

JUNE 2022

THE SHAMROCK

Publication of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church



Summer is Here!

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Photo by Marty Gollery



Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As many of you are aware, our local community is struggling in several ways at this time. Although we are all ready for the beauty that is our summer season in Tahoe, there are many who are facing life here with fear and anxiety. Homelessness and housing insecurity is on the rise. I myself have already experienced such hardships, so this concern is close to my heart. We at St. Patrick's are discerning how we can not

only meet this need, but help to change a broken system. The work will not be easy. However, I am grateful we are beginning to gain some traction.

First, I have to express my gratitude for the work of United for Action, and especially River Coyote (Vestry 2022-2025), and Rev. Clare Novak, for their tireless energy towards this movement. They are organizing our community in ways we have never witnessed. United for Action is educating and advocating, so that together we can make a difference in our beloved Basin. If you are interested in getting involved, please email the church office.

Second, I am grateful that the local clergy of Incline Village gathered for the first time in years, specially to address the concerns around homelessness and housing insecurity. We prayed together, ate together, studied Scripture together, and collaborated upon possible ways we could work together. Every pastor understands how urgent this matter is. Right now we are discerning if we can jointly fund a program that would assist individuals and families with skyrocketing rental prices in our community. We at St. Pat's have set aside over \$72,000 towards this effort. Also, thank you to Mike Wang (Sr. Warden) and Lou McNerney (Treasurer), for a delicious breakfast for this clergy gathering!

The rise in rental prices is not only affecting residences, but also commercial businesses as well—especially our local non-profits. Several organizations have come forward asking about renting space on our campus. As we determine how we can continue to be good stewards of our beautiful space, how can we also be good stewards on behalf of others directly serving our community? Thus far, the leadership of the church has decided to rent out one downstairs classroom to St. Clare's Tahoe: A Montessori Catholic School, for the 2022-2023 academic year. The majority of their students will be on campus at St. Francis Catholic Church. However, there was not enough room for their Middle School program. When you see these students and teachers out and about beginning in August, please greet them warmly.

We are also in conversation with one other local non-profit about potentially joining us on our campus. This organization would occupy two downstairs classrooms, as well as include scheduled meetings potentially in the library or chapel. Welcoming new individuals onto our campus will of course have its growing edges. However, we believe expanding our understanding of what it means to be an intentional community, will not only create a stronger Incline Village but strengthen our congregation as well. We have seen such a realization blossom in regards to our relationship with Incline Village Nursery School.



Letter from the Pastor, cont'd

As the Vestry moves forward in these conversations, please do not be afraid to reach out to myself, your Rector, Mike Wang, your Sr. Warden, or Gary Thomsen, your Jr. Warden. And as always, please keep St. Pat's in your prayers as we continue to live into the phrase, "all are welcome."

God's peace and love,
The Rev. Sarah A. Dunn+

Letter from the Vestry

Your Vestry continues to look at both the long-term and short-term challenges to our parish and the community. For example, we are evaluating what we mean when we say we are "inclusive." How are we communicating the core value of the Episcopal Church, "All are welcome?" We see this sign at the corner of Hwy 28 and Village, but do people know and believe this about us as disciples? This demonstration of our faith and strength in belief will shape our activities, our outreach, and indeed our written and spoken word. We expect that to show this commitment both in inward-facing messages (such as the Shamrock) and public-facing messages such as our web presence and our physical campus. We expect that how we address the pressing issues of our local and regional community, and indeed some of the larger issues facing our society will require a deep commitment by this parish in the short-term and the long-term.

We are especially considering how we communicate inclusion with our siblings who identify as LGBTQ+. We at St. Pat's understand that we are a diverse community—generationally, politically, socio-economically, racially, etc; constantly growing in our theological understanding of current issues. Do we all believe exactly the same? No. However, can we grow in our love and understanding of one another through thoughtful conversation? Absolutely. We thank you for your patience as we continue to grow together.

Unfortunately, within our larger Christian tradition, not everyone has experienced, "all are welcome." Therefore, we as a Vestry are discerning: how can we help to heal some of the hurt our siblings in Christ have experienced? How do we communicate love and affirmation after such pain? This is how we as a Vestry have discerned we can begin to take steps forward in our conversation around inclusion and be a safe space for all of God's children

- Craft this Shamrock article to begin a conversation in our congregation about the Episcopal Church's understanding of inclusion.



Letter from the Vestry, cont'd

- Host a forum to discuss our scriptural and theological understanding as a denomination, in regards to our affirmation and celebration of LGBTQ+ siblings. Date and time: TBA
- Communicate on our website what we believe about inclusion as the Episcopal Church, U.S.A.
- Discern other outward expressions that relate that this is a safe community for all of God's beloved children.

Although we all are imperfect human beings, trying to grow in our imperfect love of one another, we pray that God sees and hears our intentionality in that love that Christ commanded at the Last Supper (John 13:35).

We continue to also pay attention to the physical needs of the church. We are close to committing money for installation of heating AND possibly air conditioning as part of our planned removal of the old boiler-heating system that we currently use. We think this is prudent given the heating breakdowns we've had over the past 3 winters. This decision is especially painful because there could be some life left in the current system but with the increasing frequency and cost of winter repairs, it seemed prudent to initiate modernization sooner rather than later.

Also being discussed, but not decided, was possible installation of an ADA- approved lift. Location and costs as well as need are a real concern so we are proceeding cautiously, but believe this is another way to communicate inclusion within our community. We want to be a campus where people of differing abilities feel welcome. And finally, as the parish has come to expect, needed maintenance activities including carpet cleaning, parish all cleaning and other upgrades will be underway during the summer and fall months when conditions allow. With the approach of warmer temperatures, we plan to begin using the deck for social events such as Coffee Hour (again weather permitting). You'll see the new umbrellas we purchased on the deck when we need them and when we move to the outdoor chapel. Also, we encourage you to join in on some summer fun as we Suzanne Gallery hosts "Holy Hikes," and we celebrate the return of "Mark Twain."

Outreach Committee

LEADERS: CONNIE SKIDMORE AND CHERRY BARNEY

**KAREN BARNEY, REV. SARAH DUNN, LENTY HAGEN,
GINNIE JED, MARILYN JOHNSTON, LUCILLE WANG,
SALLY WHITE**

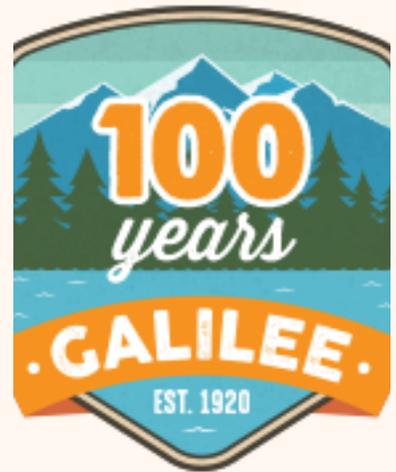
Financials: St. Patrick's sent \$375.00 to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

UFA: The Winter Warmth and Wellness event will be moving to November 5, 2022 at the North Tahoe Event Center. A pod on St. Francis' property will store contributions until then. Jenny Swoboda of St. Francis will be joining Meera in planning this event.

Café Conversacion: St. Patrick's began hosting the Café again in May 26th. The current session runs until XX

Workforce and Homeless Housing: UFA Representatives Clare Novak and Cathie Foley made a presentation to St. Patrick's parishioners to Sarah has been able to gather leaders of 5 Incline Village churches for a brunch meeting at St. Patrick's on May 10th to discuss how faith-based communities can relieve homelessness and the housing crisis.

Galilee Camperships: The Outreach Committee is currently collecting donations to sponsor local kids to attend Camp Galilee. So far \$2650 has been raised but more is needed! Please designate your donation for "Galilee Campership."





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2022

Holy Hikes

with St. Patrick's

Let's get out into the mountains with a fun and healthy fellowship opportunity!

Dates: June 12, July 10, Aug 21, Sep 18, Oct 9

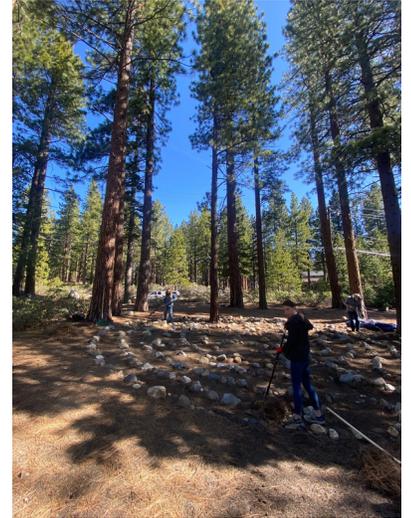
Hikes will be Sunday after church, with a BYO lunch on the patio before the hike. Carpool to the hike location and come back to St Pat's to retrieve cars. Plan on Noon to 3 or 4PM for the hike

All hikes are easy, no more than three miles and only easy terrain (no dramatic elevation change and no particularly challenging footing).

Contact office@tahoeepiscopal.org for more info.

Campus Clean-Up

We are so grateful for all of our amazing friends who assisted with campus clean-up! We were able to cut back more of the abundant manzanita on our property, especially around the northern parking spaces and along the East side of campus. We also were able to tidy up our labyrinth and outdoor chapel. Thank you everyone!



Clergy Gathering on Homelessness and Housing Insecurity



In May, the clergy of St. Francis Catholic Church, Cornerstone Community Church, the Village Church, and Open Door Foursquare Church, gathered in our sacred space to discuss how we can partner together to help to end homelessness and housing insecurity in our community. Although the conversation is not complete, we are hopeful that together we can work towards this goal. We are currently exploring a joint Rent Reduction Grant Program. Thank you to Lou McNerney and Mike Wang for our delicious breakfast!

Altar Guild Training

Ever wondered what the altar guild does? The altar guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards. Altar Guild members may also supervise the decoration of the sanctuary of the parish with flowers.

St. Pat's will be holding a training for anyone interested in serving on the altar guild. The training will be given by altar guild experts Viki Welling and Emy Gurowitz and we are so grateful to have them guiding a new group of altar guild members! Tentative date is Saturday, June 25th - stay tuned for more information.



Mass on the Grass

On May 22nd, the Episcopal churches of Northern Nevada got together to worship outside at Bartley Ranch in Reno. It was a beautiful day!



Donate to St. Patrick's and Save on Taxes

Are you taking required distributions from your IRA and want to save on taxes when you donate to St. Patrick's Church? Here's how:

You may have itemized deductions in the past, but you probably aren't doing so now. That's because the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act increased the standard deduction from \$6,500 to \$12,950 for single filers and \$13,000 to \$25,900 for married taxpayers that file jointly (for year 2022). About 90 percent of taxpayers use the standard deduction instead of itemizing. For those 90 percent, charitable donations of \$600 or less can be deducted but nothing more (for a joint return).

If you are over the age of 72 and have a traditional IRA, then you are required to take annual distributions. Those distributions count as ordinary income. Instead of directly donating to a charity, a better method is a "qualified charitable distribution." Under a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) the account owner sends the distribution directly from the IRA to the qualified charity. The donation counts toward the required minimum distribution (RMD) but isn't taxed as income. To make such a distribution you should talk to your financial adviser or IRA custodian. For a QCD, the custodian will either send the money directly to the charity on your behalf or will send you a check payable to the charity. Make sure the money isn't deposited to your personal account.

Note: it's too late for your 2021 return so focus on 2022 but you must make your distribution before year end. Qualified charitable distributions are a good way for some IRA owners to reduce their tax burden while helping their favorite cause. Best of all, charitable distributions can occur year after year!

Written by David Vomund - Independent Investment Advisor, Vomund Investment Management



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