



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY

Reaching Out, Touching Hearts, Changing Lives

March 2010

Rector's State of the Church

Address 2010

Part 1

Sisters and Brothers, followers of Christ ... we have had quite a few months together. These are challenging times for our church community yet they are also times of opportunity. It is a time for us to step up to the plate and deliver what Christ would want us to do in this place called Holy Nativity in the land of Meridian, Idaho. You will hear about our financial challenges in the areas of ministry in delivering our music and youth programs. I want you to seize these as opportunities to rise to the occasion.

The brand of Anglicanism that makes us distinct within the Boise area has been the music with its offering of both traditional and a more relaxed contemporary style and our youth programs. I am pleading with you to support these ministries through our efforts to reach a budget that is imaginative, stable and doable. These and the many other caring ministries are the key reasons why Holy Nativity attracted me to seek your rectorship.

People say that these can be done through purely voluntary services. I have been in situations where this has been the case and I can tell you with 25 years of experience that this is just not easy. Experienced liturgically grounded people do not just pop out of the woodwork. And both this and Time is required to make these programs sing.

Examine times when there have been calls here at Holy Nativity to come out and clean our property when only 4 people show up or when programs are offered and the same thing happens or when we have to set up for events and the same thing happens. The "many" need to become more involved so that the few can be refreshed and renewed. **We can overcome this tradition of the many not getting involved ... Yes we can (and with new developments YES we Did.)**

Several statistics bear mentioning:

- ◇ A minimum of 1% of the population have no church affiliation That means that in Meridian (depending on which figures you go by) at least 565 people are unchurched
- ◇ Usually you can expect that 1 in 16 that walks through our door will stay And if they know someone all ready that can make all the difference in dropping that ratio

One of the battles we have as institutional religions is that there is a growing interest in other faiths in the US as pointed out in the Harris Poll found in the Idaho Statesman (Saturday, Jan 30, 2010. . .Page C4). Interest in Spirituality is Up but not necessarily in institutions.

Blessings and peace,

Father Michael+

Senior Warden Rambles

At our Annual Meeting, postponed from the 17th to the 31st of January, you elected Clay Lisle as Junior Warden along with Gladys Clymens, Megan Dembi and Jock Hewitt to the Vestry. You also elected Mary Dallas, Marilyn Friling, Jock Hewitt and Cherie McCandless as Diocesan Convention Delegates with Clarissa Canning, Linda Gibbs and JoAnn Myers as Alternate Delegates.

I was very pleased to see good participation in the discussions on our budget and what people wanted Holy Nativity to be doing in both the short and the long term. Alice and Tom Mayes offered to match donations up to \$5,000.00 and Jock Hewitt offered to do the same thing. Therefore, we have a challenge to donate \$5,000.00 which they will each match. That amount will let Holy Nativity move toward a positive budget, something that has not happened the last few years. Our thanks go out to Alice, Tom and Jock for their offers. The budget that was adopted contains an expenditure of \$181,449.68 which allows Holy Nativity to retain our Music Director, Youth Minister and Janitorial Services. To date, we have 66 pledges for a total of \$130,555.00 for the 2010 year. Since this represents about half of our “pledging family units”, we have a ways yet to go. Again, I ask each of you who have not pledged to consider doing so, even if it is only \$1/week. Each and every dollar puts us that much closer to our goal.

Your Vestry is organized into three main functions with Vestry members having assigned responsibilities for sub-functions. Father Michael oversees the Worship (Megan Dembi), Christian Education (Michele Munayirji) and Outreach (Deacon Paula Egbert). Clay Lisle, Jr. Warden looks after Buildings (Matt Wheeler) and Grounds (Mark Holleron). The Sr. Warden works with Membership (Gladys Clemens), Fellowship (Jock Hewitt) and Finance (Cheryl Mazzier). Many of these functions contain sub groups or committees such as Altar Guild, Welcoming, Stewardship, Building Usage, etc. If you have an interest in learning more about the functions of Holy Nativity and would like to volunteer to help, please contact the Vestry member who is in charge of the area where you would like to volunteer.

I, like the majority of you, do not like to hear constantly about the fact that Holy Nativity is in need of additional finances. Believe me when I say, if we can meet our goal early, then you will hear no more.

I would also like to urge you to invite your friends and neighbors to join you in worshipping at Holy Nativity. We are very lucky to have the facility, a new Rector and dedicated people in the congregation. We have a great potential to be the finest church in Meridian, but we need more people to share in our good fortune. Ask, you might be surprised how easy it is to “sell” Holy Nativity.

Robbie Robinson

Lenten Activities

Lenten Lunches are on each Thursdays until March 25th.

Wednesday Lenten program: The Cross—Journeying on the Way 7PM—8 PM

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

Paula's Corner

Correction of Christmas Outreach

The actual amount donated to South Middle School from the 2-cent a meal monies and the donation from the Advent Festival was \$250.00 (not \$25.00). The total money the congregation donated to the schools was \$450.00.

Lenten Lunch

On February 18, 2010 Holy Nativity served it's first Lenten Lunch. This fund raiser runs each Thursday of Lent. The lunch of clam chowder or soup, salad, garlic bread and drink is served from 11:30AM to 1 PM. Please come and have lunch in a homey atmosphere. We are charging \$5.00 for lunch without dessert and \$6.00 for lunch an dessert. Please consider helping either by working a the lunch or helping to supply the food. This was out first experience. I pray God will Bless this endeavor. It seems a perfect spot and a nice service to the community around us. You always learn something when serving in God's name. This week I learned how to turn on the convection oven, how to urn the dishwasher, and how to flip the breaker in the switchbox. Praise the Lord!!!! Call me to help with lunch at 376-8655.

Take Good Care of Yourselves as Lent Begins

I pray that my dear brothers and sisters here at Holy Nativity will take time to apply the healing balm of some "self love". We work hard, we given of our time, talents and monies. Most of us have multiple opportunities to forgive and forget and we have done so. For this Lent, let us not keep our faults in the forefront, rather let us thank God for who we are, what we have learned, and this gift that He offer us. Our Father, who formed us in the womb, who knows every word of mouth before we speak, is very much aware of our "excess baggage". He is also aware of our heart's desire to serve Him. Thank God for your whole story — who you are, where you've been, all the hills and every valley — then take in the healing balm, love yourself as a child of the King, believe in yourself as He believes in you, and leave the excess baggage on the road side.

Thank you. Deacon Paula

Heavenly Humour

A monastery had a beautiful garden enjoyed year after year by monks and bees alike. The new young new monks, however, felt they had no time for gardening, they were too busy with more important things. The garden gradually became an overgrown mess.

The chief gardener surveyed his once beautiful garden with sorrow. A passing bee saw how sad he was and asked him what was wrong.

"Well," said the monk, "there are very few flowers left in our garden for you to enjoy and I regret to have to say that the Rabbi's garden down the road has much bigger and sweeter-smelling flowers for your enjoyment."

"Oh thank you," said the bee. "I'll go there tomorrow and come back to let you know how I find it."

The next evening, as the monk sat on his favorite bench in the overgrown garden, in buzzed the bee — wearing a yarmulke on his head!

"Good gracious!" exclaimed the monk. "Have you converted for the sake of a better garden?"

"Oh no" said the bee. "But while I was among strangers I didn't want anyone to think I was a WASP!"

"From Ralph Milton's RUMORS, a free Internet 'e-zine' for Christians with a sense of humor."

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HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE 2009 —THANKS!!

&

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!

MARCH 2010

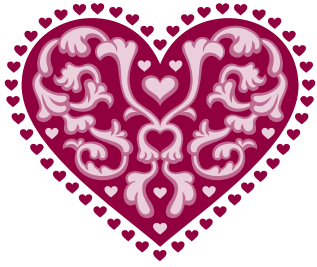
Sunday	1 Monday	2 Tuesday	3 Wednesday	4 Thursday	5 Friday	6 Saturday
<p>28 Lent 2 Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM</p>	<p>1 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Via Media Inquiry Class</p>	2	<p>3 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sun Gospel Bible Study with Holy Eucharist at Meadow Lake 15:30-7pm - Be our Guest 27:pm - Lenten Program 3Journeying on the Way</p>	<p>4 11:30am-1pm Lenten Luncheon 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	5	6
<p>7 Lent 3— Youth Sunday 8:30 AM - Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Order of St. Luke's Meeting 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist No Sunday School ... Nursery Available</p>	<p>8 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Via Media Inquiry Class</p>	9	<p>10 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sun Gospel Bible Study at Meadow Lake 5:30-7pm - Be our Guest 7:pm - Lenten Program Journeying on the Way</p>	<p>11 11:30am-1pm Lenten Luncheon 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	12	13
<p>14 Lent 4 — Generosity Sunday 8:30 AM 8:30 - Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM 10:30 - Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>15 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Via Media Inquiry Class</p>	16	<p>17 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sun Gospel Bible Study at Meadow Lake 7:30:pm — Linnea Good in Concert</p>	<p>18 11:30am-1pm Lenten Luncheon 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Vestry 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	19	20
<p>21 Lent 5—Gospel Sunday 8:30 AM 8:30 - Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM OSL Meeting 10:30 AM 10:30 - Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Sun School</p>	22	23	<p>24 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sun Gospel Bible Study at Meadow Lake 7:pm — Lenten Program Journeying on the Way</p>	<p>25 11:30am — 1pm Lenten Luncheon 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	26	27
<p>28 Palm Sunday—Outreach Sunday 8:30 AM 8:30 - Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM 10:30 - Holy Eucharist 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Sun School</p>	29	30	<p>31 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sun Gospel Bible Study at Meadow Lake</p>	<p>APRIL 1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM—Service</p>	2 Good Friday 12:noon 7pm	3 Holy Saturday 11pm Easter Vigil at College of Idaho Amphitheatre, Caldwell
<p>4 Easter Day / Sunday 8:30am Holy Eucharist 10:30am Holy Eucharist</p>						

Holy Nativity Family Info March 2010

Upcoming Dates and Informtion. . . .

- Wednesdays** March 3 & 10
 Be Our Guest Meal
 5:30—7:00 PM
- Thursdays** March 4, 11, 18, & 25
 Lenten Lunches 11:30—1 PM
- March 7** Youth Sunday
- 17 Linnea Good in Concert
 7:30 PM
- 18 Vestry Meeting
 6:30 PM
- 24 April Newsletter Deadline

<i>Birthdays</i>	
<i>March 1</i>	<i>Gladys Chymens Kendra Johnson</i>
<i>March 2</i>	<i>Joshua Galdabini</i>
<i>March 3</i>	<i>Doug Harries</i>
<i>March 4</i>	<i>Linda Ipaye</i>
<i>March 5</i>	<i>Harmon Avera Jessica Erickson Amanda Maneck Ellen Spencer Anitra Townsend</i>
<i>March 6</i>	<i>Maria Mazzier</i>
<i>March 7</i>	<i>Joey Rowell</i>
<i>March 9</i>	<i>Aspen Rochon</i>
<i>March 12</i>	<i>Peter Olsoy</i>
<i>March 12</i>	<i>Elizabeth Smith</i>
<i>March 15</i>	<i>Nicholas Galdabini</i>
<i>March 17</i>	<i>Alicia Johnson</i>
<i>March 19</i>	<i>Brandon Bunch Scott Erickson</i>
<i>March 20</i>	<i>Taylor Bunch Ian Miles</i>
<i>March 21</i>	<i>Travis Saine</i>
<i>March 25</i>	<i>Clarissa Canning</i>
<i>March 28</i>	<i>Brian Fendley</i>
<i>March 30</i>	<i>Susan Saine</i>
<i>Anniversaries</i>	
<i>March 25</i>	<i>Bert & JoAnn Myers</i>



Love was In the air

On Sunday, February 14 (Valentine's Day) we held a Bake/Gift Sale at the 10:30 coffee hour. The ladies provided yummy baked goods, beautiful baskets and live flowers. The Congregation proved to be lovely shoppers. The best part was the love evidenced by the children buying gifts for their mothers (at reduced prices some times).

Our profit for the event was \$248.52, which will go to provide shelving for our clothing ministry at the "Be Our Guest Meals".

Thanks to all who gave of their time, talents and money. We love you All!!!

Gladys Clymens

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 in Concert

Join us on Wednesday, March 17th at 7:30 p.m. here at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity to hear contemporary Christian singer-songwriter Linnea Good.

Enjoy gorgeous melodies, powerful piano playing and engaging stories. Admission is \$12/adults, \$6/child or \$30 for a family of 4. For reservations, call 208/888-4342 or email office@churchoftheholynativity.org.

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"

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