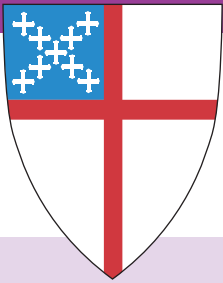


# The Vineyard



Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

November 2009



## Mark Your Calendar

### November 1

Time Change - Fall Back  
All Saints' Day  
All Souls' Day to be remembered at the 6 p.m. Vespers Service  
Need names for the memorials.  
Please send to church office.

### November 6 - 8

"Holy Fun" @ Honey Creek (College & Young Adult Event)

### November 7

Jim Elliott Ordination  
11 a.m.

### November 8

Bishop Louttit's Visitation

### November 11

Facilities Presentation  
7 p.m.

### November 13 - 15

New Beginnings @ Honey Creek  
(7 - 9 grade event)

(continued on back page)

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

## Tar Drazdowski serving in a new role

**A**s our new Assistant Rector, the Rev. Tar Drazdowski has many new responsibilities. Since she was ordained nearly three years ago, Tar has served as a supply priest at Christ Episcopal Church while continuing to work full time for the Valdosta City School System as a Behavior Intervention Specialist. See the article about Tar in the February 2009 *Vineyard*, pages 1 and 4 online at <http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org/vineyard/vineyard-2009-02.pdf>.



The Rev. Tar Drazdowski

"I am learning yet again in a new phase what servant ministry is all about," said Tar as she sat at her desk in her new office. "It is a position of humility and great privilege. Being the vessel of God's blessings is awesome."

Officially, the Rev. Drazdowski will be responsible for the college ministry, the second Saturday Eucharist, the mentoring and tutoring program, Sunday School, supervision of the staff of the Preschool, liaison with Preschool parents, supervision of the Parents' Morning Out program, and working with the other clergy members to visit the sick and shut-ins. She will have office hours Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. She will serve as priest at services on rotation with Fr. Peter Ingeman. "Fr. Peter is a phenomenal teacher. I still have things to learn," she said.

Tar is pleased that the college ministry is off to a great start this year. They have a nucleus group of 15, but as many as 25 have come to the Sunday night meetings where they have a modified Compline prayer service and Bible study as well as supper. The theme for this year is "To Grow in Community." Tar hopes to "be God's representative, accessible, approachable, and recognizable" at VSU. She plans to eat in the VSU Dining Hall and read in the VSU Library regularly wearing her collar.

The mentoring and tutoring program is still evolving according to Tar. At present, on Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m., Jim Drazdowski and John Nall are tutoring in math, and Phyllis Holland is acting as hostess serving refreshments in Louttit Hall. Five students from the Methodist Children's Home are taking advantage of this service. Tar hopes to offer the assistance to children in residence at The Haven, Valdosta's shelter for women and children in abusive situations. She also hopes to expand the offerings to include science and reading when she finds volunteer tutors.

Tar looks forward to being a part of the Christ Church family as it begins this new phase of ministry. She believes that Christ Church has much to offer the Valdosta community. She sees Christ Church as a beacon of hope that will illuminate the path of many individuals who are looking for the light of Christ to come into their world.

# 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). 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 [<juliacaraiail@bellsouth.net>](mailto:juliacaraiail@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, Assistant  
Rector

Stella Clark, Deacon

Patricia Marks, Deacon

Molly Greneker, Parish Secretary

Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper

Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist

Ben Stroup, St. Gregory Choir Director

Maggie Roberts, St. Francis Choir Leader

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 Stella Clark 559-6159

Deacon Patricia Marks 244-5159

Molly Greneker 292-8215

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

## Vestry Report from September 21, 2009

- Accepted Treasurer's Report. Cash flow continues to be good, especially for summer months. Voted to move \$50,000 from the Smith Barney account to a single or several low rate CDs.
- Received report from Junior Warden regarding basic repairs on the property. Authorized a maximum of \$3,000 for the addition of fencing at the Preschool to improve safety for the children.
- Approved a request from Dave Clark for the construction of a cooking shed at the edge of the back parking lot for the "Men in Blue" to use in rainy weather.
- Voted to approve a one million dollar, three-year campaign to build the new education and preschool building. Members of the Facilities Committee are meeting with the architects today and plan changes may necessitate an adjustment to the capital campaign goal.



Pepi Nelson, Senior Warden and Mike Tanner, Junior Warden

- Appointed Sandra Fletcher as campaign manager for the capital campaign. A campaign chairperson has not yet been appointed.
- Received report from the Rev. Drazdowski on the preschool program, the new tutoring program and the college ministry.
- Received report from Deacon Marks on the Excellence in Servanthood award and the Haven project.
- Received report from Youth Director Baker on the Sunday School and EYC plans for the next month.

## Vocare College Program - By Liz Williams

Vocare is a young adult ministry run jointly between the Diocese of Georgia and the Diocese of Atlanta. Participants are between the ages of 18 and 29. For more information about the Diocese of Georgia and Diocese of Atlanta Vocare, visit [<www.vocareingeorgia.org>](http://www.vocareingeorgia.org).

Run for Vocare is in its inaugural year where five Vocati (those who have attended Vocare) are hitting the pavement for Vocare. Each runner will estimate how many miles they will run in the month of November and those who wish to sponsor a runner will pledge a certain amount per mile. For example, if a runner estimates they will run 50 miles total in November and a person would like to donate \$1 per mile, at the end of the month when the runner has reached their goal, the pledger will donate the total amount of \$50. Only the money pledged for the initial amount of miles run will be asked of the donor, even if the runner completes more miles than originally agreed upon. All money donated will go directly to the Vocare ministry of the dioceses.

There are three Diocese of Georgia Vocati participating this year. They are Liz Williams, Savannah Spivey, and Matt Harrell. For more information on how to donate or to sponsor a runner, please contact any of the three Vocati through the church office at 242-5115.

# From the Rector



## BUILDING CHURCHES

"We build churches, and they are precious to us, because they are the places where we encounter God in the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. They are places where we kneel and pray and God does His work in us. The building is precious not primarily because of what it is, but because of what God does there."

So says The Very Reverend Canon Robert S. Munday, Dean and President of Nashotah House, the Episcopal Seminary in Wisconsin. Dean Munday speaks of a place of Romanesque buildings built of butter-colored stone in the 1840's overarched by great oaks and elms. It is a place in which there is an overwhelming sense of the presence and purpose of God. It is a holy place, not an historical artifact. It is vibrant and alive today and prepares for the future. Our Christ Church, built of red brick in a colonial pattern in the 1940's, is no less a place filled with the presence of God, no less a place filled with the Spirit. There is in Christ Church a sense of the Communion of Saints, generation after generation of parishioners who have knelt in prayer in its pews and received the Blessed Sacrament at its altar, generation after generation who have given their hearts to the life of our parish. It is a holy place, indeed, and one that will serve God and His people in generations to come. Please consider these things as our Christ Church moves forward with plans for the future.

In Christ,  
Peter +

## Vestry Election

The election of five new Vestry members will be held the first two Sundays of November - November 1 and 8. Anyone may come by the office during that week if they would like to vote then instead. Voting will be closed at the end of the day - Sunday, November 8. Ballots will be tallied on Monday, November 9. Those nominated are:

Julia Ariail	Philip Gunter
Tal Barnidge	Duke Guthrie
John Bennett	Jane Kinney
Stefani Carroll	Eric Nielsen
Robin Coleman	Aaron Parten
Frances Crawford	Melanie Schwallenberg
Pat Denmark	Joe Tomberlin
Susan Elliott	Elizabeth Wisenbaker

The following Vestry members are completing their terms at the end of December 2009: Tom Carroll, Sandra Fletcher, Pepi Nelson, Bill Nunn, and Al Turner.



This camera icon indicates that the photos are displayed on <<http://picasaweb.google.com/christchurchvaldosta>>

## Making It Happen!

*Please plan to attend a  
Master Plan Presentation  
Wednesday, November 11  
after the 6 p.m. service followed by  
Dinner by the Men in Blue  
The presentation will  
feature the revised  
Master Building Plan  
for Christ Episcopal Church.  
Child care will be provided.*

## Word for the Season After Pentecost

### Stewardship



# Ministries Fair - October 18, 2009



By Phyllis Holland

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people.*



These verses from 1 Corinthians 12 remind us of the diversity of gifts and opportunities which are available. These opportunities were displayed in the Ministries Fair held between the services on October 18. Ministries and their representatives were: Hospitality Committee, Natalie and Gil Gjertsen; Altar Guild, Judy DeMott; Bible Study, Tammy Borders; Lay Readers/Chalice Administrators, Kathryn and Reagan Adams; Daughters of the King, Edi Shepherd; Food Bank/Second Harvest, Phyllis Hiers; Cursillo, Jim Drazdowski; St. Francis Ministry, Karen Gunter; St. Francis Choir, Emily Rogers; St. Gregory Choir, George Howell; Stitchers of Love, Patricia Marks; Ushers/ United Thank Offering, Helen Tucker.



The ministries represented were only a part of the total service opportunities at Christ Church. The complete list is available in the new *Christ Episcopal Church Discipleship Guide*. Even as the *Guide* went to press, a new tutoring ministry staffed by retired teachers was getting started. As we discover our gifts, we continue to expand our ministries. It's never too late to get involved. Pick up a copy of the *Guide* and find your place of service.





## Blessing of the Pets - October 4, 2009



**Christ Episcopal Church welcomed more than 125 two- and four-footed creatures to the annual pet blessing. After a short prayer service, all were blessed with sprinkles of water and dog treats as appropriate.**







## Special Days Remembered in November



### BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Diane Corker        | 20 Lori Campbell        |
| Brandon Jackson       | 22 Claire Hanson        |
| 2 Robbie Beeland      | 23 Danny Clark          |
| Nancy Lutsko          | Dan Holcomb             |
| 4 Robin Guice         | 24 Elizabeth Wisenbaker |
| 5 Jennifer Carter     | 26 Valerie Page         |
| Marge Fitzsimons      | 27 Pat Armstrong        |
| 6 Stefani Carroll     | Shannon Flemer          |
| Georgianna Manning    | 28 John Roberts         |
| 7 Robert Bauer, Jr.   | 29 Phyllis Holland      |
| Brad Burnette         |                         |
| Diane McPipkin        |                         |
| 8 Melissa Carter      |                         |
| David Kirk            |                         |
| Karla Lauckhardt      |                         |
| 12 Lindsey Wisenbaker |                         |
| 14 Duane Carter       |                         |
| 15 Helen Bennett      |                         |
| 18 Jeanette Bajalia   |                         |
| Jon Burch             |                         |
| Aldine Carter         |                         |
| Marty Diamond         |                         |
| Emory Warrick, Jr.    |                         |
| 19 Jim Elliott        |                         |
| Lauren Sandbach       |                         |

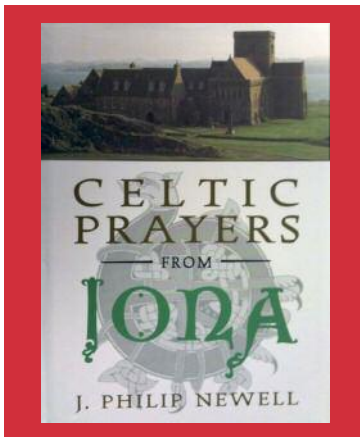
### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 2 David & Sue Sandbach         |
| 16 Richard & Barbara Rigby     |
| 17 Hugh & Joan Bailey          |
| 24 Charles & Carmen Boatwright |
| Steve and Maggie Roberts       |
| 25 Brooks & Mary Lovelace      |
| 26 Jon & Linda Burch           |
| Marshall & Barbara Parks       |
| 30 Dennis & Patricia Marks     |

### BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Nicholas Balanis    | 14 Tamara Dennis        |
| Cecilia Carroll       | 15 Liz Williams         |
| Stefani Carroll       | Walter Williams         |
| Molly Greneker        | 16 Christopher Sandbach |
| David Holland         | 17 Ellie Copeland       |
| Marie Moser           | Andrew Diamond          |
| Robert Porter         | Emily White             |
| 2 Erin Carter         | 20 Chase Adams          |
| Marty Tucker          | Jake Adams              |
| 3 Brett Nelson        | Regan Adams             |
| Alexandra Peebles     | 21 Grace Diamond        |
| Lauren Rutledge       | 22 Gil Gjertsen         |
| 4 Michael Black       | 26 Nancy Lutsko         |
| Rachel Greneker       | 27 Tom Carroll          |
| Patricia Marks        | 28 Chapell Wolfson      |
| Harrison Tillman, Jr. | Molly Wolfson           |
| 7 Elonda Holcomb      | Wilby Wolfson           |
| 12 Charles Adams      |                         |
| Helen Bennett         |                         |
| Dennis Savoie         |                         |

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

*Celtic Prayers from Iona*  
By J. Philip Newell. Paulist Press: 1997



Deacon Patricia Marks

If Iona, one of the western islands of Scotland, is a "thin" place—a place where the earthly and the spiritual intersect—then this weekly cycle of morning and evening prayers transports us there. Newell, who served as a warden of the Iona Community, has published many books on Celtic spirituality. This slender volume, its pages embellished with chaste calligraphy, is a gracious way to pray one's way through the week. Every day is devoted to a

special concern, beginning with justice and peace on Monday; and then, through the week, for healing, the goodness of creation, commitment to Christ, Communion of heaven and earth, and welcome and hospitality. Prayers and readings from the Gospels and Psalms are part of the cycle. And always we are called to focus on God's creation, always we are called to find our own island of peace: "Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around."

## Primetimers Enjoy Lunch Once a Month



The Primetimers is a group of individuals comprised of those 50 years old and older who meet at noon on the first Thursday of each month for lunch and fellowship. This social organization has members from Christ Episcopal Church, St.

Barnabas Episcopal Church, and Christ the King Episcopal Church. Lavan and Janet Robinson have been attending the longest, possibly over 20 years. Joyce Dunmire serves as the secretary, calling everyone to inquire if they are attending and

making reservations. They would be delighted to have new members. In September the group met at Taqueria Del Sur Este and in October at the Hilton Garden Inn. Call Joyce Dunmire at 244-8086 for information on the schedule.



### 5th Annual St. Francis Tea October 17, 2009

By Karen Gunter

photographs by Phyllis Hiers  
and Patricia Marks

The St. Francis Tea is one of several fundraisers that the St. Francis Ministry for Animals holds throughout the year. We raise money to assist needy animals in our area to get vaccinations, help with the cost of spay or neutering, or any other kind of medical need.

Josie Parten baked some true English delights such as Maids of Honor, Coconut Tarts, scones, and sausage rolls. Also served were cucumber sandwiches and egg salad sandwiches. It was buffet style event with tea served individually. Classical music played in the background as tea-goers enjoyed authentic English tea and food, and wonderful fellowship. Deacon Patricia Marks said it was a "lovely event."



Buddy

Sampson

We really need a home to call our own. We have been neutered and have had all our shots. We love people and other animals.

If you want to come and see us, please call Karen at 794-8146 or (229) 560-4472 Thanks!



*The Vineyard*, p. 7, November 2009





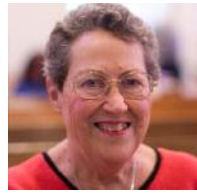
### Cello Recital

Cellist Steven Taylor, assisted by Maila Gutierrez Springfield on the piano and Nina Lutz on violin, performed works by Bach, Kodály, and Beethoven in a faculty recital at Christ Episcopal Church on Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m.

On the faculty of Valdosta State University since 1992, Taylor is the principal cellist of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and a member of Christ Episcopal Church.

### Foyer Groups Begin

Frances Crawford chairs the Foyers Group project to encourage members of Christ Episcopal Church to meet socially and to form new friendships. This year four groups of eight or nine people began meeting in November once a month at a home or restaurant. You can join a group or form another one in January 2010 by calling Frances at 242-0741.



### Tuesday Evening Bible Study Resumes

Dr. Willa Valencia's Tuesday evening Bible study meets at the home of Ron and Tammy Borders at 1718 Williams Street from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are invited to participate and drop-ins are welcome. They are currently studying the book of Romans.



### The Mamma Mia Party

On the evening of Friday, September 25, 2009 the first sing-along movie party was held at Christ Episcopal Church in the parish hall. The sing-along version of *Mamma Mia* which includes on-screen lyrics for 22 musical numbers from the 1970s rock group ABBA was our movie selection. Seven people ranging in age from 10 years to 70 plus attended. Small prizes were awarded to the youngest and oldest attending. Refreshments were provided by the guests who came. We are planning our next sing-along party for December and are taking recommendations for sing-along films and other party ideas!

Please email Diane Halim ([dhollim@valdosta.edu](mailto:dhollim@valdosta.edu)) with recommendations for movies and other suggestions for the party.

### Christ Church Ongoing Projects

**Adopt a Haven Family** - The Haven has a special need for new or like-new kitchen supplies (appliances, dishes, etc.) for mothers and children moving out of the shelter. Contact Patricia Marks (244-5159); [<spmarks@bellsouth.net>](mailto:spmarks@bellsouth.net).

**Foster Kids Project** - Phyllis Holland chairs this project to assist local foster kids with supplies, tutoring, and mentoring. (245-3821); [<pholland@valdosta.edu>](mailto:pholland@valdosta.edu)

**Partnership for Health Clinic Project** - Diane Halim chairs this project for donations for specific items to patients and family. [<dhollim@valdosta.edu>](mailto:dhollim@valdosta.edu)

**Pop Tabs** - Collect pop tabs to benefit the Atlanta Ronald McDonald Houses. Please add them to the container on the round table in the parish hall. Deacon Stella Clark chairs this project. [<sclark@lowndes.k12.ga.us>](mailto:sclark@lowndes.k12.ga.us)

**Toiletries Project** - Gail Hobgood chairs the project to collect unused hotel toiletries for families at LAMP. [<WPHOBG@aol.com>](mailto:WPHOBG@aol.com)

### St. Francis Choir

Do you play an instrument or like to sing just for the joy of it?

If the answer is "yes," please consider joining the St. Francis choir. This informal group sings for the 11:30 a.m. service on Sunday and practices at 6 p.m. on Monday evenings. The St. Francis ensemble plays and sings a variety of praise, contemporary, folk, and traditional selections and is definitely "friendship set to music." For further information contact Maggie Roberts or any choir member. All ages are invited.





The Right Reverend Henry I. Louttit

**B**ishop Henry Louttit and his wife Jan will be at Christ Episcopal Church the weekend of November 7 and 8 for a final official visit before Bishop Louttit retires in January. As the Ninth Bishop of Georgia, Bishop Louttit has served 15 years as the leader of the Diocese of Georgia after serving 28 years as the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Valdosta.

Join in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the church at 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The 9:30 service will feature baptisms and confirmations. Following the 9:30 service, there will be a reception for the Louttits at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall.

*By the Grace of God*  
**Molly Shafer Greneker**  
*and*  
**Paul David Stevenson**

*Will be joined together  
in Holy Matrimony  
On Friday, the twenty-seventh  
day of November  
Two thousand nine  
at eleven o'clock in the morning  
in Christ Episcopal Church  
1521 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, Georgia*

*Your prayers and presence are requested.*

*Reception following in the Parish Hall*



*God willing  
And the People consenting*

*The Right Reverend Henry I. Louttit  
Ninth Bishop of Georgia*

*Will ordain to the Sacred Order of Deacons*

*James Lawrence Elliott*

*Saturday, November 7, 2009  
11 o'clock in the morning  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Valdosta, Georgia*

*Your presence and prayers are requested*

*clergy, red stoles*

*reception following*

### **Farewell Events for Bishop Louttit**

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 4, for Bishop Louttit's Retirement Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Jekyll Island Convention Center and the Saturday, December 5, Retirement Eucharist at Honey Creek followed by a picnic. For December 4 reservations call the diocesan office at (912) 236-4279 or go to the diocesan Website at <http://georgia.anglican.org>.

### **Habitat to Build 2 Houses in November**

Habitat for Humanity is building 2 houses in Valdosta between Saturday, November 14, and Saturday, November 21. Christ Church is among the most active church participants and contributors. The Vestry voted to contribute \$1,000 to the cause. Contact Dr. Dick Saeger if you would like to volunteer for this project. [dsaeger@valdosta.edu](mailto:dsaeger@valdosta.edu).

### **Hand Chimes Choir Begins Practice**

Ben Stroup is teaching hand chimes to anyone who is interested. To participate, call the church office or come to Sunday evening practice at 5 p.m. in the choir room.



# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin



Vestry Clerk Robert G. Macks, on April 14, 1952, wrote to Richard P. Kent, Jr., Secretary of

the American Church Building Fund Commission: "After some delays it is a pleasure to finally forward to you [the] loan application for Christ Episcopal Church of Valdosta." Macks expressed his "sincere hope" that the A.C.B.F.C. would "look favorably" at the submission and asked to be contacted should "any further data" be necessary.

Kent acknowledged receipt of the request for a \$21,500 loan on April 18, 1952, but with his letter returned the application, pointing out that the Church Fund's policy precluded lending "the entire cost of a project." Consequently, Christ Church must revise its request to reflect "the amount to be raised by the congregation and from any sources . . . over and above the proposed loan," and Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell must approve the submission and sign it. Kent warned, moreover, that he already had several completed applications and that he would have no money for new loans until February or March of 1953. He also tactfully raised "the question of the proposed loan seeming to be so large in relation to the membership" and asked for an explanation.

On April 24, 1952, Mr. Macks wrote to Bishop Barnwell that the Church Fund "had suggested that we

make one or two changes" in the loan application, and he asked that "in addition to the letter of recommendation you so kindly forwarded last December, you endorse the application." He urged the Bishop to "handle this for us and forward the application along with my letter enclosed to Mr. Kent in New York."

The same day Macks wrote to Kent to confirm that Christ Church had trimmed the desired loan total from \$21,500 to \$16,000, "showing \$5,500 to be raised by us." He declared, "With our small group this is just about everything that we can promise." Macks also called Kent's attention to Christ Church's recent progress, noting, for example, that in 1949 the church's debt amounted to \$16,000, which, as of April 1952, had decreased to \$4,000. He claimed that the debt "reduction has been accomplished with a membership . . . of 105 communicants." Now, Macks asserted, membership was 130 communicants, and Christ Church was reaching out to a growing college community and to the recently reactivated Moody Air Force Base.

Two months later, on June 24, 1952, Mr. Kent notified Macks that the Loan Committee of the A.C.B.F.C., having reviewed Christ Church's application, had approved it with two major conditions. First, the Church Fund was not obligated to close the loan until the money was available "and all legal and other requirements shall have been met to its

satisfaction." Second, establishing even an "estimated closing date" for the loan was contingent upon the fulfillment of the first condition. As an aside, Kent mentioned that the earliest probable date for the A.C.B.F.C. to have "the funds . . . for the loan desired by Christ Church, Valdosta, was April 30, 1953."

At that point all seemed to be going well for Christ Church, but in the months ahead the situation became very complicated, so stay tuned for more in the December issue of *The Vineyard*.



**Jim Drazdowski**  
**Chair of Cursillo Commission**

Jim Drazdowski has succeeded fellow Christ Church member Sandy Sandbach as the chair of the Diocesan Cursillo Commission. The appointment is a 2-year post leading the commission that plans the Cursillios, the Leadership Conference, and the Commission Retreats. The leadership team is composed of 12 laypersons and 4 clergy. Drazdowski attended the National Cursillo Conference October 22 - 23.

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## Fall Softball

Our men's softball team is now playing in the Black Division of the 2009 Men's Fall League at Freedom Park on Guest Road. Other teams in this division include Acute Rehab, Georgia Power, Hendrix Construction, and Smokin' Pig. Dates for November games: Nov. 3, 6:45 p.m.; Nov. 5, 9:15 p.m.; Nov. 10, 9:15 p.m.; and Nov. 17 at 6:45 p.m.





## Guitar Mass

text by John Hiers

photographs by Phyllis Hiers

Fall is really here, weather notwithstanding; school and work are in full swing. In October Christ Church reinstated a Saturday evening celebration of the Eucharist. Serving were the Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Deacon Stella Clark, LEM's Jim Elliott and Nancy Lutsko, lay reader Susan Elliott, and acolyte Paul Stephenson. Tar encouraged the congregation to join her in a dialogue sermon. Guitarists Bobbie Warren, David Schert, Jim Drazdowski, Allan Dear, and David Singleton led the congregation with music familiar to those who have loved Honey Creek events. Dave Clark and the Men in Blue served a meal of grilled chicken and sausage, heavenly beans, and coleslaw; the congregation provided desserts. Throughout the school year, this celebration will continue on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. All guitarists are welcomed and encouraged to join the musicians.

## 3rd Annual Christ Church Las Posadas

by Beth Baker

"In Mexico, Christmas is an important holiday season with strong traditions. One of the most colorful traditions is the posada party, celebrated every evening from December 16 to 24. These celebrations commemorate Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter. 'Posada' in Spanish, simply means lodging or shelter. Nowadays, the posada has evolved into a religious and social celebration, paying a festive homage to the journey. Each one of these nights before Christmas, a celebration is held in a home in the neighborhood. There is plenty of food and drink, with candies and fruit for the children." (Gaceta Consular, December 1996)



At Christ Church, we have our own tradition of carrying a statue of Mary and Joseph from home to home. We have extended the nights to accommodate our large parish and the sign-up sheet is located in the Parish Hall. Mary and Joseph return to Christ Church on Christmas Eve. This is an event for anyone!

I hope that this event will really put you in the Christmas mood! This can be anything you would like it to be...cookies and milk, a quick get-to-know-you chat, a chance to teach your loved ones a different culture's tradition, a fiesta, a glass of wine or a quick hello. Please keep in mind that you may be visiting someone who has done a lot of planning or has gotten excited about your visit. No quick "drop-offs" on the back porch! Make sure that your entire family gets involved (if you can).

Make sure that you call a few days before hand to let the home in which you are visiting know what time to expect your visit. If you have kids, do an internet search for Las Posadas. Email me if you have any questions at [<bethbaker@bellsouth.net>](mailto:bethbaker@bellsouth.net).

*Let's Be Thankful Together*

**Thanksgiving Service  
11 a.m., November 26  
followed by a feast.  
Christ Church provides  
the meat and the guests  
provide the side dishes  
- breads, vegetables,  
salads, and desserts.**



*The Vineyard, p. 11, November 2009*

## Christ Church Youth

text and photographs by Beth Baker



### EYC Works Second Harvest Food Bank

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, Christ Church youth went to the Second Harvest Food Bank and donated their time and talents to better their community. Before entering, they discussed the importance of doing God's work with a cheerful and happy heart. Doing for others sure feels good.

### No Sunday School/EYC during Thanksgiving Break (22nd and 29th)



### Christmas Parade December 5

Christ Church needs lots and lots of hot chocolate packages to pass out during the December 5th Valdosta Christmas Parade. We place stickers on the packages that have our name, address, and an invitation to join our Children's Christmas Mass. The kids on the float pass these out instead of candy.

Please support us by purchasing a box or two of hot chocolate and bringing it to the church office by December 1.



## MORE IMPORTANT DATES

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### November 14

Saturday Eucharist 6 p.m.

### November 15

DOK Meeting during  
Sunday School Hour 10:30 a.m.

### November 22

No Sunday School

### November 26

Thanksgiving Day  
11 a.m. Service & Baptism  
followed by "Feast"

### November 27

Office Closed &  
Greener/Stevenson  
Wedding at 11 a.m.

### November 29

Advent I  
Wreath-Making Event  
Las Posadas Begins  
No Sunday School

## 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.

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

\*Nursery Available

*Christ Episcopal Church*  
1521 N. Patterson Street • Valdosta, GA 31602

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