



# St. Patrick' Shamrock

A Newsletter of  
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## ST. PATRICK'S IS CONSECRATED

### Parishioners Burn the Mortgage!



**August 2, 2009**

Photo by Joy Strotz



## A Life Worthy of Your Calling

*(A sermon preached at the consecration of St. Patrick's Church, August 2, 2009)*



The gospel message is too big for any one generation. That's why each generation of Christians discovers more good news, more grace in the New Testament. Sometimes a forgotten part of the tradition is suddenly remembered or rediscovered, and takes on new life with a renewed meaning for a new day. That's what has happened with MOAB, the Ministry of All the Baptized.

In the 1940's, there were major discoveries in archaeology – the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Nag Hammadi library, for example. We learned a lot about how the first Christians went about being the Church. We discovered that the first Christians were all ministers, not spiritual consumers sitting at the feet of an elite clergy. They were all ministers and their ministry is what made them whole.

Mutual ministry gave meaning to their lives. Shared service taught them wisdom. It exercised their characters so that they grew in virtue. They become stronger, healthier, saner, holier people. In the 1960's, the movement to bring back that kind of vitality in the life of the laity took off. Ministry of All Baptized was especially strong in the West, thanks to the Western School of Ministry founded by Bill Spofford of Idaho, Dean of St. Michael's Cathedral in Boise, and by the Dean of St. Mark's Cathedral in Salt Lake, a guy named Wes Frensdorff.

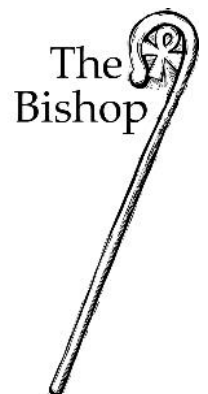
But the Ministry of All Baptized wasn't just a local fad. It was the driving force in Vatican II. It dramatically changed our ecumenical theology of Baptism in a major agreement in Lima, Peru in 1968. After the Lima Statement, Baptism ceased to be a private rite, a family bonding moment. Instead Baptism became the central event in the life of the congregation, and an initiation into the largest and most important order of ministry.

And so, today when we consecrate this building, to house St. Patrick's Church, we read our lessons in a new light. These are the perfect lessons to mark this day in your parish life because St. Patrick's is shifting its spiritual gears. St. Patrick's is making a spiritual shift directly parallel to the spiritual shift today's lessons invite us to make in our personal lives. The dedication and generosity of so many of you have set this Church free from struggling to maintain itself for itself. You have set this Church free to grow up spiritually, and so become a center of transformation where each of the members can grow up. That's s what today's lessons are about.

Last week, we heard how hungry people flocked to Jesus, and he miraculously fed them. Today, we see them back again, hoping for more food. Jesus is manifestly frustrated. They hadn't gotten the point. He didn't intend to transform bread just to up their calorie intake. He was showing them what transformation looks like, so they could be transformed themselves, so they could manifest the power of God in their lives. But they just kept trying to manipulate him into meeting their needs.

We shouldn't be too hard on them. Most of us begin the spiritual life as consumers. It may not be literal food we are after. It's more likely to be peace of mind, serenity, a sense of being unconditionally accepted. Most of us begin the spiritual life trying to get our needs met.

*(continued on page 3)*



*(continued from page 2)*

At first, we get what we want. Christ meets us where we are, gives us graces and consolations, heals our wounds and feeds our hunger. But it isn't quite enough. Our spiritual needs come back. We find ourselves once again restless. And that's a good thing. This is the point for a crucial transition in the spiritual life. Many people never make it. They stay stuck at the consumer level of faith, even though it isn't really working for them anymore. To move on, it takes a paradoxical shift. The paradox is that our spiritual needs get met far more deeply when we forget about them, and go to work doing something for someone else. The wounds in our souls heal while we aren't looking. Our weakened spirits grow strong while we aren't working on our spirituality.

A simple example: If we want to learn a little something about a subject, we can learn a little by attending a class on it. If we want to really learn a subject all the way, we volunteer to teach the class. That's how the Ministry of All Baptized makes us all stronger, wiser, healthier, and holier. This is what St. Paul pleads for in our Epistle lesson. Invoking the language of baptism, "one Lord, one Faith, one baptism", he says, "I . . . beg you to live a life worthy of your calling . . . . " (W)e must grow up in every way."

How do we grow up? He answers that each of us is called by God to a special form of ministry. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were called to be prophets. Paul, himself, was called to be the apostle to the gentiles. Just so, every Christian, at baptism, is called to a ministry. Paul says, The gifts (God) gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry. That list covers some of the most common ministries in the Church. But there are others. In 1st Corinthians, he gives a different list. Different places need different ministries.

What do you suppose would be on Paul's list if he were writing to St. Patrick's, Incline Village? In the mysterious Providence of God, the ministries that are needed here are aligned with the gifts and talents of this community of faith. I don't know what they are. Do you need spiritual directors, pastoral care givers, health care ministers, ministers of healing prayer? Is there anyone who gets the notices from Episcopal Public Policy Network and organizes this congregation to advocate on behalf of the social justice issues where our Church has made a stand? Do you need a minister to visit the elderly?

Do you need a visual arts ministry to make grace visible as beauty? Van Gogh and Caravaggio have told me more about God than any sermon. Or do you need mentors to companion new members? The General Convention has just created the new licensed ministry of lay evangelist? So I know that every one of our parishes needs that lay minister, and none of us have one yet. I don't know what ministries are needed here. I certainly don't know what particular ministry is your calling. But I do know this, if you are baptized, you are called – called to serve God by serving God's people in your own special way. And I know your calling, your form of services, is unique.

Theologian, Karl Rahner, said, "Each of us is a unique irreplaceable word of God." Brothers and sisters, each of you is "a unique irreplaceable word of God." If you do not live into your calling, that word of God will never be spoken. Only you can speak it. So I implore you to discern and then to act. "I . . . beg you to live a life worthy of your calling . . . ." We dedicate this building to be a holy place. But it will take more than rituals to make it holy. It will take personal transformation – it will take spiritual growth from just being recipients of grace to being agents of grace. This Church becomes holy by becoming what Fr. Jim calls a "Church for others." This will not be a sacrifice of our own spiritual life, but a fulfillment of it. Rabbi Hillel said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?"

So when will we plunge out into the life for others? "Now" is the best possible time. It is, in fact, the only time.



## Stewardship at St. Patrick's, Fall 2009 – January 2010

### **October 10–31**

- ? Reflect on the power of saints in our worship and prayer.
- ? Rejoice in the blessings God has given you and yours.
- ? Set your personal target of giving for the year ahead.

### **November 1: All Saints' Day and Commitment Sunday**

#### **9:00 am–12:30 pm**

- ? Give thanks for the saints in our lives in special remembrances in the Columbarium and sanctuary.
- ? Lift up our abundant life together as we present our financial pledges in gratitude at the altar.
- ? Enjoy a old-fashioned, all-parish potluck!

### **January 2010**

- ? Learn about our new parish outreach ministries at the Annual Meeting and how you can offer your gifts of time and talent to support them.

### **The Power of Saints**

Asked what saints were, a small child once answered, "They are the people the light shines through." Her image was of the saints in stained glass windows. But she beautifully described the authentic Christians in our lives—the ones through whom God's light shines in the world.

This fall Stewardship season, we invite you to reflect on the people who have been your life changers, your up lifters, your shining lights. Each generation has its saints—well-known and home-town—who respond to God's love with active love for others and with commitment, caring, and giving.

They had a unique mission. We felt their power and were personally blessed.

### **Our Mission**

Is it arrogance to think we could be saints, too? Jesus told us emphatically, No. All faithful people sharing in His Way receive that joy and power. We become sanctified by witness and action, when we answer our unique call to:

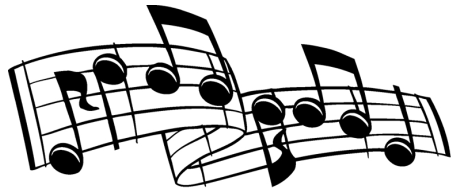
**Love God with all our heart, body, and mind**  
**Love our neighbors as ourselves**  
**Be a healthy parish**

This is the direction we'll follow in our renewed St. Patrick's mission. In parish surveys, you told us you want to do more to help youth and children, the local Hispanic community, newcomers and visitors, seekers, and the suffering. You want to serve openly, collaboratively, locally, hands on. We can do that with your light—with your financial pledges, time, and talent—in Jesus's name



### Yours for a Song

**Sunday, August 23, 5:00 pm  
The Chateau, Incline Village**



Sunday night, August 23rd, was a magical night. "*Yours For A Song*" was an evening of fun, fellowship, entertainment - an uplifting of our St. Patrick's spirits. We came together for appetizers, drinks, talk and did all this while purchasing raffle tickets from four young people who made ticket selling a part of the hilarity. Lorena Pfaender (who was celebrating her 16th birthday), Matthew Mooneyham, Ashley and Evan Vomund left the raffle table to walk and hawk the tickets. Part of their impromptu sales routine involved an original rap number, written on the spot. Thanks to a group of great young people who did an exceptional job of selling. We bid on all numbers of things at both the silent and live auctions, on line and "off line". Many made their "dream" purchases, while others enjoyed the friendly competition of the bidding. Wine, jewelry, art work, vacation condos and even a Cadillac were part of the purchases. Amazingly, we sold all but one of the more than 130 donations! I've heard it told that Jim Beebe's sister, Linda Rich bid on 22 items!

The meal was delightful. The wine divine. But nothing surpassed the enjoyment of hearing musical offerings rendered exquisitely by our St. Patrick's performers. Donna Axton did not hold back on her talent as she directed our performers, showcasing the multitude of musical talent. All the singers did several numbers and it seems that I short changed them by not mentioning all the songs they spent a long time rehearsing. Suzanne Gollery played the flute, accompanied by her two daughters, Sharon and Mariposa. They astonished us by executing the challenging piece, Claude Bolling's Suite - Baroque and Blue. Sharon and Mariposa returned again to perform with their father, Marty Gollery, "*Be Prepared*" from Lion King. The young women prowled and growled to accompany Marty's singing. Karen Colbert did a "poifect" "*Second Hand Rose*", performed Fanny Brice style along with the New York accent. Joy Strotz, looking like a Broadway performer, complete with costume to dress up her number, was a talented mermaid as she sang "*Part of My World*" from Little Mermaid. Marsha Tejada sang "*Adelaida's Lament*" from Guys and Dolls like a pro. Sally Hammel had us near tears as she sang the enchanted "*Bali Hai*". It's hard to believe that we were listening to a group of people who are not Broadway types in real life.

*Yours For A Song* was "*Some Enchanted Evening*", but would not have been possible without the hard work of many people including: Sharon Kirby (our very able chairperson), Clare Novak, Emy Gurowitz, Marilyn Gareffa, Cindy Boudett, Alice Balfrey, Connie Balfrey, Linda Brown, Fran Paxson, Joannellen Slocumb (decorating genius), Judy Morrison, Peggy Harrison, Lenty Hagen, Lainie Vreeland (artistic displays genius), David Renaud (expert photographer), Bob Skidmore (Master of Ceremonies - and more!), Jessica Rotter (our Parish Administrator), Jim & Deb Beebe and Dave Mussatti (who support us always in all our attempts), Linda Rich (Jim's sister who seems always to come from AZ to give support). I know I must have forgotten at least one of our hard workers. Please forgive me whoever you are. Of course, a HUGE thanks to our many generous donors and buyers. In the meantime, let's get going on our next FUNraiser.

Judy Morrison



# Church News

## Senior Warden's Report

Gary Thomsen

What a superb third quarter the members of St. Patrick's have had. Foremost was the very successful "*Yours for a Song*." 138 folks attended and a third of those were from outside our parish. What a great indicator of St. Patrick's fellowship and involvement in our community. We owe a huge round of thanks to everyone who was involved in making this event such a success, especially Sharon Kirby who led the planning effort and Donna Axton the music director. I refer you to the "*Yours for a Song*" article in this issue of the Shamrock.

Many of you are aware that we were one of three locations being considered by AT&T for a cell phone antenna. The rent from such an antenna would have helped balance our budget, but I am sorry to report, we were not selected. The vestry has decided that we should pursue other cell phone companies since we now know the engineers at AT&T thought we would be a good location. I will keep you advised of our progress.

One way that we are earning some extra income is by renting our excess parking spaces during the week. You may have noticed the "*Reserved Parking*" signs along the alley and at the top end our main parking lot. From 6:30AM to 3:30PM on weekdays, the employees of Olson Construction Co. are using 26 of our parking spots. This leaves 16 spots at the north side of church for our weekday use.

The review of our 2008 financial records, including our "*Banks or Babies?*" program, has been completed by Elisa Ross, a Certified Public Accountant. Our Audit Committee will now take her results and recommendations along with their own supplemental review and formulate a report for the congregation and the diocese.

Last month we began capturing the Sunday morning Adult Forum (9 – 10AM) on video and posting it on our website. For our parishioners who missed a class, it is a chance to catch up. For members of other congregations who may not have an adult education class, it's an outreach program from St. Patrick's. Do you want to help with this program? If so, please contact me or Ron Young. All you have to do is keep the camera pointed at Jim.



**"Honoring God's Gift of Art"  
2009 Gallery Schedule**

**October—November**

Quilts, Fabric

(deadline for artwork to church office is Tuesday, August 25, 2009)

**December—February**

Youth & Children's Art

(deadline for artwork to church office is Monday, November 23, 2009)

Thank you,  
Lainie, Deb, Caroline  
Art Committee

**Fall 2009 Adult Forum at St. Patrick's**

Our fall adult education program continues on Sundays at 9:10 a.m. on the theme, *"How People Interpret the Bible...and Why It Matters."* All of the segments are videotaped and are available by clicking: [www.tahoeepiscopal.org/ClassVideos/ClassVideos/shtml](http://www.tahoeepiscopal.org/ClassVideos/ClassVideos/shtml).

- October 4: *"How did we get THESE 66 books?"*
- October 11: *"Why does he teach in parables?"*
- October 18: *"Liberals and Fundamentals: an Impasse?"*
- October 25: *"Fundamentalism and Scripture"*
- November 1: *"Evangelicalism and Scripture"*
- November 8: *"Liberalism and Scripture"*
- November 15: *"Narrative Theology and Scripture"*



# St. Patrick's Parish Survey

August –September 2009

Strategic Planning Committee Report: Jim Beebe, Ginny Hestmark, Chuck Meyer,  
and Clare Novak

## A. Raw Data

1. Surveys completed: 51

2. Respondents' years at St. Patrick's:

1 – 5 years:	14
6 – 10 years:	7
11 – 15 years:	17
16 – 20 years:	1
21 – 25 years:	5
26 – 30 years:	1
31+ years:	6
No response:	1

Total:	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 51
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3. Respondents' attendance at St. Patrick's:

Year-round	38
Seasonal	13

4. Involvement in St. Patrick's activities:

Yes	44
No	7

5. What we do well/healthy and alive:

- a. Adult forum (camaraderie, safe place to question, education)
- b. Homilies
- c. Stewardship leadership and energy
- d. Music program (and TOCCATA)
- e. Use of building by community
- f. Lay and clergy leadership (energy and initiative)
- g. Socializing and fellowship
- h. Worship (quality and variety)
- i. Banks or Babies? Campaign



6. What we should do more of/should do better:

- a. Outreach (with a heavy emphasis on local outreach)
- b. Programs for the poor, hungry, hurting in our parish and community
- c. Programs for youth and children
- d. More intentional “*Magnetic Church*” systems for welcoming and hospitality
- e. Involvement with/support for Hispanic community
- f. Clergy support (rectory?)
- g. Intentionality towards becoming a “50/50” parish

**B. Interpretation**

Very positive attitudes about St. Patrick’s today. It was striking what was not said:

- a. Interest in Episcopalians *only*
- b. Activities for members of St. Patrick’s *only*
- c. That we should *stop* doing certain things
- d. Survey as a tool for complaint

**C. Recommendations**

1. Mission: Use primary teachings from Jesus as a way to guide and organize all our activities:

- \* Love God with all our heart, body, and mind (spiritual growth activities)
- \* Love our neighbor as ourselves (compassion and social justice activities)
- ?? Be a healthy parish (care for our members, clergy, staff, and resources)

2. Vision: Extend our current strengths to be “*the church for others.*”

3. Vestry Strategic Planning Process:

*How we serve:*

- a. Collaboratively
- b. Locally
- c. Openly
- d. Hands-on (not just \$\$)

*Whom we serve:*

- a. Youth
- b. Seekers
- c. Hispanic community
- d. Newcomers and visitors
- e. The suffering



## ***KNITTERS GUILD OF INCLINE VILLAGE NEWS***

***Do you love to knit or crochet? Come join the Knitters Guild, which meets every Wednesday From 1—3 p.m. in the church library!***



We welcome anyone who loves to knit or crochet, and we can help you if your skills need refreshing. The web site address for the group is [www.geocities.com/incline\\_knitters/](http://www.geocities.com/incline_knitters/). Please call Peggy Harrison at 831-9402 for further information.

Busy as people are, especially in the summer months, one might think attendance at the weekly Knitters Guild meetings might abate. Amazingly, that does not happen - the members continue to gather in the church library each Wednesday, work on their projects and share patterns and ideas. Distributions, and donations to fundraisers, of the lovely items continue year-round. This summer, the North Tahoe Family Resource Center in Kings Beach was given many things, and several layettes were taken to Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee.

The guild was especially happy to donate 2 layettes, made by Mariel Thomsen and Karen Barney, and a sweater and sweater/hat set, made by Peggy Harrison, to our church's "*Yours for a Song*" fundraiser. Those gifts brought in \$241.00 to St. Patrick's, so we were quite pleased!

The Family Center nurses at Tahoe Forest Hospital asked me if the guild might be able to use a gift card to purchase supplies. Of course, I said, "*Yes!*" When asked where we might like the gift card to be made available, I suggested the Lake Tahoe Yarn Company in Truckee, so that a local merchant could benefit from our purchase of the yarn sold there. The result was that 42 items (hats, sweaters, booties and mittens for newborns) were made and delivered to the hospital. A picture of the ladies who made the items, and a nice article about the guild, appeared in the Sierra Sun. Perhaps some of you saw it; it brought a new member, who lives in Truckee, into the guild!

In July, 12 members of the Knitters Guild walked in the Relay for Life at Preston Field. Four of the guild members who participated are cancer survivors. We carried signs to identify our group and show support for those who have battled cancer in the past or who are now fighting this dread disease.

The Knitting Club at Incline Elementary School, taught on Wednesdays by several guild members after the regular meeting in the church library, began in September. There will be more news about how that's going in the next Shamrock.

The guild's supplies have been greatly augmented by yarn from an estate sale. Barbara Frederic, a guild member, arranged to pick up unsold yarn at the conclusion of the sale. The library and chapel closets attest to the bonanza of yarn that came our way. Thank you, Barbara!

In late September, the guild had a little party in the library to celebrate seven (yes, seven!) years of its good work to help others. A poem I wrote to commemorate this milestone appears in the Shamrock. Hope it makes you smile!



**KNITTERS GUILD POEM -  
SEPTEMBER, 2009**

Today's a very special day!  
"Why is that?" you might say;  
Because today we all celebrate  
A milestone that's really great.  
For seven years the guild has met  
And wouldn't think to let  
Anything stand in the way,  
Such as days that are gray,  
Or those with snow - oh, no!  
On Wednesdays we come together  
No matter what the weather.  
We knit, crochet, share ideas and chat.  
Nothing stops us - how about that?  
The results of our work make us proud;  
We're able to help those under a cloud.  
We make hats and sweaters, too;  
Booties and scarves are all new.  
Blankets with lots of squares  
Cover the laps of those in chairs.  
We teach some kids grades 3,4 5;  
They're not old enough to drive!  
They love to learn a new skill,  
And we hope it always will  
Be something they do treasure  
Beyond any kind of measure.  
Now our guild begins year number eight;  
We know it will be just great!  
The best things of all, though,  
(And they're what make us grow)  
Are the friendships we've made...  
For those we wouldn't trade  
A million dollars or more;  
They're wonderful, that's for sure!

Peggy Harrison



**Dollars and Sense (as of September 29, 2009)**

Income, year to date: \$208,832.00  
Expenses, year to date: \$206,520.00



## *St. Patrick's Hosts Convention 2009*

Together with St. Peter's, Carson City, St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, Glenbrook and Coventry Cross, Minden, St. Patrick's will host the 2009 Diocesan Convention at Harvey's in Stateline. Attending the Convention will be Steve Barney, Stephanie Tall, Ginny Hestmark, Ron Young, Gary Thomsen, Bob and Connie Skidmore, and Nancy Joslin. St. Patrick's volunteers will staff the registration table on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Terry L. Martin. His personal history is unusual for an Episcopal priest. As a homeless teen, Martin was eventually placed in a reform school. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Navy. After four years of service, Martin worked as a mechanic and a shipping clerk while pursuing his college education at night. He graduated with honors from both the University of Wisconsin and Nashotah House and was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1990.

The Rev. Terry Martin is the Program Officer for Evangelism at the Episcopal Church Center. He was previously vicar of Holy Spirit Church, Tuckerton, New Jersey. He has also served congregations in Wisconsin, California, and South Carolina. Martin and his wife, Cherie, reside in Hammonton, New Jersey.

Once asked what he hopes to bring to the Episcopal Church Center, Martin replied; *"I have a passion for expanding the household of God. As one who knows what it means to be an outcast, I'm driven to seek new and innovative ways for us to be faithful witnesses to the radically inclusive love of God."*

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!**

Operation Christmas Child is gearing up again for all of us at St. Patrick's to get into the spirit of giving. Save your shoe boxes, bring us small gifts and items such as school supplies, toothpaste, small toys and the Youth of St. Patrick's will fill them for you. Don't forget the donation for shipping costs (8.00 per box).

This non profit organization provides relief and development assistance to suffering people in the world. Help a child experience Christmas and joy!

### Staff & Ministry Group Chairs

*The Rev. Dr. James R. Beebe*  
Rector

*The Rev. Dr. David J. Mussatti*  
Priest

*The Rev. Jim Kelly*  
Priest

*Gary Thomsen\*\**  
Senior Warden

*Bob Skidmore\*\**  
Junior Warden, Nominating Committee

*Lainie Vreeland, Connie Skidmore,  
Peggy Harrison*  
Shamrock

*Connie Skidmore*  
Outreach Chair

*Suzanne Gollery*  
Clerk of the Vestry

*Deb Beebe, Caroline Cutler  
Lainie Vreeland*  
Art Committee

*Karen Barney*  
Webmaster

*Eric Strotz\*\**  
Folk Mass Group

*Clare Novak*  
Stewardship, Communications Chair

*Caroline Cutler*  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

*Nancy Joslin*  
Columbarium

*Peggy Harrison*  
Knitters Guild of Incline Village

*Jack Barney*  
Ushers/Greeters Coordinator

*Lainie Vreeland, Nancy Joslin*  
Library

**\*\*Vestry Member**