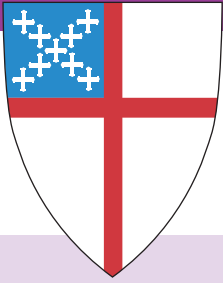


# The Vineyard



Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

February 2009



## Mark Your Calendar

**February 5 - 7**

Diocesan Convention  
in Albany

**February 12**

Janet Robinson  
Ordination to the  
Diaconate at St.  
Barnabas

**February 13**

Choral Concert by  
VSU Students

**February 14**

Second Saturday  
Eucharist

**February 20**

60th Anniversary of  
the dedication of  
Christ Church at 1521  
N. Patterson St.

**February 21**

HEP Party at Hollands

**February 24**

Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper

**February 25**

Ash Wednesday  
7 am, 12:15 pm  
and 6 pm

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

## The Reverend Tar and Jim Drazdowski

Born and christened Edna Jean Cummings in Arlington, Virginia, to parents Joseph and Ellen Cummings, Tar Drazdowski is one-eighth Native American Iroquois through her father's lineage.

She was not raised in this culture, but knew at a young age that she wanted to be a part of this heritage. At the age of 12 she chose the name, "Morning Star." At a Girl Scout camp she wore a nametag that was damaged and after several days only had the last three letters remaining...tar. And that is how Tar got her first name.

After living in Falls Church, Virginia and graduating from high school in Gaithersburg, Maryland, she attended the University of Maryland for two years. Working at a Girl Scout camp, she met a friend from Dixie, Ga. and came home with her for a visit. Together they visited Valdosta State College. Dr. Margaret Hiers, mother of Dr. John Hiers, convinced Tar to transfer and complete her degree in Special Education in Valdosta. Tar prayed that she would meet someone who loved God. The next day she met Jim Drazdowski at the VSC Student Union. Jim Drazdowski was born in New York City but moved to Hahira early in life. Jim and Tar married in 1977. And that is how Tar got her last name.

"I am an Episcopalian because I didn't have a car," said Tar. "As a college student living on campus, I wandered across the street. Jean Holland recruited me. That 12:30 p.m. service resonated with the message 'God Loves You,' and Jean brought soup and sandwiches to feed us afterward. What a place!"

Jim and Tar moved to Moultrie for Jim to take a teaching position and lived there for 17 years. They attended St. John's Episcopal Church even though the service was Rite 1 and much more conservative. They had three children while there: Andy, who now lives and works in construction in Boca Raton, Florida; Amanda, who is married to Matthew Harrell and is a teacher at J. L. Lomax Elementary School in Valdosta, and Amy Marie, who died in 1989 and according to Tar, "went ahead to be with Jesus."

Tar advanced earning masters degrees in Behavioral Disorders and in Counseling and Guidance. She has also done postgraduate work in marriage and family counseling. Employed by the Valdosta City School System, Tar is on

*continued on page 4*



The Rev. Tar Drazdowski

# The Vineyard

## The Vineyard On the Web

The Vineyard is posted to the Christ Church Valdosta Web site in color at [www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://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 <juliacarai@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  
Jessica Israels, St. Gregory  
Choir Director  
Dr. John Curtis and Maggie Roberts,  
St. Francis Choir Leaders  
Julia and Julius Ariail, Newsletter

### Vestry

Mimi Allen	Sandra Fletcher
Charles Boatwright	John Hiers
Tammy Borders	Phyllis Holland
Tom Carroll	Pepi Nelson
Dave Clark	Bill Nunn
Jerry DeMott	Joe Singletary
Carolyn Eager	Mike Tanner

Al Turner

### 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](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)

## Vestry Report from December 15, 2008 Meeting

- Approved financial report. Cash flow continues to be healthy but negative month due to payment to Bargainier made during November.
- Accepted a 2009 budget of \$345,000 revenue. Pledges for 2009 were higher than in previous years resulting in a slightly positive projected bottom line. Final adjustments, however, will result in a balanced budget.
- Voted to ensure that the remaining \$6,500 in 2008 outreach budget is spent by year end. Authorized Peter, Tar, Stella, and Patricia to ensure the money is given to organizations that have needs in our community.
- Received an update on facilities planning from Jim Bargainier who presented a second drawing of proposed renovations and expansions of our campus. Voted to



Pepi Nelson, 2008 Senior Warden and Clint Beeland, 2008 Junior Warden appropriate \$20,000 for Bargainier to continue the next phase of the project.

- Received report from Sandra Fletcher, who is leading our fund-raising plans for the building project. A representative from our fund-raising consultants, Community Development will speak at the January vestry meeting.
- The Rev. Tar Drazdowski has agreed to serve as Associate Rector on a part time basis beginning in September. The 2009 budget includes this addition.

### 2009 Vestry Officers:

Pepi Nelson, Senior Warden; Mike Tanner, Junior Warden; Amber Tanner, Treasurer, and Mimi Allen, Clerk

## Christ Church Canned Food Drive

Over 255 cans of food were donated to L.A.M.P. this month by our parishioners. L.A.M.P. not only feeds the needy that are housed in their facility but also makes bags to give to the local homeless. Currently, LAMP interviews and assesses approximately 12,000 to 15,000 individuals per year who may receive services through its many and diverse programs. The youth group hopes we can continue to give to this wonderful outreach!



**Words for Season of Epiphany**  
**Baptism    Conversion    Revelation**

## *From the Rector*

### A BEGINNING OF LENT

Throughout most of the month of February we observe the season of Epiphany. The season begins with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, the yearly observation of the revealing of Christ, the savior of the world to the gentiles as personified by the Three Wise Men or Magi. The season is a "green" season, a season of growth in our understanding of the person and the ministry of Jesus. The season of Epiphany ends on February 25, Ash Wednesday. On that day we enter the season of Lent, a season of self-assessment. Preparatory to that assessment, on Shrove Tuesday, the day preceding Ash Wednesday, we are offered an opportunity to make private confession of those things that have separated us from God, our sins, and to receive absolution and forgiveness. With the assurance of that forgiveness, on Ash Wednesday, we come to receive the mark of ashes, the sign of the cross on our foreheads. It is the sign of our identity as Christians, the sign made in Holy Oil on our Baptism retraced in the ashes of humility and penitence. The ashes will fade; the sign is indelible. Such is the beginning of a Holy Lent. I invite you to observe the season of Lent, thus begun, with quiet reflection and dedication; some take upon themselves a discipline of fasting and giving up certain foods or activities, others take up special activities, all of which serve to mark the very special season. Perhaps these are things to consider in thoughtful prayer during these weeks of Epiphany. May God bless you.

Peter+



Elizabeth Hanson, Lily Waldron, and Cole York (l to r)

This year, 13 kids, college students, and adults headed to North Carolina's Maggie Valley for some insanely fun activities. The first activity upon arrival was the 3 Man Swing, which to Beth Baker's and Phyllis Holland's dismay, was a 60-foot high free

### High School Ski Trip: Cold Play, Interesting Worship, and Heartfelt Fellowship!

Photographs and text by Beth Baker

fall. The chaperones were the only ones who declined to participate. The kids and adults enjoyed a cozy fire, delicious dinner and a worship service that night. Saturday was filled with more worship, 3 Man Swing and ropes courses...then off to the slopes! Everyone enjoyed the pizza which was provided by Buddy and Dottie Pitts. Thanks! Everyone was starving. The cabins were awesome, and the food was wonderful!

The ride home was long, but we were all too exhausted to notice.



David Holland, Savannah Spivey and Aaron Peaslee (l to r)



# Tar and Jim Drazdowski

*continued from page 1*

duty Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. as a Behavior Intervention Specialist. She works with kids who have problems adjusting to school as well as with their parents and the court.

As a young adult Tar knew she was called by God to work for Him, but she wanted to raise her children first. She began the process to be a priest in 2000, graduating from Education For Ministry in 2004. She attended the summer program at the University of the South at Sewanee but transferred to the Native Ministry Consortium in Vancouver, Canada in order to continue part-time work on a Master of Divinity. She is still in the process of completing this degree. "In the process, I learned a lot about myself," she said. "Most people think linearly, but I discovered that I think in a circular pattern."

Tar has done her native study with the Cherokee tribe. They sent a delegation to drum at her ordination to the priesthood at Christ Episcopal Church in 2006.

"I enjoy pastoral work," said

Tar. "I think I have a calling for 'loving people through their problems.'" Many parishioners attest to her gift for comforting and genuine empathy.

In October 2008 Tar celebrated the first Saturday Night Eucharist at Christ Church. The service has doubled in numbers since it began. Jim Drazdowski regularly plays guitar at the service. Dave and Stella Clark coordinate the preparation of the main dish while parishioners bring side dishes and desserts. "I always feel the presence of the Spirit when I celebrate," said Tar, "but it is especially strong at that service."

Tar Drazdowski started the ministry to the Dominican Republic six years ago as a tribute to her friend Marsha Dutton Bates, who died of cancer. She took a group of Diocesan kids there on a mission trip and fell in love with the place. The first year there was an American couple who acted as translators. The second year she met Miguelina Espinal, who later came to Christ Church, and they worked together to convince her bishop to let the mission team build a school and later a church at El Pedregal.

Tar was the Honey Creek 'Camp Mama' for



*Photograph by Beth Baker*

many years. Officially she was the Summer Camp Nurse but mostly administered first aid and motherly love.

Her favorite hymn is "The King of Love My Shepherd Is." She professes a love for contemporary Christian music.

Tar is also retiring from the school system in June after 30 years and will change her position at Christ Church from supply priest to Associate Rector at 2/3 time. Jim is also retiring in June from his longtime position as a math teacher in Cook County.

"My greatest joy in ministry is loving God's people. The church is where you learn to live in community, you laugh, you cry and you raise your children," said Tar.



Jim Drazdowski





# Rectory Open House, Dec. 21, 2008



Fr. Peter and Happy Ingeman welcomed Christ Church parishioners to the rectory following the Organ Recital by Sue Ellen Rumstay.



Sue Ellen Rumstay

## Organ Recital and Planetarium Show The Rumstays' Gift to Christ Church

Sue Ellen Rumstay, organist at Christ Church since 1991, presented an hour-long organ recital in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 21 at 3 p.m. featuring musical works by Franklin Ashdown, Gerald Near, David Cherwien, Diane Bish, Kenneth Kosche, Karen Keene, Pietro A. Yon, F. Flaxington Harker, and Dan Miller. Mrs. Rumstay also plays for First Christian Church and teaches music at W. G. Nunn Elementary School.

Dr. Ken Rumstay, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at VSU, opened the Planetarium later that evening at 6 p.m. to present 'The Star of Bethlehem' show. The program included astronomical explanations of the Christian calendar and the birth date of Jesus. He demonstrated what the sky looked like at the time of the birth of Christ 2,000 years ago. He explained that the star of Bethlehem is thought to be a rare triple conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn.

The Rumstays give this gift to Christ Church annually at Christmastime.



Dr. Ken Rumstay

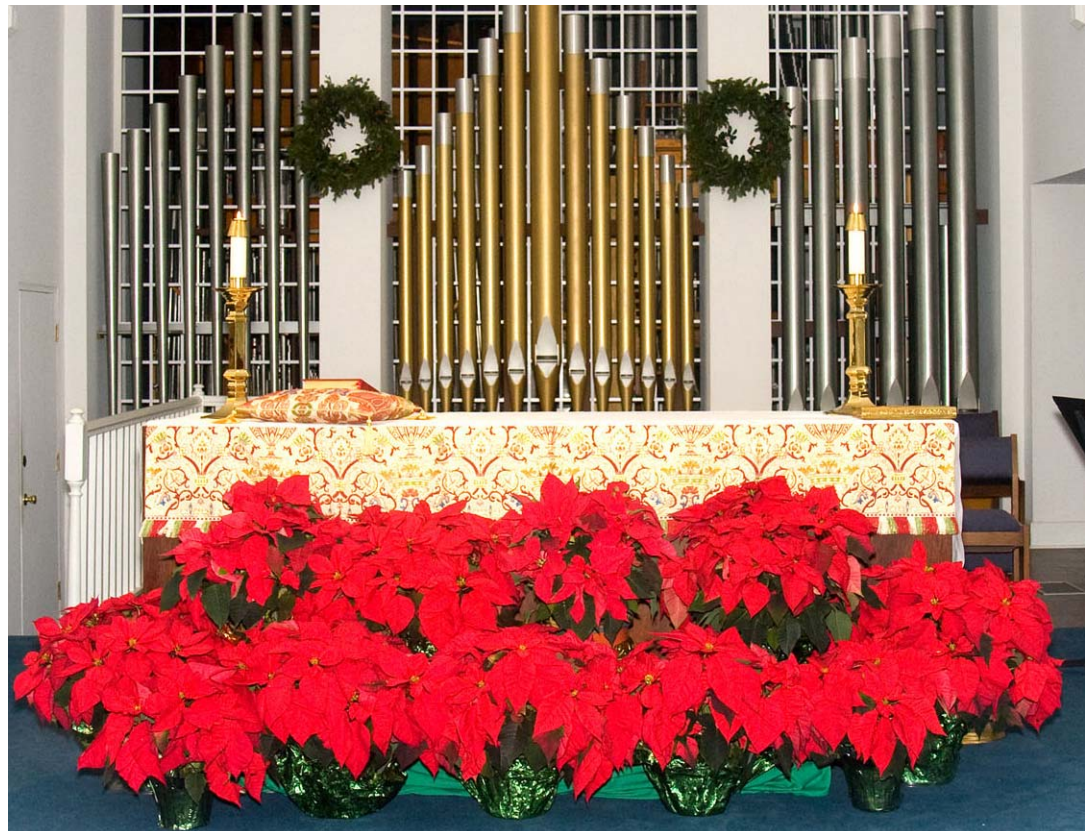


*The Vineyard*, p. 5, February 2009





## *Christmas 2008*







## *Christ Episcopal Church*





# St. Marks Wildlife Refuge Trip, January 1, 2009



Members of Christ Church joined other Valdostans, Bishop Henry Louttit and his family and others at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge for the twenty-fifth year to enjoy birdwatching, picnicking, and riding the flatbottom river boat at Wakulla Springs. The day concluded with dinner for 19 at the Spring Creek Restaurant.

## Christ Church Fills Second Pop-Top Container

Deacon Stella Clark began the Pop-Top Recycling and collection campaign for the Ronald McDonald House in the Fall of 2008 with no idea how many pop-tops it took to fill one of the water jugs used for collection.

"I still don't know," she confesses, "but, I know there are a lot of them! I am amazed that we are able to collect so many. Since we get a lot of money to donate to the Ronald McDonald House, I want to keep this project going."

Thanks to all those who have brought in the tabs so far. And keep them coming!



## Save the Date

**ECW Convocation Quiet Day**  
**Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 12 Noon**  
**at St. Thomas, Thomasville**  
**The Rev. Judy Jones will present**  
**the program.**

**More details will follow. Contact Julie**  
**Van Ham - [jvanham1@bellsouth.net](mailto:jvanham1@bellsouth.net)**  
**247-5341**



# Epiphany at Christ Church, January 6, 2009



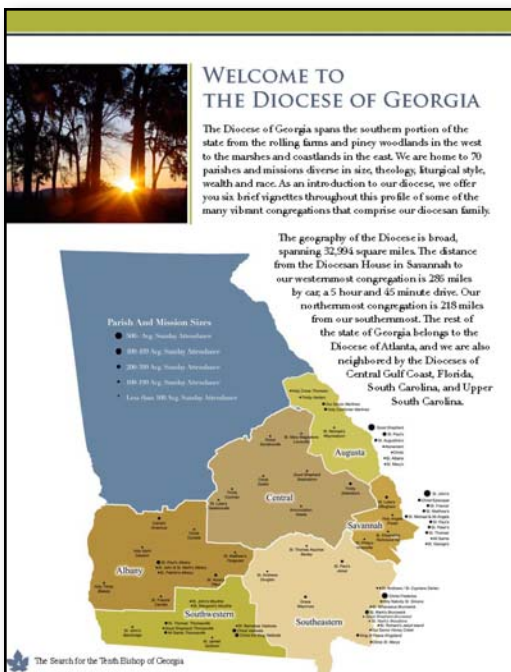
Stephani Carroll narrated the Epiphany Pageant with five angels, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, a shepherd, a bee, a lion, a puppy, a calf, and three kings. The cast included Ellie Grace Teegardin, Caroline Prine, Andrew Diamond, Alexandra Peeples, Pierce Baker, Noah Carroll, John David Grenaker, Alden Myddleton, Olivia Nunn, Brooklyn Prine, George Tidmore, Josie Tidmore, Sally Baker, Hayden Coggins, Owen Coggins, and Thomas Myddleton.

## Bishop Search Information Online

by Walter Hobgood

The search for the 10th Bishop of Georgia is going well, albeit about 2 weeks behind our original schedule. Our guiding statement is "Discerning the One Mind for One Mission." Nominations required a postmark of January 15. After we have reviewed the nominations, the committee will conduct telephone interviews followed by interviews in person. The search committee received professional training on how to do an effective interview in January.

I invite you to view the Diocesan Profile Statement, a snapshot of our diocese at the Web site <http://www.georgiabishopsearch.org>. In the words of the statement, it "attempts to articulate how we see and understand ourselves, the challenges before us, our aspirations for the decade to come and the qualities we seek in our new bishop."





# 60th Anniversary of the Dedication of Christ Church at 1521 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia by Dr. Joseph Tomberlin

While reading the Christ Church archival material, Dr. Joseph Tomberlin, member of Christ Church since 1971 and former Professor of History at Valdosta State University, discovered that the cornerstone of our church was laid 60 years ago. The stone is the same one that had been in the former home of the church on Central Avenue. The stone was turned around, carved on the opposite side and used for our building. The service for the occasion is re-typed below. The articles deposited in the stone as a historical record are also listed below. The entire year from Sept. 2008 - Sept. 2009 is our 60th anniversary year. The first service was held in the new building on Feb. 20, 1949. The stone is located at the northwest corner of the property at College Ave. and Patterson St.



Dr. Joseph Tomberlin at  
the cornerstone

## LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE CHRIST CHURCH VALDOSTA, GEORGIA September 10, 1948

Cornerstone laid September 10, 1948 at 10 AM., Rev. Clifton White, Vicar- by Mr. Arthur W. Goodin, Treasurer, acting as Bishop's Deputy

### Responsive Reading:

1. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power.
2. For thou has created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created.
3. Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne.
4. And unto the lamb for ever and ever.
5. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them.
6. And they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

V: Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Christ, have mercy upon us.

V: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Our Father. . .etc. (THE LORD'S PRAYER)

V: Praise ye the Lord.

All: The Lord's Name be praised.

V: Beloved, we are assembled to found a house which is to be set apart to the honour and service of Almighty God, in the Name of Christ our Lord. Harken, therefore, and consider what our Saviour Christ saith of Himself: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

I am the Vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.

All: I believe. . .etc. (APOSTLES' CREED)

V: The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy spirit.

V: Let us pray. (After this prayer all respond Amen.)

Here shall the Bishop or his Deputy name the articles to be deposited within the stone. The articles then within it, the Bishop or Deputy assisted by the Vestrymen of the Church and the builders shall lay the stone in its place. The Bishop or Deputy shall, striking the stone thrice with a trowel, say:

B: Except the Lord build the house their labour is but lost that build it.

All: Our help is in the Name of the Lord who hath made heaven and earth.

B: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. I lay the Cornerstone of a building to be named Christ Church and to be devoted to the service of Almighty God in Accordance with the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, that here true faith with the fear of God and brotherly love may forever flourish and abound: and that this place may be a House of Prayer for all time to come. Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

V: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

All: Amen.

V: Let thy merciful kindness, O Lord, be upon us.

All: Like as we do put our trust in thee.

V: Let us pray: (Here shall prayers be offered, to each of which as to the Blessing following, all shall respond Amen.)

The Blessing: Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace both now and evermore. Amen.

## Articles placed within the stone:

1. A copy of the Holy Bible
2. A copy of the Book of Common Prayer
3. A summary of the history of this Church in four parts:
  - a. From 1885 to 1947
  - b. From 1947 to September 10, 1948
  - c. History of the building campaign
  - d. A historical list of the officials who worked in the building campaign
4. A photograph of the service of groundbreaking held earlier that summer
5. A program of the groundbreaking ceremonies
6. Certain coins which were deposited within the stone in 1885.

During construction of the Church, these services were held in the auditorium of the Georgia State Womans College:

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Low)  
9:45 a.m. Church School  
11 a.m. Choral Service and Sermon





# Special Days Remembered in February



## BIRTHDAYS

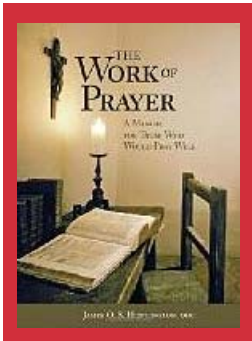
## BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2 David Carter, Jr.	17 Trent Marshall
Haylee Johnson	18 Kip Nunn
3 Dori Carter	19 Cheryl Hatcher
4 Marcia Hummel	Matilda Stubbs
Jane Peebles	20 Dick Campbell
6 Bonnie Hanson	Mary Lou McRae
7 Ed Berckman	21 Cliff Baker
Owen Coggins	Keven Davis
Greg Prine	Mike Holland
Fred Quinn	Amy Terrell
8 Kristeena Parsons	22 Dottie Pitts
9 Andy Drazdowski	23 Dean Failor
12 Kayley Carter	Martha Leake
Ed Powell	24 Barbara Jane Rigby
14 Patrick Teasley	27 Tammy Borders
16 Lucille Sineath	
Emily White	

1 Julia Ariail
Brandi Parsons
Randi Parsons
8 Christopher Cody
13 Jack Fitzsimons
20 Caty Carter
Mary Peebles
21 Christopher Hanson
Claire Hanson
Joshua Hanson
23 Sarah Parrish
25 Emory Warrick, III
26 Patrick Teasley

4 Dean & Kathy Failor
15 Tommy & Frances
Hatcher
Steven & Maria Taylor
If your special day is not
included in our calendar,
please call the church office at
242-5115 to let us know.



## The Church Bookshelf

by Patricia Marks

***The Work of Prayer***  
(Sophia Institute Press, 2005)  
By James Huntington, OHC

This slender volume, written by the founder of the Order of the Holy Cross, a Benedictine monastic community, is subtitled "A Manual for those Who Would Pray Well." Its pages open the door to a prayerful Lent and the resurrection path beyond. But like prayer itself, the book may change our perspective. As creatures who inhabit two worlds at once—the physical and the spiritual—we should pray as naturally as we breathe. Yet to do so, says Huntington, we need to recognize prayer as a gift, moving us to desire whatever God has in store. So

rather than bending God to our will, prayer is a way of discerning the impulses that God has planted in us.

Reading Huntington is like sitting down with a soul friend who gently urges us to welcome the Holy Spirit into our busy lives. He reminds us of "acted prayer," doing our daily work well so as to please God. And he acknowledges that prayer is not always easy. "Be prepared for difficulties," he says quietly. But his suggestions for daily prayer are simple and effective. To pray on awakening

I praise my God this day;  
I give myself to God this day;  
I ask God to help me this day.

is to begin the day with a reminder of whose we are.



Deacon Patricia  
Marks



# U. S. Army 1st Sergeant Thanks Christ Church

First Sergeant Thomas Price visited Christ Episcopal Church, Sunday, January 11 with his family to present certificates of appreciation to Christ Church and to his aunt Kathy Mayer who organized the Iraqi Children's Fund Pencil & Paper Project.

"What you did really made a difference," said 1st Sgt. Price. "We got to go into the community with the Iraqi police taking your gifts to places we would not ordinarily have been welcome." He described the 18 schools in the southern part of Baghdad where

he was stationed as teaching both boys and girls in separate classrooms of 25 to 30 students and usually at different times of the day.

He encouraged Christ Church to continue the project sending the supplies to someone he selected to continue the work when he was transferred.

First Sgt. Price suggested the following items as being most needed and appreciated:

- pencils
- paper - ruled or plain
- spiral bound notebooks
- pocket folders
- pencil sharpeners
- colored pencils
- crayons
- markers
- chalk

Katherine Mayer will continue to collect supplies in the Christ



Wife Nancy, son Colby, granddaughter Autumn, daughter Courtney, aunt Kathy Mayer and 1st Sgt. Tom Price (left to right). The Prices have another daughter, Caitlin, who was not with them when they visited.

Church Parish Hall and ship them when it is appropriate. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project such a success.



## Pencil & Paper Project

Iraqi Children's Fund



## Join us for Regular Services

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. Holy Communion\*

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

Second Saturday of each month: 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion\*

6:00 p.m. Vespers

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.\*

10:45 a.m. Christian Education\*

Thursday: 7:00 a.m.

\*Nursery Available

# Christ Episcopal Church

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