



SAINT BONIFACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5615 MIDNIGHT PASS ROAD • SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34242 • WWW.BONIFACECHURCH.ORG

He came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all
From the hymn, Once in Royal David's City

Christmas 2009

Dear Friends of Saint Boniface,

Shepherds, foreigners, and animals, were among those the Holy Family had to deal with in their shelter in Bethlehem. It was a low threshold, high value place. Low threshold because diverse people found easy access; high value because everything that happened changed every life.

The same "low threshold, high value" characteristics mark the best intentions of the Christian community, and are the hope for every parish church. Saint Boniface has a reputation for being an easy place to become a member, and high value results from participation in our worship and community life. Such qualities are very important in a time when so many have suffered losses of jobs, homes, and economic energy.

Your vestry and staff know that this is a year when resources were scarce, and we want to thank you for your response to the commitments we made together to strengthen our program, even as we reduced salaries and costs. We plan to go into the new year with equally strong commitments for our worship and spirituality, education and teaching, healing and pastoral care and fellowship, and service to others in our community and beyond. We know that each of us has to make choices to spend and give for the greatest value. Your Christmas gift to Saint Boniface will make it possible for us to continue the high value model set by the community which developed around the manger in Bethlehem.

All of the staff and vestry join me in praying for God's blessings on you and your homes, and for all our loved ones separated from us by distance or war.

Faithfully,

Edward M. Copland, Rector, Saint Boniface

