



# St. Patrick' Shamrock

A Newsletter of  
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
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## Italian Students, St. Patrick's Team Up for Haiti



Italian students at Sierra Nevada College entertain participants at a fundraiser on April 9th at Patterson Hall for Haiti earthquake victims. The students came to the United States after the devastating L'Aquila earthquake in Italy had taken the lives of 44 of their friends attending the university there on April 6, 2009.

**St. Patrick's is matching the funds collected at the "*L'Aquila for Haiti*" event.**



## CLEFT FOR ME



The rocky edifices of my world are beautiful precisely because they are broken. Their very appearance above ground is the consequence of various geologic cataclysms, a shifting of tectonic plates, a volcanic eruption, or a glacial assault upon the earth. The great rocks themselves are marked by fissures, caves, and niches formed by wind, water erosion, and the insistent wearing of time. These rocks are marked by ages. Their beauty resides in the paradox of strength and brokenness.

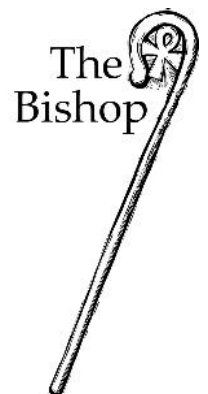
How can such solidity be fractured? Are the wind and water mightier than the rock? Was the seemingly impregnable stone fortress flawed, concealing secret faults, weaknesses waiting to be exploited? Or is the stone rather personalized by an inner consent to be broken, a submission to sacrifice for some more tender, even more human, inclination? The fissures, caves, and niches not only transform a flat surface of uniform disinterest into a complex portrait of aesthetic wonder, they offer shelter from sun, wind, and rain. Ironically, they shield the more vulnerable living creatures of the desert from the very same forces that break the rocks so that they may afford the shelter.

That the Rock of Ages should be cleft is astounding. If the Rock is cleft by a force superior to itself, that would be the end of faith. It would mean the power of chaos triumphs over order, the power of nothingness (Karl Barth called it, *das Nichtige*) triumphs over Being. But suppose the Rock of Ages is not cleft against its will. Perhaps it is not subjected to such breakage by weakness but by the vulnerability of its own love. *Hesed*. "His mercy endures forever." Suppose the Rock of Ages is not cleft by meaninglessness and chaos, but rather is cleft for a purpose the Rock deems worthy of such a sacrifice. The Rock consents to be broken. What purpose could justify the breaking of God?

"Rock of ages cleft for me." If the foundation of reality is only strength, then where is the place for my weakness? Where can I hide on the stony surface of such a reality? I need the strength of the Rock to save me with its power, but I also need the vulnerability of the cleft which is its caring, the costly caring, in which I take refuge. Neither power nor vulnerability standing alone will offer refuge. Love and power must be conjoined in the God of my salvation – the God who is both rock and person, the rock with the power to shield, but with a cleft which is his "wounded side."

God is infinitely more than human. Heaven and earth cannot contain the Lord. He cannot be confined in a temple, labeled with a name, or defined by an image. God is more vast than the universe itself. Yet, God's greatness rests not in vastness but rather in God's willingness to become human, to take on flesh, to subject himself to the frailty of mortal life so that we might not be alone. The greatness of God's compassion exceeds the greatness of God's might. God opens in vulnerable mercy to enfold us. "Let me hide myself in thee."

It is my very self I need to hide. It is my very self because that is what is threatened by the world, which is often indifferent, often even hostile to my presence here. It is not just my assets or my reputation. It is my very self that is at risk of being crushed or distorted by demands, manipulations, and judgments, crushed or distorted by fate, ill health, personal calamity. The person God made me to be is in danger of destruction or distortion by a world that wants me to be either entirely different or entirely absent. If I am not sufficient in myself to deliver myself, then where can I turn but to God? And so I do. I recite the words of Isaiah,





*(continued from page 2)*

Surely it is God who saves me,  
I will trust in him and not be afraid  
for he is my stronghold and my sure defense  
and he will be my savior.

Isaiah 12: 2

Or I center myself with a one word prayer, murmuring the name of God alone, resting in God and trusting that God holds my life in his hand. I would rather hold my life in my own hand, but my hand is too small. It is not strong enough.

There is a poignant solace in taking refuge in the cleft of the rock. God affords me refuge and that is good. But for the cleft to be there for me, God has must be broken. A rift in God must occur in order to afford me that refuge. I did not break God. Even my sin is not so powerful as that. God is broken open by God's own love. The Buddhist teacher, Chogyam Trungpa, used to speak of the heart being "broken open." Just so, God is broken open by God's own love to afford me refuge and that makes the place of refuge a place where I know I am loved, where I am valued enough to endure the fracture of mortality. That's is what God shows me in Jesus on the cross – a God willing to walk into death with me, a God willing to descend into hell to bring me back from it.

I can prostrate myself in awe of the Rock of Ages like a Pleistocene man before El Capitan. But awe is not love. I love the Rock of Ages because it is cleft. When I find myself unworthy to breathe the earth's air, I find my worth in knowing the Rock was cleft for me.

I wish I were more often moved to reverence and wonder by the glories of creation. But I am not. I am a prisoner of ego. I live in a small world of projects, plans, and petrifications of the heart. God's glory only occasionally gets my attention and then it does not last. But fear gets my attention. It gets my attention so well, I would not blame God if God threatened me daily. But God does not. I cannot recall once being threatened by God – by preachers of hellfire and damnation, yes. But not by God. And the hellfire and damnation seemed too remote to pose an immediate threat. So whence cometh the fear that focuses my mind?

Life is unstable. Buddha said as much in the 2nd Noble Truth. Heraclitus echoed him in his teaching on flux. Ecclesiastes despaired over it. A forgotten seat belt, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, the tremors of the earth or the economy or the emotions of those we love, all these variables can bring a grandiose life to rubble and ruin. Something as tiny as a blood clot or a bit of plaque broken loose from an artery will wipe away the miracle of the human mind. In John Irving's novel, *The World According To Garp*, when the hero was a little boy wading in the ocean, his mother would call out warnings to watch out for the undertow. He misheard her, thought she was warning of a malevolent monster "the undertoad." He misheard her word but caught her meaning. It feels as if the lion prowls, dash Nachhige undoes, the chaos monster scatters the sand paintings of our lives and loves. That is when I need to hide myself in the cleft of the rock. And I do.

Over 60 years, so many disasters have almost happened. God has delivered me from most of them. Others have happened, and God has delivered me through them. I would far rather be delivered from than through. But the point is to be delivered, to see the sky clear and walk the earth again. The storms come. The storms pass by as we nest in the invisible castle, secure in the crag and the fortress of God, powerful as the granite mountain, caring as the wounded side. Like the rocky edifices of Nevada, God is beautiful in God's brokenness.



## A Homeless State

(from An Everflowing Stream)

Robert MacAfee Brown said, "(Religion) provides a norm, a standard by which we are rendered dissatisfied with the way things are . . . as a way of liberating us for change." Karen Armstrong said, spiritual "experience must be incarnated in our behavior toward others . . . The test of true spirituality is practical compassion." May God ever render us dissatisfied, liberate us from complacency, and empower us to be agents of compassionate change in Nevada and throughout the world. Bishop Dan Edwards

### **Resolution: Support for and improvement of the federal government's network of programs to reduce the numbers of those living in poverty...EC 3/02**

I identified myself with the movie *An American Tail* the first time I saw it, I too thought that "*there were no cats in America*" but I discovered many "*cats*" during my life here. One of them is the homelessness. How in the best country in the world this problem can exist, and even worse how can it be ignored. I live in the city of Neon where money is king. What no one sees, behind the lights, behind the masquerade where the fantasy ends the reality starts there thousands of Americans live paycheck to paycheck; and many of those Americans are a paycheck away from being homeless. The financial problem is increasing, and before it gets better will begin to fall again. People should be appreciative of the jobs they have.

It is the paycheck that keeps us all in balance; the American society demands payment for decent living. Not everyone has that comfort The homeless don't have the luxury of jobs to earn money to pay for bills, have been evicted, or as in many cases in the present situation the home they had has been repossessed. We cannot ignore the homeless, it is a problem that affects everybody, even though when most people try to dismiss the fact that they exist. Maybe it is the fear of being homeless themselves. To be outside in the scorching heat or trapped in the icy wind, are things that nobody wants to endure; but ignoring it will not make the problem disappear. Homeless humans still would be out there behind the neon lights doing whatever it takes to survive; some will clean car's windows or ask for money to buy food and drink from a gas station. The homeless people are human beings in need of help. They are still strong willed individuals who have been mistreated by fate and have their problems seen indifferently by society.

One could argue that some of those who so called homeless are in fact cheaters who mimic a sympathetic state just to get easy money. But they should not deter any compassionate deed toward the truly needy ones; the ones that have to suffer indignities staying out all day and night, with hardly any food and water, in dirty and biohazard areas picking up diseases and being ignored by society. To be a decent human being could be challenging at times. I am not going to deny that I feel scared or uncomfortable trying to help a dirty smelly man with a scruffy beard and brown dirty jacket that he found in the trash along with the chewed up sneakers he is wearing;

But I am blessed with a good life, and I have the obligation to give back to the world and the community, and the homeless man has a name and a history, he also has a mental problem, but when he laughs telling silly stories and drinking the cup of coffee I give him, he is just like me human; the difference is that he is on the bad side of luck. The United States is one of the greatest countries to live in, but not all have good standards of living. For this to be America, we need to act American and be decent, be compassionate and give the opportunities back with hope.

*This article was written by Lourdes V. Castillo, a member of Iglesia de Todos los Santos, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Las Vegas, Nevada. Lourdes immigrated to the U.S. from Guatemala and currently works as a Dialysis Technician*



## ***Diocese of Nevada looking for a few good men (and women)***

Every year the Diocese of Nevada holds its convention in October. At that time, the Diocesan delegates and clergy elect people to serve on the Diocese's various committees. This year, we have been asked to submit names for the following:

**Diocesan Council:** The Diocesan Council considers and reviews Diocesan programs, initiates and develops such new work between meetings of the Convention as may be necessary, prepares a program for presentation to the Convention, and adopts an annual budget for each calendar year, which may be amended and shall be approved by the Convention. The Diocesan Council has power to expend all sums of money provided for in the budget, and also any money actually received by it in any year over and above the amount required for the budget of that year.

**Standing Committee:** The Standing Committee serves as advisors to the Bishop concerning property, judicial sentences, the election of bishops, clergy entering secular employment, approving candidates for ordination, receiving notification of a bishop's resignation, and presenting for trial in cases of abandoning ministry. The Standing Committee in the Diocese of Nevada is charged with sharing oversight with the Bishop of all financial reserves of the Diocese other than those of the annual budget.

**Diocesan Review Committee:** The Diocesan Review Committee performs the functions and has the powers and responsibilities given by Title IV of the Canons of General Convention relating to the ecclesiastical disciplinary process.

**Board of Trustees, Camp Galilee:** The Board of Trustees for Galilee Episcopal Camp meet regularly to supervise the operations and ongoing requirements for the Camp's management.

**Commission on Ministry:** The Commission on Ministry interviews, tracks, prepares and supports aspirants to ordained ministry. The Commission is responsible for ensuring all such candidates have completed the appropriate theological education, evaluations and administrative tasks required and then makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to the status of the candidate.

**Ecclesiastical Court:** A group of lay and clergy members of the Diocese remain "on call" to convene in the event a clergy person is charged with inappropriate behavior, fiscal impropriety or improperly living out his or her calling.

*If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please contact Jim Beebe at 831-1418. Many of the meetings are conducted electronically for the convenience of the committee members. Deadline for nominations to the Diocese of Nevada is July 14, 2010.*



## Upcoming Family Events!

*Mark your calendars!*



***Camp Galilee, Summer Camp information is available now.***

Information and applications are on the "Episcopal News" table before the Narthex.

- ?? June 20-26 Counselor Training
- ?? July 5-10 Camp Spirit
- ?? July 11-17 Teen Backpacking Trek
- ?? August 8-14 Family Camp



### ***Reno Aces, Episcopal Church Day!***

- ?? Sunday, July 18, 5:05 game (cut-off date to purchase tickets July 4)
- ?? Sunday, August 22, 5:05 game (cut-off date August 8)

**\*\* Tickets are \$11.00 \*\*** A Sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer! Seats are reserved in the shade on the left field side in sections 101 and 102. Bring your baseball glove because we'll be in the most active foul ball sections!

Make your check out to St. Patrick's, and put in the memo line "Reno Aces". Please call Terri O'Hanlon 775-827-8939 or e-mail at Irish-Secty@AOL.com for more information.



## St. Patrick's Day Party was HUGE!

Would you believe that we fed 100 people at our St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 14th? What a grand party it was! The wee ones played with green playdough, decorated shamrocks, had their faces painted and their bodies tattooed, danced jigs of "endurance", decorated cookies and had a grand time. The not-so-wee ones played Irish trivia games in lieu of dancin'. We all enjoyed the lovely, lively Jesse as she danced 3 traditional Irish dances for us. Of course, the eatin' was delightful.

Where to start with thanks to all of you generous people who gave many hours of your time and your talent. The cooks worked nonstop from about noon on Sunday until we folded after 8:00 p.m. They were a tired bunch of guys who turned the meal into a great success. Thanks Bob, John, Stu and Don. There's a rumor that the Hyatt is looking for a new chef.

As always, the flannel squad did wonders both setting up and breaking down the Parish Hall. It's hard work and takes a lot of time and effort. Hooray to Bob, Len, Gary, Santa PLUS Brent and Matthew. They even sweep and mop floors! Bless them all.

Thanks so much to those who contributed to our yummy desserts. It looked like St. Patrick's Bakery with cakes, cupcakes, cookies and Connie's famous soda bread. Of course, there was the traditional "Gollery cake" to celebrate Daniel's birthday. Daniel did have some trouble blowing out the candles, thanks to a mischievous Marty Gollery. We all enjoyed Marty's "Danny Boy" serenade with the added addition of Joy Strotz. Thanks, Marty and Joy.

And at the end, there's always a kitchen clean-up. Please see the limerick dedicated to the "Queens of Clean": Lenty, Emy, Sharon, Marsha, Viki, and Rubber Chicken John. Sorry, John, I know you're not a "queen".

Please forgive me if I've forgotten anyone. I could not do this without all your help. Bless you all, my loves!

*Judy O'Morrison*



*St. Patrick's Day Party Limericks by Judy Morrison*

There once was a rector named Beebe,  
And gifted with gab we know he be.  
Forum, talk, homily;  
He delivers all three,  
And the best part's they're all a big FREEBIE.

Dave Mussati has been here forever.  
St. Patrick's has been his endeavor.  
When he's doin' some preachin'  
We all know he is teachin'.  
He's not Irish, but still is quite clever.

There's a guy we all love. He's named Kelly.  
He's got fire in his heart and his belly.  
Saint Patrick's is proud  
That he's one of our crowd.  
Spreads good news just like butter or jelly.

What would happen without "Flannel Squad"?  
Their accomplishments we all must now laud.  
We know Len, Gary, Bob,  
Bruce, Sally do the job.  
All working their best for our God.

I may sound like a crazy old girl,  
But I know that she'll give it a whirl.  
And my old friend named Nancy  
Will speak plainly, not fancy  
Askin' 'bout a "Kingdom like a pearl".





Our soon to be ordained gal Clare  
Is a wiz at creatin' a prayer.  
She serves our church well,  
With a warm smile that's swell,  
And seems always to have more love to spare.

Ed Gurowitz is one of us too  
Even though he's a practicing Jew.  
Episcopalians  
Don't think he's an alien,  
But what is a person to do?

No task is too great nor too mean  
For our dish-scrubbin' "Queens of The Clean".  
Lenty, Marsha and Sharon,  
Emy, Viki; all wearin'  
Big smiles with their aprons of green.

If the food that is served in your cup  
Is the finest on which you do sup,  
Thank John, Bob, Don and Stu.  
They're the best cookin' crew.  
If it's bad, don't get all we weed up!





## ***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 display of lovely items made by guild members can be seen in the church hallway, and we hope you'll have a chance to see it! Hats, blankets, scarves, layette items for babies, and more, show the kinds of things given through the year to people who need them. Each item has been made with care and each stitch carries love with it.

Last year, 578 items were made and donated! Already this year, a dozen chemo caps have been taken to the American Cancer Society, 28 items have been delivered to the North Tahoe Family Resource Center, 9 cat pads have been given to the Pet Network and 8 lap robes have been taken to Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee. When the hallway exhibit is removed, those items will, of course, be donated also.

Some new members have joined the group in recent weeks; it's always fun to welcome them and get them started on projects. Ample supplies of yarn, needles and patterns are available, so that makes it easy. If you know of anyone with basic knitting or crocheting skills who might be interested in this ecumenical outreach activity of St. Patrick's, please let them know about our guild. Current members include women who come from Tahoe City and Truckee, as well as those who are residents of Incline Village.

Members of the Knitting Club at Incline Elementary School, which is led by several guild members after the regular meeting here at church, have completed another year of learning new skills and enjoying socializing with fellow 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Each week about 20 members gathered in one of the classrooms, and it was a very rewarding experience for teachers and students alike. Now the students are involved in Spring after-school activities, such as sports, so the Knitting Club will resume its meetings in the fall.

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.



**ST. PATRICK'S TEAMS 2010**

**1. Stewardship Team**

The mission of the Stewardship Team is to provide training in the use of time, talent and treasure. It also conducts the Fall Pledge Campaign.

As a subset, the *Fundraising Team* plans and carries out the annual fundraising event in August and other events as required.

**2. Finance Team**

The Finance Team manages the A.G. Edwards account, drafts an annual budget for Vestry approval, and makes financial recommendations to the Vestry.

**3. Audit Team**

The Audit Team conducts an annual audit of the parish's finances and reconciles financial discrepancies.

**4. Outreach Team**

The Outreach Team allocates the time, talent and treasure of the parish in local, national, and international projects in accordance with the principles and measures of the Strategic Plan and Vestry goals.

**5. Goal Teams :**

\* *Youth and Young Adults:* This Team is charged with developing two new ministries (e.g., increased collaboration with the Reno Youth Ministry, starting an SNA youth band, movie night, ARC program involvement, tutoring/ESL and IVGID youth advisory council).

\* *Community Team:* This Team addresses the social, economic, and health needs of the parish and of the community. As such the Team is responsible for starting two new ministries (e.g., local church outreach audit for Parasol, family advocate volunteers, youth 12-Step program, death and dying workshops).

\* *Magnetic Church:* This Team's goal is make St. Patrick's Church a healthy and attractive parish. Its goal is to begin two new ministries (e.g., implementing Magnetic Church suggestions, identifying and training a lay evangelist, interfaith ministries, Adobe Connect meetings/classes, social events parishioner aid, and enhancing our facility).

**Dollars and Sense**

*(as of April 04, 2010)*

Income—year to date: \$ 61,729.00

Expenses—year to date: \$ 73,000.00



## St. Patrick's Awards Scholarships to Graduating Seniors

Nearly a year ago, Bob and Connie Skidmore initiated the St. Patrick's Scholarship Fund, monies that were to be presented to graduating seniors from St. Patrick's (or, if we had no graduates in any given year, a deserving senior from the community).

Connie Skidmore, Jan Howell, and Marsha Tejada currently serve on the Scholarship Fund team. They establish criteria, interview candidates, and determine the amount of the scholarship on an individual basis.

2010 graduates from St. Patrick's will include Gwen and Mady Hyde-Paul (daughters of Rem and Sue), Sharry Gollery, and Katelyn Wright.



I devoted myself to study and to explore... all that is done under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

### 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

*Sally Hammel\*\**  
Junior Warden

*Stephanie Tall, Connie Skidmore, Peggy Harrison*  
Shamrock

*Connie Skidmore*  
Outreach Chair

*Marsha Tejada\*\**  
Clerk of the Vestry

*Deb Beebe, Caroline Cutler*  
Lainie Vreeland  
Art Committee

*Karen Barney*  
Webmaster

*Eric Strotz\*\**  
Folk Mass Group

*Caroline Cutler*  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

*Bob Skidmore*  
Columbarium

*Peggy Harrison*  
Knitters Guild of Incline Village

*Jack Barney*  
Ushers/Greeters Coordinator

*Lainie Vreeland*  
Library

**\*\*Vestry Member**



### REMINDERS:

The Altar Flower sign-up sheet is  
In the back of the church.

Current Photo Directories are \$5.00.  
Check yours to make sure you have the newest copy!

New members, please fill out the contact information card at the front of the church, and provide your family photo to be included in our directory!