



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY

Reaching Out, Touching Hearts, Changing Lives

April 2010

Rector's State of the Church

Address 2010

Part 2

Let's now for a few moments think of these patterns of life and words of Jesus:

Jesus assembled a group of 12 to begin his ministry ... "disciples" they were called ... another word for "learners" ... comes from the same word as discipline.

Jesus' ministry was to reach out to others and not just for people in his home town. In Paul's words, this ministry is to be accomplished in a caring, nurturing and loving relationship. And in the young Jeremiah, there is the message to build and to plant.

Jesus' first model of ministry was a small group. House groups were how the church began ... does this tell us something. Maybe that's the

core unit of doing church.

When two or three are gathered, I am in the midst of you.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You are the light of the world.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

We can do this Yes we can.

**Blessings and peace,
Father Michael+**

Senior Warden Rambles

Those of you who were able to attend “Linnea Good in Concert” held at our church on the 17th of March participated in an enjoyable evening by a very talented young woman. I sincerely hope that those of you who were unable to attend have an opportunity to attend one of her concerts in the future.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity is now a member of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce. The Vestry feels that our “presence” in Meridian will be enhanced through this association. We all need to strive to let our friends and neighbors know about our parish and this is just one step that is being taken toward that goal.

Thanks to Cindy Wolfenbarger for the poster showing the progress of our efforts to raise the additional funds that our parish needs to meet its financial goals for this year. She is keeping it up to date each week as the money comes in for matching funds, additional pledges and various fund raising projects that have been approved by your Vestry.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a listing of the upcoming fund raising projects. At our last meeting, the Vestry decided that the income from our fund raisers will go toward the retirement of our existing loans unless they are designated for another specific purpose.

Our Jr. Warden reports that our riding lawn mower has finally given up the ghost and needs to be replaced. Those of you who would like to help in funding a new lawn mower please talk to Clay Lisle and note on your check that it is for the replacement lawn mower.

I would like to thank all of you who have worked together to make our Lenten Lunches so successful. If there is enough interest, I believe that there is a real benefit to continue a noon luncheon once a month. Please make your interest known to any member of the Vestry.

We had the honor of Bishop Thom attending our Vestry meeting in February and the concert by Linnea Good. We know that he will be at Holy Nativity on the 6th of June when we will have a confirmation service. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourselves to our Bishop and make him welcome whenever you see him.

My thanks, along with those of the Vestry and the Treasurer, go to those of you who are keeping your pledges up to date. The Bishop was very surprised at the ability of our parish to come forward to help us meet our financial obligations. I truly feel a renewed commitment in our parish and look forward to this being the year that we have “turned the corner.” With the commitment of each of you, we will continue to grow and provide the opportunity to serve our community.

Robbie Robinson

Lenten Activities

Our last Lenten Lunch was held on March 25th.

We had a Wednesday Lenten program, The Cross—Journeying on the Way, every Wednesday from 7PM—8 PM

Meadow lake continues it's Sunday Gospel Bible Study (Holy Eucharist on the first Wednesday) 10:30 AM

Deacon Paula's Corner

Taking some R and R: Many of you are new to this parish and probably are not aware that this coming May, I will have been at the Church of the Holy Nativity as a Deacon for 21 years — and I've been a member of this parish for 29 years. This congregation is a major part of my life. Each Sunday, I celebrate the power of the love of Jesus Christ and see Jesus in you. This coming together in worship, ministry, and sharing has melted and molded me. Last May, as I stood behind the altar with Rev. Alice, I heard this small voice say, "Paula, you have been here 20 years; no wonder you're tired." At that point, I began a prayerful and discerning approach to taking a sabbatical. I will take six months off starting May 30, and I will return on November 28th, Advent Sunday. While on sabbatical, I plan to read and study the works of Thomas Merton. I have wanted to study his writing for a long time. These works were suggested to me by a dear friend who is no longer here. It is time I begin this journey. I wish to fill my spirit and find answers to questions and be at peace with my questions. My prayer is that we will all be refreshed and renewed. We cannot know God's plan, how he melts and molds us; we just have to be open to the process. You are all in my heart.

Love, Deacon Paula

THANK YOU! Thank you to all those who purchased pies, prepared food, and worked at the Lenten Lunches. God Bless You!! We raised \$650. Monies were donated towards shelves and storage for the Be Our Guest clothing area and the rest was donated for budget necessities.

Two Cents a Meal: We are banking those pennies everyone brings in for their '2 cents a meal' donation. At Christmas, the parish provides this money to school families to use toward Christmas. In the past years, our donations have added up to \$400. Save your 2 cents at home and bring your monies to church the first Sunday of each month. Our 2 cents make a difference!

Acolyte Training: Please call me at 376-8655 if anyone is expressing a desire to be trained as an Acolyte. I would like to hold a training session before the end of May.

Mother's Day Gift Shop: The Sunday before Mother's Day (May 2nd) is the gift shop Sunday. Children may come in, pick out a gift and it will be wrapped and ready for Mother's Day. The gift shop will be in the classroom off the gym. Older children assist the younger ones in 'shopping' and some ladies help with gift wrapping. Please be putting together little gifts or wrapping paper. We will start collecting in the gym the Sunday after Easter.

Thank you. **Deacon Paula**

HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE 2009 —THANKS!!

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HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE 2010—HOLD THE DATE!

As usual, the 2009 Holiday Dinner Dance was a lovely event. The Dinner Dance Committee would like to offer special thanks to the following people:

Rob & Ellen Spencer; Vince & Cheryl Mazzier – for making the incredible food happen. If we had to pay you for your culinary expertise, we could never afford you!

Michelle Munayirji – for donating your boundless creativity and supplies to make the decorations so beautiful.

Clay Lisle – for, once again, putting up and then taking down the beautiful lights that transform our gym for the holidays.

Alex Spencer, Marco Mazzier, Andre & Hiba Munayirji – for helping to bus tables, sell raffle tickets, and cheerfully performing various other chores that really helped us enjoy a wonderful evening.

2010 HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE -- HOLD THE DATE:

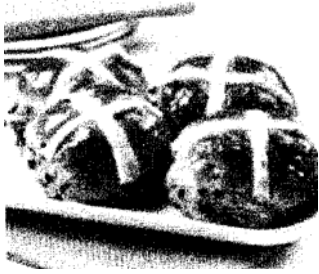
Saturday, December 11th, 2010: Please plan to join us for this lovely adult evening of food and fellowship. This event will be purely social; it will not be a fundraiser. Ticket price will include an amazing meal (probably prime rib and salmon), fellowship, dessert, music and dancing. Plan to bring your own wine and your holiday cheer. If you would like to help plan this event or have some marvelous ideas/comments that you would like to share, please call Anitra Townsend, 895-6691. See you there!

Holy Nativity Family Info April 2010

Upcoming Dates and Information.....

- Wednesdays April 7 & 14
 Be Our Guest Meal
 5:30—7:00 PM
- April 4 Easter Day & Youth Sunday
 6 Eucharistic Ministry Training
 7:00 PM
 15 Vestry Meeting
 6:30 PM
 21 May Newsletter Deadline
 22 Staff Meeting
 6:00pm

<i>Birthdays</i>	
<i>April 1</i>	<i>Jennifer Erickson</i>
<i>April 7</i>	<i>Morgan Harries</i>
<i>April 10</i>	<i>Betty Walker</i>
<i>April 12</i>	<i>Stephanie Wheeler</i>
<i>April 14</i>	<i>Vince Mazzier</i>
<i>April 15</i>	<i>Alyssa Santos</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Bert Myers</i> <i>Larry Harrelson</i>
<i>April 19</i>	<i>Clay Lisle</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>Andre Munayirji</i>
<i>April 25</i>	<i>Clark Ellensohn</i> <i>Jamie Reichel</i>
<i>April 26</i>	<i>Karen Ryker</i>
<i>April 28</i>	<i>Tim Domka</i> <i>Dennis Wolfenbarger</i> <i>Jane Dykas</i>
<i>April 29</i>	<i>Glenwood Robinson</i> <i>Katherine Townsend</i>
<i>Anniversaries</i>	
<i>April 11</i>	<i>Glenwood and Paula Robinson</i>
<i>April 30</i>	<i>Jerry and Donna Lofton</i>



CHN Hot Cross Buns and Easter Bake Sale

On the weeks leading up to Easter we were busy baking and selling hot cross buns for the Easter Holiday. Half of all the proceeds went to the Meridian Food Bank. In addition to the hot cross buns, on the Saturday and Sunday of Easter weekend we held a Bake Sale with an assortment of delicious goodies prepared by members of the congregation.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to help with the baking, selling, and purchasing of the tasty treats!

The total made was \$511.25

Greeter Program

In the fall we started having a “greeter” each Sunday to assist the ushers. They are to welcome worshippers, encourage wearing nametags, meet newcomers with a welcome bag, help them with any questions, show the guest book, introduce to parishioners, youth leader and Sunday School supervisor (if they have children), and invite them to coffee hour.

In the future we would like to have 2 greeters each Sunday so we could have one at each door. There is a sign up sheet in the gym if you would like to help with this ministry.

Anyone can be a greeter...all you need is to be here 15 minutes before the service, to be friendly and welcoming so people feel as comfortable here at Holy Nativity as you do!

Parish List Update

The Parish list is being updated. Please fill out a form and return to Cindy Wolfenbarger or to the church office. Newsletters will be will emailed to parishioners and available on the church website. Copies will be printed for those who cannot receive via email.

Contact:

Cindy Wolfenbarger

939-2275 cindywolf819@msn.com

Meridian Food Bank

Food banks are seeing an unprecedented increase in requests for food and supplies.

We here at Holy Nativity are asked to bring Peanut Butter
for the month of March.

Contact Vicki Weymouth with any questions or suggestions: 884-4167

All of the help, love and support that the congregation is giving is very much appreciated!

Linnea Good Concert

On March 17th our Church hosted a concert featuring the talented Christian singer-songwriter Linnea Good. It was an enjoyable experience for those who attended. With over 100 people attending, we made 40% of what came in for the ticket sales, which added up to \$421.20. We were also able to make \$66 in concessions at the concert.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday: Agape Meal and Foot-washing

We held a beautiful service with bean soup and wonderful fellowship that was well attended. Thank you to Deacon Paula and all the volunteers for setting up the fantastic table settings, the foot-washing stations, and cooking the meals.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross and Meditation Around the Cross

There were two separate services held on Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross and Meditation Around the Cross. Both were well attended.

Easter Vigil

Along with Grace Episcopal Church in Nampa, we held an Easter Vigil Service outdoors at the Amphitheater at the College of Idaho. Although the weather was cold, many people ventured out to attend, including some C of I students. It was a beautiful service with music, candle-lighting, renewal of baptismal vows, and communion.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity
828 W. Cherry Lane
Meridian, Idaho 83642-1619
Phone: 208-888-4342

SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:30 and 10:30 services
"Come and Celebrate"

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you for everyone who came on the Saturday before Easter to help out with stuffing Easter Eggs for "The World's Largest Easter Egg Hunt." The children's appreciation was evident in their passionate search for eggs.

Leadership Team

Bishop of Idaho: The Rt. Rev. Brian Thom,
345-4440

Rector: The Rev. Michael Canning
888-4342

Priest Associates: The Rev. Kuulei Green
The Rev. Larry Harrelson

Deacon: The Rev. Paula Egbert, 376-8655