

Christ Church, Vero Beach

In May of 2008, parishioners, clergy and a majority of support staff, formerly of Trinity Episcopal Church, decided to branch off and join Promised Land Anglican Church. The first service was held on July 6, 2008 at 925 14th Lane, former home to the tax collector and a thrift store. Quite a different venue than the former church. The operational name was soon changed to Christ Church Vero Beach.

From the first service, attendance exceeded occupancy restrictions. Creativity and flexibility enabled the church to continue to flourish. The positive energy was contagious to all who visited. Satellite services were held in the office space to handle overflow, parishioners attended an earlier less attended service, and some chose to stay home and watch the service through a live stream on their computers.

Today, Christ Church Vero Beach continues to experience God's blessing of faithful followers willing to jump in and help at a moment's notice. There are currently 31 volunteer groups with approximately 470 people who lovingly serve others. A few examples are as follows: deliver meals to recuperating members, do minor household repairs, teach Sunday School, take part in worship services, guide and chaperon the youth group.

The church tithes 10% from its congregational offerings to Outreach, which services faith-based agency needs locally, nationally and internationally. An Outreach Committee spends countless hours going through proposals each year to carefully select the organizations that are to be supported.

Christ Church has recently called the Rev. Bill Gandenberger as their new rector.

St. Raphael's by the Sea

St. Raphael's by the Sea Anglican Church in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, is a brand new parish formed by twenty-five members, including founding members of St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, who left the Episcopal Church to follow their priest, the Reverend Alice Marcrum, into the Anglican Church of North America, because of their belief that Jesus is **the Way, the Truth and the Life**. Their mission is **"to know Christ and to make Christ known"**. St. Raphael's by the Sea Anglican held its first service at the Beach United Methodist Church in Fort Myers Beach on Saturday evening, August 7th of this year.

On August 21st, they had their first baptism. The son of one of the parishioners, Justin Parsons, who was visiting his mother, was baptized. The night of Justin's baptism was his second time at a church service. Justin accepted Christ that evening as his personal Savior and asked to be baptized that night, since he was soon returning back home to Oregon. The Altar Guild Directress, Betty Goodacre, was quick to accommodate with a borrowed bowl from the Methodist's kitchen.

On October 24th, the historic date for the Feast Day of the Archangel Raphael, the new parish held their first Sunday morning worship service in their new home at the recently closed Beach Movie Theatre on Fort Myers Beach. This move was made possible through a generous grant from Christ Church Anglican in Phoenix, Arizona, who read about their story on an orthodox Anglican news website. On October 31st, St. Raphael's by the Sea began having live music at their worship services in place of music videos through the gift of a keyboard from a local non-denominational church that had outgrown their church building. The organist, Jean Matthew, from the old church, is now playing for free for the new parish.

In an historic move, the owner of the Shrimp Fleet at Fort Myers Beach, Dennis Henderson, invited St. Raphael's by the Sea Anglican Church to host their Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet for next year. For over fifty years, the Episcopal Church that the members had left behind had been the host church. On Sunday, March 20th of 2011, the Rt. Rev. Neil Lehtar, Bishop of the Gulf Atlantic Coast Diocese, will begin a new tradition by blessing the Shrimp Fleet at the shrimp docks in Fort Myers Beach.

There have already been so many gifts, miracles, and acts of love for the birthing and progress of this

small parish, St. Raphael's by the Sea Anglican Church, that there is not enough room to list them all, but there is One to Whom is given thanks for all of these blessings. Paraphrasing from the psalmist, **"This is the Lord's doing, and we are amazed"**. The people and clergy of St. Raphael's by the Sea look forward to fulfilling the mission the Lord Jesus has given them to do.

All Souls Anglican Church

For the last three years, All Souls has been under the jurisdiction of the Anglican Mission. The Vestry made the decision in August to transition to the Gulf Atlantic Diocese under the authority of the Rt. Rev. Neil Lebhar.

All Souls Church was founded in January 1979. We were a mission Church that originated from All Saints Episcopal Church with the Rev. Harald (Whitey) K. Haugan, as Priest in Charge. Many of our original members are still members at All Souls. When we began, our motto was "To Know Christ... and To Make Him Known" and remains the same today. Our Statement of Faith from the beginning was: "We are a worshiping church family fully committed to knowing Christ and making Him known. We love to tell others the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are committed to helping people grow in the knowledge and love of Christ so that together we can follow His example when confronted with the challenges of this world. We are committed to equipping the entire family for His service so that we can find and fulfill our calling in the work of the Kingdom".

Our church desires to provide opportunity for our members to gain Godly wisdom so as individuals and families they can grow in Christ, bring others into a relationship with Christ through discipleship building, and get them involved with a Ministry in the church and community to serve God in His church.

Regarding our Missions partnerships and relationships, for many years All Souls had a "Missions Team" with the responsibility to reach out to missions, educate the congregation as to the various people, organizations, or People Groups available to minister to and support, and finally to work at sustaining those relationships that were built. We currently do not have a "Missions Team".

Regarding Overseas Missions, there were many years when we had various families and individuals from the Sudan attending our church as members. There were mission's trips to Sudan and much involvement with the local Sudanese community. Through the years, due to proximity and demographics, those relations do not exist anymore or are very thin.

When All Souls left the Episcopal Church and began an alignment with the Anglican Madi-West Diocese in Uganda, our overseas mission partnership was revitalized. As a church family we have many fond memories of when our members traveled to Uganda to minister to the people there. We still have a small relationship with the diocese of Madi-West Nile.

"Thank you, Lord." Those words were said many times Sunday May 23rd when members of All Souls Anglican Church held their first worship service in their new sanctuary at 4042 Hartley Road. Once a home improvement store, the facility now houses the 32-year-old congregation.