



St. Patrick's Shamrock

A Newsletter of
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
341 Village Blvd. P.O. Box 3158
Incline Village, NV 89450-3158
www.tahoeepiscopal.org
(OR www.tahoeepiscopal.com)
Phone: (775) 831-1418

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Breaking News! *St. Patrick's helps Haitian earthquake victims*



AFP/Getty Images

As the result of our successful "*Banks or Babies?*" campaign, St. Patrick's is poised to offer substantial help to the victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The 7.0 magnitude quake was the strongest ever in this island nation and has resulted in tens of thousands (perhaps hundreds of thousands) of deaths and millions of displaced people. St. Patrick's is leading a community effort to feed and shelter the surviving victims, by matching up to \$10,000 in funds. Please make your check out to St. Patrick's and include in the memo line "*Haiti Fund*".



What do these people say about our future?
(Check out our Strategic Plan on Page 7-9)





Every Breath I Take

Convention Sermon 2009



The deep truth of things is like the Amargosa River. It flows along mostly unseen, underground. But once in awhile it bubbles us as a spring or a stream. We can't conjure up the deep truth at will. It emerges into our consciousness whenever it chooses. Our part is to keep an eye out for it; then remember and be faithful.

Some truth has been especially clear to me these past few weeks. It has been clear and on my heart in a good way. The truth is that every breath I take is a gift of God. I have no claim on this life of mine. I have not earned it. I have no right to it. If anything, I have failed to use my life to God's glory so often, that it is only by God's compassion and mercy, that I have been given this new day. I have no right to this life. I have no guarantee of a future. But, God's generous heart keeps giving me sunrise after sunrise, sunset after sunset, and people to share it all with. I have not a clue why God does this. All I know is that God is like that. God does this sort of thing. God does it for me. God does it for you.

"I am the vine and you are the branches," Jesus said. Our life comes from him. Without our connection to Jesus, we wither inside. We may keep putting one foot in front of another, but it isn't real life. The loving energy, the creative spark, isn't there. But when we put our trust -- not in our own power -- but in his generosity and mercy, then we are strong. Then we can work wonders in the name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. *"I am the vine. You are the branches,"* he says, *"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."*

To abide in Jesus means to trust in his love, not our own cleverness, charm, and hard work, to sustain us in life. Do we own real estate and mutual funds? Their value goes up and down. We can own it but we can't count on it because it isn't grace. But the steadfast love of the Lord abides forever. *"Though the mountains fall and the hills turn to dust"* Isaiah says, *"the love of the Lord endures."*

"Surely it is God who saves me. I will trust in him and not be afraid, for that Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior." There is nothing subtle about this. Without God's grace, we can do nothing. With God's grace, there is no limit to what we can do. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

Bearing fruit means living a life that counts, a life that means something. Different people bear different fruit. For one person it is making art that doesn't just decorate a room, it touches someone's soul. For someone else, it is saving lives by sending mosquito nets to Kenya. For someone else, it may be teaching a child to read, or keeping a neighborhood safe from crime or helping a person in recovery stay sober.

God is the life force behind anything we do that is worth doing. Sometimes we know that. Sometimes we forget it. Sometimes we are blessed as I have been recently by a heartfelt awareness that we are floating in grace. But we lose that sense of grace. It slips out of our minds. The first mission of the church is to help us remember. The church is the tangible place we abide in Jesus' love. We hold out our hands for his body and blood. We kneel and pray for his blessing.



(continued from page 3)

The church holds each of us in the awareness of grace so that we can bear much fruit in our daily life and work, so that we can live lives that count each in our own unique way. But the church can only hold each of us in the awareness of grace, if the church itself lives by grace, if the church itself trusts God to empower us for mission. That's why Bishop Wes and Bishop Katharine insisted that we are about mission, not maintenance. We do not exist to keep church doors open, but to *"bear fruit,"* as Mother Theresa put it, to *"do something beautiful for God."*

If we do that, God will keep the doors open. If we don't bear fruit, if we don't live boldly for the gospel, keeping the doors open isn't worth our effort. Paul says in our Epistle lesson, *"Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart . . ."* We do not lose heart. Our wills are not weak. We are not timid. We do not fret over keeping doors open. We dare to save souls from addiction and despair. If we trust in God's mercy, we take risks. We move from maintenance to mission. We do something beautiful for God.

His grace abounds, Brothers and Sisters. Otherwise we would not be here. Grace abounds. Look at our Old Testament lesson: *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return until they have watered the ground making it bring forth and sprout giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in that for which I sent it."*

Who do we think planted the church in Nevada? It was God. And God put us here for a purpose. It isn't just keeping doors open. In a place where despair is a deadly epidemic, by God's grace, we offer hope. Where addiction holds our people captive, by God's grace, we offer freedom. Where the school dropout rate is one of the nation's worst, by God's grace, we give children a future. We are the word sent forth from God's mouth. We will accomplish the purpose for which God sent us. It will not be by our own power or our own merit, but by the grace of God remembered and received in the sacraments. It will not be with our own resources but with God's gifts received and yet to come.

All we have to do is abide in the love of Jesus. Sometimes we cringe in fear of the future. Sometimes we dwell in old hurts and grievances. Neither fear of the future nor replaying old wars will glorify God, save a child, or make a meaningful life. Abiding in the love of Jesus will do all that and more. Brothers and sisters, I tell you this from my heart. Do not take your next breath for granted. It is a divine gift. It is a miracle and a wonder. It is a sign of God's love. Live a life worthy of the grace you have received. Just so, this diocese and each congregation in it is a gift, a miracle, and wonder. If we remember that every day, we will live a life that counts. We will bear fruit. We will do something beautiful for God.





An Everflowing Stream

Amos 5:24

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

Resolutions since 1985 have urged Episcopalians to support the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund formerly known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

This Article is written as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It seems appropriate somehow that we should give thanks for each one of you who have made a homeless person's life in Mississippi, Florida or Louisiana a little more bearable. Perhaps you have given to El Salvador in the midst of Hurricane Ida or responded to the work of Episcopal Relief & Development in the more than 40 countries worldwide that we are involved with. Thank You for each person who cannot say it themselves. Thank You so much.

At the Diocesan Convention, several folks came up to me and said how much they enjoyed giving a net or some books for kids or using Bishops Blend Coffee. For all you do...THANK YOU! THIS IS TRULY THE WAY THAT EPISCOPALIANS GIVE...THANK YOU!

May I suggest that you and I continue this work that we have begun. Perhaps you want a Gift for Life Catalogue or more information that I or your Parish Representative can supply. Just ask.

And, as we come to this Thanksgiving Day may we will always be grateful to Our Lord who so richly provides.

(This article was written by the Rev. Lloyd Rupp, retired Priest, St. Timothy's, Henderson, Nevada. Fr. Rupp is the diocesan representative for ERD. For information on the Diocesan Social Justice Network please contact millsr007@aol.com)



Winter 2010 Adult Forum at St. Patrick's

"A New Reformation?"

Asking the Burning Question of the 21st Century: "Many Mansions or One Way?"

As Christians encounter real, flesh-and-blood embodiments of Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam, they can no longer afford to treat the other world religions as mere abstractions. They are our neighbors, our co-workers, our spouses and partners. Heretofore, Christian missions has virtually stalled at the level of converting those of other (or no) faiths to Christianity. But do those other religions have integrity in themselves? What do they have to teach us about ourselves and our faith? These are the questions we will be tackling early in 2010.

January 3..... *"Many mansions or one way?"*

January 10..... *"Truth claims of the world's religions"*

January 17..... *"The logic of religious commitment"*

January 24..... *"John Hick speaks his mind"*

January 31..... *"John Hick: Believable Christianity"*

February 7..... *"Imagination in religious pluralism"*

February 14..... *"Transforming Mission I"*

February 21..... *"Transforming Mission II"*

February 28..... *"Transforming Mission III"*



ST. PATRICK'S STRATEGIC PLANNING

Purpose: Sharing the love of Christ.

Vision: (“*Why*”) Extend our current strengths to become:

“The church that transforms lives.”

Mission: (“*How*”) Use Jesus’ primary teachings as a way to guide all our activities:

- 1. Love God with all our heart, body, and mind.** (Spiritual Growth activities)
- 2. Love our neighbors as ourselves.** (Outreach and Inreach activities)
- 3. Be a healthy parish.** (fellowship, congregational development, ministry development, stewardship, fundraising, and Vestry management activities)

Actionable Strategy: (“*Allocation of resources*”): Become a 50/50 church (50% of resources allocated outside parish; defined as pool of time, talent, and dollar)

Principles

Hands-on

Aware (we’re aware of community needs; community is aware of us)

Collaborative

Inclusive (we serve more than Episcopalians and church members)

Measures (qualitative and quantitative; applicable to constituents)

Growth

Attendance

Balanced budget

Hours of service

Return visits of newcomers/visitors

Outreach dollars

Constituents

Youth/Families

Congregation

Community groups/Residents of Nevada

Snowbirds/Visitors

Those who suffer/are in need

1. Youth & Young Adults

	<u>Directed inward</u>	<u>Directed outward</u>
<i>Leadership team</i>	Family/Youth Team	Clare & Santa
<i>Potential collaborators</i>	Reno Youth Minister Camp Galilee	PCC Youth Development Committee (IVGID/Library)
<i>Current Activities</i>	SNA Youth Group SNA children's homilies SNA youth musicians Acolyte program	Scholarship Fund SNC Chaplaincy Preschool Knitters Guild Tahoe Children's Foundation Operation Shoebox Project Christmas Child Hoste Hainse School Santa Claus Foundation Haiti earthquake relief
<i>Possible first steps</i>	Mix with Reno youth SNA youth band	Movie nights at St. Pat's St. Pat's teen on IVGID Youth Advisory Board Tutoring ARC Program

2. Community

	<u>Directed inward</u>	<u>Directed outward</u>
<i>Leadership Team</i>	Good Samaritans	Outreach Committee
<i>Potential Collaborators</i>	Vestry	PCC Social Services Committee
<i>Current Activities</i>	Meals/rides for shut-ins Greeting/sympathy cards Pastoral Counseling Wednesday Healing Eucharist Newcomers welcome bags Eucharistic visitors	Donations to local charities AA and Alanon groups
<i>Possible first steps</i>	Expand inreach Identify parishioners in need Train more Eucharistic visitors	Spiritual counseling Discretionary fund Red Cross Disaster site Train family advocates Food program for shut-ins

3. **Magnetic Church** *(in addition to the (in addition to the many current activities, including Eucharistic Ministers, music program, lectio divina, Altar Guild, Acolytes, Vestry, year-round stewardship, Columbarium, Shamrock, Flannel Team)*

<u>Categories:</u>	<u>Directed Inward:</u>	<u>Directed Outward:</u>
<i>Leadership team:</i>	New congregational Development Committee	Ministry Develop. Commission Interfaith Ministry
<i>Potential collaborators:</i>	Communications Team	Diocese of Nevada Local faith communities
<i>Current activities:</i>	Education for Ministry Lay ministry counseling Adult forum Newcomer welcomees Signage & illumination St. Pat's website Publicity/PR	Adult education podcasts Diocesan preacher development Frensdorff School Interfaith dialogue Labyrinth Art gallery Weddings TOCCATA Fundraiser EcoPalians
<i>Possible first steps:</i>	Congregational Development Committee Magnetic Church program	Train lay evangelist Interfaith minister on staff United Religions Initiative Adobe Connect meetings/classes

Ongoing: Healthy Parish Activities



- * Worship and music
- * Parish relations
- * Fellowship and hospitality
- * Year-round stewardship
- * Fundraising
- * Financial management
- * Communications and publicity
- * Facilities
- * Green Team



TOCCATA Presents!

Barocco con Cocoa *Ruth Lenz & Andrew Sords, Violins*

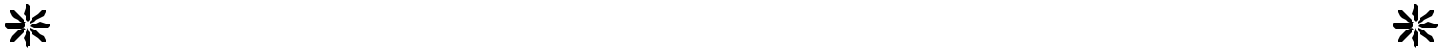
<i>Bach Concerto in E Major & 2 Violins in D Minor * Vivaldi "Autumn" * Charpentier Midnight Mass</i>		
Saturday, January 16	7:30 p.m.	Cal Neva Resort, Crystal Bay
Sunday, January 17	3:00 p.m.	St. Theresa Catholic Church, SLT
Monday, January 18	3:00 p.m.	MLK Day, Squaw Valley Chapel
Tuesday, January 19	7:30 p.m.	Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno

Bach & Bruch *Tahoe Symphony Orchestra * Elizabeth Pitcairn, Violin*

<i>Bach Magnificat * Bruch Concerto for Violin #1 in G Minor * Dvorak Romanza for Violin</i>		
Friday, February 5	7:30 p.m.	Cal Neva Resort, Crystal Bay
Saturday, February 6	7:30 p.m.	Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley
Sunday, February 7	3:00 p.m.	St. Theresa Catholic Church, SLT
Tuesday, February 9	7:30 p.m.	Trinity Episcopal Church, Reno

St. Matthew Passion

<i>J.S. Bach Choral Masterpiece Part II in English * Fahad Siadat, Evangelist</i>		
Sunday, March 28	3:00 p.m.	TBA, Carson City
Wednesday, March 31	7:00 p.m.	St. Theresa Catholic Church, SLT
Friday, April 2	7:00 p.m.	St. Patrick's Church, Incline Village
Saturday April 3	3:00 p.m.	Squaw Valley Chapel, Olympic Valley



Upcoming Services

February 17: Ash Wednesday in the Chapel– 12:15 p.m.
Church– 7:00 p.m.

Holy Week

March 28: Palm Sunday– 8:00 a.m and 10:00 a.m.
March 29-31: Holy Eucharist in the Chapel - 7:00 p.m.
April 1: Maundy Thursday Eucharist in the Church – 7:00 p.m.
April 2: Good Friday Service in the Chapel– 12:00 p.m.
St. Matthew’s Passion in the Church– 7:30 p.m.
April 3: Saturday, Easter Vigil in the Church– 8:00 p.m.
April 4: Easter Sunday– 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.





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.

The Senior Center in Truckee was given several lap robes and shawls; tote bags that can be hung on wheelchairs will also come in handy for the residents, we're sure. A novel idea came from a guild member who suggested that knitted sachets, filled with sweet-smelling potpourri, would be a delightful gift. They can be hung on hangers or put in closets; several sachets were among the gifts given to the center.

Another new project this year was making cat pads - yes, that's correct! It seems that the bases of cages, in which cats are kept in animal shelters, are very abrasive. A way to use up small amounts of yarn, and yarn not ideally suited for clothing or blankets, is to make cat pads. Several have been delivered to the Reno Humane Society!

Another new project is making fingerless mittens for veterans who push themselves in wheelchairs. The mittens keep the veterans' palms from developing blisters. This project was suggested by the owner of the Lake Tahoe Yarn Co. in Truckee; she has delivered several pairs of mittens, made by the guild members, to the Veterans Hospital in Reno.

If you know of any other projects the guild members might be interested in making, please be sure and suggest them to us. The Incline Elementary School Knitting Club has about 20 3rd, 4th and 5th graders who all have projects they're working on! The students really look forward to the weekly meetings, as do several Knitters Guild members who go to the school, after the guild's meeting at the church, to teach them. It is especially gratifying to notice that the students who have been in the Knitting Club for awhile are more than willing to help those who are in the beginning stages of learning this craft.

All the guild members look forward to making new friends, enriching the friendships already made and sharing the joy of creating things to help others. Thank you again, St. Patrick's, for making it possible for the Knitters Guild of Incline Village to do its good work!



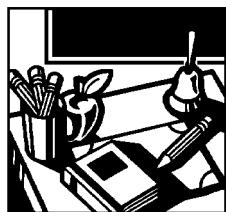
The wonderful 2009 ecumenical outreach of St. Patrick's came to a close with the Knitters Guild's great success - 578 items had been donated to the various groups the guild helps! At an early December meeting, the members held a festive holiday gathering with refreshments; all the lovely things that had not yet been delivered through the year were displayed on the library tables. Pictured above are the happy guild members and their handiwork. The next day, sweaters, hats, mittens, scarves, layettes and blankets were delivered to the Holiday Giving Program and the Kings Beach Family Resource Center.



Dollars and Cents for St. Patrick's

Income, End of Year 2009: \$303,572.00

Expenses, End of Year 2009 \$303,099.00



St. Patrick's helps found Frensdorff School

In January 2009, Bishop Dan Edwards formed the Ministry Development Commission, appointing Jim Beebe as Chair. Within two months, the Diocese of Nevada had the "Frensdorff School," which is responsible for providing education and formation for all of the people of Nevada.

Frensdorff School website (www.frensdorffschool.webs.com) lists current offerings throughout the Diocese (and some online courses and workshops from Church Divinity School of the Pacific and the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership). Also available are "on-demand" DVD's for both laypersons and those in the process for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood. Live "on-demand" courses and workshops are also available by request.

Other, modular, classes are offered, featuring "how-to's" for Vestries, wardens, stewardship committees, by-laws and standing rules, worship leaders, conflict management, and community organizers. In February Gary Thomsen, Senior Warden, and Jim Beebe will make a diocesan presentation for incoming Vestry members and wardens.

Later in 2010, the Diocese of Nevada (and St. Patrick's) will start to use Adobe Connect, which enables individuals and groups to have meetings and classes online.

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

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

Caroline Cutler
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Nancy Joslin, Bob Skidmore
Columbarium

Peggy Harrison
Knitters Guild of Incline Village

Jack Barney
Ushers/Greeters Coordinator

Lainie Vreeland, Nancy Joslin
Library

****Vestry Member**



Please remember to update your information
with the office if you have made any changes
within the last year!

