



St. Patrick's Shamrock

A Newsletter of
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
341 Village Blvd.
Incline Village, NV 89451
www.TahoeEpiscopal.org
Phone: (775) 831-1418

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Tahoe Symphony Youth Orchestra

Presented by TOCCATA



Famed violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn and "The Red Violin", joined the Tahoe Symphony Youth Orchestra at their premiere concert, which was held on Wednesday, November 16th. This new youth orchestra rehearses every Wednesday here at St. Patrick's.



A Message from Clare

Dear Friends,

I write with thanks for all the ways you have supported me since my ordination in June 2010. Your love and acceptance of my interfaith path have warmed me, stretched me, and taught me. I particularly thank Jim Beebe, Dave Mussatti, and Jim Kelly for their fine examples as ministers and direct instruction. And Jessica Rotter and Santa Claus for their excellent service and support for me.

That teaching and growth have led me to take the next step in my calling: to shift in February 2012 from a staff position at St. Patrick's to an independent role as an interfaith minister in the Lake Tahoe community, aiming to serve those not served by our parish.

I will continue to be an active parishioner in our church, which is my dear spiritual home. I also hope to involve St. Patrick's in some of my new initiatives as they unfold. Please know that I will remain available, as the clergy and vestry wish me to be, as a preacher and pastoral counselor. And that I lift up our work together in the new year—to sustain our momentum and enjoy our health as a parish in transition. I know that transition will lead us forward gracefully in our life in Christ.

Peace and love,

Rev. Clare C. Novak



New Job Opening: Herald Of Good Tidings

By Bishop Dan Edwards

Our lives are made of time so how we relate to time determines the flavor and the tenor of our lives. The present moment is absolutely important; but each moment contains both memory and anticipation. Each moment arises in the context of a past and a future. What happened yesterday shapes today's experience; and what we expect tomorrow determines whether we live today in hope, anxiety, or despair.

As for the past, it can be a blessing or a curse. It depends on whether we draw wisdom from our past or get stuck in it. It is so easy to get stuck in memories. Good memories can capture us in nostalgia, longing for a past that can never be recovered precisely because it is the past. We refuse to move on into the future because we know it could never be as good as the good old days. Bad memories can capture us in despair. We can identify with our old wounds. I am the one who suffered this or suffered that. There is a sticky tragic quality to old wounds and grievances that traps us like flypaper.

The power of the past over the present depends entirely on what we think of the future. We live each moment with some kind of expectation. The natural human condition is to be alert, to be expectant, to scan the horizon to see what might be coming up over it. We are all always watching for something. But we are rarely watching neutrally. We watch the world with preformed expectations. We live in dread or hope, faith or fear.

Nothing is more fundamental to our way of being in the world than our attitude toward the future. Prophecy is God's word spoken to us to infuse hope. Prophecy breaks up the stony soil of pessimism with the plow of God's promise. Judah had been having a long, hard time. For 40 years they had been in exile, writing songs of lament. "*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion.*" Before they were utterly vanquished by Babylon, they were occupied by Assyria. Before that they had been a vassal state of Egypt. Before that they had been besieged by Aram. No living Jew could remember peace and prosperity. Their plight raises a question for us: is it possible to hope for something we cannot remember? Is it possible to anticipate something we have not experienced yet?

When churches are in transition situations, I always ask them, "*what do you hope for in this time of change?*" We I ask about hope for the future, invariably, they answer with a memory from the past. Is it possible to hope for something we cannot remember? For humans, probably not. But with God all things are possible. Judah could not even remember happiness, but God spoke to his prophet, 2nd Isaiah, saying, "*Comfort, O comfort my peopleSpeak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that she has served her term that her penalty is paid.*"



Continued on next page



New Job Openings: Herald of Good Tidings.....continued

Can you hear God saying that to you? Can you take the old habitual sorrows of your life as a time of exile, and hear God say, *"You have served your term; it's over?"* The Exiles had lost a lot – the temple, homes, families. We all lose what is dear to us. Then we live in the loss; abide in the sorrow. Isaiah acknowledges the loss, but then reminds us there is something we have not lost and can never lose. He writes, *"All people are grassThe grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."* And what is the word of our God that stands forever. It is good news. It is gospel. *"Get up to a high mountain O Zion, herald of good tidings. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings."*

"Herald of good tidings." Can you imagine not only hearing God's promise; that you will be peaceful and at ease, that you will be happy – can you imagine that you not only hear that as God's promise to you; but that you are, this day, appointed as God's messenger to tell that good news to other people. Whatever your identity has been up to now, you have a new one – *"herald of good tidings."*

What are those good tidings? Because they are beyond the reach of anything we have experienced, they are beyond the capacity of human language to express directly. So Isaiah uses metaphors: *"Say to the cities of Judah, here is your GodHe will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep."* Can you imagine living in expectation of a serene joy that you have never felt before? If you can, then you will experience right now a hope you have never felt before. Even in the midst of the trials and hardships of today, you will carry in your heart a warm ember of consolation already glowing. The quality of this present moment will be transformed by hope.

I invite you each to hear this promise for you personally. Jeremiah delivered this message from God: *"I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."* I invite you to hear the promise that God will do a new thing in you, that Christ will become more real to you, and play a larger part in each of your days than ever before. I invite you to hear that promise also for this congregation. In Christian spirituality, the transformation of the individual and the transformation of the community are intimately connected. You cannot change without changing those around you and if this congregation changes it will change you.

If you live in that hope, you will invest in it. You will prepare the way for your own transformation though a discipline of prayer, study, and service. You will, at the same time, prepare for the transformation of this congregation. You will support it now with your labor, your money, and your prayers. Your church prays for you. Do you pray for your church? With this promise, comes a challenge – to invest the labor, the money, and the prayer to make room for miracle. This is what the Lord said to those who were to receive his promise. *"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert – this desert --a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up . . . Then the glory of the Lord shall appear and all the people shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*



Sunday - January 29th

Please save the date of Sunday, January 29th, for two very important reasons: Our *Annual Parish Meeting* will be held between services at 9 am. All the congregation is invited to attend.

Additionally, the parish will host a *Farewell Retirement Party for Jim and Deb Beebe*, in our very best St. Patrick's gala fashion at 5 pm that evening. Expect an evening of entertainment, toasting and fine dining in our own parish hall, as well as much thanksgiving and profound well wishes for the Beebes, as they prepare to depart from our community

Parishioners are invited to bring or send notes and cards of their personal thanks to Jim and Deb for their extraordinary contributions to St. Patrick's Church. If individuals wish to send monetary tributes, that would be very much appreciated as our first couple at St. Patrick's prepare for retirement life. Please make out all checks directly to Jim Beebe.

Judy Morrison will be the official planner with help from Cindy Boudett and other parish volunteers. Please let Judy or Cindy know how you wish to help with this huge event, as many hands will be needed to setup and decorate the parish hall, besides preparing the food, serving and cleaning up afterwards. Thank you!

Important Announcement!

The vestry would like to announce that a search committee for a new rector has been formed. Each individual is highly qualified through their proven service and devotion to St. Patrick's parish, or other Episcopal Church parishes to serve on this committee.

The seven names are: *Steve Barney, Colin Dawson, Emy Gurowitz, Lydia Grimes, Beth Drewes, Karen Colbert and Bob Skidmore.*

The committee will begin meeting this month and will be working closely in the months ahead with Bishop Dan Edwards and the diocesan interim specialist, Rev. Helen McPeak, to find a new rector for our parish. We commend these individuals for answering the call to serve for this very demanding work. The committee should know that our staff, vestry and entire congregation will support them fully in our hearts, minds, and prayers as they commence their duties for this parish.



OUTREACH NEWS

The year 2011 was a banner year for Outreach from St. Patrick's. A very detailed report will be presented at the Annual Meeting in January, but here are some interesting highlights from this year.

In keeping with the congregation's wishes, the Outreach Committee at St. Patrick's has tried to maintain the allocation of funding to 50% on local and surrounding community projects and needs and 50% on global concerns. Approximately \$30,000 has been allocated (by the time this Shamrock edition has been printed). At least eighteen different ministries have received funding from St. Patrick's either as Committee directed or from parish collections for specific disaster or other requests. Two of the disaster collections were the response to the Japanese tsunami/earthquakes early in 2011 and then the Tuscaloosa, Alabama tornado and flood relief. The latter relief funding will see a continued response from St. Patrick's when some of our youth and adults will have a mission trip to Alabama in the spring to work on site to help with the rebuilding of houses that were destroyed by the disaster. The mission trip will be supported by monies raised through the youth's own fund raising projects and funds from the Outreach Committee. The Outreach Committee is presently discussing funding for this project with the committee organizing the mission trip.



The Outreach Committee will hold over some of its 2011 funds in its account for the 2012 budget year to be able to immediately continue donating projects to mission and ministry within our community at large, The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, and for global needs. The Outreach Committee hopes that St. Patrick's people will continue to be generous to the ongoing needs in our local and world community.

Connie Skidmore



TOCCATA will present:

Mendelssohn in the Mountains

Elizabeth Pitcairn & the legendary Red Stradivarius Violin performing the *ViConcerto in A Minor* and the Tahoe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus performing *Elijah*.

Saturday, January 21st at 3:00 p.m. here at St. Patrick's!

For tickets and further information, please visit

www.toccatatahoe.com



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 looked back on another successful year of making lovely warm things for families who need them. In the final quarter of 2011, more layettes for newborns and lap robes for Long Term Care Patients were delivered to Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee. Chemo caps were taken to the American Cancer Society in Reno, donations to the Incline Village Pre-School Pumpkin Patch were made, and the Senior Services Center in Truckee also received gifts. Donations to the Holiday Giving Program in Incline Village and the North Tahoe Family Resource Center in Kings Beach were made in December. The total number of sweaters, hats, blankets, scarves, slippers, mittens and booties given to these organizations throughout the year was 504! Amazing! Several new members have joined the guild in the last few months and they've been welcomed with open arms. It's always fun to show them our finished projects not yet given out so they can see the kinds of things the members make. They are always amazed at the supplies, such as the patterns and yarns, that we have on hand.

The Knitting Club at Incline Elementary School is bigger and better than ever! Each Monday several guild members spend from 3-4 p.m. teaching girls and boys (*yes, that's right - boys!*) how to knit. Usually 25-30 students come to spend that hour. Eager learners that they are, when they finish a project such as a wrist or headband, bookmark or booties, they're all smiles!

As projects are finished, we take pictures of the students with his/her finished item; and, the students are delighted to have the photos to put in a scrapbook of their own. One girl made little slippers for her dog and brought the dog into a meeting so a picture of her holding her pet wearing his new little slippers could be taken.....that was a first!

On December 14, the guild held a little Christmas party at its meeting and everyone enjoyed the assortment of goodies brought by several members. We were happy that Dave Mussatti was able to join the group and visit with the members for a while.

All in all, it's been a very good year, and we look forward to the tenth year of the members helping people by using skills that give them pleasure. It's a win-win for everyone!

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.



"WISDOM"

* *"Better is a dry morsel with quiet...than a house full of feasting with strife."*

* *"Grandchildren are the crown of the aged...and the glory of children is their parents."*

* *"Fine speech is not becoming to a fool...still less is false speech to a ruler."*

These are all from Proverbs. In fact, I think I'd like to have a nickel for every proverb I've seen on church signs, neon and otherwise. I think it was Plato who said, *"To know is to do."* Such is the premise of the Book of Proverbs: if you *know* what the wise thing is to do or say or think, then you'll do or say or think it.

There persists a world view in which the righteous are blessed with good health, strong relationships, large families and lots of money. It's also a world view in which the poor are poor because they are lazy, inadequate or stupid. So when Jesus told his disciples that it was harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God than a camel to go through the eye of a needle, they were astonished. They responded, *"Then who can be saved?"*

This world view is the very antithesis of the Good News of Jesus. It's wise to live squirming in the presence of creative suffering. Jesus isn't going to make your life easier; he's going to make it more complicated. That's why he tells his disciples that they need to pick up their crosses when they follow him.

Proverbs is an interesting collection that tries to persuade its readers that if they pay attention to its pithy little sayings, they'll live long and prosper. But the world of Jesus' grace is a far cry indeed from the optimistic world of Proverbs. It is not a meritocracy, where good is rewarded and evil, punished. The truth is, we all get what we *don't* deserve. The wisdom of Jesus presupposes this.



Financial Matters....

New Capital Reserve Receives Initial Funding

At the December meeting the Vestry approved the transfer of \$30,000 from the Columbarium Designated Fund to the recently established Capital Reserve Fund as its initial funding. While the ultimate size and annual funding requirements for the Capital Reserve have not yet been determined, the Vestry's action restricts these monies so they are directly related to the long term preservation of St. Patrick's facilities. While unrestricted contributions continue to provide St. Patrick's with the financial flexibility it needs to operate, direct contributions to the Capital Reserve can be made.



Rector Search and Transition Fund Established

The Vestry also approved the re-designation of the Vestry Designated Fund (and its \$30,000 balance) as the Rector Search and Transition Designated Fund. Similar to the Capital Reserve decision, this action provides St. Patrick's with a specific fund to which additional temporarily restricted monies can be directly contributed.

eScrip Re-Established

We recently learned that St. Patrick's account with the eScrip program was closed due to our change in banks. While it remains a mystery why we were not notified, steps have been taken to reestablish the account and again have funds being earned by those of you who sign up.

In case you don't remember about this program, it is a "set and forget" program where you register your credit cards and store cards (e.g. Macy's) once and then just use them as you usually do for shopping, travel, whatever. When you use a registered card at a participating merchant, St. Pat's gets a percentage. You don't have to remember which merchants participate – it's all automated. And it is probably more secure than using a card at a restaurant. Go to <http://www.tahoeepiscopal.org/> and click the **Scrip Programs** tab for all the details.

If you were already enrolled with eScrip, please review your enrollment now that the account has been re-established by logging on to <http://www.escrip.com/>. (For my own enrollment, I discovered that funds were being redirected to Young Life, a group that I had never indicated.) *Enter 500030662 if needed as the group ID number; it got changed when the account was re-established.* If you have never enrolled, please consider doing so; this is **free money** for St. Pat's!!

Note: even if you aren't enrolled, you can generate eScrip funds for St. Pat's by shopping via the eScrip Online Mall. Just click the ONLINE MALL image at the top of our **Scrip Programs** page and verify that St. Pat's is the group you want.



From the Finance/ Stewardship Committees.....

Considering cleaning up your investment portfolio as one of your New Year's resolutions?
Putting off trying to determine the tax basis of some old investments or simply seeking to donate
some appreciated stock to St. Patrick's?

Here's a reminder that the Finance Committee has made it easy by establishing a brokerage account
with Wells Fargo Advisors. Please use the following delivery instructions when communicating
with your financial services provider:

Beneficiary: First Clearing, LLC (as clearing broker for Wells Fargo Advisors)
DTC #: 0141

For Further Credit To: Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church
Brokerage Account #: 5319-7247

Upcoming Worship Services:

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

12:15 p.m. in the chapel

7:00 p.m. in the church

Holy Week

Palm Sunday: April 1st at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Monday: April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Tuesday: April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Wednesday: April 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: April 6th at 12:00 p.m. and

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

Easter Vigil: April 7th at 5:30 p.m.

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



St. Patrick's Day Annual Celebration!

Saturday, March 17th

St. Patrick's
Day



After the Saturday Night Alive Service!

Food, Games, and Music!

Fun for the whole family and community!

More details will follow!



St. Patrick's Art Gallery

Take a moment to visit the quilt show on St. Patrick's "Two Wall" art gallery. Close to 20 quilts are being featured on 5 walls.

Peggy Harrison, Maria Neve and Linda Brown are St. Patrick's featured artists and the show runs for three months. *Ginny Hestmark's* quilt is on display again. Her children and grandchildren made each quilt block separately and used different assembly techniques. It makes a very unique and interesting creation!

These quilts are stunning with various eye dazzling colors, fabrics, shapes. Many examples of different quilt techniques and assembly are used. Some quilts are even for sale (see the artist).

Enjoy this fine show! St. Patrick's is truly blessed to have such talented quilters!

Judy Layton



Staff & Committee Chairs

The Rev. Dr. James R. Beebe
Rector

The Rev. Dr. David J. Mussatti
Priest/ Parish Needs Team

The Rev. Jim Kelly
Priest

Rev. Clare Novak
Interfaith Minister/ Communications/ Stewardship

Donna Axton
Music Director

Jessica Rotter
Parish Administrator

*Caroline Cutler, Judy Layton and
Lainie Vreeland*
Art

Gary Thomsen
Capital Reserve Team/ Flannel Team

Bob Skidmore
Columbarium

Chuck Meyer
Finance

Emy Gurowitz & Sharon Kirby
Fundraising

*Sally Hammel***
Junior Warden/ Music/ Woship/ Culture

Lainie Vreeland
Library

Judy Morrison
Magnetic Chuch

Connie Skidmore & Cherry Barney
Outreach

Stephanie Tall
Shamrock

Karen Barney
Webmaster

Caroline Cutler
Youth & Young Adults

****Vestry Member**

REMINDERS:

Current Photo Directories are \$5.00, to cover printing costs. Pick up an updated 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 - Only \$55.00! Please sign up on the chart in the Narthex and make sure to put "flower fund" in the memo line on your checks.



Please **recycle your inkjets for cash** for St. Pat's! A green collection box is in the foyer! Please remember to put your inkjets in a plastic sandwich baggie to prevent leakage!



Sharon Kirby
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775 831 7300
866 831 8999
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917 tahoe boulevard suite 100
incline village, nevada 89451
tahoeinclineproperties.com

skirby@chaseinternational.com



Emy Gurowitz
REALTOR®

McGregor Realty, Inc.

797 Southwood Blvd. #15, PO Box 4200
Incline Village, Nevada 89450
Office (775) 831-2144
Toll Free (800) 832-2102
Mobile (775) 772-8653
Fax (775) 831-6310
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