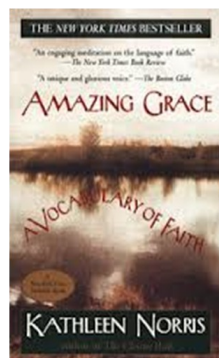




February 2013  
Volume 17, Issue 1

# Amazing Grace A Vocabulary of Faith



## LENTEN PROGRAMS 2013

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a discussion of Kathleen Norris' acclaimed book, "Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith." We will be discussing words and terms from our faith and what they mean for us in the twenty-first century.

Soup Suppers begin at 5:30 pm  
(Sign up to bring soup or bread in Battin Hall)

Worship at 6:15 pm

February 20 – NO PROGRAM  
(due to Diocesan Convention)

February 27 – Incarnation and Repentance

March 6 – Heresy/Apostasy

March 13 – Grace and Orthodoxy

March 20 – Creeds

Programs begin at 6:30 pm

# the NATIVITY Scene

*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida*

Shrove  
Tuesday



**SHROVE TUESDAY  
PANCAKE SUPPER  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

**5:30 PM**

**LET'S CELEBRATE BEFORE  
LENT BEGINS!**

**JOIN US FOR PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, AND  
APPLE SAUCE!**

**(SMALL CHARGE AT THE DOOR!)**

**IF YOU GET THE "BABY" IN YOUR SLICE OF  
THE KING'S CAKE, YOU WIN RESERVED  
SEATING AND PARKING  
ON EASTER SUNDAY!**



Ash

WEDNESDAY

**Wednesday Services  
With Imposition of Ashes  
February 13, 2013  
7:30 am and 6:00 pm**

## Happy February!

Most of this month, our Wednesday night meetings will be as usual: 6pm to 8pm in the upstairs room. Please talk to your folks about who wants to bring dinner each week.

We will have another campfire one of those weeks, if you would like to provide hot dogs and s'mores or something else we can cook on sticks.

The last Wednesday of February, the 27th, and all through March, we will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 so that we can eat at the soup supper. We will also combine with the younger kids again to do some special activities for Lent. You loved it last year, admit it!

As for Sunday School, we are still meeting between the early and not-so-early services, at 9:15am in the upstairs room. I would love to see you there, too!

Judy

248-6624

judydickey@gmail.com



*Dear Friends,*

*Spending the past seven years as your Rector has been one of the honors of my life. I love this parish.*

*We truly are a healthy and thriving family of God and I am thankful to be a part. Again, Lori and I are overwhelmed and humbled by your graciousness towards us during the holiday season. We never cease to be amazed by your generosity. I also want to thank you again for the opportunity you gave me for sabbatical this summer. That time was a gift for which I'll never be able to adequately express my gratitude. Both Lori and I give thanks for each of you being in our lives. You fill our hearts with joy and thanksgiving. We thank God for you and look forward to our future together.*

*May God continue to bless us all in the coming year.*

*Steve and Lori Bates*

*Dear friends,*

*Once again, your lovingkindness overwhelms me as I gratefully accept your Christmas gift. The check is deeply appreciated, both for its generosity and for the love it shows.*

*One of the nicest things that has happened to me in my years of ministry was the call from Fr. Steve, just before I retired from St. Thomas by the Sea, Laguna Beach in 2009, inviting me to return to Holy Nativity as your priest associate. And it is nicest not only because working with Steve is so enjoyable but especially because of your acceptance and welcome.*

*Thank you so much for all you are to us, and for all that Linda and I seem to be to you.*

*Lovingly  
Tom+*

## Stop Hunger Now Event

### Our Goal is 30,000 Meals!

As hosts of this year's diocesan convention, we will be doing something a little different and you can participate AND help!

Each year, we come together as a diocese, to "do the work" of the diocese. So often that means time spent setting budgets, funding programs and talking about money (or the lack thereof). This year we have the opportunity to do the REAL work of the diocese; outreach and mission. The Stop Hunger Now organization provides food to areas in need throughout the world through donations and meal packing events. We will host a meal packing event on Friday, February 22, at the Majestic Beach Conference Center. Our goal is 30,000 meals that will be used in areas where our diocese has outreach programs: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and the Sudan.

All are welcome to participate in the packing event that will begin around 1:30 p.m. on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, we will pack as many meals as we can raise funds for. Each meal is 25 cents. If you would like to contribute, checks can be made payable to Holy Nativity and marked for "Stop Hunger Now."

---

## GIVE UP THE NATIVITY SCENE NEWSLETTER FOR LENT!

Beginning after Easter this year, the Nativity Scene newsletter will be sent to members and friends electronically. This will save the Church a tremendous amount of time and money as we strive to be good stewards of what we've been given. The newsletter will be linked through our website, email and the weekly "What's Happening." Hard copies of will be available at the Church and will be mailed to your homes by request. Here's how you can help.

- ⇒ Contact the Church Office if you'd like to continue receiving the newsletter by mail.
- ⇒ Contact the Church Office if you know of a friend who would like to receive the newsletter by mail.
- ⇒ Please update your directory information at the table found in Battin Hall.
- ⇒ Please include email addresses for all in your family who need to receive the newsletter.

Thanks for your help!

---

### *Wine Women and Backpacks*

*The last Thursday in February is the 28th, which means it's time for the women of Holy Nativity to get together and stuff backpacks! Please join us at 5pm in the food pantry room, and bring your favorite bottle of wine. We will fill 93 backpacks for the hungry kids of St. Andrews School, and will have a great time doing it. Afterwards, we'll go to a local restaurant for dinner. Any questions? Call me!*

*Judy Dickey/ 248-6624/  
judydickey@gmail.com*

## *Adult Christian Education*

### *Fr. Tom*

Adult Sunday School draws about a dozen folks on average, meeting between services in the Mary Stuart Poole Library on Sunday mornings. We usually have a look at the Lectionary readings for the Sunday, or some portion of it especially if there's a theme for the day; but our agenda is open and free and regardless of where we start, there's no telling where we'll end up. There are sixteen seats around the table, room for at least four more: come!

#### Midweek Bible Seminars

Christmas and New Years have come and gone and folks have told me they're looking forward to a new round of Bible Seminars and asked when the spring term might start.

We shall start the first week of February, with the first sessions on Tuesday morning February 5 at Holy Nativity. Start gathering in my office conference room Through The Garage at the church office building 1011 E Fourth Street 32401 for coffee, snack and fellowship anytime between 9:30 and 10:00 AM, convene at 10:05 sharp and adjourn at 11:15 sharp.

and

Wednesday afternoon February 6 at St. Thomas by the Sea. Gather in Jewell Hall before 1:00 pm, convene at 1:05 sharp, adjourn at 2:15 sharp.

This is a week earlier than we originally thought, but it's better not only so that we start sooner and have a week more before concluding for the summer; but also because we won't begin in conflict with Lent's opening festivities the following week.

We shall start with Acts as our study for Lent. Some will have studied Acts before, but I have not studied Acts in a small group like this, and you will understand that I often feel ignorant and inadequate and barely able to keep up with the enthusiasm and inquisitiveness of the folks in the groups. That's no false modesty, my old brain works hard and struggles to fill in all the gaps. I have not paid much attention to Acts since my seminary days (1980-84), so we will be learning together, and I look forward to it.

My going in view will be that Luke Acts was written around 80 AD or maybe a little later, by someone who

had in hand the Q Gospel and the Gospel of Mark but did not have the letters of Paul because they weren't yet in general circulation; accepting that the author was a traveling companion on some of the journey and wrote part of Acts as first person narrator, I see no reason why anyone would have fabricated or exaggerated that, though I do think "Luke" was writing an exciting story as best he recalled it a quarter century later -- and to an agenda, not to set down history as we might expect it in the 21st century. Connection of the two books to the man "Luke" seems tenuous, and while I am with scholars who doubt that Paul wrote either Colossians (4:14) or 2 Timothy (4:11) where Luke is named, there is no reasonable doubt that Paul wrote Philemon (v.24); so Paul would have known Luke, whose name was attached to the Third Gospel and Acts by church fathers sometime in the second century A.D. Admittedly, it bothers me that the writer of Luke makes much of virgin birth and empty tomb, neither of which Paul mentions. Nevertheless, with tradition let's call him Luke.

At least starting out, instead of our usual seminary-like critical approach, let's meet the characters Luke brings in to his story and see what we can make of them.

I do need an email from folks who plan to come (twellerc@gmail.com) so I can plan and prepare accordingly. For each person who emails me "yes," I will have the usual handouts.

Everyone is welcome, new and old, invite and bring anyone you wish (helpful to let me know by email if you can). There's no requirement that anyone be a member of Holy Nativity, or belong to any particular church, or be an Episcopalian, or indeed be a Christian.

And, as always, though I hope anyone who signs up will regard it as a commitment to the group, there is no expectation that everyone must come to every session.

Tom+

## Children's Ministry February 2013

Feb.	<b>Sunday School 9:15</b> In our Chapel Room in the two-story building	<b>Children's Church 10:30</b> In Kids' Kingdom after the children's sermon at the beginning of the worship service. They return to "big church" for communion.	<b>Nursery 10:15</b> Younger children enjoy being in the nursery with Callie Mills and our wonderfully faithful nursery Volunteer.
3 Souper Bowl Sunday	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"God's Promise To Abraham"  Candace Leebrick 522-9240 Holly Melzer 896-0609	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
10	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"God Tests Abraham"  Charlie and Cassie Commander 819-5850	Kathy Brust 265-3172
17	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"A Wife for Issac"  Trey Hutt 814-7934 Kathy Brust 265-3172	Pat Spangler 215-5247
24	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Esau and Jacob"  Tiffany Ennis 784-4762 Jenny Collier 215-6554	Theresa Durgan 913-3471

Since the December and January newsletters were combined, I have had to wait until February to express appreciation publically to all of you who helped with the Christmas Pageant...but I really must! Thank you so very much for your contributions, and special thanks go to Candace Leebrick and Casey Cole for costumes, to Miss Marqua for our music, and to Tiffany Ennis and Judy Bennett for direction. Our goal is to retell the glorious story of Christmas with joy and tradition but without stress for our parents or children and to make the Christmas message meaningful and memorable for all of us. If you have suggestions or recommendations concerning changing or improving the pageant, please let me know. I appreciate feedback also.

Super Bowl Sunday will also be Souper Bowl Sunday for us. Please remember to let your children bring cans of soup to Children's Church on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to donate to our Backpack Ministry or Food Pantry. And, don't miss the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The children love that. Again, let us build memories and meaning for our children.

Beverly McDaniel





It seems only appropriate to begin the New Year by thanking all of the dedicated choir members and musicians who helped to make our Advent and Christmas services so special. As their Director, I offer my sincerest thanks to each and every one of them from the bottom of my heart! They did an outstanding job and their hard work and dedication were well worth it.

The Children's Choir sang beautifully on "Pajama Sunday" and Christmas Eve. The challenge is always to keep their excitement level under control on those two special occasions and focus on their singing. Whether they are wearing pajamas or pageant costumes, they sing with complete abandon and delight. They take their music ministry very seriously and love sharing their song! It always seems impossible when I say this, but I truly believe that this year their anthems on Christmas Eve were our best efforts ever. People continue to comment on their beautiful sound and are amazed at their diction! We work hard on that and they love to be challenged. Now we set our sights on preparing to sing at the Diocesan Convention on February 21<sup>st</sup>!

Lessons and Carols was an incredibly beautiful evening of music and word – lessons were read and heard, music sung, and word and lessons put into action right before our eyes. Our attendance was at an all-time record and much of that was due to wonderful publicity prior, along with our 'reputation' for this special service. Many new faces graced the doors of Holy Nativity and 'surely the presence of the Lord' was in OUR place. Special thanks are extended to everyone who participated – from greeters to readers to voices to acolytes to fabulous musicians to soloists and to all who helped in every way – bless you and thank you! Every part of the evening is important – altar preparations, programs printed, flowers arranged, floors to be swept and areas to be cleaned. This is a team effort and event and thanks go to all who assisted in any and all ways. Our efforts were well received - it was glorious!

This year for Lessons and Carols, both of our adult choirs, The Rite One and Chancel Choirs, joined in song, making for a large and full choir. We worked on this music for months and it showed. Choirs do not just turn up and sing – it takes many long hours of rehearsal and we are blessed with many voices who come week after week to learn

their music and help the person sitting next to them. Each choir member deserves a special thank you so please share your thoughts and feelings as you see them in the weeks ahead. Christmas Eve was also filled with beautiful music by our Chancel Choir and many musicians. The night was filled with the glory of Christ's birth in all of our musical offerings. Last of all, my thanks turn to God for giving us His Son, whose birth inspired such beautiful music and scripture and for our gift of music for sharing that blessed story.

\*\*\*\*\*

Usually there is a brief 'respite' following Christmas, but there is no 'down-time' this year. Choir rehearsals are in full swing and busily preparing for Ash Wednesday on February 13<sup>th</sup> followed by Diocesan Convention the very next week. Please consider joining us at this time of year by singing in one of our choirs. Consider making this a Lenten discipline! Some of our adults have vacations planned this winter so don't be concerned when you see fewer people singing on any given Sunday, just know how much we would appreciate YOUR voice joining us!

We look forward to seeing you at one of these rehearsals:

## The Chancel Choir

Thursday evenings in the church  
from 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
and

Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:15 AM

## The Rite One Choir

Thursday evenings in the church  
from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

## The Children's Choir

Wednesday afternoons in the Choir Office  
from 4:00 – 5:00 PM

May each of you have a blessed New Year and keep a song in your heart!

Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs

# Financial Peace University Coming to Holy Nativity!

Millions of people have gone through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). They've worked a plan, rewritten their stories, and changed their futures. This class meets for nine weeks, one night a week. It incorporates small-group discussions that help encourage accountability and discipleship. FPU teaches members how to handle money God's ways, and His ways work! On average, FPU graduates pay off \$5,300 in debt and save \$2,700 in only the first 90 days.

The \$89 tuition includes seminar attendance, audio CDs, workbooks and budgeting forms, and a copy of Dave Ramsey's "The Complete Guide to Money."

Classes start as part of our Wednesday evening programs, the first week of April here at HNEC, and will end just in time for the last week of school. Look for materials regarding FPU in the parish hall over the next few weeks, and feel free to contact Mike Dickey at 867.2550 or [mdickey@barronredding.com](mailto:mdickey@barronredding.com) if you have any questions.



Feb. 1	John Morrow
Feb. 2	Monica Phillips
Feb. 3	Lenka Doran
Feb. 4	Daniel Melzer
Feb. 5	Elizabeth Ciccarelli, Mary Mittiga
Feb. 7	Dana Ledman
Feb. 8	John Messer
Feb. 9	Samantha Smith
Feb. 10	Michelle Kraut, Brian Leebrick
Feb. 11	Gene Miller, Susan Nelson, Hercules Pettis
Feb. 12	Jeff Mahalak
Feb. 13	Scott Clemons
Feb. 14	Dawson Gall
Feb. 15	Connie McClellan
Feb. 17	Arthur Kraut
Feb. 18	Nancy Hebert
Feb. 20	Sophia Eaton
Feb. 21	Martin Brust, Bertram Churchill, Eddie San Juan
Feb. 22	Steve Dick, Allen Nease, Mario San Juan, Lauren Stewart
Feb. 23	Carolyn Calvin, Betty Ellis, Suzanne Grossman
Feb. 24	Frank Cole
Feb. 25	Carol Ann Osborne, Nancy Pride, Kevin Wattenbarger, Ann Watts, Sue White
Feb. 26	Edyth Brown, David Burris, Allison Yessman
Feb. 27	Robert Ahrens, Cayden Dunn, David Lithway
Feb. 28	Ashley Doran, Helen Jenings



Feb. 5	Ted and Ina Joy Conrad
Feb. 12	Billy and Ina Joy Wicker
Feb. 16	Martin and Kathy Brust
Feb. 19	Wayland and Glenda Patterson
Feb. 24	Dunkin and Edwina McLane



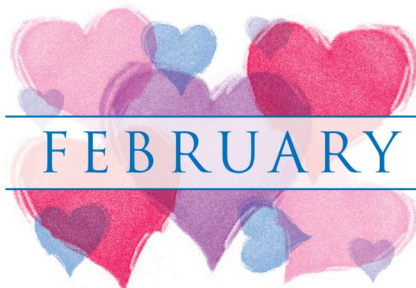
## HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

222 North Bonita Avenue  
Panama City, FL 32401

**(850) 747-4000**

E-mail: [info@holy-nativity.org](mailto:info@holy-nativity.org)

Website: [www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org)



NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PANAMA CITY FL  
PERMIT NO 340

ADDRESS SERVICE RE-

---

*The Nativity Scene is the newsletter of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church.  
The deadline for announcements and articles is the 15th each month prior to publication .*

### DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

*The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II - Bishop*

*The Rev. Steven B. Bates - Rector*

*The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate*

### CHURCH STAFF

*Youth Director - Judy Dickey*

*Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel*

*Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith*

*Director of Choirs - Marqua Brunette*

*Church Organist - John Durgan*

*Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills*

*Sexton - Lawrence Long*

*Weekend Sexton - James Rahn*

*Nursery Attendant - Callie Mills*

### SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

*8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I \**

*9:15 a.m. - Adult and Youth CE, Children's  
Sunday School (Sept. - May)*

*10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II\*\**

*\*Nursery Provided*

*\*\*Children's Church and Nursery Provided*