

# Faith Alive!

## An Extraordinary Faith Building Experience For The Entire Church Family

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2012

Faith Alive! 431 Richmond Pl. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Now with the Saints:

### Jerry Steege, twice Board Chairman, Executive Committee Member for 40-plus years, gifted Weekend Coordinator and Diocesan Representative, and Inspiration to thousands.

We will miss his voice, whenever a song is sung, whenever the national Board of Faith Alive meets, and whenever we prayerfully consider which of our gifted Weekend Coordinators should be called into service.

We will miss Jerry Steege's operatic leadership in times of praise, his words of counsel and wisdom, his selfless friendship.

"Jerry passed beyond the veil, Wednesday, November 30, 2011," his wife Christine writes. "One of the last things he said to me was, 'I know God will take care of you, Christine.'

"He talked with Christ and had wonderful visions; he was ready to complete the rest of his journey (as he

called it.) He has been a wonderful witness in the true Faith Alive tradition. He sent his love to all of you, dear friends. Faith Alive truly enriched his life with a deeper relationship with Our Lord."

Bill and Judith Barrett, Diocesan Representatives for Central Florida speak for all those who were privileged to know him: "We are confident that we won't be deprived of Jerry's wisdom and guidance because that wisdom and guidance came from the Holy Spirit and will still be here for us."

And from Denise Stewart, gifted music leader in Cleveland, OH, "He was the Weekend Coordinator at the St John's Episcopal Church in Detroit this past year. Although he was on his oxygen at times,

he sang out to God in song and praise. His leadership was strong and gentle – a combination modeled after Jesus. I would not be on the Faith Alive Board if it were not for Jerry's guidance. May my involvement be a testimony to him."

The Executive Committee, meeting January 6-7 at Christ the King, Orlando, FL, will dedicate its meeting to Jerry. He served as Weekend Coordinator of a Faith Alive Weekend at this church in 2007. His life will also be celebrated as the Executive Committee meets Saturday evening at the home of long-time leaders Ted and Kay Poitras in Haines City, FL.



**HANDS RAISED HIGH**, Jerry Steege's voice was a blessed ingredient of the Faith Alive Board's periods of praise and prayer. Steege (second from left) continually commended the Board to listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



**GENERAL CONVENTION** of the Episcopal Church, at the Faith Alive exhibit booth, Jerry and Christine Steege greet deputies and fellow exhibitors with humor and sincerity, always alert to offer a prayer.

# Call To Prayer



Churches, Coordinators and Teams depend on your prayer covering! Drop a note of encouragement to the Rector or Coordinator. Please continue your prayers for 2 or 3 weeks following the Weekend.

## **JANUARY 27-29, 2012**

### **Church of the Redeemer**

1601 Russell St., Drawer 9  
Orangeburg, SC 29116

The Rev. Dr. Frank Larisey, Rector  
Bill Clarkson, Coordinator

## **FEBRUARY 10-12, 2012**

### **St. Elizabeth of Hungary**

16491 Georgia Hwy 144  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324

The Rev. Dr. Clark Hubbard, Rector  
Frank Kirk, Coordinator  
John Chaconas, Assoc. Coordinator

## **FEBRUARY 24-26, 2012**

### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

417 W. Collin St.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

The Rev. Canon Ed Monk, Rector  
Tom & Sue Kay, Coordinators

## **MARCH 2-4, 2012**

### **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

2304 Second Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68847

The Rev. Jerry Ness, Rector  
Hal Foss, Coordinator

## **MARCH 23-25, 2012**

### **St. David's Episcopal Church**

205 Old Main St.

South Yarmouth, MA 02664

The Rev. Armand Kreft, Rector  
Mal & Regina Gurney, Coordinators

## **APRIL 20-22, 2012**

### **Church of the Messiah**

241 N. Main St.

Winter Garden, FL 34787

The Rev. Tom Rutherford, Rector  
Bill & Judith Barrett, Coordinators

### **St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

720 Martin Luther King Dr.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

The Rev. Michelle Roos, Rector  
Ken & Sue Lawrence, Coordinators

## **Faith Stories Retreats**

(Led by Tom Riley)

### **January 27-29, 2012**

Good Shepherd  
Silver City, NM

### **February 24-26, 2012**

Good Shepherd, LaBelle, FL  
All Souls, No. Ft. Myers, FL

## **To Be Scheduled**

St. Bartholomew's, Poway, CA; St. Paul's, Waxahachie, TX; St. James in the Hills, Hollywood, FL

## **From Hampton, VA**

The Faith Alive Weekend was an incredible blessing for us all! The participation – the response – was truly amazing. And I believe we will continue to see the blessings unfold for us.

I am aware – and humbled – by the many gifts that were offered: the prayers both within our community and from all those Faith Alive prayer warriors around the country; the faithfulness and generosity of the visiting Team; our parish leaders.

And, too, I realize it couldn't have happened without members of St. Mark's being willing to make space in their lives for those three days, and willing to take risk, allowing themselves to be open, to be vulnerable. Tom Gizara's commitment to his servant ministry challenged me, as well, to take prayerful stock in my own ministry.

The Weekend was just right. The music was incredible. The ministry for our children and teens truly awesome!

You have set a high bar for us as we seek to continue to "keep our faith alive" in this place.

*The Rev. Peggy Buelow, Rector*

*St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*Tom Gizara, Coordinator*

## **Let Them Hear From You!**

Frequently we hear of an extraordinary moment in the life of a parish preparing for a Faith Alive Weekend.

It often comes during announcement time, but sometimes during the sermon.

The rector or pastor states, "I'd like to read you a brief letter. It comes from someone miles away from here, in Reading, Massachusetts. He and his church are praying for us, along with thousands of others.."

Or perhaps it's the General Chair urging participation in the upcoming Prayer Vigil for the Weekend:

"We have received a letter from Lansing, Michigan, assuring us of prayers from the Faith Alive community. This is proof that this is a prayer-driven ministry, and we now need to be assured of your prayers. Our sign-up sheet for the Prayer Vigil..."

You, too, have the names and addresses of these churches as they plan for their Weekends. Please keep them in prayer. And perhaps, as time permits, drop them a line.

## **From Conway, SC**

This is the third Faith Alive Weekend we have been blessed to have in my 13 years as rector, and in my opinion, the best.

The Holy Spirit moved in very tangible and powerful ways. As a result, St. Paul's is now more conscious of the Spirit's presence and more open to worshipping, praying and loving through the Spirit. The faith is truly more alive than ever!

Each of the Team members had just the right words at just the right times, to speak to specific people and events that needed a refreshing word from God.

Our 14 small group ministries are better than ever!

*The Rev. Tripp Jeffords, Rector*

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

*Gene Scarborough, Coordinator*

## **From Clermont, FL**

Our Faith Alive Weekend was more than we could have hoped for in numbers participating and their engagement.

We learned so much about each other, learned to recognize the presence of the Lord through witnessing. The visiting team was clearly chosen by God.

The Coordinators were a true blessing, an inspiration of dedication to God, allowing Him to lead them and us. Our teens were blessed beyond measure!

*Mary Kay Predmore, General Chair*

*St. Matthias Episcopal Church*

*Bill & Judith Barrett, Coordinators*

## **Faith Stories Retreats**

The retreat at Grace Church, Jamestown, ND, brought much spiritual energy and we trust the Spirit will continue to use Tom's stories and his time with us to move forward with God's mission not only at Grace Church, but throughout the Diocese of North Dakota.

We look to this prompting a Faith Alive Weekend at our Cathedral.

*The Rev. Canon Dr. Kevin Goodrich*

*Canon Missioner*

*Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota*

"Tom's witness to the Good News at our church was uplifting to everyone! It was a wonderful shot in the arm for me, as a fellow worker in the vineyard of Christ."

*The Rev. Mary Canavan, Interim Rector*  
*Christ Church, Stratford, CT.*

Tom Riley is one of the funniest, most inspiring persons I have ever met. He is an instant Faith Restorer.

*The Rev. George Berlin, Rector*

*St. Philip & St. James, Denver, CO.*