

St. Patrick's Shamrock

A Newsletter of
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
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Update from Kate

Dear friends,

Now that the *Shamrock* is being produced every other month, this is my first opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year! A month into 2005, our Christmas and New Year celebrations are perhaps fading into distant memories already – although who could forget all that snow?!!

For me, some of the best moments of the Christmas season were our services at St Patrick's. The wonderful Nativity Service on December 19th was one of these, where Marsha Tejada brought together a wonderful mixture of the talents of our children, adults, musicians and even unsuspecting members of the congregation! The result was a delightful surprise – the freshness and unexpectedness of which helped us to experience anew the wonder of the Christmas story. Thanks again, to all who took part in that service, and in the many other services which marked Christ's birth and celebrated the epiphany of his coming.

This New Year, like every other, is filled with possibilities and opportunities. For St Patrick's especially, it could present a major turning point in the life and ministry of our parish. As you know, our Vestry and Search Committee have been putting in a great deal of good work over the past months, bringing St Patrick's out of a time of bleakness and onto the threshold of an exciting new beginning. No matter how sterling their work, however, these two groups can only function as representatives of the church membership. To ensure that we do what is right for St Patrick's we need regular input from the rest of our committed members as well. That is why the Annual Meeting is such an important event.

It is very important that we have a good attendance at this year's Annual Meeting as there are some major decisions to be made. The meeting will take place at 6:30 pm on Saturday, February 5th, immediately after the 'Saturday Night Alive' service. If you have not yet attended this service, this is a great opportunity to do so, then you can stay on afterwards for a potluck supper and the meeting.

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ST. PATRICK'S UPDATES...

40 Days of Purpose

Join us on a life changing adventure! 40 Days of Purpose began on January 29th, with a Saturday afternoon kickoff and continues until March 13th. There is still plenty of opportunity to participate in this 6 week program. If you want to get involved, visit the signup table in the Narthex after a service, or call Jim Kelly at 832-8420. He can get you a copy of the book 40 Days of Purpose, and hook you up with a Home Group. This is what Lent is all about, studying and learning, expanding our knowledge and love of Christ. The program involves an individual daily 10 minute reading, weekly group discussions at host homes, and weekend worship and teaching. This can be an incredible way to reach people with the Gospel. When we leave church after service, remember the words as we close: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" We can use this as an opportunity to "serve the Lord" in our areas as well as begin our own expansion of our church's vision of "Sharing the love of Christ". This is an opportunity for us to reach out to our friends and neighbors and include them in this incredible journey. March 13th will be "Celebration Sunday", when we celebrate the conclusion of this program and our patron saint St. Patrick.

And on another front...

Search Committee Update

We finished the Search Request Form, which has been computerized, and Mike Link, the Diocesan Deployment Officer, is collecting names of potential candidates. At the end of January he will provide us with about twenty names. We will then study and narrow the group to about five for further intensive review and interviews. Please keep us in your prayers. If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Nancy Joslin
Search Committee Chair
831-2716



Share Your Care for St. Patrick's in 2005

Jim McFarlin, Treasurer

St. Patrick's mission is *Sharing the Love of Christ* with those inside and outside the church.

Accomplishing this mission requires the devoted support of our talented clergy, vestry and staff, many hours of time given unselfishly by our parishioners—and yes, funding in the form of pledges, plate income, and donations for specific causes.

Over 80% of the contributory support for St. Patrick's comes from parishioner pledges. These pledges fund the operations of the church as well as community outreach, youth programs, and other ministries that are major priorities in 2005.

Financially, St. Patrick's is no different from any small business or the typical household, with one exception. We commence each year with known costs for mortgage, salaries, and operating expenses, to which is added funding for ministries. The exception? We begin January 1st with our known income at zero. We must build our financial capability to operate as a church one commitment, one pledge at a time.

Currently, we are \$60,000 below the pledge commitments necessary for 2005—a sizable shortfall for a church with a budget exceeding one-quarter of a million dollars. To those of you who have already pledged your financial support for this year, thank you for your generosity and your caring!

If you have not yet pledged and are undecided on whether to pledge or how much to pledge, I encourage you to share *your* care as generously as you can. Bring by or send in your pledge today. Bring us one pledge closer to making St. Patrick's mission and ministries a reality in 2005.





An Everflowing Stream Amos 5:24

*This article is one in a series on social justice, and a call to live out our baptismal vows.
You are encouraged to read this and follow your conscience in prayer and in action.*

Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

Resolutions passed by General Convention 2003 AO11, AO12:

AO11...this General Convention sets forth guidelines for genetic research and interventions.. AO12...this 74th General Convention resolves to support the choice of those who wish to donate early embryos, after in-vitro fertilization and urges U.S. Congress to fund medical research on human embryonic stem cells and to establish an interdisciplinary oversight body for all research that involves stem cells from human embryos, parthenocytes, sperm cells or egg cells.

This article is written by Carolyn Anderson Stewart, PhD.

"A number of ethical issues can be identified as associated with the practice of medicine and/or the pursuit of biomedical research" (Mappes, p.1). These ethical issues make up what is commonly named "biomedical ethics," and require reasoned analysis for resolution. To determine whether any action is ethical a society looks to its values and to writings of great philosophers, teachings of spoken traditions or religious teachings. This is true in the controversies over euthanasia, genetics, nutrition and hydration, and others. Bioethics as a topic has taken on new meaning in this day so that applying a simple definition to the resolution of ethical dilemmas will no longer suffice.

As St. Joan Chittister writes: "Things once remote are now universally present, things once speculative are now immediate. Genetic research in the U.S. is now both a promise and a threat to the whole world." (Chittister p. 82)

So the question then becomes "How do we as 21st century Christians resolve those ethical dilemmas brought about by two cultural developments, (1) the advance in medical research as attended by the development of biomedical technology; (2) the practice of medicine in increasingly complicated institutional settings?"

Many of the ethical issues associated with the practice of medicine or biomedical research call for decisions based on values rather than on the capabilities of medical science. Such decisions require us to make painstaking application of moral principles. Moral values, specifically Christian moral theology, serve as the basis for Christian ethical conduct. The Old Law, i.e. the Ten Commandments and the New Law of the Gospel given to believers through faith in Christ, give believers the guiding principles for making decisions.

(To be continued next month)

Mappes, Thomas and DeGrazia, David, *Biomedical Ethics*, McGraw-Hill, Inc. 1996
Chittister, Sr. Joan D. in *New Designs: An Anthology Spiritual Vision*, Benetvision, 2002

(For further information about this issue or if you would like to share your social justice ministry contact Annette Mills or Midgene Spatz at millsr007@aol.com)



Community Knitters Guild

*Do you love to knit, or want to learn?
Come join the Knitters Guild, which meets every
Wednesday at 1:00 in the Church Library.*



WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!!

The good Lord works through us all and I give thanks and praise that He is in our lives.

I am pleased to let you know where we are regarding the status of pledges and purchase of the organ. The project goal was set at \$125,000 as the Quantum model Q385 organ was priced at \$106,000 and our first bid for the preparation work to be done to receive the organ was \$19,000. Upon obtaining our second bid, which was considerably less at \$11,000 maximum, the project goal changed to \$117,000. The bid at \$11,000 was accepted and the prep work has begun.

Through the commitments of many in cash and pledges to date and the proceeds from the Musical Feast, all totalling \$107,555, we are almost there, with only \$9,445 needed to complete this incredibly wonderful project.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Please continue your generosity and keep those donations/pledges coming. Make your checks payable to St. Patrick's placing the words organ fund in the memo section of your check. THE DEADLINE to complete the fundraising is MARCH 31, 2005.

May God's abundant blessings be yours!

Barbara Edwards
Organ Working Group



Over the Mountains and Around the Town...

I think we all have seen the pictures on TV about the devastating loss of life from the earthquake and tsunamis. Episcopal Relief and Development (Formerly the Presiding Bishops Fund for World Relief) is providing emergency relief in the area as we read this. If you have not already given something, won't you consider sending something to them so that they might give it to people **DESPERATELY** in need right now? If you have already given, **THANK YOU!** If you can find it in your heart to give more, this would be a good way to do it. There are many other charities as well as governments acting to save lives, whether you do it here or elsewhere, I beg you to send something. Please.

To reach them on your own send a check to:

Episcopal Relief and Development/South Asia Relief Fund
PO Box 12043
Newark, NJ 07101-5043

If you wish St. Patrick's to send the money on with any other donations that may come in, just send it to the church and mark it for "Tsunami Relief". This will not be a short term problem, there will be needs there for many months and years to come. If there is one thing I am sure of, we are a generous parish, I have seen too much of your many kind acts and generous gifts to not know this.

I also wish to say ***Thank You Very Very Much***— your kindness brought in much needed money, toys, food, gifts and clothes for the needy in our area. Thank you for helping to provide food fun and warmth to local families in need this Christmas. The results of this are the proof of your generosity and kindness towards those less fortunate.

May God guide our steps,

Laurie Meyer

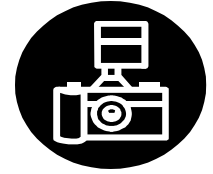
NEW PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE *SHAMROCK*

We are now bi-monthly instead of monthly. This is the second issue under this new schedule. We will need submission to the Shamrock the 15th of the month preceding the publication date. The next Newsletter will come out on April 1st, so we need your submissions on March 15th. Meanwhile, we are still looking for a volunteer Shamrock Editor. If you think you might be interested, call the Church Office on 831 1418 for more information.



PROFILE PHOTOS

Parish profile photos are now available for viewing and purchase through the Strotz Photography website. To see the pictures, simply put this address in your internet browser window:



<http://www.strotzphotography.com/>

Once at the website, click on "Special Events" and then on "St. Patrick's Parish Profile." Here you'll be able to enjoy a slideshow gallery of photo highlights, and you'll find a link to "Dot Photo" where the complete album of profile photos can be viewed and/or ordered.

The photos that were taken for the profile have been contributed to the church as a small fundraising effort. St. Patrick's has their very own account with the photo printer, so all profits from photo sales are sent directly to the church.

If you would like to place an order for prints on superior photo paper, art paper, or canvas, please place your order directly with Joy Strotz. If you are in need of assistance in placing your order, or if you do not have internet access, feel free to call Joy at: 775-848-8898 or email her at: joy@strotzphotography.com.

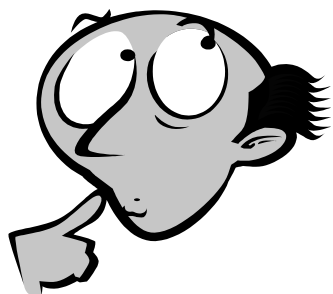
Enjoy the photos!

ORDINATION 2005

(continued from page 11)

The reception that followed provided a wide variety of goodies to sustain those attending as they ventured back out into the white wonderland of North Lake Tahoe.

We at St. Patrick's were honored to host such an auspicious occasion. Being part of such a meaningful event allows all of us to renew our commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



The question: When will we begin to address the issue of racism in ourselves and in our churches?

The answer: On February 26th in Reno.

For more than ten years the Episcopal Church of the USA has been called by convention resolution and by pastoral letters from the House of Bishops to examine and take actions to address the many aspects of racism that are endemic in ourselves, our parishes, and our communities. The time has come for the Diocese of Nevada to respond to these calls.

A workshop on Institutional Racism is scheduled at St. Stephen's Church, Reno, on February 26th. Led by Jerry Drino, Director of InterCultural Ministry Development for Province VIII, this session will help us in self-examination, attitude adjustment and skills development. We will be guided into a commitment to take action individually and corporately to reduce prejudice and dismantle racism in our churches and communities.

Who should attend this workshop? All active members of the Episcopal Church in Nevada. More specifically — Vestry members, clergy, parish educators, youth and children workers, Eucharistic visitors, and all who proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

Details of the workshop will be posted on the Diocesan website (www.nvdiocese.org). The session will begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. To help prepare meeting space and refreshments, please make your reservation with Peg McCall (pmccall5@juno.com).

The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop

Staff & Ministry Group Chairs

- The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori,*
Bishop of Nevada
- The Rev. Kate B. Atkinson*
Priest-in-Charge
- The Rev. David J. Mussatti*
Priest Associate
- The Rev. Jim Kelly*
Deacon
- Michael Atkinson*
Licensed Lay Reader and Preacher
- David H. Brock*
Director of Music and Organist
- Sharon Kirby*
Senior Warden
- Rem Paul ***
Junior Warden, Buildings and Grounds Chair
- Jim McFarlin***
Treasurer
- Jim Clark*
Finance Committee Chair
- Dave Mussatti*
Worship Advisory Committee
- Bonnie Sills, Lora Kelly*
Memorial Committee
- Barbara Edwards***
Volunteer Co-ordinator Chair, Clerk of the Vestry
- Ron Wright***
Communications Chair
- Emy Gurowitz*
Publicity Chair, Altar Guild
- Karen Barney*
Web Master
- Laurie Meyer**
Outreach Chair, Bookkeeper
- Eric Strotz*
Folk Mass Group
- Joanellen Slocumb***
Hospitality Chair, Good Samaritans, Co-ordinator
- Judy Morrison*
Pot Luck Chair, Youth and Children's Ministry Co-ordinator
- Nancy Joslin*
Columbarium, Search Committee Chair
- Peggy Harrison*
Knitters Guild
- Cherry Barney*
Good Samaritans, Co-ordinator
- Mindy Young*
Landscaping Chair
- Suzanne Gollery*
Minute Secretary
- **Vestry Member**



Notes from the Diocese.

We received a copy of a resolution passed by the Diocesan Council at their January meeting:

“Resolved, that vestry members shall not include paid staff of that parish. This means that paid staff may not be elected to vestries in the parish that employs them, and if currently serving, should resign. You may recall that we dealt with a similar issue of diocesan staff serving on the elected bodies on the Diocese a couple of years ago. Diocesan staff members may not serve on Standing Committee or Diocesan Council for the same reasons that the Council has made this decision: there is an irreconcilable potential conflict of interest. It is inappropriate for an employee to serve on a body that sets his or her salary or has the responsibility to act on personnel matters that involve employees.”

This resolution affects us because Laurie Meyer; who is a dedicated, hard-working member of our congregation; is a paid employee and was elected to the Vestry last year. Due to this resolution, she has resigned from the Vestry, creating an opening for a two-year term on the vestry in addition to the three regular 3-year spots.

Laurie has been a great asset to the vestry and in the ministry of St. Patrick's. She has assured us that she will continue with her on-going activities. We will miss her deeply, but know that she will continue her wonderful work with outreach.

Dave Mussatti

Update from Kate

(continued from page 1)

We have chosen Saturday evening (rather than Sunday morning) so that there will be no conflict with the Superbowl – so there should be nothing keeping you from attending! I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the '40 Days of Purpose' kick-off on January 29th. I pray that everyone taking part in this wonderful program will be blessed richly as you seek God's guidance for your life.

Yours faithfully,



Easy, Painless Fund Raising with No Time Involved!!

Sound too easy? It is! But we are not taking full advantage of two programs that are available to anyone who shops. You do shop! I know you do. So why not sign up to benefit St. Patrick's while you shop?? What's stopping you? We have two programs in place from which we are getting extremely anemic returns. **We can do better! Much better!** No money out of your pocket, but money into St. Patrick's pocket – how can you resist?

First, Raley's Quality of Life Card program

If you haven't gotten a card yet, just call the office and ask for one. Then, each time you shop at Raley's, or down the hill at Belair or Nob Hill Foods stores, just hand the cashier your card. That's it! You just handed St. Patrick's some much-needed cash at no expense to you. What could be better? The cards are free, the registration is free of charge, and the cash is a percentage of what we as a congregation already spend when we shop.

Then, eScrip

This is an even easier way to help us raise money and has greater potential, because it's any store or online site or airline or whatever where you use your credit card. You register your cards with eScrip, and you're done! Any store or business that is an eScrip partner sends us money! Again – at no cost to you.

Just go online at <http://www.escrip.com>, Click on “sign-up,” and follow the instructions. Every time you use your card at any participating retailer, we get 3-10% of the purchase amount donated to the church. Our group name is St. Patrick's Church Incline Village and our group ID is 155036115.

Or go to our Web site at <http://www.tahoeepiscopal.com>, and click **Current Topics -> Our scrip programs are enabled**, and follow the instructions and links. Don't have a computer? I'll meet you at the church office, and we'll do it together. Worried about security, identify? Don't be: eScrip has been around for a long time and is a very trusted group.

Why not?

If you still have questions, concerns, hesitations, call me (833-9156) or email to website@tahoeepiscopal.com. I truly want to know why everyone, and I mean everyone, isn't participating in both these programs. I'm embarrassed to say how little we are getting back from them.

Karen Barney



ORDINATION 2005

By Rev. David Mussatti

The first week in January 2005 was noteworthy for three things: the heaviest snow storm at the North Shore since 1916, a survey by the Forest Service indicating that there are more black bears at Lake Tahoe than anywhere else in the county, and most importantly, Delores Shortridge, Jim Kelly and Dick Snyder were ordained to the transitional diaconate at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday afternoon, January 9th at 3:00 pm.

Over 100 hardy souls braved the snow to attend the ordination, presided over by Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. It was a festive occasion honoring the hard work these three individuals have done to prepare for holy orders. All three of them will serve as deacons for approximately six months and will then be ordained to the priesthood in their individual parishes.

Delores Shortridge, from St. Paul's in Elko was presented by Ginny Grogan, Donna Nyrehn, Earl Shortridge and Rev. David Mussatti. She will graduate from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado in May and will then return to St. Paul's. Delores has been very active at St. Paul's focusing on worship, preaching, youth leadership, Christian education and church administration. She is also a trained E.F.M. program mentor.

Jim Kelly, from St. Patrick's was presented by Rev. Kate Atkinson, Rev. David Mussatti, Laurie Meyer and Nancy Joslin. Jim was involved in the Episcopal Church for many years before coming to Incline in 1994. He was active for many years at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Encino, California. Upon moving to San Francisco in 1985 he became very involved in Grace Cathedral where he was a Lay Eucharistic Minister I and II. Jim's education included four years at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge Pennsylvania, four years taking courses at the Diocesan School at St. Peter's in Carson City, the Precept Ministry Training Program at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and an on-line course on Pastoral Care at CDSP. Most recently he has completed the Clinical Pastoral Education program at St. Mary's Hospital in Reno, where he was a chaplain for a year. He will continue to be extremely active in the ministry at St. Patrick's.

Dick Snyder, who is now the Pastor of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brigham City, Utah was presented by Rev. Elizabeth Tattersol, Rev. Deacon Betty Ihfe, Ben Turner, Bill and Jane Laughlin and Stewart Tattersol of St. John's in Glenbrook. Also, presenting him was Rev. Canon David Bailey, the Clergy Deployment Officer for the Diocese of Utah. Dick graduated from CDSP in May of 2004. He has been active in the Diocese for many years at Episcopal churches in Battle Mountain, Elko, Winnemucca and Yerington. For 10 years Dick was the editor of the Diocesan Newspaper. He came to St. John's, Glenbrook in 1996 where he was a lay reader, preacher, and senior warden.

(continued on page 7)

Don't forget the
ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, February 5th,
6:30 pm

(after Saturday Night Alive)
Potluck Dinner included!

*Please be sure to attend this
very important event.*

Your views count
and so does your vote.