



St. Patrick' Shamrock

A Newsletter of
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
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A MESSAGE FROM JIM BEEBE

Haute Couture

Did you know that the Wise Men, whilst chasing the star, ended up in *Jerusalem* (not Bethlehem)? Apparently, they thought the book of Isaiah was the one with the directions in it (that's the one where they were instructed to bring gifts of gold and frankincense). Oops, wrong book. They should have been looking in Micah instead. It's an understandable mistake, though — the passage in Isaiah was all about Big, about Nobility, about Prestige. The one in Micah (about Bethlehem) was a peasant's hope. It's a voice that's not impressed with big architecture and bejeweled temples. It's a dream that shares none of the pretensions of power. And it's a dream, by the way, that includes myrrh with its gold and frankincense. (Myrrh was a gum resin used in ancient embalming and was a foreshadowing of Jesus' later sacrifice.)

I've always wondered what Mary and Joseph *did* with that stuff (just like I've always wondered what Jesus would make of St. Peter's Square and the like). I suspect he wouldn't be much interested. So why should *we* be so taken with Big? It seems that if we take our name from *him*, then maybe we ought to be more interested in the same things *he's* interested in. There's a real temptation to chase *haute couture* and, accordingly, harbor a disdain for the ordinary. It's evident in our horror of dumbing things down, especially things theological and liturgical. That is interesting, especially in light of the Incarnation — *God becoming a human being*. Maybe it's just me, but it seems like that is a sort of ultimate Simplifying.

So here is St. Patrick's 2008 New Year Resolution: we will burn our mortgage by December 31, 2008. Yes, in 2009 we could do all kinds of things with that mortgage money. But we won't. We're going to simplify our faith by becoming the Church For Others. We'll increase our outreach fourfold. We'll feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick and sustain our environment. Jesus devoted his life to bringing about the Kingdom of God. We are his followers.

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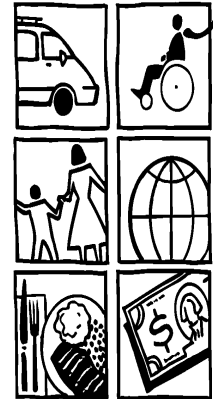
An Everflowing Stream

Amos 5:24

*In our baptismal vows (BCP p.305) we respond affirmatively to the question, strive for justice and peace among all people..?" Let us prayerfully live out these vows. The Rev Jim Kelly, President, Standing Committee.
Resolution 2003-D006: That the 74th General Convention endorse and embrace the achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.*

You Can Help!

Serving



OTHERS

When I began seeking donations to pay for children's education in Kenya I was unaware of the Millennium Development Goals. Quite honestly I did not know they existed until our Diocesan convention in 2006. I then realized that it did not take a declaration by a world body to do what Jesus said to do over 2000 years ago, "Love your neighbor as you would love yourself" (Mark 12:31). My first trip in 2002 to Kenya was with a then new mission group, International Development Missions, to help build a health clinic, which was addressing MDG number 4 (reduce child mortality) and number 5 (improve maternal health).

While helping another non profit to drill a well for clean water at a school in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, I became aware of the need to help children stay in school. Here in the United States we worry about high school dropouts, while less developed nations worry about primary school dropouts or those that never attend. I learned that the cost was low, by American standards, to keep a child in this primary school for a year. (\$80 at that time) By finding sponsors for students MDG number 2 was being met (achieve universal primary education) and MDG number 3(promote gender equality and empower women) because the first students sponsored were girls. These were girls between 11 and 13 who if they did not stay in school would be married off by their father or family.

God answered my prayers by putting me in a situation where I saw a need and acted upon it. More people are taking action when they see a need which means that Jesus' message is being understood. However, there are still spots to be filled in God's army of people doing "ARK", Acts of Random Kindness. (From the movie EVAN ALMIGHTY, 2007)

There are numerous places for you to get a list of the MDG's and learn more about them. You may surprise yourself and find that you can help in a small or large way in helping to achieve one or more of the Millennium Development Goals. It just takes a little effort to sacrifice our own wants and desires to help people get basic needs.

Here in our diocese there are three groups that are working to help people in Kenya meet those basic needs. Contact information for each can be found on the Diocesan website.

YOU CAN HELP. Won't you consider doing something today?

(This article was written by Melvin Stringer, Senior Warden, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Henderson, Nevada. If you would like to become a member of the Nevada Social Justice Network please email rmills007@.com)



Absolute, Number One Goal for 2008: Burn the Mortgage!

As of December 2008, our mortgage balance is \$375,000. Our capital campaign, which begins now but will be in full swing just after Memorial Day, is aiming to pay that off completely. The reason is simple: by doing that, we will accumulate funds that would have gone for mortgage payments, diocesan asking, and columbarium sales. Add that to our Millennium Development Goal collections and — if 2007 is any indication — St. Patrick's Church will be spending over 40% of our budget on outreach alone! To put that into perspective, many churches have, as their ultimate goal, a 50/50 split — half on self, half on others. To my knowledge, *nobody* even comes close. Well, *we will*.



***So here's your first chance: take advantage of a one-time opportunity:
(Note: this expires on December 31, 2007!)***

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 has created a new charitable planning opportunity. Under this Act, an IRA owner age 70 1/2 or older may make a direct transfer to charity. The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year. The Pension Protection Act provides for this option until December 31, 2007.

Each year, IRA owners age 70 1/2 and older must take a required minimum distribution (RMD). The RMD in nearly all cases is calculated using the Uniform Table, where distributions generally begin at age 71 at approximately 3.8% and increase each year, based on the age of the IRA owner.

The vast majority of IRA owners with larger balances take the required minimum distribution during the months of October, November and December. Because many individuals with larger IRAs do not require IRA funds immediately for living expenses, by delaying an RMD until the end of the year they benefit from additional tax-free growth in the IRA. Fortunately, the IRA charitable rollover qualifies for the donor's RMD. And, by transferring part or all of their RMD to charity, they'll have a lower taxable income.

Here's what to do:

At age 70 1/2 or older, contact your IRA custodian and specify the amount of your charitable contribution (most folks specify an amount equal to the RMD based on their age). Your IRA custodian will mail you the right forms for this. Remember that the limit is \$100,000 per taxpayer, which means that a husband and wife could *each* give that amount if there are two separate IRA accounts. When income tax time rolls around, you won't have to report that charitable contribution.



The Practice of Lectio Divina

Mondays, 10:30–11:30 am, Church Library

Lectio Divina—divine or sacred reading—is a method of prayer based upon slow, contemplative, in-depth reading of sacred Scripture. You are warmly encouraged to join our new group on Mondays, or to practice on your own. *Questions?* Please contact Ginnie Jed (ginnie@ginniejed.com) or Clare Novak (novakcc@aol.com).

Choosing a text for Lectio Divina

- Read from the Liturgy of the day, or select a book from Scripture and gradually work your way through it from beginning to end.
- Find a passage that interests you during your Bible study/reading. Return to it using the practice of Lectio Divina.

Select Scripture relevant to the season. For example, read Gospel selections about the birth of Jesus at Christmas or Passion sections at Lent and Easter.

Practicing Lectio Divina

- Lectio Divina can be practiced alone, with a partner, or in a group.
- Begin by placing yourself in a comfortable position. Take a moment to become calm. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear God's Word.

1. LECTIO

Read the passage. As the passage is read, simply listen and savor the reading.

2. MEDITATIO

- Read the passage a second time. As the passage is read, listen for or notice a word or phrase that "shimmers," that touches your heart.
 - Take the word or phrase in by slowly repeating it to yourself.
- Reflect on it in silence.

3. ORATIO

- Read the passage a third time. As the passage is read, ponder the word or phrase that touched your heart, and ask "How does this word or phrase touch my life or connect with my need or longing? What is God, the Word, saying to me?"
- This is a good time to write in your journal, if you desire.

4. CONTEMPLATIO

Read the passage a fourth time. At the end of the reading, let go of your words and enjoy the experience of resting in the arms of our God of grace and love, our compassionate Father, our nurturing Mother. Savor the peace, the comfort, and the silence.

Conclude with your own prayer of gratitude or The Lord's Prayer.

Ideas for practicing Lectio Divina with a partner or in a group

- Take turns reading the text, or have one or two designated readers.
 - After Meditatio, you may share the word or passage upon which you have meditated. You may pair up or share with the entire group.
 - After Oratio, you may share your message by beginning, "I heard the Lord saying to me . . ."
- After Contemplatio, each member may choose to share his or her experience of resting in the Lord.
Peace be with you!

Peace Love **JOY** *Peace* Love **JOY**



St. Patrick's Offers Unique Thursday Advent Program

St. Patrick's Church has invented a new liturgical genre! It all began two years ago when David Brock and I were talking about possible Advent programs. It occurred to us that we hadn't been using the Compline service in the *Book of Common Prayer* to supplement our worship and we thought that a quiet, candlelit evening service would be just the ticket. (By the way, Compline is one of the Daily Offices — it's a brief worship service that is done just prior to lights out.) We settled on Thursdays so that the choir would have a chance to participate in the service.

Then we worked backwards, offering a brief presentation before the Compline service and a simple soup supper before the presentation. So here's what Thursdays in Advent (**beginning November 29th**) look like:

5:30 p.m. — Dinner is served until 6:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m. — Presentation

6:30 p.m. — 15-minute Compline service in the Church

Many think that Advent is a penitential season and often confuse Advent with Lent. Actually, Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation as we await the incarnation of God into the world (Christmas). Our liturgical color for Advent is blue to differentiate it from Lent's purple.

* * * * *



4 Advent and Christmas Services Schedule

- Saturday, December 22nd.....5:30 p.m. Family Service and a Special Blessing by our resident monk, Santa Claus**
- Sunday, December 23rd.....8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, no Music**
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Music
(Join us in welcoming our new Bishop-Elect, Dan Edwards, at both Sunday services)
- Monday, December 24th.....5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Music**
11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Music
- Tuesday, December 25th.....10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**



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!



The nimble fingers of the members of the Knitters Guild are busier than ever, knitting and crocheting warm things to be given away for the holidays. Many scarves, mittens, sweaters, hats and layette items for babies have been completed. In addition, several lap robes are ready for delivery.

The North Tahoe Family Resource Center in Kings Beach will receive a big supply of these lovely items. Also, for the second year, the Knitters Guild will donate many finished projects to the Holiday Giving Program here in Incline Village. This program reaches out to local children and adults who need warm clothing and blankets.

Some members of the guild are giving weekly knitting classes to 4th and 5th graders at Incline Elementary School. Beginners are learning the basic stitches of knit and purl; intermediate students who attended classes last year are making little caps for premature infants. A good time is enjoyed by teachers and students alike!

Have you ever heard of felting? This is a craft that requires wool, and ONLY wool, yarn. The project is first made oversize, then reduced by being washed in very hot water. The resulting purses, tote bags, mittens and hats are very attractive; several ladies are enjoying learning how to make these items.



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/inclineknitters/. Please call Peggy Harrison at 831-9402 for further information.



Pre-Plan for Peace of Mind!

Is there something you have been planning to do, but just haven't gotten around to it? *PRE-PLAN FOR PEACE OF MIND!* Yes, planning your final resting place. May I suggest our beautiful Columbarium?

Planning your inurnment now eliminates worry for your loved ones and assures your peace of mind that your wishes be followed. Decisions made *today* can save needless emotional stress and financial hardship *tomorrow*.

Remember, a substantial percentage of your purchase is tax deductible and each niche will hold the cremation boxes of two people without the need to purchase fancy urns. There is a one-time payment that includes the name plaque and any future name or date changes.

If you have never visited our Columbarium, stop by and see what a beautiful, peaceful place it is and then talk with your family. Don't put it off any longer. Call me for information and appointment:

Nancy Joslin, Columbarium Director
775-831-2716

St. Patrick's Cultural Arts for December & January

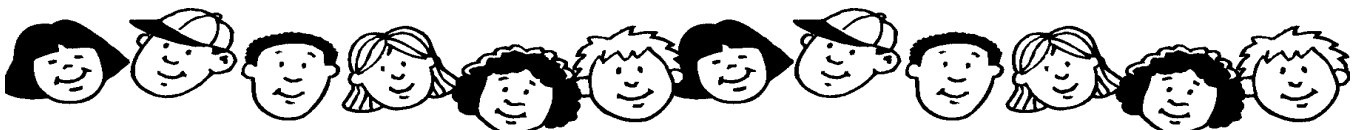
All children are invited to express your gifts from God in our hallway Art Gallery. Please present us with art to adorn the walls during December and January by Wednesday, December 12. You may bring your artwork to the office of St. Patrick's with your first name only and "St. Patrick's" written on the back of your work.

Thank you so much to those of you who have shared your beautiful watercolors, oils, and acrylics these past two months! We have heard so many wonderful comments. The gallery lighting is fantastic too!

So, save the dates of Saturday, December 15 at 4:30 PM and, Sunday, December 16 at 11:00AM for our special receptions to celebrate children's art! Who knows? Santa Claus may be there!

Contact Caroline, Lainie, Deb, or Maria for questions or concerns. We want all of our children to be creative with art.

Caroline
Csistergirl@aol.com
832-8170





Drum roll, please: the finalists for the Outdoor Chapel!
(p.s. — we'll vote at the Annual Meeting on January 27th)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Strotz Chapel*</i> | 8. <i>Creation Chapel</i> |
| 2. <i>Strotz Sanctuary*</i> | 9. <i>Curragh*</i> |
| 3. <i>Chapel Under the Pines</i> | 10. <i>Gathering Garden</i> |
| 4. <i>Nature's Sanctuary</i> | 11. <i>Prayers in the Pines</i> |
| 5. <i>Evergreen Chapel</i> | 12. <i>St. Columba Chapel*</i> |
| 6. <i>Sierra Sanctuary</i> | 13. <i>St. Aidan Chapel*</i> |
| 7. <i>Chapel of All Creatures</i> | |

**Notes:*

1. *Eric, Gus, Will, and Jack Strotz furnished nearly all the materials and labor to build the Chapel.*
2. *See #1*
9. *A "curragh" was a boat used by the ancient Britons, much like that of St. Brendan the Navigator, who is pictured on our southern window.*
12. *St. Columba was a missionary who converted Scotland to Christianity.*
13. *St. Aidan was credited with restoring Christianity to Northumbria.*

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) UNDERWAY AGAIN

The enthusiasm was high as the second year of EFM at St. Patrick's began at 5:30 PM on September 17th in the church library. This group of six Second Year (New Testament) students and two First Year (Old Testament) students, along with the Mentors, will be weekly studying and discussing their lessons, worshipping, praying and spiritually supporting one another throughout the next 9 months.



This unique program of extension from the Graduate School of Theology at the University of the South in Tennessee helps its participants to discern and prepare for their lay ministry, as our baptismal vows pledge each of us to do. Take time to ask the students and mentors about this wonderful program. Participants are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Connie Skidmore, Mentor | Jim Kelly, Co-Mentor |
| Karen Barney | Nancy Joslin |
| David Brown | Judy Morrison |
| Linda Brown | Gary Thomsen |
| Ginnie Jed | Viki Welling |



WHERE WAS THE PARTY?



Women's Fellowship

On Friday, October 5th, the Women of St. Pat's gathered at the home of Judy and Don Morrison for an autumn Tapas Party. Handmade tissue paper flowers in margarita glasses and bowls set a festive scene as about 35 people and their guests came through the front door. Everyone brought their favorite "tapas" (aka hors d'oeuvre) so a delicious variety of food was shared - and probably a few recipes exchanged! Refreshments were varied also including margaritas made by host Don Morrison, wine, beer and soft drinks.

A big thank you to all those who participated, and especially to Don and Judy for hosting this fun Columbus Day weekend event. The Women of St. Patrick's decided in 2007 to meet four times a year. The next meeting will be sometime during the winter, date and place to be announced in January 2008. Contact person for the group is Connie Skidmore, 831-6289. Suggestions for future meeting locations and programs are always welcome!

* * * * *

Who is Martin Rinckart??

In 1617, at the age of 31, Rinckart was offered the place of Archdeacon at his native town of Eilenburg in Saxony. The plague of 1637 visited Eilenburg with extraordinary severity; the town was overcrowded with fugitives from the country districts where the Swedes had been spreading devastation, and in this one year 8,000 persons died in it. The whole of the town council except three persons, a terrible number of school children, and the clergymen of the neighboring parish, were all carried off; Rinckart buried more than 4,000 persons. The pestilence was followed by a famine so extreme that thirty or forty persons might be seen fighting in the streets for a dead cat or crow. Rinckart did what could be done to organize assistance, and gave away everything but the barest rations for his own family, so that his door was surrounded by a crowd of poor starving wretches, who found it their only refuge.

After all this suffering came the Swedes once more, and imposed upon the unhappy town a tribute of 30,000 dollars. Rinckart ventured to the camp to entreat the general for mercy, and when it was refused, turned to the citizens who followed him, saying, "*Come, my children, we can find no hearing, no mercy with men, let us take refuge with God.*" He fell on his knees, and prayed with such touching earnestness that the Swedish general relented, and lowered his demand at last to 2,000 florins. So great were Rinckart's own losses and charities that he had the utmost difficulty in finding bread and clothes for his children, and was forced to mortgage his future income for several years.

Now here's the thing: Martin Rinckart was the one who wrote "*Now thank we all our God*" (Hymn 397): "*Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices, who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*" How is that possible? That is nothing short of inspired. And our Hymnal is filled with stories like this one. At the beginning of each church season, David Brock and Jim Beebe will team-teach one Sunday, 9:10 a.m. adult forum to tell the stories that need to be told. We hope you join us.



*If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25*

A Retreat Sponsored by St. Mary Magdalene Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King **DESERT SPIRITUALITY**

Saturday, January 19, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
All Saints' Episcopal Church
4201 West Washington
Las Vegas, Nevada

The Desert has played a crucial role in the lives of many of our spiritual fathers, Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Jesus.

We will take a virtual desert hike together to see what the Sonoran Desert can teach us about the human brain and what it needs to stay balanced. Encounters with common sights and critters will guide us to a deeper understanding of how our brain evolved, and how Nature and the Bible can enhance our mind/body/spirit well-belong. During this retreat you will develop your own personal plan for more joyful living and graceful aging.

The book "The Richest of Fare, Seeking Spiritual Security in the Sonoran Desert:" by Phyllis Strupp will be used. It may be purchased before the retreat for \$15 by calling All Saints' Church at 878-2373. Reservations for the retreat may also be made by calling this number. Fee for the retreat is \$15 which includes retreat with leader Phyllis Strupp and lunch.

Phyllis Strupp is winner of the 2005 Independent Publishing mind-body-spirit award. She is also a theological mentor and serves on the faculty of the CREDO Episcopal clergy wellness program and the Chatauqua Institution.

Staff & Ministry Group Chairs

The Rev. Dr. James R. Beebe
Rector

The Rev. Dr. David J. Mussatti
Priest

The Rev. Jim Kelly
Priest

David H. Brock
Director of Music and Organist

*Emy Gurowitz***
Senior Warden

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

*Lainie Vreeland, Connie Skidmore,
Nancy Joslin, Peggy Harrison*
Shamrock

Lora Kelly
Memorial Committee

Suzanne Gollery
Clerk of the Vestry

Jackie Kilcoyne
Social Committee Chair

*Caroline Cutler** Deb Beebe, Lainie
Vreeland, Maria Neve*
Art Committee

Karen Barney
Webmaster

*Eric Strotz***
Folk Mass Group

Cherry Barney
Good Samaritans Coordinator

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

Nancy Joslin
Columbarium

Peggy Harrison
Knitters Guild of Incline Village

Jack Barney
Ushers/Greeters Coordinator

Lainie Vreeland, Nancy Joslin
Library

**Vestry Member