

# ILLUMINARE

Volume 29, Number 4

February 22, 2011

## A GIFT WORTHY OF SACRIFICE KIDS ON A MISSION AT CHRIST CHURCH

“The word sacrifice is from a Latin root that means make holy or make whole,” writes Cynthia Bourgeault. She goes on to say that finding your own spirituality or full selfhood is more than just an awakening, it involves a letting go of some part of your self. This is a core teaching of Jesus. “Whoever would save his life shall lose it, and whoever shall lose his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:24)

Children need wholeness in their lives. Most of us are going through the motions and doing the best we can. No matter who we are in life we have challenges. I know as a wife and mother, I’m completely consumed with my daughter’s activities. I spend a lot of time discerning what is most important in raising my child to become a strong loving adult, which is how my journey began.

I was secretly horrified at the thought of creating a children’s program because I had never done anything of this magnitude. The various responsibilities of this job seemingly flirted with practically every ministry in the church. “What would Jesus ask me to do if he was standing here?” I thought. “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.” (Mark 10:14b) I asked myself what is needed in our children’s lives that they are not currently getting in other programs. My goal is to create a venue where children have a voice and learn what it means to sacrifice and actively participate in mission.

I put my fear in the drawer and began my journey of baby steps into creating a new outreach program, Kids on a Mission. Our children need to see the world outside of their community so that they may be inspired to help those around them that are less fortunate. The goal is to teach our children that one child can affect change for another child, in west thirties Covington, a hospital in Memphis, Haiti, Honduras, or in other parts of the world.

I recruited approximately 15 creative, talented, people to be on the Brain Team to assist me in developing programs. Jennifer Comeaux was fearless in her leadership navigating through the first KOM programs. The Reverend Anne Maxwell is a brilliant sounding board. This year we are blessed to have Shannon Hessemer join us in leading the first and second grade children of Kids on a Mission, while I lead grades third through fifth. We are averaging 30 children per KOM program and approximately 120 people participate on some level. It is so exciting to see people of all ages engaged in this ministry.

The February KOM program brought together over 25 children, clergy, parents, Christwood residents and other adults from the parish as they gathered in the parish hall for community outreach. We learned about mission trips in Honduras by The Reverend Anne Maxwell. Babs Epperson taught us quilting much like Honduras Threads. We were led in a musical prayer by Shannon Hessemer. All the while children learn how they can actively participate in mission. They are not just the future of the Church; they are an integral part of the present.

During the March KOM program they will learn about the Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program (CEEP) which occurs in the summer on our campus and is led by certified teachers. They provide academic enrichment and life skills training such as goal setting and peaceful conflict resolution. KOM will lead a fundraiser on March 20<sup>th</sup> using their new found quilting and art skills for the 2011 Summer CEEP Experience. These projects are part of a journey to set goals and complete a task for mission.

I encourage all of you to consider what it would be like to have Jesus in the room. You might be surprised! He might say, “You have a wonderful gift to offer, a gift worthy of sacrifice.” It’s okay if your children miss one piano, soccer, basketball, or ballet lesson. It’s okay if you don’t know anybody at church yet. It’s okay if you feel alone; it’s a temporary situation. It’s okay if you might be a little tired. Sometimes it’s worth the sacrifice. You never know what may come your way.

Come together for Kids on a Mission once a month and sit down at our table at Christ Church. Find love and laughter! We would love for you to join us and find what it is that makes your heart sing!

Mary Anne Reidy  
Parish Life Director



**The Kids on a Mission (Grades 1-2) &  
The Sr. Kids on a Mission (Grades 3-5)  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:00-7:00 pm**



*Led by Mary Anne Reidy, Shannon Hessemer, and Babs Epperson*

The Christ Episcopal Enrichment Program (CEEP) is an exciting summer experience which helps the children of St Tammany Parish who live in poverty, of both mind and body. This program strengthens the study skills of lower income children over a period of five weeks, serving many rising 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and is held at our lower school campus. The CEEP/Summer Witness program is led by certified teachers that provide academic enrichment and life skills training, such as goal setting and peaceful conflict resolution through fun learning activities. Please join us in the Parish Hall on Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 5:00-7:00pm. We will work on a very important project to raise funds for the 2011 CEEP/ Summer Witness program. The March 2<sup>nd</sup> KOM program will focus on learning about CEEP. Babs Epperson will be on hand to continue instruction on quilting much like they do through Honduras Threads. The children will have the opportunity to make viable products which will be used later to raise funds for CEEP. We will also collect “new” stuffed animals to help children in emergency situations. On March 20th, Kids on a Mission will lead a fundraiser for CEEP using their new found quilting and art skills. The March program is part of a journey for Kids on a Mission to set goals, plan a fundraiser, and complete a task for mission.

We welcome all parent volunteers and also need assistance from those of you that have sewing skills! After the program we will gather together for dinner at 6:30pm. A \$5.00 fee for dinner is much appreciated and please don't forget to bring a “new” stuffed animal for donation! To save a spot please call Mary Anne Reidy at 985-789-6315 or email [reidyma@netscape.com](mailto:reidyma@netscape.com). Further information found at [www.christchurchcovington.com](http://www.christchurchcovington.com).

**GROWING GRATEFUL HEARTS**



Once upon a time, there was a rabbi. Whenever he desired God's presence, he went into the woods, lit a fire, said prayers, and did a dance. Then God would appear to him. The rabbi died and his disciple continued the ritual. If he wanted God's presence, he went into the woods, lit a fire, and said the same prayers. Nobody taught him the dance, but it still worked. God appeared. The next disciple continued the tradition. He didn't know the prayers or the dance, but he went to the same spot in the woods, lit the fire and God came.

Eventually a disciple came along who didn't know how to light the fire, say the prayers or do the dance. He searched for the place, but couldn't find it. All he knew was how to tell the story. It worked. He discovered that whenever he told the story of how others had found God, God would appear. God appears when we tell the story....

As we continue to Grow Grateful Hearts, we invite you to share your story of how you have encountered God on your journey.  
Anne Blackmon, Stewardship Team



**PRAYER HUT**

“Where two or more are gathered together in My Name, I am in the midst of them.” With this assurance from Jesus Christ, we gather in the Chapel on Thursdays for intercessory prayer and healing. We come as we are, empty or full, with joy or sorrow to find a sacred place for prayer and communion with God and with one another. We hold the first thirty minutes for silent prayer and the last thirty minutes for creative response. The first Thursday of the month the creative response is a healing service within a Rite III celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Other Thursdays we have had Taize, led meditations, mindful movement and other creative prayers. All are encouraged to attend and participate as you feel led. Call The Reverend Anne M. Maxwell for more information 892-3177.

**COVINGTON  
FOOD BANK**

**SPRING FOOD DRIVE**

The Spring Food Drive is in full swing! Please return your filled bags by Sunday, February 27 to the Narthex, Chapel or to the office. The food bank is requesting beans & rice, pasta, canned tuna and other protein foods, canned vegetables, breakfast cereal and peanut butter.

Checks are very welcome and need to be payable to Christ Church with a note on the memo line indicating Food Bank donation.



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

March 9, 2011

7:00 a.m.	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
8:00 a.m.	Reconciliation in the Chapel
11:00 a.m.	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist at Christwood
Noon	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
4:00-5:30 p.m.	Children's Ash Wednesday Service & Activity with Imposition of Ashes in the Chapel — for children ages 4-10
6:15 p.m.	Reconciliation in the Chapel
7:30 p.m.	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist Church ( <i>childcare provided</i> )
<b>March 13</b>	
4:00 p.m.	Children's "Ash Wednesday" service with Imposition of Ashes and a telling of the Temptation story. Meet at the home of Nicole and David Parnell, 109 Shongaloo Lane, Mandeville, La. 70471



## CHILDREN'S ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Children's Ash Wednesday liturgy is especially designed for children ages 4-10 to prepare hearts and minds to engage in the season of Lent. A time of repentance, turning around, cleaning out, Lent is a time to prepare ourselves to receive the joy of Easter resurrection. We will begin in the parish hall at 4:00pm to create, decorate, and celebrate, Alleluias which are our expression of Easter joy. We will then gather the Alleluias and carry them to the Memorial Garden to bury them thereby quieting ourselves for a season. We will continue in the Chapel with the imposition of Ashes offered to remind us of our identity as children of God in need of forgiveness and God's mercy and compassion as one who is always ready and willing to forgive us. Our liturgy will conclude by 5:30pm. This is just the beginning of our journey which will lead us to the resurrection of the Alleluias on Easter morning in the garden as we carry them back into the church for all to use for the season of Easter.



## MINDFUL MOTHERING: CREATING JOYFUL AND CONNECTED FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

This group gathers for support as we practice mindful awareness and mothering "from the inside out." We will use the book *Busy But Balanced: Practical and Inspirational Ways to Create a Calmer, Closer Family* by Mimi Doe to guide our discussion and practice. Each meeting will end with a brief exercise for mindfulness, relaxation, and renewal. Childcare provided.

Where: Christ Church, Covington

When: Wednesdays, March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13 and 20

Time: 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

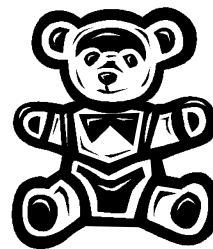
Please contact Carol Le Blanc at [ccl Blanc1@bellsouth.net](mailto:ccl Blanc1@bellsouth.net) or 985-807-7021 for more information.

## PALM COLLECTION



Please bring your palms this Sunday so that they may be made into ashes for the Ash Wednesday service on March 9 Place them in the designated basket in the narthex.

## STUFFED ANIMAL COLLECTION



The children of Kids on a Mission are collecting "new" stuffed animals to donate to children in emergency situations. We will be collecting them through March 20. There will be a basket available for drop-off in the narthex of the church and in the entrance of the parish hall.

## KUDOS



Kudos to Kristen Strickland, Amy Christopher, Judith Reedy, Erin Cain, and Anne Butts for their work on the Clergy Day luncheon! They spent several hours making sure that the meeting was an enormous success! It was a lovely day and your efforts were most appreciated! Thank you! Mary Anne Reidy and The Reverend Anne Maxwell

## CCY Calendar



Sunday February 27

10:00 a.m.. Jr. Hi: Why can't we get along?

Sr. Hi: Lesson 5 Council of Confirm (Mock Council)

# Christ Church, Covington

*An Episcopal Church and School  
in the Diocese of Louisiana*  
120 S. New Hampshire St.  
Covington, Louisiana 70433  
(985) 892-3177  
fax - (985) 892-3187

Early Childhood Center - (985) 892-9156  
Christwood Blvd. Campus - (985) 871-9902  
[www.christchurchcovington.com](http://www.christchurchcovington.com)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Covington, LA 70433 Permit No. 46
--

**The Rev'd A. Thomas Blackmon, Rector**  
tblackmon@christchurchcovington.com  
**The Rev'd Winston E. Rice, Associate Rector**  
wrice@christchurchcovington.com  
**The Rev'd Anne M. Maxwell, Associate Rector**  
amaxwell@christchurchcovington.com  
**Mr. John Morvant - Head of School**

**PARISH STAFF**

Susan Griffis *Parish Administrator*  
sgriffis@christchurchcovington.com  
Laura Robert *Publications Coordinator*  
publications@christchurchcovington.com  
Eunice Hutchison *Receptionist*  
Daniel Ciufi *Youth Ministries Coordinator*  
dciufi@christchurchcovington.com  
Mary Ann Reidy, *Parish Life Director*  
mareidy@christchurchcovington.com  
Kathleen Turner *Newcomer Ministries*  
kturner@christchurchcovington.com  
Carolyn Parmenter *Director of Music Ministries*  
Jessica Gaboury, *Organist*  
Benjie Branson *Assisting Organist*  
Max Welch, *Pianist*  
Buddy Anderson *Nursery Coordinator*  
Chuck Aversa, *Facilities Coordinator*

**VESTRY**

2008-2011— Suzanne Duggan, Lisa Geary,  
Kim Scoggin, Charlie Stahr  
2009-2012— Jeff Bell, Mark Berry,  
Michelle Gallagher, Lucie Thornton  
2010-2013— Bill Batson, Mel Elliott,

Scheduled to Serve Sunday, February 27, 2011			
	7:30	9:00	11:00
MC		Liz Taurman	Margaret Mashburn
EMs	Ralph Menetre	Linda Wendle Barbara Magee	Judy Shopf Sherry Beale
Acolytes		Austin Willis William Willis Leslie Brown	John Allen Hunley Emma Mitchell Emery Michel
Lectors		Barbara Magee Lloyd Magee	Elizabeth Higgs Sean Garner
Ushers	Don Kieffer Charlie Stahr	Tim Wolfe Jason Reina Mark Mercante Andrew Mercante Michael Willis Bert Duvic Dylan Langdon James Richardson	Matt Holzhalb Jim Conner Patterson Conner Clave Gill
Greeters		Lisa Geary	Judy Shopf Kerry Yeates
Altar Guild Team III			
Caring Ministry Leader Kim Scoggin 674-1000			
LESSONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011 Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9			