

# St. Patrick' Shamrock

A Newsletter of  
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## BORN AGAIN

*Born again.*” (In Koine Greek, *Genothay another*). Those words have virtually created a new style of American Christianity. “*Have you been saved?*” “*Have you been ‘born again?’*” It’s interpreted as a ticket to heaven. It’s interpreted as a special privilege levied on those who give their hearts to Jesus – something that sets them apart from everyone else. But let’s finish Jesus’ sentence: “*You must be born again in order to see the Kingdom of God.*”

**May GEN-oi-to!** as Paul would say (roughly translated, “*By no means!*” but in the Greek, much closer to a curse). Being “*born again*” does exactly the OPPOSITE of what these folks are claiming. Being “*born again*” doesn’t connote special privilege. Being “*born again*” means being able to *see* the Kingdom of God! And the first thing you’ll *see* when the scales fall from your eyes is that you are *at one* with the whole human race, that we’re all in this *together*. It’s not about me! Here’s what I mean:

[Anthony de Mello] The young novice was kneeling, in anticipation of being initiated into the brotherhood of the monastery. The abbot whispered the sacred prayer into his ear, warning him not to reveal it to anyone. “*What will happen if I do?*” asked the novice. Said the abbot, “*Anyone you reveal the secret prayer to will be liberated from bondage and suffering, but you yourself will be excommunicated and separated from God’s grace forever.*” No sooner had he said these words, than the novice rushed out into the village, collected a large crowd around him, and repeated the sacred prayer for all to hear.

Our whole problem – what many refer to as “*the human condition*” – is that we can’t be content unless we’re “*special*” or “*better than.*” It’s especially devious when we dress it up in religious language to make the claim that we’re on the gold team and you’re on the brown. The Biblical writers call it “*pride*” and it’s the thing that must die if we are to live. Religious conversion means, for the first time, being able to *see* this.

**“*Spirituality is not knowing what you WANT, but understanding what you DO NOT NEED.*”**

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Bishop Dan's Page</i> .....	2	<i>Honoring God's Gift of Art</i> .....	5
<i>Our new Sierra Nevada College Chaplaincy</i> .....	3	<i>Operation Christmas Child</i> .....	5
<i>Education for Ministry (EFM)</i> .....	4	<i>Knitters Guild News</i> .....	6
<i>Godly Play</i> .....	4	<i>Stewardship 2008</i> .....	7
		<i>United Thank Offering</i> .....	8



## *From Bishop Dan*



There is nothing like getting up after the moon has set to watch streaks of red, yellow, and blue shoot across a black, black sky studded with the brightest of stars. It was the Perseid Meteor Shower over Lake Tahoe. Not much can compare with watching little boys building a bridge of boards and rocks to show their decrepit bishop a watery coral of captured crawdads. Family Camp at Galilee is not to be missed. There are campfire songs, consisting largely of oldies from the 70's, folk favorites, and some cheers for God; the simple reverence of Point Prayers ("The day thou gavest Lord is ended . . ."); and the off beat worship in chapel and amphitheater. Not to mention an adult program on the saints and a kids program including pre-breakfast kayaking.

One can connect with God here in a way that doesn't happen on Sunday morning. This is no substitute for regular worship in our usual way. But our usual worship is no substitute for this. A balanced spiritual diet requires a variety of spiritual experiences (to borrow a phrase from William James.) This is an essential part of the spiritual formation we do in Nevada.

I have been hearing for weeks about how Galilee has become a top flight professionally run operation. The new vigor of our camp is making a difference in the faith of our youth and children. They are going home with a spiritual vitality they cannot get anywhere else, any other way. It will make all the difference for their spirituality back home in church and daily life. I am enormously grateful to all who have made this happen.

One more surprise. The best represented church at Family Camp is St. Christopher's, Boulder City -- that's one of the farthest churches from Tahoe in the Diocese. Christ Church, Las Vegas is also well represented. We are also blessed with a contingent from Epiphany, Henderson as well as folks from closer by.

Church camps are hardly ever located near the population centers. If they were easy to get to, there would be light pollution. And the element of pilgrimage would be lost. The specialness of this place depends on its distance and its elevation as well as its beauty. The temples of Ancient Greece were not located for convenience and curb appeal, but on top of rugged mountain surrounded by dense olive groves. You have to hike to get to them. Holiness is not handy. I am grateful not just for Stuart, Monnica, Mitch, the cool counselors, and all those who make this place holy, but for those who have the spiritual initiative to go on pilgrimage. The tradition in Jesus' day was to worship in one's local synagogue every Sabbath but to make the long and arduous journey to Jerusalem once a year. Not a bad rhythm. I would recommend it to all our Nevada Episcopalians.

Our Jerusalem is here.



## **Sierra Nevada College Chaplaincy Begins!**

On Tuesday, September 30, 2008 St. Patrick's Church will begin a monumental new mission outreach project right here in Incline Village with our official chaplaincy services. Our mission is to promote and support spiritual development, theological reflections, religious tolerance and social awareness among students, faculty and staff within the college community.

At its heart, the SNC Chaplaincy is a prophetic and pastoral presence, is interfaith in orientation, and seeks to enhance the spiritual and ethical educational experience of persons of many diverse traditions.

Dave Mussatti and I will be providing pastoral hours at the college in the Luria Dining Hall from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays for students, staff and faculty with spiritual concerns. Then, on Tuesday evenings, we will offer seminars in PA207 (Patterson Hall):

- October 7: *"Religion: why words get in the way"*
- October 14: *"John Hick says that Christianity is not the one true religion"*
- October 21: *"Jihad vs. McWorld: two opposing forces"*
- October 28: *"Why the devil takes VI SA"*
- November 4: *"Harris, Dawkins & Hitchens: three angry atheists"*
- November 11: *"What are 'near-death-experiences?'"*
- November 18: *"Why do bad things happen?"*
- December 2: *"Why is Woody Allen so depressed?"*

### **"Banks or Babies?" – A Correction**

Many of you who attended "Banks or Babies?" Socials or received a telephone, heard us explain that getting rid of the Mortgage also saves (reduces) Diocesan Asking on the amount of the mortgage payment. Unfortunately, this is incorrect. For this we apologize and will attempt to clarify this topic here.

Diocesan Asking is calculated as a percentage of income minus deductions. Income includes: Pledge, Plate, Rents received (Nursery school, weddings, etc.), and interest income. Deductions include: Building Principal & Interest, Rector housing and Outreach. The negative side to this is: If we don't spend the equal amount in Outreach that we would have in Mortgage payments; the amount we send to the Diocese will actually go up.....

However.....

The overwhelmingly positive side to this is: We can choose to either do Outreach equal to the amount of our former mortgage payment or we can pay 25% of the "un-donated" income to the Diocese. Essentially doing outreach either way! There is also the benefit of not paying the other 75% to the Bank? That's why we called it **"Banks or Babies?"**



**EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)**



EFM has grown over the summer! On September 15<sup>th</sup> the St. Patrick's EFM seminar group began their new year with 11 students and 2 mentors. The EFM course study is divided into four years. This year's students are: Deb Beebe in 4<sup>th</sup> year (Theology); Karen Barney, Linda Brown, David Brown, Nancy Joslin, Judy Morrison and Gary Thomsen in 3<sup>rd</sup> year (Church History); Santa Claus, Stephanie Tall and Viki Welling in 1<sup>st</sup> year (Old Testament). We are hoping that later in the fall semester Ginnie Jed, who has had extensive surgery this summer, will be able to rejoin the group in 2<sup>nd</sup> year (New Testament) studies.

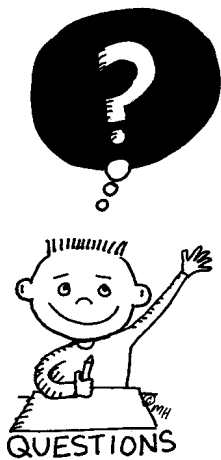
The students and mentors meet every Monday evening in St. Patrick's library for discussion of readings, prayer, worship, theological reflection and common lessons. With the students presently participating in three distinct years of study, the discussion will be lively and the learning and sharing plentiful. As mentors for this group, Jim Kelly and I, are excited about the student enthusiasm and synergy.

If you are interested in learning more about the EFM curriculum and study, please ask Connie Skidmore or Jim Kelly for more details.

Connie Skidmore, Mentor

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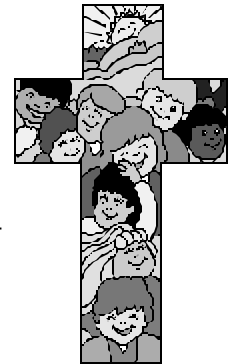
**Godly Play at St. Patrick's on Saturday Nights**



Godly Play started for the younger children on Saturday, September 13th after the Saturday Night Alive service. Judy told the creation story and the children opened pictures of the "gifts" created by God. Next Saturday the children will hear the story of "The Ten Best Ways" (Ten Commandments). The following week David will do "The Flood and the Ark". Joy has a surprise for us on All Saints Day. Come join us if you're a kindergarten through 4th grade student. You'll enjoy the stories and craft activities! For more information, call Judy Morrison (831-1564) or email: [twosoinclined@earthlink.net](mailto:twosoinclined@earthlink.net). We'd love to have you join us.



## Operation Christmas Child



St. Patrick's will participate in Operation Christmas Child this fall. The final collection day will be November 15, 2008. Brochures are at St. Patrick's. There was a touching story on CNN about a young orphan from Russia who received a gift from Operation Christmas Child when she was 9 years old and living in the orphanage.

This was the only gift Tanya had ever received, having been abandoned by her parents and living a discouraging life.

She was told that no one loves her. Then she received this gift of hope and love and especially enjoyed the note of kindness that was with the teddy bear and school supplies in her shoebox of love.

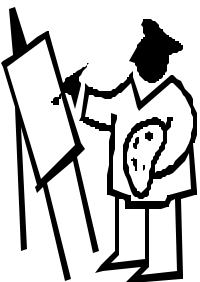
Tanya was adopted by a family in St. Louis, and last year participated in the distribution of Christmas shoeboxes in Equador. She remembers her first gift of hope, love, and prayer. She is giving back.

Let us all participate this year in giving children hope and love. We have boxes in the youth classroom of St. Patrick's and will fill them with your contributions. Determine if your gift is for a boy or girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Use the label from the brochure. Fill the box with a variety of gifts. Please donate \$7.00 per gift for shipping. Place a rubber band around the gift.

Please pray for the child who will receive this gift.

The Youth Group will meet in November to pack the boxes and will be glad to assist you with this outreach project. Kathy Vomund ( 775-831-5927) and Caroline Cutler (775-832-8170), and our fantastic young people can help you with this.

## St. Patrick's Art Show!



*Thank you to all who participated in the Quilts, Fabric Art & Needlework Art showing! It is always a delight to see our hallway Art Gallery "Honoring God's Gift of Art." Our next exhibit focuses on Painting, which includes acrylics, oils, and watercolors. Please bring all art to adorn the walls to the church office by Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.*

*The Art Show will open on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m.! Please contact Lainie, Caroline, or Deb if you have any questions .*



## ***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!***



A recent inventory of completed projects, such as lap robes, blankets, hats, scarves, sweaters and layette components showed that the diligent efforts of the Knitters Guild members have produced a great number of these items to be given out this fall. While distributions are made throughout the year, most things are given as cooler weather approaches; winter makes it especially important for the guild to provide warm clothing to those who need it.

That said, in mid-August, seven lap robes and seven baby layettes were delivered to Tahoe Forest Community Hospital in Truckee. Some long-term care patients and parents of newborns were delighted with their gifts!

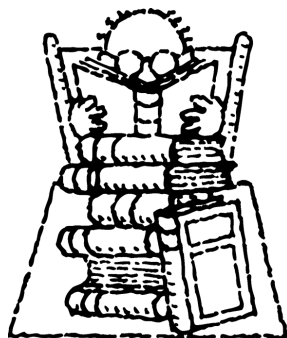
Also, a number of lighter-weight knitted clothes were taken to Kings Beach Family Resource Center, and the American Cancer Society in Reno received many chemo caps.

If you know of anyone undergoing chemotherapy who might like to have one or more of these caps, made of very soft yarn, please let us know. Recently, a member of our church selected a couple of hats for a family member who is battling cancer. We hope they will brighten the relative's days as she battles this dread disease.

Word of the group's activities finds its way to prospective members in surprising ways!

Recently, I was introduced by a guild member to a friend of hers. Conversation turned to the Knitters Guild and its outreach; the woman whom I'd just met said she had knitted some hats and wondered where she could donate them. I suggested she come to a meeting of the Knitters Guild and see for herself the good work being done by the members. She did...and brought 17 hats to add to our collection! Since then, this new member has become involved in the guild's work and has made several more items. I like to think God's hand was at work here. The Incline Elementary School Knitting Club is beginning another year under the able guidance of several guild members. You'll hear more about this program in the next Shamrock!

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



### **Our Library Continues to Grow!**

We are delighted at the many recent book, audio and DVD donations to our church library. Topics including: Fiction, Contemporary Issues, Theology, Faith, and Pastoral Care. We wish to thank the anonymous donors for their generosity!



## 2008 Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off in October

In the capable hands of Clare Novak and Aaron Paxson, St. Patrick's 2008 stewardship campaign looks to be a big success. Here's a synopsis of what they have in mind:

First, we are God's stewards and what we do grows out of our relationship with God. Stewardship involves joyous acts of thanksgiving in response to all God has given us. Stewardship is about spiritual growth and changing lives and its programs are guided by grace, not guilt. Here are our three main points:

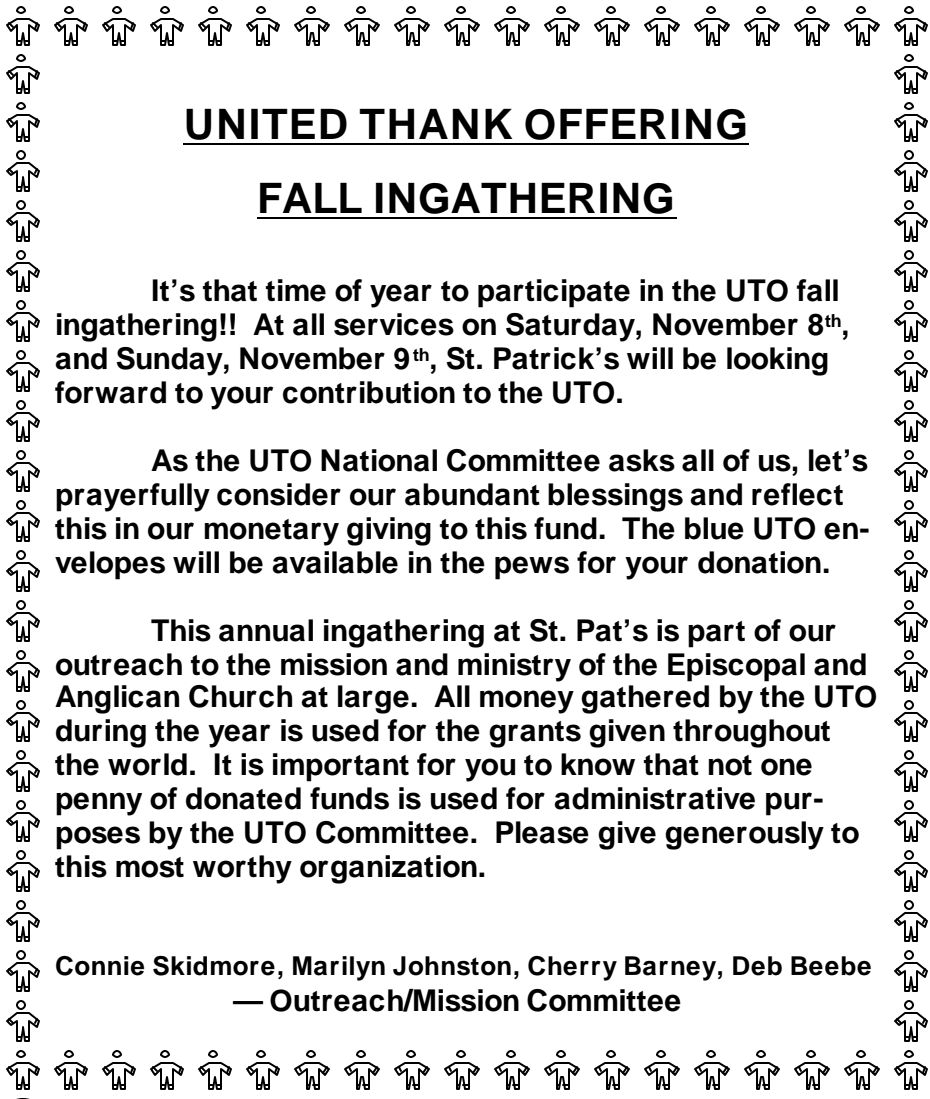
1. **Mission and Ministry.** Ensure parishioners understand the current ministries of St. Patrick's Church and articulate those ministry goals for the year ahead. Connect stewardship to the "*Banks or Babies?*" campaign. We will include highlights of our current and future ministries in our mailings to you and clarify both the corporate and individual identities of giving.
2. **Spiritual Formation.** We will expand your understanding of the theology of stewardship as thanksgiving and differentiate between fundraising, on the one hand, and Christian stewardship on the other. We'll explain the concept of tithing and proportionate giving of time, talent and treasure. To accomplish these things, we will emphasize Jesus' theme of "*be not anxious.*" We'll place stewardship messages in letters, bulletin inserts, newsletters, our website, sermons, prayers of the people, and include our youth. We will invite witnesses to speak at our worship services and have a stewardship table at coffee hours. Finally, we'll celebrate thanksgiving on Commitment Sunday (November 2) and read parishioners' expressions of thanksgiving submitted with their pledges.
3. **Financial Health.** We aim to increase the percentage of our budget coming from pledges from 64% to 80% and increase the percentage of pledging units from 53% to 100% in 2009. We will also ensure parishioners understand our current financial status. We will establish a matching fund for all first-time pledgers. To facilitate giving, we will enable multiple methods, including online pledging and credit cards. Aaron will train volunteers to make the required follow-up calls.



### Timeline :

- October 7:** Stewardship letters and materials sent to parishioners.
- October 11-12, 18-19, 25-26:** Celebrate stewardship during worship services.
- November 2 (All Souls Day):** Commitment Sunday, when we gather pledges.
- November 5—December 12:** Follow-up with calls and acknowledgements.

*(On Tuesday, September 23, Clare and Aaron presented these ideas to the Vestry and received enthusiastic and unanimous support.)*



## UNITED THANK OFFERING FALL INGATHERING

It's that time of year to participate in the UTO fall ingathering!! At all services on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's will be looking forward to your contribution to the UTO.

As the UTO National Committee asks all of us, let's prayerfully consider our abundant blessings and reflect this in our monetary giving to this fund. The blue UTO envelopes will be available in the pews for your donation.

This annual ingathering at St. Pat's is part of our outreach to the mission and ministry of the Episcopal and Anglican Church at large. All money gathered by the UTO during the year is used for the grants given throughout the world. It is important for you to know that not one penny of donated funds is used for administrative purposes by the UTO Committee. Please give generously to this most worthy organization.

Connie Skidmore, Marilyn Johnston, Cherry Barney, Deb Beebe  
— Outreach/Mission Committee

### Staff & Ministry Group Chairs

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

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

*The Rev. Jim Kelly*  
Priest

*Emy Gurowitz\*\**  
Senior Warden

*Gary Thomsen\*\**  
Junior Warden, Buildings and Grounds Chair

*Peggy Harrison, Nancy Joslin,  
Connie Skidmore*  
Shamrock

*Lora Kelly*  
Memorial Committee

*Cherry Barney, Deb Beebe, Marilyn  
Johnston, Connie Skidmore*  
Outreach/Mission Committee

*Suzanne Gollery*  
Clerk of the Vestry

*Deb Beebe, Caroline Cutler\*\**  
*Lainie Vreeland*  
Art Committee

*Karen Barney*  
Webmaster

*Eric Strotz\*\**  
Folk Mass Group

*Cherry Barney*  
Good Samaritans Coordinators

*Caroline Cutler\*\*, Kathy Vomund*  
Youth Ministry Coordinators

*Nancy Joslin*  
Columbarium

*Peggy Harrison*  
Knitters Guild of Incline Village

*Jack Barney*  
Ushers/Greeters Coordinator

*Nancy Joslin, Lainie Vreeland*  
Library

\*\*Vestry Member



## New Photo Directory

Please remember to update your address, phone number, names of children and birthdates (not to be published) with the church office and also submit a family photo by email in order to create a new PHOTO DIRECTORY! We do not have access to the pictures from the old photo directory, and many are out of date. Photos can also be mailed in or dropped off to the office, or if you prefer, please call the church office to make an appointment for a digital photo here at church: 775-831-1418 or office@tahoeepiscopal.org We would love 100% participation from every family!