

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1521 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia 31602  
The Reverend Peter L. Ingeman

STEWARDSHIP 2012: Preparing for the Future, Living in the Present

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, September 25, 2011, our Bishop was present and took part in the ground-breaking for our new Education Building, an exciting and momentous occasion in the life and history of Christ Church. Your gifts and your pledges have made it possible.. The vision of new and adequate facilities for Christian Education has become a reality by the generosity of our parishioners and their faith in the mission of our church. Much remains for us to do; the continuing support of each of us is essential to carry our project to completion. This moment speaks of a bright future for our parish.

The future of Christ Church is bright; the present is no less bright. Christ Church has again seen the ordination of a priest, Walter Hobgood, to serve our diocese. We are a worship-centered community, guided in all things by Our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are now able to offer a variety of services each week ; four celebrations of the Holy Eucharist each Sunday as well as a service of Vespers each Sunday evening. The Eucharist is celebrated each Wednesday evening and each Thursday morning, Feast Days and days of Special Commemoration.

Our clergy provide worship services for hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Deacon Stella Clark serves as volunteer nurse at a clinic for those without insurance; Deacon Patricia Marks serves Langdale House and Heritage Nursing Home and coordinates a knitting ministry to provide wraps and children's clothing to those in need; Deacon Nancy Sartin serves as a volunteer chaplain to South Georgia Medical Center and is teacher at Valdosta State University. Father Jim Elliott serves as Chancellor, legal advisor, for the Diocese of Georgia. The Reverend Tar Drazdowski coordinates mission activities to, and is Diocesan Representative to the development group for, the Dominican Republic.

Our Christian Education program for youth and adults continues to offer classes for all ages although challenged to find adequate and appropriate space. There is now a class for adults each Sunday morning, a Survey of Scripture in the Parish Hall. Classes for young people meet in every room of Louttit Hall. In addition to Sunday offerings Dr. Valencia's class of Bible Study meets each Tuesday evening, a Bible class led by Tammy Borders meets in the Parish Hall each Wednesday evening, a Bible Study class meets in the Parish Hall each Thursday morning and an Education for Ministry group meets each Sunday afternoon in the Parish Hall.

The Reverend Tar Drazdowski coordinates a very active program of Episcopal Campus Ministry, also called "Canterbury Club" each Sunday evening; Louttit Hall is available to Valdosta State University students each afternoon under the supervision of a church staff member. She also maintains oversight of our Christ Church Preschool and our Parents' Morning Out programs, both of which are fully-subscribed and very active. Our program for our young people is filled with activities throughout the year as well as engaging in service projects that support of The Haven and other community service needs. Youth groups meet in Louttit Hall each Wednesday under the guidance of parish volunteers. Christ Church has taken a role of leadership in Diocesan and national youth activities such as Happening and New Beginnings and has been very active in supporting the Diocesan summer camp program.

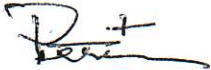
Christ Church continues its service to the greater community by participating in local, national and international programs of relief and assistance. In Valdosta the parish is active in support of The Haven, LAMP and the Food Bank. Nationally and internationally the church supports Ronald McDonald House, as well the ministries sponsored by Episcopal Relief and Development.

As we look to the future we must care for our present buildings and grounds. At a recent meeting of clergy and laity from many parishes of the diocese the consistent comment about our church was "It's beautiful." It is beautiful thanks to the care and love of many years of parishioners who have worshipped here. We are blessed to have such spacious and well cared-for grounds. Of course all that we have has been entrusted to our care by God and we, in gratitude, must care for it. To do so is a joy and a privilege.

It is very important that we provide financial support for the things we have today as we plan to provide for tomorrow. The present Rector, Father Ingeman will fully retire in August 2012. Compensation for an Interim Rector or new Rector, including the additional expense of Health Insurance and perhaps housing are important concerns in the creation of the 2012 budget. Your pledge is a crucial part of our Vestry's planning for next year.

It is time for our Stewardship Campaign. Please consider all these things as you prayerfully make your commitment to Christ Church for the coming year.

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Ingeman" with a cross symbol above the name.