

# Dove

JANUARY 2012

*The Rev. Canon Ted J. Monica*  
Rector  
274-4492  
*billsbeliever@yahoo.com*



*The Rev. Teri Monica*  
Assistant Priest  
274-4490  
*tmonica3769@yahoo.com*

Church  
2015 Fleischmann Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32308-4593  
Phone: 850-877-2712  
[holycomforterchurch@comcast.net](mailto:holycomforterchurch@comcast.net)  
[www.holycomforteronline.org](http://www.holycomforteronline.org)



**Mission Statement**

*To Live Out Our Faith by Service  
to God and Others.*

Buck  
 Breakfast  
 every first and third  
 Sundays

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:00 am  
 Adult Sunday School, 9:15 am  
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30 am  
 (K—5th grade) Sunday School, 10:30 am  
 Child Care, 9: 15 am & 10:30 am

**WEDNESDAYS**

Mtr. Teri, Disciple Bible Study,  
 10-12:00 noon  
 Eucharist & Healing, 5:30 pm  
 Dinner, 6:00 pm  
 Disciple Bible Study,  
 Fr. Ted, 6:45-9:00 pm  
 Chancel Choir Practice, 7:00 pm

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 am– 4:00 pm  
 Friday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
 Office is closed on Mondays

**2012 VESTRY**

**Call any Vestry Member  
 for emergencies when the office is closed**

The Rev. Canon Ted J. Monica,  
 877-2712 (w) 274-4492 (c)  
 billsbeliever@yahoo.com  
 The Rev. Teri Monica,  
 274-4490 (c)  
 tmonica3769@yahoo.com

Diane LoCastro, Senior Warden  
 [redacted] dilo13@comcast.net  
 Stephen Moors, Junior Warden  
 [redacted] smoors@comcast.net

Bill Reineking, [redacted]  
 Patsy Killian, [redacted]  
 Jackie Watts, [redacted]  
 Jim Maddox, [redacted]  
 Annie Mitchell, [redacted]  
 Ralph Mancuso, Treasurer, [redacted]

**STAFF**

Rector: *The Rev. Canon Ted J. Monica*  
 Assistant Priest: *The Rev. Teri Monica*  
 Administrative Assistant: *Gail Banke*  
 Office Assistant: *Jeannie Pierce*  
 Finance Manager: *Gina Resavage*  
 Christian Education Director  
*Kathryn Travis*  
 Sunday Morning Coordinator: *Bonnie McHugh*  
 Child Care Coordinators:  
*Arlene Porta, Kim Weinrich*  
 Youth Leaders: *Mtr. Teri, Bailey Spitzner*  
 Organist/Chancel Music: *Olivia Ahyoung*  
 Folk Music: *Betsy Gray*  
 Custodian: *Lindy Ritch*

The *Dove* is a monthly publication distributed to parishioners and school families for the purpose of INSPIRATION, for spiritual growth and encouragement; INVITATION, for opportunities to participate and serve; INFORMATION, from parish, leadership, and clergy.

Gail Banke, Editor

F R O M T H E



## Tis the Season Fr. Ted

Most of us have already taken down our Christmas trees and put our decorations away till next year, even though the Season of Christmas doesn't officially end until January 6<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany. Now that the "holiday season" is over we find ourselves moving back into our familiar routines.

For the Christian Church however, we are always in a "holy-day" season. We now celebrate the season of Epiphany.

The word Epiphany literally means: to manifest or make known. Jesus is "manifested" or "made known" as the Christ who is savior of all. The story of the Magi demonstrates that God is saving all of creation, not just Israel. We celebrate this season starting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and ending on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

It is easy for us to think of this as "down time." After all, it doesn't get the attention of Lent, Easter, Advent or Christmas. It is, however, a very important part of our Church's cycle of prayer. It is during this season that we are reminded of the importance of our role in continuing to make Christ "manifest" in the world. We are the living reminder that our Lord did indeed take on flesh for our salvation. It is our ministry and responsibility to proclaim the good news that the Incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ, continues to be present.

Let us covenant not to take this season for granted. Like the star that led the first Magi to Jesus, let us be a light for those who are still seeking the comfort, redemption and salvation that only Christ can give. I think that the collect for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany puts it best:

*"Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world; Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth."*



"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to

comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit."

Our mission in the church today is the same as Jesus' mission over two thousand years ago. By the power of His Spirit, Jesus lives in and works through us so that we can do the same kinds of things that Jesus did for His people. By the power of God's Spirit working in us we can-

Proclaim the Good News of God's love and acceptance;

Bind up those who are brokenhearted, and

Comfort those who mourn.

In Acts 6, Stephen was one of the most notable of seven people set aside by the apostles to care for the widows and orphans in the Christian congregation in Jerusalem. Stephen's acts of care and mercy are reflected in the caregiving of those who provide Stephen Ministry to people in need today.

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 by Dr. Stephen Haugk, a pastor and psychologist, who saw that there were many more needs for care in his congregation than he alone could meet. Dr. Haugk drew from his background of pastoral care and counseling to train nine of his parishioners in providing biblically-based, psychologically sound, one-to-one care. Today more than 11,000 congregations from more than 150 congregations are involved in Stephen Ministry.

I am happy to announce that five of our very own parishioners will be trained beginning in January. They are Ruth Roaza, Ed and Barb Babcock, Jeannine Peters, and Robin Gault. The classes will consist of 50 hours of Christian caregiving training which will equip these individuals to provide one-to-one care to people in need.

We are very excited about this new ministry here at Holy Comforter and I ask that you please pray for each of these individuals as they prepare to equip themselves with the tools needed to care for God's people. In Christ's love, Mtr. Teri+

## LECTIONARY

### January 1

Numbers 2:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

### January 8

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

### January 15

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1: 43-51

### January 22

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:6-14

1 Corinthians 7:39-31

Mark 1:14-20

### January 29

Deuteronomy 18:1-13

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



**EPIPHANY SERVICE**  
**Friday, January 6, 2012**  
**7:00 pm**

*Join us at  
 Holy Comforter Church  
 as we celebrate  
 the coming of the Magi  
 on this the  
 Feast of the Epiphany!*

### TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE,

Monday, January 2, 7:00 pm.  
 At its heart, Taizé prayer is gentle and peaceful. It uses scripture, silence and simple, repetitive chants which help focus on the presence of God.  
 Come and join us.

**MEET**  
**Sara & Rob Brunger**  
*by Jeannie Pierce*

Rob and Sara Brunger have been members of Holy Comforter for a long time. Both so cheerful and helpful, I have not seen either one ever say no when asked to be of help to the church family. In this January 2012 Dove, which begins a new year, we get to learn a little more about both of them.

Rob's father was a Methodist minister serving a parish in a small town in far northern Michigan when Rob was born. Rob is the second of three children. The family later moved downstate, but in both locations, Rob grew up in what he describes as "a Norman Rockwellesque version of small town America."

After high school, Rob joined the Navy where he became a hospital corpsman. When his tour of duty ended, he attended New College in Sarasota where he jokingly says, "I read big books and had deep thoughts." His time there was followed by graduate school at Florida State University, where he obtained a degree in American Studies with a thesis on environmental ethics in American literature. Rob says his first important job was "at the Leon County Food Co-Op, which much later relocated across town and is the New Leaf Market." Upon completion of his graduate work, however, he has worked successively for land conservation with the Trust for Public Land, as a community planner for three different agencies, as a

program auditor for the Florida legislature, and for the past eleven years, he has been an evaluator for Ounce of Prevention Fund for Florida.

Born in St. Augustine with sand in her shoes, Sara, except for a brief stint at a small school in North Carolina, never lived anyplace else but Florida. She is one of five girls, four of whom still live in St. Augustine. After graduating from high school, and from a Junior College in Palatka, Sara married her first husband. Eventually they moved to Tallahassee with their four year old son, Joel Henry. Soon after moving to Tallahassee, the marriage ended, and Sara found herself as a single mom. While working for the State of Florida, she completed a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Florida State University. Sara says, "Teaching turned out not to be my cup of tea, however, so I returned to FSU on a scholarship and obtained a master's degree in geography. Working for the Department of Environmental Protection introduced me to the correct appreciation of the natural beauty of the earth, which led to my pursuit of a geography degree". This new interest also prompted her to join the Sierra Club, and she later had a 25-year career with the Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization.

When asked how they met, the couple shares, "Rob, the natural foods grocer with no car, talked a friend into giving him a ride to a Sierra Club meeting. When it was time to leave, his ride suggested that Sara should give Rob a ride home, as she lived in Rob's neighborhood." On the drive home, Rob asked her to go bird watching. "Really", Sara says, "who could resist a pick-up line like that?" The date went well. Less than two

years later, they were married early on a Saturday morning in October at Tom Brown Park, with Father George Kontos and the Unitarian Universalist minister (Rob attended the UU church at the time) co-officiating at the ceremony. Sara recalls, "Rob wrote our wedding song about birds for the occasion, now more than 30 years ago."

Sara's son, Joel Gray Henry, grew up and began working for Publix while attending Lincoln High School. After graduating, he attended Tallahassee Community College and became a full-time employee at Publix. He was the produce manager at Publix in Cumming, Georgia, when at the young age of 36, Joel passed away from brain cancer. Many at Holy Comforter Church remember him as a true gentleman, and his visits to church with his mother were always enjoyed. Sara says, "Joel was a fine young man, my joy and my best friend. The wonderful legacy he left with Rob and me is the God-parenting of Sella, Gray, and Logan Kinch, triplets of Abby and Fred Kinch. It is an honor and a pleasure."

Rob and Sara have three cats. Rob puts it this way, "Spouses introduce you to situations you might not choose to experience on your own. Sleeping with three cats at a time – Patsy Cline, Thumbelina and Signor Grigio – is a pretty good example of that!"

So what brought Rob and Sara to Holy Comforter? Sara says, "After continually dropping Joel off for Sunday school at Holy Comforter in the mid-1970's, I began to feel guilty and started attending Sunday school myself. Jay Hall was the teacher of the adult class at that time, and needless to say, he was quite good." Sara was confirmed in 1979. She

says one of the first folks she remembers meeting at Holy Comforter was Harriette McCarter.

Rob, a long time member of the Unitarian Universalist Church, now has been a member of Holy Comforter for the past 20 years. He says, "I particularly remember Father Bill Finlaw when he gave one of the finest "rise to the occasion" sermons ever, following Father George's departure. Rob also remembers first meeting Libby Hall and Paul White.

Rob and Sara each have a busy and fulfilling list of hobbies and interests. Since her retirement five years ago, Sara has become a Master Gardener. Her activities involving growing things are numerous, including faithful work on the church's labyrinth garden. Rob currently enjoys barbershop quartet singing. This keeps him very busy, especially during the holidays, performing at public and private events. He has not given up on bird watching, and hopes to make biking a comeback hobby. He also enjoys baking bread.

(Rob insists that it is mere coincidence that all his hobbies begin with a B!)

When asked what their hopes are for the future, Sara says she just wants to take life day by day, and enjoy most of the moments. Rob says, "I would like to have both money and time available concurrently, but I suspect that may be akin to the challenge of squaring the circle."

*Continue Page 13*

# January

## BIRTHDAYS

1

Diane Tatley

3

Janice Dann

4

Mary Perry Sturges

Bobbie Kraeft

7

Warren Harper

8

Fred Kinch

11

Janis Sell

14

Teresa Littlefield

Kasi Salmon

15

Suzanne MacDonell

Merline Belizaire Power

16

Therese Wichello

17

Mary Schwantes

21

Thomas Wolff

Olivia Ahyoung

23

Jonathan Tyler Parmalee

25

Rachel Rumana

Emily Williams

26

Betty McAvoy

29

Jennifer Futch

Samantha Kopple

30

Austin Hunter

## ANNIVERSARIES

7

Chris &amp; Mara Rumana

*O God, our times are in your hand:  
Look with favor, we pray, on these your servants as  
they begin another year. Grant that they may grow  
in wisdom and grace. Strengthen them in your  
goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(Book Of Common Prayer, Pg 830)*



## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O Lord of lords, King of kings, as we begin a new year... We pray that your sovereignty will be made known to all of humanity. It is our desire to see that your kingdom reigns here on earth. We know that without you there can be no joy and no harmony; but with you, we can be the people of God living out your peace, trusting in your eternal goodness. May the grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit go with us as we enter into the new year.... With serving hearts to sing new songs of joy. With thankful hearts to tell of God's majestic deeds. With the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, And the promise of his coming again., live with assurance of His everlasting love. In the name of Jesus, we pray that it is not our will, but yours that is done. *Amen.*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE!

*By Mary Nielsen*

When I hear the word evangelism the first thing that comes to mind is Billy Graham. He is such an awesome crusader for the Lord. I can only imagine the number of lives he has touched by doing one simple thing....telling everyone he meets about Jesus. Our Lord gave his only son to die for us, as I heard it once said, " To pay a debt he didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay." He died for our sins. In return he ask us to share his Word. Seriously that's it. As Christians we know to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ means we are assured everlasting life. I have never thought about sharing the word of God as being a way to save someone's life. But it is! Think of all the gifts you gave and received this past Christmas. No gift is more precious than the gift from God of eternal life. Let's give that gift to all the world. Let's all make a New Year Resolution In 2012. Go out and tell all you meet about how sweet it is to know Jesus. He is not only the Reason for the Season.... He is the Reason for EVERYTHING! May God Bless you in 2012.

**HOLY COMFORTER BOOK CLUB** Will meet on Sunday, January 8, at 5:00 p.m., in Mercy Lounge. The book for January is *God Has a Dream*, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Drawing on personal and historical examples, Archbishop Tutu reaches out to readers of all religious backgrounds, showing how individual and global suffering can be transformed into joy and redemption. Everyone is welcome. Contact Nancy Mazek at 386-5580 or [nmazek@nettally.com](mailto:nmazek@nettally.com).

## THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

*Please accept our sincere gratitude for the bonus gift you gave us for Christmas. Working together to further God's Kingdom with such a warm and caring congregation is indeed a privilege and it is our desire to serve you in whatever ways we can to assist you in your journey of faith. We are grateful for your commitment to Holy Comforter through ministry, giving financially, and attending worship and events. Together God is blessing our efforts and we are excited how He is going to lead us in the coming year. Thank you for remembering us.*

*Your Holy Comforter Staff*

*Fr. Ted, Mtr. Teri, Gail Banke, Jeannie Pierce, Gina Resavage, Kathryn Travis, Bonnie McHugh, Arlene Porta, Kim Weinrich, Bailey Spitzner, Olivia Ahyoung, Betsy Gray, Lindy Ritch*

*Daughters of the King*

*We cordially invite the women of the church for an afternoon to rest in God in prayerful reflection after such a hectic holiday season.*

*Come and join us!*

*Quiet Day*

*Includes a Guided Meditation for the Celebration of the Epiphany*

*Hosted by*

*The Mary and Martha Chapter  
The Order of the Daughters of the King*

*At*

*Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter  
2015 Fleischmann Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308*

*On*

*January 7, 2012  
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm*

*Please join us for a light meal afterwards  
R.S.V.P. Debby Westerman, [REDACTED]  
Busybeedeb55@gmail.com (for meal count)*

## Thanksgiving in Cuba!

*by Julia Sullivan*

This past Thanksgiving I had the opportunity to spend time in Cuba along with 10 other people, including my son, Dugan Caswell, Judy Shipman, Sam Power and Merline Power. For me, this was trip number 21 and for Judy it was trip number 4 but for Dugan, Sam and Merline it was their first time in Cuba. We had a wonderful time and came back with a renewed sense of commitment to our companion churches in Ceballos and Baraguá.

Our trip began when we landed in Havana on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We were amazed at how easy it was passing through both the Miami and the Havana airports. Although we had an excess of luggage, we were not charged any fees in either airport. We were prepared to have to pay in both places but were whisked through. Our bus driver Carlos was waiting for us at the airport as was Fr. José Angel, the former rector of our companion churches and the current dean of the cathedral in Havana.

We spent an enjoyable 2 days in Havana, participating in church services and doing the usual sight-seeing around Havana. A highlight on this trip was a meeting that was arranged for us with Mr. John Caulfield, the head of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana. He attended mass at the Cathedral with us and then met our group at Fr. José Angel's house afterwards for an hour chat. He was most informative and welcoming to us. He answered questions and filled us in on all kinds of interesting facts about his role as bureau chief as well as the role of the US in Cuba. We felt honored by his interest in coming to speak to our group.

After our 2-day visit to Havana, we were up bright and early on Monday morning ready for our 7 hr. bus ride to Ciego de Avila, the main town near our companion churches. The weather was perfect, the day was bright and sunny and I was aware of the fact that we almost never arrived to Ciego de Avila during the daylight hours. It was great to see the sights along the entire way on this trip. Cuba is such a beautiful country that it is a shame to miss any of it by traveling at night.

On day one in Ceballos, we worked on the church grounds for a couple of hours along with several members of the church there. Our companion priest, Mother Cristina Borges even got involved. Before long, we had cleaned up most of the area around the church and had it looking beautiful and neat. We discussed with Mtr. Cristina several other projects that needed attention at the church, such as painting and building a fence around the church. We hope that by the next time we visit, we will see a lot of progress in those areas.

*Continue Page 12*

*Thanksgiving in Cuba Continued from page 11*

On Wednesday, we took a trip to Baraguá, where our other companion church, St. James the Apostle is. We had a lovely meeting with the members of the congregation there and were able to hand over to them 26 Books of Common Prayer in Spanish.

We had made them a promise on our last trip in January that we would fill that church with BCP's. Well, we did not exactly fill it, but we did take enough books for the smallish congregation. After a lovely luncheon, we headed back to Ceballos where we were all lodged and had a relaxing evening.

On Thursday, Thanksgiving day, we celebrated it by having 2 services, one in the town of Morón, some 30 miles north of Ceballos. Morón is the home to Most Holy Trinity Church, Mtr. Cristina's second church. Incidentally, Mtr. Cristina's husband is Fr. Carlos Expósito, rector of our companion church in Baraguá. After that visit, we headed just outside the town of Morón where we visited a large lake called "La laguna de la leche". We ate lunch at a restaurant that was on stilts over the lake. Once again, the weather held out for us and we enjoyed mojitos and a delicious lunch there.

In the evening we had our second service at San Miguel, our companion church in Ceballos. After the service we had another perfectly delightful Cuban meal served to all of us travelers in the church hall. The meal was provided by several members of the church who collaborated to make a memorable Thanksgiving meal for us. Although we did not have turkey, we did enjoy typical Cuban fare of pork, yucca, rice and beans. For dessert we were served a scrumptious bread pudding. We all acknowledged that we had a lot to be thankful for on that day.

The next day we headed east to the city of Camaguey from where we would fly out the next day. On the way, we stopped by to visit 2 more churches in the towns of Céspedes and Florida. We were able to visit with the rector of the churches in those 2 towns, the Rev. Rody Pérez Risco as well as to see another priest, Fr. Evelio Pérez who was visiting the town of Florida.

We were warmly received in Camaguey by Fr. Juan Antonio González and his family who put us up at their house and fed us another fantastic meal. If it seems like we ate a lot of incredible food, that is the truth. Gastronomically speaking, the trip lived up to expectations.

checked in, we found out that we were all being bumped up to first class and although the flight back to Miami was less than an hour, we felt like it was a wonderful ending to a wonderful trip. Heading back to the states, we had not even made it to terra firma yet and we were all talking about our next trip to Cuba.

*Next Page*

### *Thanksgiving in Cuba*

On the drive back to Tallahassee from Miami on Sunday, we once again talked about all of our plans for what we wanted to accomplish at our companion churches. Since our plane was not scheduled to leave until 5:30 pm on Saturday, we had the morning to explore the city of Camaguey. Our bus driver Carlos, took us downtown and we set out on foot to explore, taking photos of all the sites, climbing a church tower that gave us a tremendous view of the entire city, wandering into an art gallery and buying an ice cream. After our visit, we headed back to Fr. Juan Antonio's house for our last meal in Cuba and then were taken to the airport. As we know that there are plenty of projects that we could do and we feel ready to meet the challenge. We also agreed that even though we go there with the idea of helping them out, we are always aware of the tremendous boost we get in our own faith by seeing faith in action in our friends in Cuba. They are the ones that inspire us and keep us going back time and again. So maybe we will be back in March, maybe not until November, but we do know this: we WILL be going back.

### *Meet Sara and Rob Brunger continued*

Over the years Rob and Sara have had several traveling adventures, including visits to England, Italy, France, Holland, and French Canada. They have also enjoyed trips to the American West including Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada. They have dreams about other places to go also. Sara would like to see Scotland, and Rob would like to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail.

When a favorite scripture was requested of the couple, Rob said, "Sara's is posted permanently on our fridge door." It is "*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8.*"

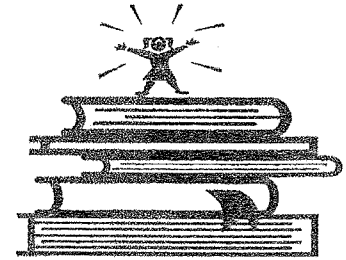
Rob's favorite verse is: "*I have faith...help me where faith falls short.*" *Mark 9:24*

It is evident Rob and Sara's walk of faith and their loving kindness have been gifts to Holy Comforter. In addition to her work on the gardens of the church, Sara works on the Sacristy. Rob is a lay reader and a chalice bearer. Holy Comforter has been fortunate to witness their walk of faith and their faith in God's help when they needed it in times of sorrow. Thank you, Rob and Sara, and Happy New Year to you.

# School Page:

## Grandpeople's Day 2011

HCES students took their special grandpeople on a trip "around the world" on November 22nd as part of the annual Grandpeople's Day celebration.



After a Lively music program, grandpeople were invited back to the classroom to visit and enjoy refreshments. Three separate sessions for different grade levels gave everyone a chance to hear the wonderful music performed by grades PK-1st and 2nd-5th grade students. Middle school students conducted an around the world trivia game with their grandpeople and the LS and MS Band performed.

Grandpeople's Day has become a Holy Comforter tradition, held each year on the Tuesday before the Thanksgiving holidays. A grandperson may be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend or any special person. We give special thanks for all of our grandpeople!

Jesse Roaza, Kyrgyzstan, Peace Corps In the October Dove we told you the students, families and faculty donated "pop-up" books for a day care center in Kyrgyz Republic where Jesse Roaza, former HCES student, (son of Ruth and Ernie) is serving in the Peace Corps. The following is a portion of a thank you letter from Jesse: *I work with a day care center in the village that looks after children with disabilities and orphans whose parents are either no longer alive or too poor to take care of them. I help look after a talented and diverse group of children, about 25 of them, that have been diagnosed with some kind of physical and or intellectual disability. The country's education system does not have the facilities or the resources to help these children and most grow up without the ability to read or write and none have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. The books you have collected will go a long way in helping the day care center and the children who go there. Thank you so much! In a country where the average person makes less than a \$1000 a year it is extremely difficult to get English books, especially children's books, in Kyrgyzstan where even the larger public schools only have five textbooks for a class of thirty. Again thank you! The day care thanks you and more importantly the children thank you!*

**SCHOOL PRAYERS** The following are the school prayers for January:

- 5 3rd grade, Ms. Cruse, her students, Ms. Vernon, Ms. Proctor
- 12 3rd grade, Ms. Davis, her students, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Rayboun
- 19 3rd grade, Ms. Ereckson, her students, Mr. Carden, Mr. Resavage
- 26 4th grade, Ms. Blickenderfer, her students, Mr. Washington, Ms. Roaza

## **HOLY COMFORTER SCHOOL: STEM Building Groundbreaking**

A bit of Silicon Valley moved closer to Tallahassee for Holy Comforter Episcopal School children on Monday, Nov. 7, 2011, with the groundbreaking of a resource-rich science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) facility. When complete, it will be the only one of its kind for an independent school in the area dedicated solely to STEM-based hands-on learning for students in grades K-8.

The two-story 12,385 square foot building will have the look and feel of a high-tech corporate campus, with robotics, engineering and science labs aimed to excite and entice students to investigate science at an early age. The building itself will incorporate environmental best practices and will serve as a teaching tool, with electrical and mechanical components left exposed for exploration and understanding of how things work.

“There’s a tremendous amount of discussion today about the importance of teaching STEM at the university and even high school level so that America can stay competitive globally. We are very excited to bring it to students at a much earlier age,” Head of School Peter Klekamp. “Middle school students will benefit immediately by learning to acquire knowledge and information through an inquiry approach with their peers instead of the traditional setting where information is imparted on them. It’s an exciting time to be a part of Holy Comforter School.”

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and other environmental best management practices will be incorporated by Ajax Building Corporation into the construction and management of the jobsite. The main level will include six classrooms and two laboratory spaces where students will learn by making things, making mistakes and learning from both.

With project based learning, students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills which will encourage imagination and productivity. Robotics projects, for instance, give students the opportunity to test the knowledge of applications as well as the ability to interact with their peers in teamwork, time management, project management and problem solving.

To date, Holy Comforter Episcopal School has raised \$2.5 million in cash and pledges for the project. The cost of the new building is expected to approximate \$2.8 million. The campaign originally began in 2007 as the school sought pledges for a Middle School science addition. It was temporarily put on hold as the country weathered an economic recession, but was revitalized this year after Klekamp was named the new Head of School, bringing with him a vision of a STEM based curriculum. Since July 1, the school has raised more than \$800,000 in new pledges. Even students have felt the excitement, with two children recently giving their own gift to support the project.