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Electric Epilog February 5, 2009

(Deadline for Electric Epilog Submission is Wednesdays at 12 Noon)

This Sunday at Christ Church, February 8th 5th Sunday of Epiphany

Rev. Vince O'Neill Celebrates

Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00pm

*Come join us! Share in worship, renewal, fellowship and song.
Music by Jim Geffert and The Jazzus Ecclesiasticus*

Deacon Bonnie Polley Preaching

8:00 am the Holy Eucharist

10:30 am the Choral Eucharist

Diocesan Appointment

Bishop Dan Edwards has appointed JoAnn Roberts Armstead to the new position of Diocesan Liaison. JoAnn will join a cadre of official contact persons from all dioceses. The goals of the newly established Diocesan Liaison Program are to:

- Establish a communication method that makes it easier for dioceses to find the person, resource, or information they need to conduct ministry effectively.
- Save dioceses staff time by increasing the flow of information to dioceses about some of the excellent work being done throughout the greater Church.
- Provide an outlet for dioceses to share their own effective work with others, trends, challenges, best practices, and things that have or have not been effective, thus expanding their capacity to implement successful strategies.
- Create a system of regular communication between dioceses in each province and the Episcopal Church Center (815). Terry Parsons from the Office of Diocesan Services in New York will head up the program and conduct a quarterly conference call for each province with the liaisons within that province.

Bonnie Polley traveled to Carson City last weekend with RAIN to visit the Nevada Legislative Session. RAIN is a group of 130 committed Christians who are letting the legislators know that people of faith want their government to do right for the people of Nevada. Here is a summary of the 2009 Nevada Legislative Session.

RAIN Asks the Nevada Legislature To Preserve the State's Social Safety Net

On Feb. 2, 2009, just prior to the start of the 2009 Nevada Legislative Session, more than 130 committed Christians from all over the State of Nevada met at the First United Methodist Church in Carson City to participate in a RAIN Legislative Forum. In attendance were two ELCA Lutheran Bishops (Mark Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod in northern Nevada and Stephen Talmage of the Grand Canyon Synod in southern Nevada), as was Nevada's Episcopal Bishop Dan Edwards. The heads of the other denominations comprising RAIN (Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic) also had representatives present. These eight faith leaders of Nevada later participated in the opening ceremonies of the 2009 Session by standing behind the invocator, Pastor Tom Beck of Faith Lutheran Church in Reno and RAIN President, who offered the opening prayer to start the Session. They did so to emphasize to legislators that people of faith expect their government to consider the common good when legislating, which requires careful consideration of the impact of budget cuts on the most vulnerable people of the population.

During the program itself, powerful presentations were made, featuring some key issues facing the people of Nevada--the impact of the economic downturn on children and families (including the increase in homelessness and loss of homes due to foreclosure), the deterioration of the State's health care safety net (especially for the uninsured and unemployed), the imprudent and wasteful use of money in our criminal justice system that does nothing to reduce recidivism or help victims of crime, and the inability of State government to set realistic budget priorities and raise the needed revenue to fund basic services.

Nevada Chief Justice James Hardesty summarized some of the recommendations the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice will make to the 2009 Legislature. They included authorization of a first step in establishing a reentry program for persons released from prison (using fees assessed on defendants, grant funds, and donations as start up monies), development of alternatives to long prison sentences for non-violent offenders, and full use of funds designated to help victims of crime. The suggestions were innovative, thought-provoking, and challenging.

Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley invited the people in attendance to follow the budget hearings carefully in the 2009 session. She promised that every item in the budget will be scrutinized, intimating that some programs will either be reduced, consolidated, or eliminated. Once this budget review is completed, the Legislature will turn its attention to raising the revenue to fund basic services in the budget, as determined by the money committees. It was apparent to the group that the current fiscal problems of the State cannot be solved solely by making draconian cuts in the budget nor by raising taxes substantially. Either approach will not work. A compromise will be needed, and it will require legislators to be patient and understanding of each others' points of view.

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Others who spoke included 1) Nevada Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford, 2) Executive Director of the Nevada State Medical Assn. Larry Matheis, 3) President of the Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Nancy Hart, and 4) Chairman of the Clark County Housing Authority, Tim O'Callaghan. Nevada's First Lady, Dawn Gibbons, also attended, as did Sen. John Ensign's regional representative, Pam Matteoni, and Sen. Harry Reid's regional representative, Susan Lisagor. Most of those in the audience were active members of Christian churches throughout Nevada, who are deeply engaged in works of social justice, charity, and advocacy for the least among us.

It was a very moving, powerful experience. Many who attended spoke of how much they were touched by this event. It had the flavor of a church service, and those who attended were sent out committed to spread the word to Nevada Legislators that people of faith are in no mood for platitudes, empty slogans, and meaningless rhetoric. They want action to preserve programs that serve the least among us, and they will judge legislators both by their words and deeds as they negotiate and struggle to find the right combination of budget cuts and taxes in order to preserve the State's social safety net while serving the common good. For Christians, events like this remind us that we are obliged by our faith to reach out in love to our neighbors who are less fortunate. As so poignantly stated in the video (produced by RAIN Board member Rev. Wayne Brown) at the start of program, quoting from Matthew, Chapter 25:37, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? Or, when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?" And Jesus answered: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

All in the RAIN network need to pray, to speak out, and to act, in accordance with their faith, to help their neighbors and their legislators to follow Christ's teaching noted above. Together we can play a part in preserving the State's social safety net.

Briefly Speaking...

Starting this Sunday Fr. Vince O'Neill will lead an Adult Christian Formation class on Sundays, 9:15–10:15, each Sunday from February 8th until March 15th. Christian Formation consists of three interlocking themes: our relationship with our Triune God, our relationship with ourselves, and our relationship with others.

Fr. Vince will provide a study booklet, and each person is asked to bring a New Testament, an open mind, and an open heart. Please join us!

Acolyte Meeting February 8th, at 9:15 am

We'd like to restart our monthly meetings and training. Please plan to attend a meeting on Sunday, February 8th at 9:15 a.m. (between services) and mark your calendar for the second Sunday of each month. Donuts will be provided!

In addition to training, we are going to talk about planning fun activities the acolytes can do together and make sure everyone is fitted for both red and black vestments. I know everyone had a lot of fun in Washington D.C., so let's think about activities we can do together closer to home. Be there on February 8th armed with your ideas.

Thank you all for your valuable contribution to our worship. I look forward to seeing each of you at the altar on Sundays.

Blessings, Sheryl Bell

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Calling All Kids and Kids at Heart!

The annual Pine Wood Derby is coming soon to the church courtyard. ANYONE who would like to participate can order your free race car kit from Debby Martin this Sunday, February 8th. Join in the fun!

Lectors, LEM's and Chalice Bearers

For all who are currently being scheduled and anyone interested in serving in one or more of the above ministries, there will a **Meeting with Training Classes on Sunday, February 15th**, between the 8am and 10:30am services in the nave. Please invite others that may be interested to attend! For questions or more information please call E'Lana Davis at (702) 812-5137. Looking forward to seeing you.

Jim Geffert and Friends' Band has a new name: "Jazzus Ecclesiasticus".

They perform here at Christ Church each Saturday at the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass. This Saturday they will be taping the service for our Web Page. Come and be a part of the service.

Lenten Devotional Booklet Rusty Fortier is asking that you return your meditation by the 15th of February which then gives us ample time to copy and print this booklet. The booklet will be ready for distribution Sunday, February 22nd.

Donations for Mardi Gras Prizes are Needed

If you have any items that you would like to donate for raffle or bingo prizes it would be gratefully appreciated. For donations please contact Graci Vargas in the Parish office at 735-7655 ext. 204, or bring the items with you on Sunday and leave them with Graci, or any member of the church staff.

Lenten Soup Supper Come and share a supper with your Parish family here at Christ Church on March 1st at 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall.