



St. Patrick's Shamrock

A Newsletter of
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
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St. Patrick's Annual Party!



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St. Patrick's Day Party!!

Sure it twas a grand party we had celebratin' St. Patrick's Day at St. Patrick's Church on Saturday, March 19th. Some of us started the evening in the Chapel where Clare celebrated "The Celtic Way". After we headed downstairs to the Parish Hall to have some drinks before our dinner. Sadly? no green beer, wine or 7UP this year!

We DID have games and crafts for the wee ones, however. They made leprechauns with "googly" eyes, decorated sugar cookies (only one before dinner) and had a scavenger hunt after dinner. Can you believe that the kids found a pot of gold coins at the end of a rainbow located in the former Godly Play room? They divided the treasure which was left unwatched by lazy leprechauns!

Kudos to our awesome cooks, led by Don Morrison. Bob Skidmore, Stu Jed, and Bruce Townsend cooked up the best corned beef, spuds, cabbage and carrots that matched the best Irish cooks! Connie Skidmore's treasured soda bread recipe was better than my Irish grandma's. Even though we all stuffed ourselves, there were many who had room for seconds. And THEN, Dan Gollery's birthday cake made by his mom Suzanne AND chocolate cake with a shamrock made by Raley's bakery.

While eating we were entertained by four lovely lasses who came from Miriam Blanchette's School of Irish Dance in Reno. They jigged and reeled enough to make us dizzy with pleasure. Thanks, Jessica for taking pictures.

The highlight of the evening was the reading of limericks, written and read by Clare Novak and Cindy Boudett. Some were commissioned and written that very evening! They will be in The Shamrock for your readin' and enjoyin'

I can not thank all our St. Patrick's helpers enough! The Flannel Team, first to come, and last to go home. These guys acted like young leapin' leprechauns the way they set up and took down the nursery school turning it into an Irish dinner party. Kisses and hugs to Len Thomsen, Bob Skidmore, Bruce Townsend (Bob & Bruce also cooked all day), Santa.

Our "kitchen cleaners" scrubbed pots, loaded the dishwasher (thanks Bob for purchasing another rack for the dishwasher), put away everything in great style so our beloved Maggie would find her kitchen clean and sparklin'. Hugs to Lenty Hagen (who also helped with the setting up and the shopping), Emy Gurowitz (who struggled with Lily to put her boots on), Marsha Tejada, Connie Skidmore, Bob Skidmore, Sally Hammel, Don Morrison, and Stu Jed. Thanks to our servers Beth and Bill Drewes, Rick Galien. Hopefully, I haven't forgotten any of our wonderful people who make things happen at St. Patrick's all the time. I apologize if I have forgotten you. I LOVE YOU ALL AND I COULDN'T BE "THE PARTY GIRL" WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

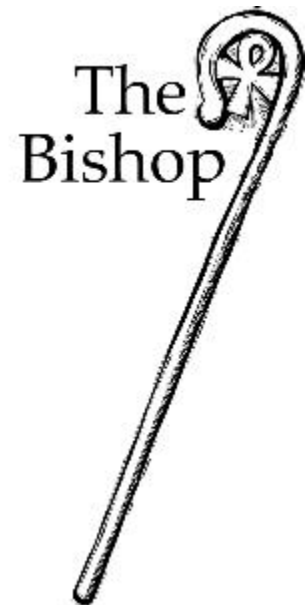


Judy O'Morrison



I Have Not Loved The World

By Bishop Dan Edwards



There is a term that comes up a lot in John's Gospel. It's "*the world.*" In John, "*the world*" doesn't mean the planet earth or nature. It means the way things are – the system -- the way of the world, so to speak. It mostly means human society. The world doesn't come off too well in John.

When he talks about "*the world*" John doesn't have much good to say. The world hates Jesus. The world hates the disciples. The world in John is a fallen place, a realm of darkness. Disciples unfortunately have to live in the world, but they should not belong to it.

We find John's basic attitude in the hymn "*I have decided to follow Jesus.*" You know the line I mean. "*The world behind me. The cross before me. I'll follow him.*" It's all pretty clear. Jesus good. World bad. But in today's lesson, right smack dab in the heart of John, we find a most peculiar-- a downright amazing -- verse. When John saw what he had written, he shook his head and muttered, "*Where did that come from?*" It may be the most famous verse in the New Testament. But we usually miss what a shocker it is in the context of a book about how bad "*the world*" is.

John 3: 16 – "*For God so loved the world "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life."*

It was hard for John to write that because John and the world were clearly not on good terms. He felt hated by the world. He says that straight out. And it sounds as if he hated the world right back. That's not an unusual attitude.

I don't know how that strikes you, but sign me up with...John. The world hasn't always judged me kindly and I am perfectly ready to return the favor. I had unkind labels for every girl in college who declined to go out with me. Nowadays, whenever someone honks their opinion of my driving, I have to fight a reflex to express my opinion of their honking.



The world is addicted to judging, condemning, guilt, and shaming. Not good. So I judge the world back, condemn it, guilt it, shame it – and in judging the world, I join it. I become part of the elaborate network of mutual condemnation. Then I bump into John 3: 16 and it jerks me up short. *“For God so loved the world . . .”* That’s good news and bad news. The good news is that I’m part of the world God loves. The bad news is that God loves the rest of the world too. What could he be thinking? God’s love for the world runs right through Scripture. Genesis Chapter 1 verse 31: *“God saw all that he had made and indeed it was very good.”* It wasn’t perfect but it was very good.

Sociologist James Davison Hunter has written a helpful book titled To Change The World. It’s about how Christians are called to relate to American culture, how we can make a positive difference. The first step he says is appreciation. Hunter writes, *“Goodness, beauty, and truth remain in this fallen creation. (P)eople of every creed and no creed have talents and abilities, possess knowledge, wisdom, and beauty that are . . . in harmony with God’s will and purposes. . . .”*

These things, Hunter says, *“Christians should neither dismiss nor disparage but rather be grateful for and be delighted by because they are gifts of God’s grace”* There really is something good about the world. People may be wrongheaded, neurotic, and dysfunctional. But there is still something there to enjoy, something to shake our heads and laugh about, something that makes us say, *“That’s special.”*

So here’s a suggestion for a Lenten discipline this year. Suppose we ease up on the world a little. It’s easy to get stuck in an attitude -- easy to get grouchy and grumbly seeing everything and everybody through a lens of negativity. Suppose this Lent we keep eating chocolate and checking our Face Book pages, but we take a break from focusing on faults.

We have to start with a 3 step process of garbage removal. The first step is knowing that the world’s judgments of us are rubbish. The second step is forgiving the world for being too broken to see us as we really are. The third step is to know that our judgments of the others are every bit as twisted as their judgments of us. Then we are free to begin enjoying people.

Our appreciation and delight muscles are likely to be out of shape. It may be a strain at first. This takes practice. One way is to sit still for 5 minutes and let people come randomly to mind. As each person’s image pops up, we hold onto the thought of them just long enough to think these words: *“Equally a child of God. Equally destined for likeness with Christ.”*

So what does this have to do with the Christian faith and the sacrament of Confirmation? Check the vows of the Baptismal Covenant. What have we promised in our Baptism? What does Confirmation spiritually empower us to do? *“To respect the dignity of every human being.” “To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.”*

We cannot make a positive difference in this world with our hands until we have first looked kindly upon this world with our eyes. That is how we bless this world and convey God’s blessing. We cultivate our appreciation of things and of people. So this Lent, I urge you to take on this arduous discipline. Cheer up. Lighten up. Be kinder. Take a close at someone each day to find a spark of goodness to enjoy.



“What’s Not to Love?”

By Jim Beebe

I don’t really care that much about arguments for God’s existence. I’m more concerned about a different question. Let’s say that God *does* exist. Well, *my* question would be: “What *kind* of God are we dealing with here?” Is it the kind of God who treats people like wood lice? Or, is it the kind of God who cares deeply about you? Or, as Albert Einstein once asked, “*Is the universe a friendly place?*” At first glance, it doesn’t look like it. Many look at our place in nature as being one of *competition*, winner take all. And it’s a competition that nature will *always* win in the end. As a long-term perspective, that view gets stuck in the story of The Fall and the fact that our world (including, by the way, nature) is sinful and broken. But there’s another perspective, too – one that’s informed by the Genesis creation stories, one that places its hope in Isaiah’s vision of a world which, in the end, is reconciled and peaceful.

Philip Yancey is an author who says that he is a recovering fundamentalist. He’s written a number of books, among which is Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church. He’s been asking the same questions: is the universe a friendly place, or not? He remembers a time when he lived in Colorado. It so happened that there was a fox den not far from his house in which three new kits had been born. Yancey fantasized about being a latter-day St. Francis of Assisi and decided to befriend them. He sat near their den on a cushion and wrote books and articles until, after awhile, the kits had become accustomed to him. (Although, he allows, the first time he announced his presence by saying, “*Hi!*”, they bolted into the air as if they’d been struck by lightning.)

They peered at him inquisitively, golden eyes alert, ears twitching to every sound. Eventually, the three began following him. If he stopped, they stopped. If he ran, they ran. If he sat down for a picnic, they surrounded him and watched him eat. He felt like the proverbial Pied Piper. As the summer went on, he’d stand in his driveway and whistle. On command, the three young foxes would come bounding to him. They stalked butterflies in a patch of wildflowers, batting at them like cats.

They chased squirrels and dodged in and out of the spray of his lawn sprinklers. If he threw a tennis ball, one would chase it down and take off running. The other two would take off in hot pursuit. All summer long he had these three companions. He felt what he called a “*thrilling flashback to Eden, when fear had not yet arisen between the species, and a flash-forward to heaven, when the lion shall lie down with the lamb and the fox shall curl up with the writer.*”

G.K. Chesterton believed that nature is not our mother; rather, nature is our sister. By this he meant that God created both the natural order and human beings, forming something separate from himself and then setting it free. For Philip Yancey, the joy of God’s creation suggested a remnant from an ancient and sacred ruin, “*washed ashore from a shipwreck, bits of Paradise extended through time.*”



Camp Galilee



To register or find out more information about any of our programs, please contact Galilee at (775) 749-5546 or email info@galileetahoe.

Memorial Day Weekend Adult Retreat May 27-30, 2011

This retreat allows people to come together and enjoy the beauty of Tahoe in the spring. The structure of the retreat is very relaxed, with optional program provided by Galilee staff and the Rev. Jim Beebe, Rector of St. Patrick's, Incline Village. This program will include some walks in the woods, kayaking, and discussion time. There will be plenty of time to unwind and enjoy the site, or take advantage of the many activities that the Tahoe basin has to offer. Delicious and fresh meals will be provided by the Food Service Director, Laurie Wesp.

Summer Camp – June-August, 2011

There are opportunities for everyone to enjoy some summer fun at Tahoe! We are offering summer camp sessions for ages 7 to 17 and a family camp week. This year we will also be adding a week long backpacking trip for teens. Come experience God's creation and a welcoming Christian community while hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, and learning more about your own talents and creativity. For more information about our summer camp program call or email Galilee to ensure you're on the mailing list to receive our summer camp brochure.

Diocesan Women's Retreat November 4-6, 2011

The women's retreat is another great opportunity to join other women in worship and reflection on the lake. This retreat will provide time to enjoy the Tahoe area as well as participate in prayer and discussions in a welcoming community of women.



Note: One of our goals is to be a healthy parish. On March 23, 2011 the Vestry adopted this Parish Life Covenant towards that end.

Parish Life Covenant

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Purpose: Sharing the love of Christ.

Vision: "The church that transforms lives."

Mission: The mission of St. Patrick's Church is to love God and neighbor and to be a healthy parish. In all three aspects of our mission together, we are to promote unity, peace and reconciliation.

To accomplish our mission, we agree to:

- * Keep informed about and participate in the life of the parish.
- * Listen in order to understand one another, and to respect each others' views.
- * Express ourselves honestly and respectfully, focusing on issues, not personalities.
- * Support parish decisions reached through the appropriate process.
- * Remain mindful of our continual need for God's grace and forgiveness.

Guidelines for Conflict Resolution

Step 1: Take time

- * I will work on myself first, examining my own role in the conflict.
- * I will try to tell myself a story that doesn't vilify the other person.
- * I will become curious rather than angry.
- * I will avoid triangulation.
- * I will gather the facts with an open mind.

Step 2: Talk directly

- * I will address the situation directly with the other person(s), minimizing e-mail.
- * I will use "I" statements, not accusatory "You" statements.
- * I will reflect back what I've heard to check out whether I understand.
- * I will look for a resolution that lets both parties move on.

Step 3: Seek reconciliation

- * I will seek assistance if the conflict remains unresolved.
- * I will consult with a member of the clergy or the Conflict Resolution Consultant.
- * I will seek first the Kingdom of God and to accomplish St. Patrick's mission.



Upcoming Worship Services and Events:

Lenten Program, The Celtic Way: March 12– April 16

Holy Week

Palm Sunday: April 17th at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Monday: April 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Tuesday: April 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Wednesday: April 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: April 22nd at 12:00 p.m. and

St. Matthew Passion presented by TOCCATA at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil: April 23rd at 5:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 24th at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



The Celtic Way

Join us every Saturday in Lent from March 12-April 16

Saturday Night Alive Service, 5:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner, discussion, and activity, 6:15 p.m.

This program for youth and adults connects our daily concerns with the beauty of the Celts' art, music, and saints.

Discussion Topics:

April 2: Friendship

April 9: Community

April 16: Life's Journey





OUTREACH UPDATE

Several members of the Outreach Committee have recently met to establish its 2011 goals and objectives for St. Patrick's community, diocesan and global outreach giving and volunteer participation. The Outreach team is excited about the opportunities it envisions for community involvement, which Co-chair Cherry Barney will be heading up this year. At the same time we look to the parish to financially support initiatives and programs outside the local area. A decision to send \$1,000 to Hoste Hainse School in southern Nepal has already been made by the Committee, and that check is already on its way.

As a parish we are all concerned about the terrible conditions in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami, so the Outreach team is already gathering information, as we did in the case of Haiti last year, to see how we as a caring congregation can best utilize our resources to help the Japanese people. So please let us know about your suggestions, either by contacting one of the committee members listed below with your information or filling out an Outreach Information sheet available in the Narthex under the Outreach Bulletin Board. The committee will be reviewing all information it receives before proposing several ways it feels St. Pat's could best direct its help and support.

The Outreach Committee is committed to seeing St. Patrick's Episcopal Church move in the direction of becoming a 50-50 parish – as is the Vestry. But we cannot accomplish this goal without the concerted effort and commitment of each parish member to join with us in this endeavor. Thank you for your past support of St. Patrick's Outreach in our community and the global arena. Please join us in 2011 in funding the upcoming mission initiatives offered.

Outreach Committee Members:

Connie Skidmore, Chair

Cherry Barney, Co-chair

Deb Beebe

Linda Brown

Karen Colbert

Marilyn Johnson



2011 Committees Ask for Your Ideas and Energy

St. Pat's mission is fueled by your ideas and energy—and carried forward by our committees. All our ministries and projects aim to be hands-on, connected to the community, collaborative, and inclusive, in line with our strategic plan.

Committee leaders have just been commissioned and are setting their goals for the year ahead. Please let them know what's important to you and how you can help. You can contact them directly (please see our parish directory), or just ask the office to put you in touch (831-1418 or office@TahoeEpiscopal.org).

- Audit: Bill Drewes & Gary Thomsen
- Capital Reserve Team/"Flannel Team": Gary Thomsen
- Communications/Publicity: Clare Novak
- Finance: Chuck Meyer
- Fundraising: Emy Gurowitz, Interim
- Magnetic Church: Judy Morrison
- Outreach: Connie Skidmore (Global Needs) & Cherry Barney (Local Needs)
- Parish Needs: Dave Mussatti
- Stewardship: Clare Novak
- Worship/Music/Art: Sally Hammel
- Youth & Young Adults: Caroline Cutler

Celebration of Creation: April 30 and May 1

People of all ages and spiritual traditions are warmly welcomed to our interfaith "Celebration of Creation" worship services, planned in connection with Earth Day 2011, on Saturday, April 30, at 5:30 pm, and Sunday, May 1, at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Please invite your friends!

Youth Retreat: May 13–15, Camp Galilee

Young people ages 9 and up will be heading to Camp Galilee the weekend of May 13 to 15 for a fun-filled retreat focused on St. Francis's example. Thanks to the parish for the funds raised at the St. Pat's party to support this getaway! Please contact Caroline Cutler (CSistergirl@aol.com) for details and to sign up. We're inviting youth from our church and beyond to take part.



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 Knitters Guild is off to a great start in 2011! Attendance, despite somewhat uncooperative weather, has been good, and the guild members are busy creating more warm items to give to families who need them. The first three months of this new year have been spent in replenishing items for donation since, happily, so many things were given away throughout 2010.

In March, 14 chemo caps were taken to the American Cancer Society. Here is part of the lovely thank-you note the guild members received from the Quality of Life Manager:

"Thank you to everyone who knitted the wonderful hats for our cancer patients. I took them to our Look Good Feel Better session right after they were brought in and everyone took one (we had 12 patients that night). The ladies were so excited to receive such soft, beautiful hats."

As you can imagine, the guild members were most appreciative of the note and happy to hear that their work is being put to good use.

The Incline Elementary School Knitting Club wound up a successful year with a festive "See You Next Year" party. Usually, mothers of the students have provided snacks at the meetings, but for the last gathering some of the Knitters Guild members who volunteer their time to teach the weekly class brought cookies for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to having many of next fall's 3rd to 5th grade students attend the Knitting Club meetings. Some of this year's participants, of course, will be moving on to sixth grade, but we hope they will continue to enjoy making things with the craft they have been taught by the guild members.

The Knitting Club is a very rewarding activity for students and teachers alike! We have been happy to welcome some new members to the guild since the first of the year. It's always a pleasure to tell them about the outreach that the group does, show examples of the members' work and get them started on a hat, scarf, baby sweater or other project. In late May this year, the exhibit in the church hallway will include some of those projects, so we hope you will stop by and see them!

We welcome anyone who loves to knit or crochet, and we can help you if your skills need refreshing. Please call Peggy Harrison at 831-9402 for further information.



TOCCATA presents....

St. Matthew Passion, Part II

By J. S. Bach

Experience the Passion of Christ through music and words as TOCCATA performs selections from Bach's mighty work sung in English performed here at *St. Patrick's Episcopal Church on Good Friday, April 22nd, 7:30 pm.*

Soloists include Daniel Paulson and John Hutto as the Evangelist; and Stuart Duke as Jesus; Jon Leo and Jon Rabben as Pontius Pilate; and Chris Nelson as Peter. Other vocal soloists include Katharine DeBoer, Anna Helwing, and Joy Strotz, sopranos and Karen Solaegui, mezzo-soprano, David Brock will play organ continuo along with Ben Benson, Basson; Ben Wallek, bass; and Charles Taggart, cello. The TOCCATA Chorus will also be featured.

Tickets at the door are \$35 preferred, \$25 adults, \$20 seniors and \$5 students. Youth 12 and under are free when accompanied by a paying adult. Advance ticket purchases are available online at www.toccatatahoe.com. For more information or to audition, please call 775-313-9697.

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Rector

The Rev. Dr. David J. Mussatti
Priest

The Rev. Jim Kelly
Priest

Jessica Rotter
Parish Administrator

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Senior Warden

*Sally Hammel***
Junior Warden

Stephanie Tall, Peggy Harrison
Shamrock

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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:

Current Photo Directories are \$5.00,
to cover printing costs. Pick up a newer copy today! 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!

The Altar Flower donation is now only \$40.00!
Please sign up on the chart in the Narthex for a date and make sure to put "flower fund" in the memo line on your checks.



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