

eNewsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada

Issue # 56

December 23, 2009

The Nativity of Our Lord



The precise date of Jesus' birth is not recorded in the Gospels. It was in Rome, in 336, that the date, December 25, was settled upon for the celebration of the Nativity. The day, coming as it does at the winter solstice, was already a sacred one, as the festival of the birth of the Unconquerable Sun; but its correspondence to the date of Jesus' birth was stoutly maintained by learned, if ingenious, writers. The observance spread rapidly throughout the West; and it is accepted by most of the Eastern Churches, in which, however, it does not have the prominence it has in the West. The full title of the feast dates from the 1662 edition of the Book of Common Prayer. Prior to that revision, the day was known only as "Christmas Day." The word "Christmas," which can be traced to the twelfth century, is a

contraction of "Christ's Mass."

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

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Calendar of Events

If you would like to see your event listed here, please email Clelia or garritycpg@gmail.com. If you would like to see your event listed in the diocesan calendar, please email Barbara.

SAVE THE DATES

Dec 24, CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY ALL SAINTS' CHOIR, 10:30 PM, All Saints', Las Vegas

Dec 24, MIDNIGHT MASS (with bells and smells). Sing along caroling begins at 10:30 PM followed by the Eucharist, St. Chirstopher's, Boulder City

Jan 10, BAPTISM OF THE LORD - EPIPHANY CHORAL EVENSONG WITH RECITAL: BEDE PARRY, ORGANIST, 5:30 PM, All Saints', Las Vegas

Jan 30, AN INTRODUCTION TO EFM MENTORING led by Connie Patterson, Dioscesan EFM Coordinator, 7:00 - 9:00 PM at Bishop Dan's home: 136 Camino Francisco, Henderson, NV 89012. No charge; no registration - just drop in and help us organize a face-to-face EFM (or 2) in the South.

Feb 14, ORGAN RECITAL - HANS U. HIELSCHER, International Recitalist, 7:30 P.M., All Saint's, Las Vegas.

Feb 17, ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY WITH SPECIAL MUSIC BY ALL SAINTS' CHOIR, 7:00 PM, All Saints', Las Vegas

Mar 19-21, YOUTH SERVICE WEEKEND, Camp Galilee - An excellent opportunity for youth ages 14-18 to spend the weekend at the camp and provide volunteer work to prepare the camp for the summer camping program. Prospective counselors can be part of the camp experience and be interviewed during this weekend, as well. Leadership will be provided by Fr. Jeff Paul, Executive Director Stuart Campbell, and experienced summer counselors. The cost of the weekend will be \$50. To register, call 775-749-5546.

Mar 13, LENTEN QUIET DAY AT GRACE led by Rev. Mary Bredlau, 9:00 AM - 12 noon, concluding with the Eucharist, and then a simple soup lunch in the parish hall. Please RSVP directly to Rev. Mary at RevMaryB@cox.net or 702-540-3012, by two days prior.

Mar 28, PALM SUNDAY - CONCERT BY ALL SAINTS' CHOIR, 5:30 PM, All Saints', Las Vegas

May 28-31, MEMORIAL DAY ADULT RETREAT, Camp Galilee. The program will begin Friday, May 28 with dinner and conclude Monday, May 31 just after breakfast. The cost for the weekend is \$164.00 per person and covers all meals and lodging. Optional activities are provided by Galilee staff and will include guided short walks, kayaking excursions, evening stargazing, and a Sunday Eucharist. There will be plenty of time for personal reflection. Leadership will be provided by the Rev. Jim Beebe and Stuart Campbell. To register call 775-749-5546.

 Forward to a Friend

Christmas 2009



The mornings are dark, pitch black until after most of us have begun our days. The hints of dawn in the eastern sky, those streaks of rose and pink that promise more and brighter light, bring hope even in the dark mid-winter. Where do you look for that kind of hope borne on slim rays of light? Jesus is already abroad, even in the darkness. The hungry one fed, the street people who have their feet cared for, the humble and honored guest at your dinner table - each one offers a glimpse of that dawn, if you look closely enough. What we have waited long for, ages and eons for, has been born among us. He comes among us quietly, almost stealthily, in an obscure barn, long ago. This child holds all our hope for light. This tiny frame seems too frail to bear our yearning. Yet the nations come streaming to this light even before he is weaned. The divine has come to dwell in our midst, and God's eternal promise of peace, restoration, and home is made flesh.

Where and how will you seek out this light of the world? In what other frail frames will light expunge darkness? The light grows with our own eager searching, light reaching out to light, divine reflection yearning for its source. May the light of Christ light your way in the darkness, may his light spread through nations besieged by war and hunger, may we continue to search out his lighting the dark places of our own hearts.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church

Desert Angels Health Tip of the Week

Coping with Holiday Grief

You can and will get through the Holidays. Rather than avoiding the feelings of grief, let them surface. It is not the grief you want to avoid, it is the pain associated with the loss of your loved one. Grief is the way out of that pain. Grief represents our feelings, and mourning is our expression of those feelings.

Ways to express your grief - give it a time and a place

- *Pray before the Holiday dinner about your loved one.*



- *Light a candle for your loved one.*
- *Do a tribute online for them.*
- *Share a favorite story about your loved one.*
- *Go through family pictures with friends and reminisce about forgotten events.*
- *Have everyone tell a funny story about your loved one.*
- *At your place of worship remember them in a prayer.*
- *Chat online about them.*

ADVENT IV

An Invitation

"God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent us his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us... Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and let him - whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend - be our companion."

Henri J. M. Nouwen, Gracias! A Latin American Journal

Advent Prayer: "Lord, give us the grace to be counted among your "little flock." You often said to your disciples, "Be not afraid." May your message sink into our hearts and offer us merciful consolation and joyful assurances of your unending care and concern." Henri Nouwen

NEWS BRIEFS

Lent Soup/Salad Suppers at 6:00 PM on February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th in the vicarage. Worship Service at 7:00 PM, followed by Lenten Study, "Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God." Holy Trinity, Fallon

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fallon offers a Bereavement Support "drop-in" group the 2nd Monday of every month from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at the vicarage.

Two 8 week Bereavement Support sessions are also offered. One in the Spring (April 8th- May 27th), and one in the Fall (September 30th - November 18th) on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the Vicarage.

and

A "drop-in" Bereavement Group meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at CARES Cottage in Yerington (306 Surprise Street) from 1:00 - 2:00 PM

St. Timothy's, Henderson offers a Grief Support Group, both groups meet on the second and fourth Mondays and Thursdays of the month at the church. The groups are facilitated by hospice chaplains;

meeting times are: Mondays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 6:30 PM. The groups offer support for those who have experienced any sort of loss. 43 W. Pacific Ave. in Henderson.

Episcopal Recovery Ministries in Nevada is in formation and will have its first meeting at Diocesan Convention in October. If you would like to participate in this ministry, or have questions, please contact Kathie Knutson Meier at 253-250-953, or 702-684-6444. The national website is <http://episcopalrecovery.org>

The Bishop Wes Frensdorff School of Christian Formation: A new Education Venture of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. The school's mission is *To bring together all Nevada Episcopalians for Christian formation, empowering each other to live deeply into our Baptismal Covenant in our relationships, service in daily life, and witness to the world.* To learn more go to the new Frensdorff School of Christian Formation website: <http://frensdorffschool.webs.com/> You may contact them at: frensdorff.school@gmail.com

Please submit your news briefs to Clelia at garritycpg@gmail.com

Contact Information

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Ministry Quick Links

UTO
Put Your Faith to Work Ads
Episcopal Books & Resources
Global Good (MGD's) Camp Galilee
CDSP
Episcopal Diocese of Nevada

 Forward to a Friend

About Us

The Episcopal Diocese of Nevada embraces 6,000 members from communities throughout Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona in 34 congregations and 2 new faith communities. Our electronic newsletter service and print journal, The Desert Spirit, are provided to parishes and members free of charge.

Persons interested in the ministry of communications may contact [Barbara](#), [Hallie](#), or [Karl](#) to get involved.

Persons wishing to opt-out and not receive the electronic newsletter can simply unsubscribe by selecting the link at the end of this newsletter.

Changes to snail mail addresses for The Desert Spirit must be sent to the [Editor](#).

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