

# Ministering God's Love



## Cultivating Faith

### THE KING'S VOICE

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## BAPTISM

According to the Book of Common Prayer, baptism is an "invitation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body, the church." Through baptism, a person becomes a part of the living community of the church and is adopted as a child of God and made an inheritor of heaven. According to the church in general, and especially the Episcopal, Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox and other churches that believe in apostolic succession, baptism is considered a "sacrament" of the church, an "outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace."

The history of baptism begins with the Jewish church in that gentiles who converted to Judaism were baptized with water so that they could share with the Jewish community the mystery of God's deliverance of his people in the crossing of the Red Sea in the Exodus. In the New Testament, we see John the Baptist using baptism in the river Jordan to prepare the people for the coming of the messiah as

a symbol of repentance of their sins. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John and the Gospels tell us that the Holy Spirit of God descended on him. Thus, we have the elements of baptism for all generations to come, water and the Holy Spirit.

In the early church, baptism became the way in which adults were made a part of the church. Candidates were immersed in water as a sign of their death to their old life and ways and a coming into a new life with Jesus. This was after some three years of study and preparation. In the early life of the church adults were baptized; however, there is indication that by the third century infants were being baptized, which was a growing practice until the Reformation (14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) when infant baptism was rejected by most of the developing Protestant sects, such as Anabaptists and Baptists.

The Episcopal Church continues with infant baptism

today through affusion (sprinkling) or immersion (dunking). For infants and young children, the practice is for parents to invite "Godparents" to present the child for baptism with a promise that they will form a special bond with the child and help with the child's religious education, church life and spiritual growth and to speak for the infant or young child at this service.

In reading through the baptismal service, we see that it involves not just the child or adult being baptized and their family and Godparents, but all of us in the church as well. During the service, everyone present is asked, "Will you who witness these vows do all in you power to support this person in his/her life in Christ?" Immediately following this, we are asked, "Let us join with this person who is committing his/her life to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant." Then, all those present renew or make for the first time vows such as:

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"Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?"

"Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?"

"Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?"

"Will you serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

Quite a tall order isn't it? The saving grace that comes with our own baptism is that we are not left alone to meet the promises that we make. In the service, we answer all of these questions with, "I will with God's help," and God is ready to help us in many ways.

First, God comes to us in a close and personal relationship that is available to all of us if we are willing to simply reach out and ask for His presence in our lives.

Second, we come to know that he sought us out first. J.S. Whale states that, "When Martin Luther was afflicted with temptations and doubts, he would write two words on his table with a piece of chalk, BAPTIZATUS SUM, "I have been baptized." He meant that baptism was the foundation of his Christian certainty. In the fact that he was baptized before he had any knowledge of salvation or the desire for it, God teaches him that the divine mercy of God sought him independently of his attitude toward God."

Third, we have the promise that God will always be ready to take us in His arms when we are ready to come, at any time, in any place, under any circumstances. Martin Bell states that "Jesus is constantly reminding us that we are free from the bondage of our own condemnation. Free to live. Free to decide. Our sins are forgiven and we are accepted....God's judgment is the same as his mercy... In other words, He will not let us go to hell in peace."

Finally, God comes to us physically in the form of the church, the

body of Christ in the world. In this sense, baptism is something of a rite of passage, a sacrament that makes us a part of his living body, the church as a whole and the family of Holy Trinity in particular. The purpose of the church for those newly baptized into it is to offer a place of nurture, support, learning and challenge.

When we are baptized, we have a home and family that becomes for us as Robert Frost said in his poem, "The Death of the Hired Man," "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in....I should have called it something you somehow hadn't to deserve." God seeks us first and accepts us as He finds us. We are loved! All of us as a part of the church are to reflect this love toward ourselves and one another in our common life together.

As the service ends we say, "Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Spirit you have bestowed on these your servants (including ourselves) the forgiveness of sins, and have raised them to a new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord,

in your Holy Spirit. Give them and inquiring and discerning heart, the courage and will to persevere, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works..." The priest then makes the mark of the cross with oil on the child's forehead and says \_\_\_\_\_, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever." Perhaps, that is the most wonderful thought of all.

If you are interested in learning more about the sacrament of baptism and the other sacraments and history of the church as well as biblical and theological aspects of the church, consider joining our "All Things Episcopal" and Confirmation sessions that will begin September 17 and will be the focus of our Wednesday evening worship and teaching sessions through November.

Fr. Wally+



## September 5-7

Final plans are in the making at Christ the King for a Vacation Bible School for the first weekend in September. We will be doing a weekend Vacation Bible School with the beginning session on Friday evening, September 5th, followed by a morning and afternoon session on Saturday, September, 6th with a picnic lunch provided at noon on Saturday. The weekend experience will conclude with a family worship celebration on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, when our children and youth will perform the initial part of the service, from the opening prayers through the peace. Everyone will have a part, and we hope you will join us as our youth serve as greeters, ushers, readers, acolytes, and will also deliver the message for the day. Father Wally will do the Eucharist. The theme of the service will be same theme as the Vacation Bible School program. We at Christ the King are blessed with a wonderful group of children and teens that range from the age of one month to teen years of age. As part of our Vacation Bible School and this special worship service, we will be celebrate God's gift to us and remember our children are the future of the church as we support our youth ministry at Christ the King. We hope that everyone will participate in this wonderful weekend and especially come and join us for our closing service for Vacation Bible School on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> and please bring a friend to join in our celebration. Pam Sharrow, Dorene Royal, Deacon Kate, parents and our wonderful teaching and support staff are in the process of making final program arrangements. We will also need additional help with crafts, snacks and the lunch on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, and with a special coffee hour on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate this wonderful spirit filled weekend. If you would like to help with our Vacation Bible School program, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office.

### NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

There are a couple of things I would like to go over with you. I want to make sure everyone is aware of our phone tree system. On occasion, I send out a message by phone to all our parishioners at once. If you are not receiving these calls, please call the office and let me know. Also we like to publish birthdays and anniversaries in the bulletin and the King's Voice, if yours is not being published, please call the office and let me know. Lastly, if you are in need of giving envelopes or the latest copy of our directory, please let me know by calling the office. If you ever have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to get with me.

God Bless, Chris Benton

## STEWARDSHIP: OUR CHURCH FAMILY FULFILLING GOD'S VISION

Our annual stewardship effort is on the horizon and will be a focus for our parish beginning with Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. This year, we will continue our theme of our strength as a family of loving and giving Christians who want to share all that we have been given by God. These gifts include our wonderful physical facility, our warm and welcoming hearts, the experience that we have had with Christ in our midst and our thankfulness for the fruits of the skills and talents we have been given. Our gifts of time, talent and treasure, to use a well-worn but meaningful phrase, are what we bring to this community of believers to offer as our thanksgiving and support for God's work in this community and the world.

Our "We Are Family" theme will again highlight the important family qualities that are present at Christ the King, as we act as God's family for one another and for those in need both physically and spiritually that God sends into our midst. This family feeling of belonging and being valued for who we are is a gift that we want to share with others. In order accomplish our mission as a church, we must maintain our facilities so that they can be shared with the community. We must also staff and support our current ministries and develop new avenues of reaching out to our community and the world in God's name. This takes an investment of our selves and our donations to be successful.

Over the next couple of months we will be considering issues of stewardship of all that we have, including the call to share our time, talents, and material wealth as part of our ministry of love and gratitude for all the fruits of the skills and talents we have been given.

A Methodist pastor, Jacob Armstrong, states that most clergy have the opportunity and privilege to be with people in their last days. He relates that rarely in those last moments do people talk about the things they have acquired on earth—the kind of treasure that moth and rust can destroy, the kind that thieves can break in and steal. People in their last moments talk about their family, friends, moments with God, children they have taught, mission trips they have taken. They talk about vacations and laughter, and they share stories that are amusing and meaningful. They talk less about salaries and more about promises shared with God and with people.

Armstrong reminds us that we usually think that where our heart is, our treasure will follow. Jesus says that it is the opposite. Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. This is not just a change in semantics. Jesus knows that the place where we spend our time and money will become our treasure, whether we want it to or not. Financial commitments require time and energy. They pull our heart in a direction that perhaps neither we nor God ever intended. If we buy a house that requires a large percentage of our income, we have no choice but to spend time and energy and money in paying for it. When we put your treasure into anything, our heart will follow.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasurers on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasurers in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasurer is, there will your heart be also."

(Matthew 6:21)

**ACOLYTE NEWS – PLANS IN PROCESS FOR A FUNDRAISING SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Our acolytes will be hosting a spaghetti take-out (delivery available) on Friday, September 26, 2014.

The dinners will contain Spaghetti (whole wheat available) with sauce, meatballs, garden salad and dinner roll. The price is \$8 per dinner.

The dinners will be available for pick-up starting at 5:30pm and run until 7:00pm.

There will be a sign up sheet on the table in hallway or call Jan or Bob Dinnerville (863) 602-1857 or Deacon Kate (863) 255-0737.

Please support our acolytes in this endeavor, as I stated in last month's King Voice, we have more acolytes that we do serviceable robes and our acolytes are quickly out-growing and the robes that we do have.

We would like to have some or all new robes for the new church beginning the season of Advent on November 30 of this year.

Christ the King is blessed to have fourteen acolytes, and we can use more, children of all ages are welcome to participate in our acolyte program. If you feel that this is something you might like to do please contact Father Wally or me.

Circle Friday September 26, 2014 on your calendars, and prepare for a wonderful take out/delivery Spaghetti Dinner.

Thank you all, Deacon Kate



***Diocese of Central Florida***



***Cursillo Schedule for 2015 and 2016***

**2015 Dates:**

- February 26 – March 1, 2015      Men's Cursillo #120
- March 5 – March 8, 2015        Women's Cursillo #120
- October 8 – October 11, 2015    Coed Cursillo #121

**2016 Dates:**

- February 25 – February 28, 2016    Men's Cursillo #122
- March 5 – March 8, 2016            Women's Cursillo #122
- October 6 – October 9, 2016        Coed Cursillo #123

**All Cursillos are 7:00 pm Thursday to 5:00 pm Sunday at the Canterbury Conference Center, Oviedo, Florida.**

**For information or questions contact Wade/Martha Griggs or Bob/Jan Dinnerville**



# Angel Corps

## CHRIST THE KING NEEDS YOU – TO BECOME PART OF OUR “ANGEL CORPS”

One of the ministries that we offer one another as a church family is both spiritual and practical support during times of difficulty or crisis. An illness or hospital stay, time in a recovery center or nursing home, the loss of a loved one or an accident that prevents us from keeping up our regular routine but essential family and household duties is a part of all of our lives. At times such as these, we can be there for one another as members of a church family to offer support with help with a meal, transportation to a doctor’s appointment, assistance with child care or help with housekeeping or yard work to name just a few ways we can help our brothers and sisters through a difficult time. We have an excellent history as a parish of being there for one another; however, a lack of help with coordinating response efforts has left needs unmet in some situations over recent months.

In order to make this ministry of service more effective, we are organizing our efforts to respond to the needs of members of the parish and beyond. June Raymond, Diane Holdrum, and Deacon Kate Yotter will be taking the lead in organizing our “Angel Corps” to help us coordinate our response to support needs as they arise. This would involve working with Fr. Wally, our “Angel Corps” leaders and others through arranging assistance with meals, transportation or other needs as indicated. Please consider becoming a part of this ongoing ministry at Christ the King. If you have an interest, please see June, Diane, Deacon Kate or Fr. Wally about this vital ministry within the parish.



Christ the King is Blessed with sooooo many wonderful people. With that said, I would like to tell you about a new Ministry available to you. The “Handy Man Group” is currently made up of four men, Bob Springthorpe, Jack Dale, Mike Burchfield, and Wade Griggs. These men want you to know they are available for small projects needed around your house. If you are in need of their help, please call the church office to set up a time 863-858-1948.

We are on the web  
[WWW.christthekinglakeland.com](http://WWW.christthekinglakeland.com)

**MINISTERING GOD'S LOVE,  
 CULTIVATING FAITH**

**CHRIST THE KING  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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**MINISTRY  
 SCHEDULE**

Ministry area	September 7, 2014	September 14, 2014	September 21, 2014	September 28, 2014	
<b>Celebrant</b>	Dr. Wally Reynolds	Dr. Wally Reynolds	Dr. Wally Reynolds	Dr. Wally Reynolds	
<b>Deacon</b>	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	
<b>LEM2</b>	Paige Sharrow	Marilyn Springthorpe	Martha Griggs	Jim Royal	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Neila Heist	Elizabeth Hospedales	Abbey Pafford	Lisa Birkner	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jacob Heist	Mitchell Parrish	Alexander Parrish	Elvon Hospedales	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Liam Borden	Clive Borden	Easton Benton	Nathaniel Heist	
<b>Old Testament</b>	Youth	June Raymond	Bob Springthorpe	Wade Griggs	
<b>New Testa- ment</b>	Youth	Marilyn Springthorpe	Paige Sharrow	Martha Griggs	
<b>Prayers of the people</b>	Paige Sharrow	Martha Griggs	Jim Royal	Jan Dinnerville	
<b>Greeters./ ushers</b>	Youth	Jack & Mike	Sue & Ed	Jack & Mike	
<b>Pre k SS (paid)</b>	Colleen Parrish	Debbie Dale	Colleen Parrish	Debbie Dale	
<b>Elementary SS</b>	Pam Sharrow	Andrea Borden	Chris Benton	Pam Sharrow	
<b>Prayer Team</b>	Ed & Kay	Wade & Cathy	Charisse & Lisa	Meghan & Stacey	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lisa	Claire	Claire	Diane & Carolyn	
<b>Vestry Count- ers</b>	Mark & Mike	Mark & Mike	Mark & Mike	Mark & Mike	

Please sign up for coffee hour and altar flowers

# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Holy Communion & Bible Study on the Book of Revelation 7pm B – Mark Schrader		VBS 6:00 pm-8:30pm	VBS 9:30am-2:30pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Special Service lead by the Youth			Evening Prayer & Bible Study on the Book of Revelation 7pm B – Jacob Burdick			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am VESTRY Meeting			EXPLORING THE CHURCH & CONFIRMATION CLASS 7pm B – Bob Dinnerville			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am	B – Jan Dinnerville		EXPLORING THE CHURCH & CONFIRMATION CLASS 7pm		SPAGHETTI DINNER to benefit the Acolytes 5:30pm-7:00pm B – Bill Madden	
28	29	30				
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am B – Joy Parker						