SEARCH FOR NEW BISHOP OF NEVADA BEGINS

by Candi Jones, Chair Search Committee

Here we go again – on the roller coaster ride of discernment for a new Bishop for the Diocese of Nevada! The Search and Transition Committees have been appointed and both committees met with the Standing Committee for two and one-half days the first weekend in December. Search and Transition have received our charges (what each committee is responsible for) from the Standing Committee and both committees have set a basic work-in-progress calendar for seeing that these duties are carried out, and carried out on time. While the Search Committee is aware that it is faced with a daunting task to offer a slate of nominees by the October Diocesan Convention, we are prepared to do everything humanly possible to meet that deadline. This is not a guarantee – no one knows what challenges lie ahead nor are we privy to Our Lord’s plan in all this -- but we are hard at work and will continue to be.

The committees are dedicated to keeping the members of this Diocese informed as much as possible during this process. Obviously, there will be confidential information that cannot be shared under any circumstances. But the procedural information and the status of that procedure can and should be shared with anyone who is interested. To that end, we will be using various media options including Desert Spirit and the diocesan Web site (www.nvdiocese.org; click on “What’s New?”, then click on Bishop Search Process).

Each parish will soon receive information regarding the need for focus group meetings to be held in January. Each group is to answer four questions and return that information to the Search Committee by the first of February.

...see BEGINS on page 4
ELECTING A NEW BISHOP
by The Standing Committee

The election of a bishop is an event of major significance in the life of our diocese, and of the whole church. The office of bishop represents both the historical preservation and the present empowerment of ministry and mission in church and world. The bishop is also an important sign of unity and community for all the people of God.

We believe that God works with and through the actions and processes of human beings as they attempt together to understand and to be faithful to God’s call. Our nomination, selection, and election processes and procedures are tools through which we conduct our leadership discernment efforts.

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells the Church and that God the Spirit will help us call forth a person to lead and to help us to order our individual and communal spiritual lives, in this diocese, at this point in our history.

As we move prayerfully through these discernment processes, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show love and care for those with whom we come into contact. We will seek to be open to the issues and concerns of all our members; we will endeavor to be pastoral and personal with all who may be nominated at whatever point in our procedures.

We earnestly request the prayers of the diocese as we move through this challenging and hope-filled period in the life of our diocese.

THE EPISCOPACY
Prepared by: The Rev. Sandra Oetjen for the Diocesan Search Committee

NOTE: This article helps us all to focus on the role of our next Diocesan leader, who we will be electing at our convention in October. We all have a part in this selection beginning with Focus Groups which have been scheduled around the Diocese this month. Plan to participate - The Search Committee.

It is not an accident that the church to which we belong is named the Episcopal Church USA rather than the Anglican Church of the USA. To understand this and to understand the role of bishop in our midst we will take a brief look at the formation of bishops and their relationship within the development of the Episcopal Church.

The word episcopacy has its origins in the Greek for “watcher” or overseer. The concept of church leader appears in an assortment of locations in the New Testament. Depending on the scripture translation, words such as leader, bishop and overseer can be found. For example, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 define the role of the church “bishop”. The NRSV translation contains such ideals as “sensible”, “respectable”, “hospitalable”, “not violent, but gentle”, “not quarrelsome” and “well thought of by outsiders so that he may not fall into disgrace”. These characteristics may still be appropriate today!

In the Book of Common Prayer, Preface to Ordination Rites (page 510) the following introduction is offered:

“The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostles’ time, there have been different ministries within the Church. In particular, since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ’s holy catholic Church. First, there is the order of bishops who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church...

It is also recognized and affirmed that the threefold ministry is ‘a gift from God for the nurture of his people and the proclamation of his Gospel everywhere.’ Thus, the role of bishop (leader/overseer) begins in our very early Christian history.

The Church grew within the Roman Empire, but when the empire collapsed, the church remained. To preserve the church, bishops (appointed by Rome) became the financial and spiritual connection between Rome and the local churches. However, resistance to papal authority grew.

Within the time of turmoil of the Reformation, the church in England separated itself from the church in Rome for political, rather than theological reasons. The bishops of the church now found themselves serving by appointment of the crown, not the pope.

By the time colonization of the New World began, the English church was functioning under a common Prayer Book. As colonists continued to arrive in the New World disagreements about the level of oversight from the crown, the need for bishops, the use of the Prayer Book and a multitude of theological differences developed. Bishops were still mostly on English

...see EPISCOPACY page 3
FRONTIER DISTRICT
Rev. Jody Lediard reports that the Frontier District will meet Feb.24, June 2, and August 11, 2007. All meetings are held in Eureka at the Opera House. Becky Young and Rev. Richard Sims are the co-conveners.

WORLD MISSIONS
JoAnn Roberts Armstead, Christ Church, Las Vegas was appointed to the Standing Commission on World Missions. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies met with the newly appointed CCAB’s (Committees, Commissions Agencies and Boards) in Chicago Illinois on November 15 – 18, 2006. JoAnn’s term expires in 2012.

PRISON MINISTRIES
The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) has set the volunteer training schedule for 2007. All training sessions are scheduled on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in order to accommodate people who work during the week. Pre-registration is required for attendance, contact Nancy Derloshon at (775) 887-3249 or nnderloshon@doc.nv.gov. The Rev. Dr. Jane Foraker-Thompson, NDOC Chaplain also sent a reminder to volunteers that training must be updated every three years and TB tests now must be renewed annually. If you fail to update your TB test, your name will be removed from the Volunteer List even if your training is current. Chaplain Jane can be reached at either (775) 887-9287 Mon,Tue, Fri, or at jforakerthompson@doc.nv.gov.

EPISCOPACY from page 2...
We have established that the role of bishop has its origins in the New Testament and that bishops have traveled many paths, through a multitude of difficulties to bring us to where we are today. However, the basis of the bishops role is unchanged.

A bishop is a leader and overseer, responsible for the well being of the Church. The Examination of a Bishop (BCP pages 517 - 520) provides some of the following charges:

1 “...to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and interpreting the Gospel...”
2 “...guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church...”
3 “...be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.”
4 “...share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your heritage is the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to God in hope.”

Well, here we are in search of a bishop who will be called by God to serve this Diocese and the larger church with the history and commitment of so many that have gone before. Our prayers are with this process and those who feel called to respond.

NDOC VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULE
Las Vegas volunteer training will be held at Casa Grande Transitional Housing - 3955 West Russell Road. January 20, 2007
March 17, 2007
May 19, 2007
July 21, 2007
September 15, 2007
November 17, 2007

Northern Nevada volunteer training will be in the NDOC administrative offices, Stewart Facility Building 17. The street address is 5500 E. Snyder Avenue, Carson City. January 27, 2007
February 17, 2007
April 21, 2007
June 16, 2007
August 18, 2007
October 20, 2007

Pre-registration is required for attendance, contact Nancy Derloshon at (775) 887-3249 or nnderloshon@doc.nv.gov.

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES
Mark your calendars! The Rev. Wayne Muller is coming to St. Peter’s in Carson City on March 16-18 for the fourth annual lenten lecture series. Best-selling author Wayne Muller will lead an experiential workshop, Touching the Divine, focusing on engaged spirituality and spiritual formation. For more information and registration, please contact Lois Johnson at (775) 882-1534, or by email at loisj@stpeterscarsoncity.org
STANDING COMMITTEE CREATES JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
AN INTERVIEW WITH JON PAUL DAVIDSON

Rev. Jon Paul Davidson has been appointed chair of the Joint Communications Subcommittee (JCS), formed to report on progress during the Search for our next Bishop. Jon also serves on the Search committee, and he kindly answered several questions for the Desert Spirit shortly after the initial meeting of the Bishop Search Committee in December.

DS: What is the Joint Subcommittee and what is it doing?
JPD: At the first gathering of the Search Committee on December 1-3, it became obvious that all 3 groups meeting together will have some information to share with the entire Diocese about our Search Process. Everyone felt that a single subcommittee could do the best job of it. [The JCS] is composed of a representative from the Transition Team, one from the Diocesan Council, some other skilled professionals in the Diocese and, of course, the editor of the Desert Spirit. Because I am a member of the Search Committee, I am that group’s representative on the subcommittee.

DS: Why is Communication an important part of the Search Process?
JPD: The Standing Committee wants to avoid any impression of “back-door” meetings. They want this entire process to be “transparent.” Of course there will be confidential material about the candidates, but everything else will be clearly visible and “on the table,” throughout.

DS: There is not much time before the 2007 Diocesan Convention when it has been announced that our new Bishop will be selected; has the search process actually begun?
JPD: Indeed it has! The process began December 1 when the selected committees met together for a 3-day retreat at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Lake Tahoe. Members of the committees were commissioned at a publicly announced Eucharist that evening in St. John’s in the Wilderness Church, Camp Galilee.

DS: When do you anticipate some candidates for us to consider?
JPD: The first step in the process is the creation of a Profile for our Diocese. The Profile is primarily intended to help the diocese learn about itself - its wholeness based upon the sum of its parts. If we first accurately describe WHO WE ARE, we can then more clearly discern, as a Diocese, the person who is the right fit to be our next bishop. The Profile also serves as inspiration for potential applicants who, themselves, are trying to discern whether they are called to be the Bishop of Nevada. We will not be even receiving names until the Diocesan Profile is completed and shared with everyone in the Diocese and then sent out widely. At that time, we will welcome the help of anyone who can assist getting the information in the Profile to those who might become candidates.

DS: What process will you follow to create this Profile?
JPD: Many things go into the Profile. We begin with the results of recent meetings around the Diocese where some discussions about Galilee and Camp Galilee also serve as inspiration for potential applicants.

According to the Canons

By diocesan canon, the Search Committee must consist of 3 clergy and 3 lay persons. The Transition Committee contains more members from Southern Nevada, as we expect our new Bishop to live in the Las Vegas area, where the diocesan offices and staff are located. More people will be recruited as the work of the committees and subcommittees progresses and additional needs and skills are identified.

A consultant for the Search process has also been hired: Suzanne Foucault of San Diego. Bishop Clay Matthews, who heads up Bishop search activity in the Office of the Presiding Bishop recommended her and she has recently assisted the Dioceses of California, San Diego, Chicago and Olympia call their new Bishops. Please include all the members of these committees in your prayers. They have a large and important work ahead of them. The committees began their journey with a retreat on December 1-3 at Lake Tahoe, facilitated by Suzanne. A Holy Eucharist and Commissioning of the Committees was held at 7 PM Friday, December 1, at St John’s in the Wilderness, camp Galilee.

The Chaplain has a significant role in working with both committees to facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit and to reconcile any difficulties or conflicts that may arise in the course of their work. The Chaplain is not an official member of either Committee. The Standing Committee thanks all those who submitted nominations, as well as those who expressed a willingness to serve. With only 12 committee seats, there were many qualified people who were not selected. Additional volunteers will be needed to staff positions on the subcommittees, so you may still be called to serve. Subcommittee membership invitations will be issued after the initial meeting on December 1-3. Thank you for your patience and support.

The Standing Committee

visit the diocesan website at www.nvdiocese.org/BISHOPSPAGES/SEARCH/_SearchDir.htm

Search and Transition Committee Members

Search Committee:
 Candace Jones, Chair, St Paul’s, Sparks
   The Rev. Red Sims, St Bartholomew’s, Ely
   The Rev. Jon Davidson, Incline Village
   The Rev. Sandy Oetjen, All Saints, Las Vegas, Deacon
   Pat Seay, Grace in the Desert, Las Vegas
   Carolyn McCarroll, Christ Church, Las Vegas

Transition Committee:
 Pamela Radke, Chair, St Matthew’s, Las Vegas
   The Rev. Shep Curtis, Coventry Cross, Minden
   The Rev. Kay Rohde, St. Christopher’s, Boulder City
   Karen Weires, St. Timothy’s, Henderson
   Harry Allen, Christ Church, Las Vegas
   George Watson, All Saints, Las Vegas

Chaplain: The Rev. Julius Rogina, Trinity, Reno will serve as Chaplain to both committees

BEGINS continued from page 1...

We know this is a short timeframe but it is vital that we receive this information to include in the Profile. There will also be an online version of the same questions for anyone who is unable to attend one of the focus group meetings.

Please pray for the process and for each member of the Search Committee and Transition Committee (listed elsewhere in this issue). This is a spiritual endeavor – we are not looking for a chairman of the board but for a spiritual leader who will support each of us in living out our various ministries.

God bless each of you as we enter the season of Epiphany – not coincidentally, a perfect time to celebrate new beginnings!
**Steps Involved in the Bishop Search Process**

(Dates of each to be announced)

1. **Diocesan Focus Groups To Prepare Profile**
2. **Publication Of Diocesan Profile**
3. **Applications Open**
4. **Search Committee Telephone Interviews – First Selection**
5. **Search Committee In-Person Interviews – Second Selection**
6. **Announce The Discernment Of The Final Nominees**
7. **Petition Process Is Open**
8. **Petition Process Closes**
9. **Candidates Make Visits To The Diocese (“Walkabouts”)**
10. **Final Discernment Election At 2007 Diocesan Convention**
11. **Consecration Of Our New Bishop**

**We have established a special email address to receive input, comments and suggestions from parish members from all over the state.” JPD**

NvBishopSearch@gmail.com

**JCS continued from page 4...**

the strengths of our Diocese were covered. During the month of January, the Search Committee is conducting “Focus Groups” in the urban areas of the Diocese, and some other places where concentrations of under-represented members of the Diocese gather. At these meetings we will discuss our expectations, opportunities and issues we feel need attention among us. From those gatherings, the Committee will distill “Who we are as a Diocese.”

Additional Statistical information and history about Nevada will be added to round out the picture. How about those in the small rural parishes which are more numerous our Diocese?

JPD: The Search Committee actually spent a good deal of time addressing this issue and we decided to also make the same questions used in the Focus groups available on the internet. We much prefer the input to come from Focus Groups where several people will be meeting together because those participating will have the opportunity to hear one another’s concerns and consider other points of view. There will also be lots of opportunity during those sessions, to ask questions of the members of the Search Committee directly.

DS: Will the Focus Group participants be able to see the tabulated results of their input?

JPD: We will not provide the raw data, but the Search Committee’s conclusions from what they hear and what they read from the internet responses will be incorporated in the Diocesan Profile. We will try to post reports of the focus groups on the Web site as they happen, and there will then be an opportunity to ask questions of clarification. Copies of the Diocesan Profile will be sent to each parish for distribution. The Profile will also be published on the Diocesan Web site (www.nvdioce. org ---select WHAT’S NEW and then the button on that page for BISHOP SEARCH PROCESS).

DS: It sounds like a lot of information during this process will be communicated via the web; How about those who don’t have web access?

JPD: I think we are all being surprised with how ubiquitous the web has become in our culture--and in such a short time. It is profoundly changing the way we get and share information. Our committee has considered that question, and will be looking at it throughout the process. We’re fortunate in Nevada that every library in the State has free internet access. Those who do not have access at home can always go to the local library. The Search Committee is even leaning toward publishing the entire profile as a web site and then sending it out on compact disks (CD’s). It is important to a church on the forefront of our culture that our spiritual leader be conversant with today’s digital technology and open to the evangelistic opportunities as well as the economies for our frequently isolated parishes by using this technology for Diocesan Communication and meetings. Because of this, we don’t think that Web publication will present any disadvantages for applicants that are right for our Diocese in today’s world.

DS: Can those who don’t have CD drives in their computer see the Profile as well?

JPD: Oh yes, of course. Any web page can easily be printed and photocopied in either color or monochrome and some of our parishes will choose to distribute it that way. It is important to realize that nothing is “in cement” at this time as we are now engaged in what is clearly a very important part of the process, but it is only the beginning. The Search Committee is entirely committed to the “transparency” request of the Standing Committee and we have established a special email address to receive input, comments and suggestions from parish members from all over the State.

JPD: I encourage its use. Someone in the Search Committee will pick up any emails there at least once a day, and we have committed to reply within 3 business days, so that you all can be a part of the process as we go forward.

DS: Many of our parishes are now holding annual meetings and electing delegates to our October convention. What role will the delegates have in the process?

JPD: The elected delegates from each parish will have a decisive role at the convention! The Search Committee is only attempting to narrow the choices so that the discernment of those who represent our parishes in October will have a comprehensive task of making the final decisions. It is important that those who are nominated from the parishes realize their key role in this whole process.

DS: I very much appreciate your talk to the “transparency” request of the Standing Committee and we have established a special email address to receive input, comments and suggestions from parish members from all over the State. NvBishopSearch@gmail.com

JPD: We will not provide the raw results of their input?

DS: Will the Focus Group participants be able to see the tabulated results of their input?

JPD: Yes. The Focus Group participants will have the opportunity to talk with you. Leadership of this Diocese. Thanks importantly a process of discerning the will of God’s Holy Spirit for the leadership of this Diocese. Thanks for the opportunity to talk with you.

*Desert Spirit* - Jan 2007
Excerpts from meeting notes recorded by Deb Beebe

A dozen youth from nine parishes met with nearly as many adult leaders from at least six parishes and the DC members at Galilee the first weekend of December in a groundbreaking event for the ministry of youth in the diocese. Candid conversation gave way to creative brainstorming and vision work, resulting in the dissolution of the Youth Council and decision to start afresh. Due to short notice, Central on Frontier Mission Districts were not represented, however, several members of the Youth Council were present and identified.

The questions and answers that follow lend insight to our continued development of a diocesan youth program and are excerpts from Deb’s meeting notes.

We broke into groups with listening partners and answered the inquiry: **What would you like to see happen for youth in the Diocese of Nevada?** Responses included: programs for both entry level youth and youth leaders, leadership training, year-round excitement, partnering, more opportunities, variety of transportation, a youth van, youth voices in the Diocese, common goals.

On Saturday the group described what a successful Youth Ministry would look like. The responses follow:
- The youth get together and have time to check-in with each other, “What’s going on with you?”
- Mission trips out of the country
- We work on the MDG’s
- We share resources for programs that work in each setting
- Ecumenical events - Jesus Party
- Communication Network to connect people and resources
- TEC Weekend excitement continuing throughout the year
- Youth and Adult partnerships
- Entry-level training
- Programs that are not personality dependent
- Organized transportation for events
- Big Shared project
- Youth Empowerment and Voice
- Conversations between youth and adults in decision making
- A continuum of planning and activities for younger youth through young adults
- Do it! Follow through

Then the group rotated through 5 questions. These questions and the summary of the responses were as follows:

**What resources make a youth program great?** Leadership, support, people, money, activities, time

**What do you want your church youth program to be known for?** Creative, can handle turnover, vision, leadership, momentum sustained all year, diversity, safe, supportive, love, service, fun, good food, people who are compassionate, intelligent, excited, kind, happy, and energetic

**What prevents your church from having a successful youth ministry?** Lack of youth, money, organization, commitment, spiritual emphasis, compromise, motivation, controlling adults, time constraints, lack of activities

**What is youth ministry for?** Fun friendship, activity, community service, helping others, love, compassion, faith, Jesus time

At this point the group drew a picture of Youth Ministry. After much discussion the diagram was made with 3 joining circles: one represented adults, one for youth, and one for resources. Where the three circles joined the three ‘parts’ became as one, dubbed the Trystin square. The lines represented the barriers that keep the three from being as one. Barriers were identified as those things that prevent the vision from becoming reality.

To continue this vision for Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Nevada and to take it from vision to reality, the group decided that defining the Youth Council and its functions, composition, policies would be the best place to begin. After some discussion, the group voted unanimously to dissolve the existing Youth Council and begin anew. They listed...
CALLED TO BE CLAUS
By Santa Claus

I am a Christian Monk as St. Nicholas was many centuries ago, and my legal name is Santa Claus. Every experience, good and not so good, throughout my life has prepared me for the myriad aspects of “being” Santa.

Thanks to God for the many gifts and blessings I’ve received, I am able to, to some degree, children who are abused, neglected, exploited, homeless, abandoned, or institutionalized. That’s two million children, one out of every 37 children under 18 in the U.S. this year. This is my calling and my journey that has become a unique, national outreach ministry of St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church at Lake Tahoe. I am grateful to God, many clergy, and friends who continue to shepherd me along my path.

More than a half century ago, my family lived in New York City. We were middle class; however, we managed to live in an upper class neighborhood, for a while. My parents instilled a certain sense of unconditional love in my sisters and brother and me that has served us well, especially me. My parents, and their parents, had a genuine affinity for everyone. We learned and believed, early on, that everyone has his or her gift or gifts. In trying times, we gravitated to those who understood, and sometimes shared, our loss. They all shared their time and stories with us and comforted us. They loved us.

In them, I saw whom I came to know was God, working little, daily miracles, revealing the kindness and compassion of folks I sometimes barely knew. I’ve practiced what I learned way back then: smiling, saying a kind word, offering a gesture of respect, giving a bit of encouragement, and – most of all – expressing love. God calls us to love Him and one another. Love is the greatest gift we can give.

We all share that calling. I was blessed to have learned it early on in life. I also survived a trauma when I was very young and learned to forgive at an early age. Most people I know say that unconditional love and forgiveness are the two most difficult life lessons to learn, especially later in life. I did not learn those lessons in church, although I am a lifelong Episcopalian. I received those blessings through adversity and by the grace of God who revealed Himself in people I knew well and those whom I barely knew. We all are ministers.

I recall that the Episcopal Church stood up and helped women and minorities in the 1960’s fight for their rights; and I see the Episcopal Church today addressing equally important social and spiritual issues. The church presents an opportunity to become involved – to love.

Mark 10: Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.
E -Words for E – Episcopalians
By Rev. Paul Colbert

There are three primary e-words that come to mind to challenge our thinking in the E-piscopal Church. No – not e-mail or e-bay. Rather, they are Epiphany, Enthusiasm, and Evangelism – yes – THE dreaded e-word.

Epiphany is the first green season in most of our minds. However, the readings in the daily office and the Eucharist show us ways in which Christ has been revealed or manifest in the world. They are a challenge for us to look at ways in which Christ is present in our own lives today. They are a challenge for us to make Christ’s presence known in our broken world. Epiphany has a lot to do with world mission, but it is often too easy to think of that mission as being somewhere else, rather than in our own back yards and with our neighbors.

Enthusiasm is not normally associated with Episcopalians. I fact I think many would think of Eeyore as a better descriptor of our attitudes, especially when it comes to talking about our faith and relationship to Christ (Do I have to?). The root of the word comes to us from Greek – en theos – of God. To be filled with enthusiasm is to be filled with God. I think that we sometimes allow the words exuberance, exaggerated excitement, and emotionalism to take the place of enthusiasm, and that scares us off.

Evangelism is the big word that scares most of us. As a “pre-natal” Episcopalian, I fight the notion that “all who ought to be Anglicans, already are”. It is a deadly syndrome that prevents reaching out and sharing our life in Christ. Evangelism is a matter of sharing the Good News or the Gospel of Christ. It can be a matter of telling the “old, old story”, as the hymn says or it can be a matter of telling the new story of how Christ is present in our lives today and is making a difference in our lives.

If people can not see Epiphany or manifestation of Christ in our lives, or if they can not see that we have enthusiasm, and are filled with God, they will not respond to Evangelism and will not see a need to “Come and See”, which is how Jesus invited Andrew into his circle of friends. Women in first-century Israel were defined by their role as bearer of their husband’s offspring and their function as a sexual release for their husband. Jewish literature tended to characterize women as unclean, sexual temptresses. Intellectual initiative on the part of women was not encouraged in Rabbinic Judaism. While study of the Torah was one of man’s highest priorities, it was considered a sin for a woman to do the same. Due to woman’s lack of intellectual ability, she was also barred from the role of witness. (Direction (1999), Winnipeg, MB)

Perhaps, if we turn to Jesus’ approach to women for guidance, we might find some relevance what Christianity expects role of women to be. Although Jesus did not systematically spell out his teaching on women, his manner of treating women demonstrated his personal attitude toward them. The implications of his encounters with women point to the role he expected them to assume as equal partners with men. Some of the greatest encounters ever reported in the Gospels between Jesus and women are: Jesus with Mary Magdalene, Jesus with the Samaritan woman, Jesus with Martha and Mary, Jesus with the woman who had a problem of bleeding for 12 years and many more….

But my favorite one is in John 8:1-11 about “The woman caught in adultery”. This passage strikes me a lot because I can see how some scribes and Pharisees brought that woman as a scapegoat and sought arguments with the Lord Jesus Christ. One observation is that Jesus bent down twice and wrote on the ground at the questions of the scribes and Pharisees - do you know why Jesus bent down or sat on the ground? Indeed, “to sit down” and not to call a woman by her name but rather by saying “Woman!” were the customs in the NT to show respect to a woman! And here was a woman, disrespected, accused and rejected by the respected people in the Jewish authorities, surprisingly given respect by the Lord Jesus Christ. Isn’t that amazing? I think it is.

To me, the most challenging question of all times is found in verse 7 where Jesus asked, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone …”. This is the verse that can certainly be the most challenging one to all condemnations, to all restricted rules, to all laws that command to the “do not…” to the whole humanity today. There is no doubt that Jesus’ challenging question brings liberation, justice, compassion and peace to the marginalized. The feminism of Jesus is also justified with so many other examples of Jesus with other women as well as other people who were considered to be unclean and marginalized in the Gospels.

I continue to pray that for the truth to continue to be proclaimed in the midst of our Church and that the truth shall set all marginalized free (John 8:32) and for justice to triumph.

You Can Help a Child in Kenya
by Melvin Stringer

We have just finished celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, and giving gifts to family and friends. Do you realize how Blessed we are to be able to give gifts to others rather than worry how we will be able to pay for our child to go to school, find clean water, or find food for the family? As a result of speaking at the Diocesan Convention in October All Saints in Las Vegas donated $705 to support an orphan at St. Nicholas Community Development Centre and Rev. Jane Foraker Thompson committed to supporting 3 girls at the Ukia Girls’...see CHILD page 9
CHILD, from page 8...

Secondary School. Both facilities are supported by Anglican dioceses in Kenya.

On February 5, 2007, I will be leaving for Kenya to visit the six schools that the non profit group I help found, Kenya K.E.E.P, is working with to help educate children in Kenya. During the visits I will be paying school fees for those children who have sponsors and buying textbooks and food for some of the schools from other donations. If you or your church would be interested in sponsoring a student or helping a school by purchasing textbooks or food please visit our website, www.kenyakeep.org, for more information and to fill out the form telling us how you would want your donation used. When you decide to sponsor a student you will receive a picture, biographical information, grade results, and occasionally a letter.

If you have any questions, please email me at melvin@kenyakeep.org or call me, 702-263-3279.

Thanks for the Grace!
By Hallie Murphy, Editor

First of all, my sincere apologies to folks who sent materials for publication in the fall – there were some great submissions from all over the state that did not get published, but the Desert Spirit is back in print for 2007. Hallelujah! I hope you enjoy the informative materials and fresh format. Other changes for 2007: six issues are scheduled for bimonthly publication, with each edition planned for 8-12 pages, and the subscription rate needs to increase from $9.00 to $12.00 per year to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

The mission of the Desert Spirit has not changed: as the diocesan newspaper, its aim is to inform and inspire Episcopalians across our diverse state. The paper is but one aspect of a much broader communications ministry within the diocese, consisting of meetings, mailings, educational opportunities, email, and the website just to name a few. Your comments, opinions, articles, and pictures are all important aspects of this ministry to Episcopalians throughout the diocese. I hope to hear from you as well.

An Everflowing Stream

In our baptismal vows (BCP p.305) we respond affirmatively to the question, “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people?” Let us prayerfully live out these vows. The Rev Jim Kelly, President, Standing Committee.

Reaffirming the Church’s historic commitment to strengthen public education (G.C. 88’ 94’ and 00’)

Looking at “Engage God’s Mission – Policy for Action”, I was pleased to see the Church’s positions taken to “Strengthen Public Education. I have been an educator in Nevada for 45 years and am a strong supporter of the public education system. It seems to me that the great educational leader, Ernest Boyer, put it very well several years ago in a taped conference held by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, February 1988:

“In many communities the school is the most stable institution to be found in America today. The family is far more troubled than the school and increasingly we expect the schools to do what the home, the community and the churches have not been able to accomplish. I am suggesting that the public school in this nation is a connected institution. We can not have an island of excellence in a sea of indifference and confusion. If we want quality in education we should not just focus on the schools but on the social pathology that surrounds the campus and invades the classroom every day.”

Unfortunately we are at a time when it has become fashionable to participate in that age-old sport of school bashing. Politicians, business leaders and columnists alike seem to have nothing better to do than to bash the social institution that is probably the most stable in our society. I am glad to see that the Episcopal Church has taken a positive stand on education. We should all go out of our way to commend, encourage and support those who are in the field of education. Working positively with government and civic institutions to strengthen the public schools is vital for the health of our nation. Those who propose voucher plans should realize that this will weaken the public school and increasingly widen the societal gap in our nation. Recent studies show that public school students perform equally or better than private and charter school students. I also support keeping a Constitutional balance in treatment of the “moment of silence” statutes and maintaining the separation of church and state to insure freedom of religion.

I have three suggestions for supporting public school education:

1. The most vital step is to maintain and expand the reduction of class size. The overwhelming research shows what all of us in education already knew – that reducing class size does improve student achievement.
2. There is an ever-increasing inequality among public schools based on the socio-economic level of the community. If we really want to “leave no child behind” we must focus on insuring a truly equal educational opportunity which includes both physical facilities as well as instruction.
3. In order to attract highly qualified people into the profession we must do what business does: pay teachers better and treat them as professionals.

Rev. David Mussatti Ed.D. is an Episcopal Priest (St. Patrick’s Incline) and a Professor Emeritus in Education at Sierra Nevada College. (If you are interested in being a member of the Nevada Social Justice Network please email Annette Mills at millsr007@aol.com.)
The NAAD 2007 conference “Being There; Mission for a New Millennium” will be held June 21-24, 2007 at Seattle University, Seattle, WA. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will deliver the keynote address on Friday, June 22. The 2007 conference offers an exciting variety of opportunities for continuing education, fresh ideas for ministry and networking to expand your vision for mission in the new millennium. The conference opens with a reception on Thursday, June 21 at 5 pm and continues through Sunday, June 24 at 10 am. The conference site is Seattle University near the downtown area.

Conference Workshops
Cafe’ of Hope, Facilitator: Karen McCarthy Casey, founder of Inspired Actions.

The Deacon in the Liturgy, Presenter: The Rev. Janet Campbell, Episcopal priest and Director of Liturgy and the Arts at St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle. God’s Servants on Both Sides of the Wall: Prison Ministry. Presenters Pam Armstrong, ordained into ELCA and a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Bremerton, WA. John Barnes, counselor at McNeil Island Prison and pastor affiliated with Assemblies of God Church. Terri Lolcama, member of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Olympia, WA and postulant for the Diaconate. Each has been involved with prison ministry for more than 10 years.


REGISTRATION FEES: Include conference programs, lodging, meals, parking and sales tax plus one ticket to the Tilicum Village Banquet. Payment must be received no later than MARCH 1, 2007 to qualify for Early Bird rates.

Single Occupancy $550 Early Bird $600 after March 1 Double Occupancy $420 Early Bird $ 470 after March 1 Commuter/Off Campus $310 Early Bird $330 after March 1 For Off Campus Housing, the Silver Cloud is the nearest hotel (1 block) 206-325-1400. Information regarding transportation from /to airport will be included with registration confirmation. Registration forms are available in the diocesan office, contact Barbara Lewis at b.lewis@nvdiocese.org or (702) 737-9190.

The first annual Province VIII Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Development Conference, “Greeting, Growing and Giving: Life Transformed by Water and the Spirit” will be held March 23-25, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street, Sacramento, California. Congregations are encouraged to send a team – as Rick Warren puts it, “It takes a team to fulfill a dream.” Conference and hotel registrations are separate. The conference fee (before 1 Feb 2007) is $275, late registration after 1 Mar 2007 is $295: registration information is available from Brian Nordwick, Diocese of El Camino Real, PO Box 1903, Monterey, Ca. 93942 or via email at province8@edecr.org. In order to obtain the hotel conference rate of $112 plus tax (parking not included) per night (single/double), attendees must call (800) 465-4329 and use code “UUU” by February 23, 2007. Our Nevada contact for the conference is the Rev. Paul Colbert, pcolbert@peacenet.org.

“The first annual Province VIII Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Development Conference, “Greeting, Growing and Giving: Life Transformed by Water and the Spirit” will be held March 23-25, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street, Sacramento, California. Congregations are encouraged to send a team – as Rick Warren puts it, “It takes a team to fulfill a dream.” Conference and hotel registrations are separate. The conference fee (before 1 Feb 2007) is $275, late registration after 1 Mar 2007 is $295: registration information is available from Brian Nordwick, Diocese of El Camino Real, PO Box 1903, Monterey, Ca. 93942 or via email at province8@edecr.org. In order to obtain the hotel conference rate of $112 plus tax (parking not included) per night (single/double), attendees must call (800) 465-4329 and use code “UUU” by February 23, 2007. Our Nevada contact for the conference is the Rev. Paul Colbert, pcolbert@peacenet.org.

“Off the Charts!”
A conversational editorial on the Diocesan Convention, 2006

According to more than one reliable source, Katharine was subject to a few comic skits on Saturday night…..reports of two ladies warbling “Jr. Birdman” while wearing goggles of a sort… the Dick Schori monologue…..and some heartfelt and moving presentations balanced the jovial atmosphere at the convention banquet held in Katharine’s honor. Dorothy Ramsdell described the convention weekend as “off the charts!”

The convention itself held to the work at hand, electing volunteers to various positions and engaging in fruitful dialogue around the budget. But it was clear that our fellowship had deepened, with pockets of exclusivity giving way to inclusive and affirmative relationships throughout the diocese. The atmosphere was described as “welcoming.”

Folks from CDSP, Jerry Campbell and David Gortner came and shared their gifts of knowledge and fellowship with delegates and guests…. International Development Mission with Deb Stiver and Melvin Stringer set up a lovely display, and eagerly engaged in passionate discussion about their ongoing mission work in Kenya…. The African American Fellowship delegates engaged others in dialogue around theological reflection….and EfM Diocesan Coordinator Michele Turner communed with fellow EfM-ers and bishop’s staffers over a home-town lunch at Heidi’s. Delegates and guests from far and wide converged at the banquet on Saturday night to celebrate Katharine’s communion with the people of our diocese and wish her a fond farewell.

Three persons were also ordained to the Transitional Deaconate during a celebration of the Eucharist on Friday night…. Dan Lediard, Susanne Methven, and Sherryl Netzler received the blessing of the Bishop and the affirmation of the people of the diocese. The arduous road to ordination complete, our new leaders look ahead and realize “the end is only the beginning”. Amen – WORD!
GALILEE WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

By Rev. Betty Ihfe

A hearty welcome greeted the three new members of the Galilee Board of Trustees at their November meeting held at Galilee. Membership on the Board is dictated by the Diocesan Canons which provide for terms of three years on a rotating basis. Nominated by the Board and affirmed by the Bishop is Pat Arnold. Pat is a member of Trinity in Reno. She is currently the Director of Sales at the Marriott’s Residence Inn in Reno and in that position has garnered several impressive performance awards. Some of her other career responsibilities have included positions as Director of Customer Relations, Director of Marketing Programs, Director of Reservation Sales and Regions Sales Manager. Pat has spent over twenty-four years in the travel and hotel industries and in joining the Board of Trustees brings that experience and her skills to Galilee.

Elected by the delegates at the Diocesan Convention in Fallon in October were Christina Frederick and Suzanne Gollery. Christina has had a long association with the Episcopal Church. She and her family are members of Grace in the Desert in Las Vegas having participated in the establishment of that parish from its beginning in 1990. She has served in almost every position at Grace in the Desert in Las Vegas. Christina has been active in the Episcopal Church. She was equally involved in her previous parish, St. Matthew’s in Mariposa, has attended camp at Galilee for the past two years.

Suzanne and her family have been active members of St. Patrick’s in Incline Village since 1998. She is an adjunct professor and laboratory manager at Sierra Nevada College teaching a variety of courses in the field of biology. She currently volunteers with several youth groups in Incline Village. Her experiences include many years as a camper and counselor with the Camp Fire Girls in Arizona and as a troop leader at a Girl Scout camp in the Sierras. Her daughter, Mariposa, has attended camp at Galilee for the past two years.

Pat, Christina and Suzanne complete the ten-member Board. The other seven members are Barbara Goss from St. Stephen’s, Reno, The Rev. Dn. Betty Ihfe from St. John’s in the Wilderness, Glenbrook, The Rev. Eric Lawrence from St. Michael and All Angels, Wadsworth, Peg McCall from St. Stephen’s, Reno, Dick Schori from Church of the Epiphany, Henderson, John Smith from Trinity, Reno and Ben Turner from St. John’s, Glenbrook. The Board meets six or more times during the year to conduct the business of Galilee and achieve its mission to the Diocese.

Galilee’s newsletter, The Galilean, is produced twice a year in May and November. If you do not receive one in the mail and would like to, please leave a message with your name and mailing address at ResidentDirector@GalileeTahoe.org or at 775/749-5546.

Along the Way

By Rev. Lionel Starkes

An article written for and originally published in St. Matthew’s October newsletter

Recently I have been exposed to a new ministry that has terrific potential for making a difference in the lives of young people. It is the offshoot of a social problem where candidates for office will promise to be tough on crime and lock criminals away. I am one for order in the society, just punishment for offenders and rehabilitation, not just warehousing. I want there to be an attempt to change the behavior of the incarcerated / inmate so that they will be more productive to society when they are released. I think we as a society need to look at alternatives to just locking non-violent offenders up.

My eyes and heart have been opened and I now know that families and loved ones do time with the incarcerated person. When an offender is locked into prison to do time this also locks up the family, children, and even parents into a personal prison and they “do the time” with the inmate. For the children, there may be a family secret that no one else is supposed to know. There may be acting out at school. There may be the anger that they are unable to discuss and they may find themselves looking for a father/mother figure to bond with. I was unaware of this aspect and they and family are also doing time, although they were free.

I was invited to come and be a part of a camp for children who have a parent incarcerated. The camp was during the week of August 13-16 at Camp Galilee, our Episcopal camp and retreat center on Lake Tahoe. The camp was open to children 6-18 years of age and their parent(s). The camp and the transportation were free due to a grant. The camp’s name was We Care. (The camp’s name belongs to another organization, we discovered, so it will have to be renamed.)

The day normally began with a thirty minute chapel session at 7:30 am, followed by breakfast and closed with a sharing around the campfire and prayer at Prayer Point. Lights were to be out between 10 and 10:30 pm. Of course there was giggling and story telling that went beyond lights out. During the day there were arts and crafts, swimming, a daily trip to the camp store for candy and soda/ Gatorade; discussions, skits, games, and very valued time to play on the playground equipment.

These young people had a chance to let go and just be kids. They were with other kids who had the same or like experience: a parent locked up, being in foster care or being in juvenile detention. They could talk about their experiences and know they would be listened to and understood. There were no put downs and if a child had problems we were there to sit and listen to them. We could not solve their problems but we could give them our time, listen to them, give them encouragement and a hug if needed. As a staff we adults had to be careful not to be alone with a camper and cognizant of other rules regarding the interactions of children with adults. Yet, this did not detract from our caring for the youth and being there for them.
The Rev. Lionel Starkes

Thanks be to God!

Camp We Care.

know more please talk to me about being incarcerated. If you want to

ing and renewal. I will go to camp
time. Galilee can be a place for heal

place where the youth can run,

place like Galilee for their children:

parents will also be glad there is a

Camp Galilee as the youth write to

Care, the beauty of Lake Tahoe and

waves of the lake. What a wonderful

thousands of starts in the sky at night

water is crystal clear. You can see

California. It is quiet place and the

it was shared with these youth from

This was my first camp experience

at Galilee and I’m glad the beauty of

23 boys and girls, plus three par

YOUTH, from page 6...

attributes they felt council members

needed to have for the Youth Coun-
cil to run effectively and success-

tually: to be actively involved in

the life of the church, good listen-

ing skills/communication skills, reli-

able, responsible, works well in a
group, flexible, skilled in conflict
resolution, organized, will follow through with planning, passionate about youth,
positive attitude, someone who can

network, and has an ability to relate
(but not overly so) with youth.

In conclusion, the group goal is to

complete the “reconstituted Youth

Council” by the April meeting. Then

that council will be responsible for

further developing the Youth Ministry

in the Diocese of Nevada using the

vision guidelines from this work.

For information or to contact some-

one in your area, visit http://www.

nvdiocese.org/YOUTH/index.html

By Sharon Scott

I think everyone already knows about

the UTO, and then someone comes

along and says, “What does UTO

stand for?” UTO is the United Thank

Offering for the Episcopal Church. It

is an offering that comes from thank-

ful giving. We are grateful that we

UTO coordinators from 107 dioceses

of the Episcopal Church participated

in the Convention Eucharist and Ingathering on June 17. The

plate offering at the Eucharist was

$20,624.15, which was used to fund

additional grants.

We ran into a friend that we don’t get
to see often and were discussing the

UTO. She smiled and said, “Do you

know how I collect my UTO mon-

ey?” “I place a blue box on top of the
dryer in my laundry room. Whenever

I find money in pockets it always go

into the blue box. Come Ingathering
time my blue box is full!” Don’t you

love the creativity of people!

The mission statement of the United

Thank Offering: Expand the circle of thankful People.

To achieve this mission, we en-
courage daily prayers, offering and

awareness of the abundance of God’s

blessings.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us

with any questions or thoughts.

Bill and Sharon Scott

3565 Brighton Way

Reno NV 89509

scott.1star@worldnet.att.net

775-323-3019

CARE, from page 11...

It was a wonderful experience and

23 boys and girls, plus three par-

ents, had a wonderful carefree time.

Galilee was healing balm for a few
days and a place where the youth
could just be kids. Perhaps this time

at Galilee will help them in their deci-

dion making in the coming days. It

is possible that experiences at Galilee

may change some behaviors and in

years to come save some of the youth

from jail time or being incarcerated

(locked up in prison).

As I stated at the beginning of this

article I’ve been introduced to a new

ministry and it is my hope that I can

spread my enthusiasm throughout the

Diocese. I know that we will have a
table at convention and I hope we can

make a presentation about this week

at Camp We Care.

This was my first camp experience

at Galilee and I’m glad the beauty of

it was shared with these youth from

Northern and Southern Nevada and

California. It is quiet place and the

water is crystal clear. You can see

thousands of starts in the sky at night

and the sir is chilled by the dashing

waves of the lake. What a wonderful

place to be in as you set trouble aside

for awhile and just enjoy living.

I know there will be wonderful

stories told of the time at Camp We

Care, the beauty of Lake Tahoe and

Camp Galilee as the youth write to

their incarcerated parent. I know the

parents will also be glad there is a

place like Galilee for their children:

a place where the youth can run,
scream, swim, and just have a good
time. Galilee can be a place for heal-
ing and renewal. I will go to camp
again next year and probably years

after that and I hope my time will be

helpful in keeping some youth from

being incarcerated. If you want to

know more please talk to me about

Camp We Care.

Thanks be to God!

The Rev. Lionel Starkes