchurchvaldosta.org



Vacation Bible School:

This year's Vacation Bible School was filled with LOADS of fun! We had a County Fair with cake walks, a dunking booth and a lot of outside activities. Our special project this year focused on our companion Diocese in the Dominican Republic. Each day, the children did a project that was sent to the D.R. with our very own mission team. Robbie Beeland and his big sister Mitchell were in charge of the Missions Station and did a glorious job. The children made an altar banner that will be given to the church in the Dominican. They also made mite boxes that raised over \$150 to be used for VBS this summer in the D.R. We sent pictures, cards and bracelets, too! It was a wonderful learning experience and was enjoyed by many, many kids.



Son Harvest June 1 - 4, 2008



The Whisper

*“til a voice as bad as conscience rang
interminable changes, on one everlasting
whisper day and night repeated so,
something hidden, go and find it.”*

Rudyard Kipling,
“The Explorer”

In a sermon June 8, 2008, Fr. Peter Ingeman described the calling to the priesthood and all service to God as a whisper like the one described by Rudyard Kipling in his poem, “The Explorer.”

Three Christ Church members have publicly declared that they have heard and acknowledged the whisper. Jim Elliot and Walter Hobgood are actively pursuing the sacrament of ordination to the priesthood, and Nancy Richardson is studying for ordination as a vocational deacon.

The program Jim and Walter are undertaking is different from the traditional seminary track. It is sometimes called “Reading for Holy Orders”. The Bishop, Standing Committee and Commission on Ministry give a set of requirements to meet in order to be ordained to the priesthood. There are five areas of study under the Canons, and there is an examining chaplain for each area of study responsible for insuring that the candidate is proficient in each of those areas. Both also attend a program at Sewanee for three weeks each summer as part of the education.

Asked what factor tipped the scale to lead him down this path, Jim replied, “I had been hearing God calling me to the ordained ministry for quite some time but had not been responsive to that call. In late 2005, I

just could not ignore the call any longer and met with Fr. Peter and Bishop Louttit to begin this process toward ordained ministry.”

Jim hopes to finish his studies sometime in 2009, but it will be up to the Bishop, Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry to decide whether and when he is ordained.

“I expect that, God willing, I will be a bi-vocational priest. That is to say that I will continue with my private law practice and also serve the church as a priest. I would hope to serve our parish family here at Christ Church but would also be available to serve as a supply priest at other churches in our area on an as needed basis,” Jim concluded.

Walter Hobgood started the process 4 years ago and also hopes to remain in this area. “I envision a ministry with churches in transition between rectors or in smaller more rural parishes that cannot afford a full-time priest. Once again, HE is in charge, and I will go where ever I am led,” Walter said.

Walter considered the traditional seminary track but felt led to this choice. “After relocating multiple times over the past 37 years, we opted not to make two more moves, to seminary and another to wherever God leads.”

Asked when he heard the whisper, Walter said, “I believe my call has been with me



Walter Hobgood and Jim Elliott

since teenage years. Like many, I disregarded it and felt it was not a true calling. This is where Christ Church has played a role. Once again, I believe God led me to Christ Church where I would finally see and hear my call.”

Nancy Sartin Richardson describes the deacon’s job as “taking the church to the people.”

“I heard the whisper for a long time beginning when Sue Sandbach invited me to join the Daughters of the King. Irene Martin was like a spiritual director to me leading me in this direction,” said Nancy.

Nancy attends the Deacon’s School seminars as they are held in different areas of the state. At the conclusion of her study and successful meeting with the Commission on Ministry, Nancy hopes to work with Hospice.

Like Abram in Fr. Ingeman’s sermon, we are all on life’s journey. We all hear a whisper. God has a personal Canaan for each of us. We are on the road to someplace in our spiritual journey with a few stops at Haran, a few detours and side excursions, far longer than we expect. Kipling’s poem closes with the line, “He chose me for this whisper.”

Do you hear a whisper?

The Vineyard, p. 4, July 2008



Nancy Richardson



Special Days Remembered in July



BIRTHDAYS

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Aleta Corley
Meredith Kunath | 18 Pepi Nelson |
| 2 Hugh Bailey
Julian (Boots) Tudor | 19 Lisa Gilchrist |
| 4 Ashley Cody
Beverly Cowart
Grace Diamond | 20 Pam Pitts |
| 5 Laurie McCall
Theo Reed | 21 Hayden Coggins
Nancy Sartin Richardson |
| 6 Katherine Mayer | 22 Peter Ingeman
Alexandra Peeples |
| 8 Dottie Eager | 23 Gail Hobgood
Caroline Prine |
| 9 Katie Wisenbaker | 24 Jeff Hanson
Richard Rigby |
| 11 Brooklyn Prine | 24 Jeff Hanson
Walter Hobgood |
| 14 Jerry DeMott | Brett Nelson |
| 15 David Cribb
John Hiers
David Holland | 25 Pat Bezona
Andrew Greneker |
| 16 Christopher Cody
Sandra Fletcher
Marshall Parks | Philip Gunter |
| 17 Michael Black
Linda Burch
Rachel Rumstay | 26 Andrew Hummel
Gregory Hummel |
| | 27 Juanita Quinn
Al Turner |
| | 28 Griff Holland
Katherine Mixson |
| | 29 Emory Warrick, Sr. |
| | 30 Debi Saeger |

- 3 Carter Coleman
- 5 Dori Carter
- 7 Alison Peters
- 9 Marge Fitzsimons
Griff Holland
- 20 Pam Pitts
- 24 Sam Peters
- 25 Victoria Warrick
- 26 Edith Shepherd

- 4 Cliff & Elizabeth Baker
Ralph & Julie Jackson
- 6 Chris & Ashley Cody
- 12 Bill & Lucille Sineath
- 16 Marty & Karen Diamond
- 22 Rusty & Laurie McCall
- 24 Bill & Kathy Armstrong
George & Beth Thornton
- 29 Jack Fisher & Elaine Yontz
Aaron & Josie Parten
- 30 Bill & Helen Tucker

If your special day is not included in our calendar, please call the church office at 242-5115 to let us know.

Vestry Report from the May 19 Meeting

- Received treasurer's report from Amber Tanner. Reported that the church has received a financial gift from the Teasley family. The vestry also voted to transfer a \$54,000 gift from the Frances Tillman estate to the building fund.
- Awaiting the final report from Bargainier who interviewed user groups in the parish. Results of this report will be shared with the congregation as soon as possible.
- Received information from Sandra Fletcher on the merits of hiring a consultant to conduct a fund-raising feasibility study. The purpose of the consultant is



Pepi Nelson, Senior Warden and Clint Beeland, Junior Warden

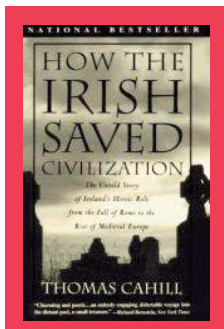
to determine the giving potential of the parish family. This information is essential to the final decision about building additional facilities.

- Discussed the Relay for Life fund raising and activities. The church family gave \$4,000 toward this worthy cause.

- Voted to give \$3,000 from the outreach budget for the 2008 mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Eight Christ Church members will travel along with five people from other parishes.
- Approved plans to reinstitute Foyer Groups. These groups were successful several years ago and involve small groups of parishioners getting together in each others' homes on a regular basis. The groups provide an opportunity for people who wish to participate to get to know each other in the parish within a social relaxed setting.

The Church Bookshelf

by Patricia Marks



*How the Irish
Saved Civilization:
The Untold Story of
Ireland's Heroic Role
From the Fall of
Rome to the Rise of
Medieval Europe*

By Thomas Cahill.
Doubleday, 1995.

What an enterprising title for so readable a book! Thomas Cahill, in his popular Hinges of History series, takes us travelling through time as he asks what made Western civilization possible.

In his other books, he examines the beliefs of the ancient Jews, the milieu in which Jesus lived, the legacy of the Greeks, and the high Middle Ages. But in this volume, he takes us into what we think is familiar territory – we all know that St. Patrick vanquished the snakes in Ireland, don't we? – and shows us some less than familiar landmarks. What we take as truth may, indeed be myth.

In this book, beautifully illustrated with Celtic designs and calligraphy, Cahill honors St. Patrick

in an unexpected way – not only as the one to bring Christianity to Ireland, but also to bring literacy to all Europe. Without Patrick's influence, we would not have those ancient and precious texts, hand-written and hand-copied by monks and scribes alike, that form the record of the Western civilization that we take for granted.

In Ireland, from the fifth century onwards, while barbarian hordes overran the continent and the Roman Empire collapsed, scholars found a haven. They brought with them literature, language, and the Latin alphabet. And these exotic imports were welcomed by the monks, who owed their very existence to Patrick.

Taken into slavery from his home in Roman Britain, Patrick found himself alone on the hills in Ulster, entrusted with a herd of sheep. There in the midst of his lonely wanderings, he began to pray, night and day, rain or shine. And then, one day, as he says in his Confession, he heard a voice saying, "Behold, your ship is ready"; and so

he left on an unthinkable perilous walk to the shore of the Irish Sea. There, a group of sailors invited him



Deacon Patricia Marks

into pagan fellowship, and despite his stubborn refusal, they gave him passage. Yet his restless spirit was not at peace at home, for one night, he had a vision, in which the people of Ireland called to him: "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us."

And walk among them he did, banishing not snakes but Druidical superstitions and ancient fears that turned a wild and lovely landscape into a magical place fraught with shape-shifting danger. He brought light and hope to the Irish people, baptizing countless numbers as he walked through the countryside. He helped to abolish the slave trade that he himself had been a victim of, and tempered the violence that was a part of ordinary life. He established bishoprics, monasteries, and churches which became centers of worship and learning.

With antic wit and wisdom, Cahill regales his readers with the tales that were the warp and woof of the Celtic imagination and then shows how, through the tireless efforts of a simple man with a missionary's heart, the very fabric of Western Civilization was transformed.

And so it is that the Paschal fire Patrick lit on the Hill of Slane shines in our hearts today.

Episcopal Life

Keeping up with the news in the Episcopal Church is easy with *Episcopal Life*. A recent issue carried articles, among others, about an ecumenical group in the Sudan; the meeting between Rowan Williams and Pope Benedict XVI; the history of Lambeth; and an Idaho church project. A column by the Presiding Bishop invigorates every issue, and readers may submit responses of their own to "ActiveVoice." There's a glossary – this time the word was

"Koinonia" – and a list of upcoming conferences, retreats, and pilgrimages that will make you want to pack your bag. The "Art & Soul" section is a visual treat, and short reviews and long ones, this time on Joan Chittister's new book *The Gift of Years*, round out the offerings. Back copies are available in the Christ Church library; the on-line version is at www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal_life.htm

Around the Parish



Valwood Headmaster Cobb Atkinson (l.) presents the Eager Scholarship to Gus Elliott.

In a recent ceremony Gus Elliott received the Eager Scholarship, a \$1,000 tuition grant awarded each spring to a rising senior who best exemplifies Bill Eager's commitment to academic excellence, extraordinary integrity, natural leadership ability, and passion for Valwood School.

Bill (William G.) Eager, III, a long-time member of Christ Church, supported Valwood school as a volunteer varsity soccer coach and later as trustee and financial advisor for 34 years until his death in the fall of 2005.

A few of Gus' accomplishments include: Christ Church EYC and acolyte, Lowndes Youth Leadership League, Valwood School Honor Council, National Honor Society, Valwood School Varsity football, basketball and track, and Athens Y Camp Counselor.

Words for Season After Pentecost

Time

To do important things
To plan ahead
To have fun



Nancy Price, 1st Sergeant Thomas Price, Kathryn Mayer, and Fr. Peter Ingeman (l. to r.).

Pencil & Paper Project (Iraqi Children's Fund) Update--First Sergeant Thomas Price and his wife Nancy blessed us with a surprise visit to Christ Church June 4th. Sergeant Price was on leave from Iraq and reported that our school supply donations arrived just before he left. He extended great appreciation for our work on the Project. Although the school was not able to open in May as originally planned, hopefully it will open in June. We are still collecting money and supplies for the Project and will announce the next shipment date in the near future.

Christ Episcopal Church Leads Mission to the Dominican Republic



The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Amanda Harrell, Stefani Carroll, Clint Beeland, Robbie Beeland, Juanita Quinn, and others from Dothan, Alabama, left for the Dominican Republic on June 14 and will return on June 21. There will be a program describing their activities in the near future. Watch for photographs on the Christ Church Web site. The photo below is the collection of mite boxes Christ Church children sent to the Dominican Republic.



2008 GRADUATES

Alex Lind – Valdosta High School
Lindsey Wisenbaker – Lowndes High School
Jessie Querin – Valwood School
Stephanie Tillman – Valdosta High School
Dimitri Lazari -
Brett Nelson – Culinary School
Marie Moser – JD from University of Kentucky College of Law
Ellis Moser - Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech (Dec. '07)
Rick Coleman – Georgia State

Rosanne Rumstay – Master's Degree in Library Science from University of Alabama
Leona Zipperer – Agnes Scott (Sylvia & Emory Warrick's granddaughter)
Michael Black – Doctor of Education from Florida State University
Robert Tillman – Georgia Tech
Nathaniel Balanis – VSU
** Regan Adams, John David Greneker and Pierce Baker – Kindergarten **

Steve Roberts Honored

On July 2 in Tampa, Florida, the College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) will induct Steve Roberts, Christ Church member and former sports information director (SID) for Valdosta State University into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame. Founded in 1957 to represent the profession at the decision-making levels of collegiate athletics, the association represents the highest standards in the field of sports media.

Steve Roberts was the first SID at VSU, and his career spanned 25 years of baseball, basketball, tennis, golf, softball, and football.

According to an article by sports writer Bryan Fazio in the May 22, 2008, article in the *Valdosta Daily Times*, several of Roberts' publications won CoSIDA awards, including best cover for the 1993 football media guide, which was rated fourth overall.

In that article Steve is quoted as saying, "It's the ultimate honor; because it's your profession, and you're selected by your peers. It's very humbling, very exciting and an unexpected honor. It's not what you get into the business for; but you put in all the years at one place, and it adds to an extra amount of success."

The Valdosta State University Athletic Department inducted Steve into the VSU Athletics Hall of Fame two years ago at the time of his retirement. This new honor puts his accomplishments into national perspective.

Roberts will be inducted along with two others, Jim Wright, the CoSIDA Director of Statistics, and Kevin Ruple, the SID at Division III school Baldwin-Wallace.



Steve Roberts



The Partnership Health Center is a primary healthcare facility staffed by volunteer physicians, physician extenders and nurses who offer their time without compensation to serve the healthcare needs of the working uninsured in Lowndes County.

Services offered include non-emergency healthcare, pharmacy assistance and referral to specialists and labs. Conditions required for eligibility include: income under twice the Federal poverty level, ages 18 - 64, no health insurance, residents of Lowndes County who are currently employed and their dependents ages 18 - 64.

Deacon Stella Clark works as a volunteer nurse at the facility located at 205 Woodrow Wilson Drive, Valdosta. For information about the program call the office at 245-0020 or Deacon Clark at 559-6159.

Join us for Regular Services

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion*

10:45 a.m. Christian Education*

11:30 a.m. Holy Communion*

6:00 p.m. Vespers

Tuesday: 10:30 a.m. @ Langdale Place

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.*

Thursday: 7:00 a.m.

*Nursery Available

Christ Episcopal Church

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