

FEBRUARY 2022

THE SHAMROCK

Monthly publication of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church



ASHES TO GO

March 2, 8-9am & 12-1pm

Drive through ashes with Rev. Sarah, right outside the church office door. Enter via the Village Blvd entrance and exit via the alleyway to Northwood or Alder..

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

March 2, 5:30pm

All ages are welcome to join us for hybrid worship (both in-person & on-line), as we gather in the style of the Taizé' community: including times of silent prayer and meditative singing.

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Lent is Almost Here!



Letter from the Pastor

Sarah—striving to be a disciple of Jesus, following in the footsteps of the God who is Love, preaching the good news—, a fellow pilgrim on the journey,

To the church of God that is in Tahoe, residing upon the sacred land of the Wašiw, named after the beloved St. Patrick, who saw the Holy amidst the beauty of creation, to those who gather together on this Sunday when we reflect on all of the blessings and hardships of this past year, and dream together of all that God might have in store for us, to those who themselves are following in the footsteps of the God who is Love:

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, from Christ our Redeemer, and from the Holy Spirit who continues to sustain us even in the most difficult of times.

My dear friends, have I told you lately, that I love you? Have I rearticulated the abundant gratitude I feel for each and every one of you? Do you know just how special you are? Because you are. Every day I am amazed at the fortitude and resiliency of this beloved community. For the last two years have been far from easy.

We have lost cherished friends who have been more like family, due to death, moves, and the liminal landscape that is this pandemic world. This last year alone we witnessed our beloved Balfreys and Brusts permanently relocate to more temperate climates. We said goodbye to a dear pastor and pilgrim on the journey, the Rev. Jim Kelly. And we have seen several fellow parishioners choose not to return during this particular wilderness.

Not only have we experienced these losses, but we have had to constantly deal with an every changing climate in regards to this virus. We stepped into the sun of hope this summer, only to be pushed back into the dim of surges this fall and winter. Yet you continue to show up, whether it be online or in person. You continue to be Christ for one another. You continue to grow and challenge yourselves and each other.

You truly are striving to be the Body of Christ in this time and place, no matter how uncomfortable it might be. And love, the kind of self-sacrificial love Jesus modeled in his life, death and resurrection, and the kind of love Paul speaks of in his letter to the church in Corinth, well... it can be quite uncomfortable at times. Can't it? Because it requires us to stretch ourselves, recommit ourselves, and sometimes reinvent ourselves.

Take today's Gospel reading from Luke: Jesus was back in his hometown of Nazareth preaching the good news of love, proclaiming that the prophecy from Isaiah had been fulfilled. A few verses earlier and just last Sunday we heard the words:

Letter from the Pastor cont'd

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

We hear that God in the form of Jesus the Christ, came into this world to restore the world. To return to world to right side up, where it had been upside down, to preach the transformational power of love of God and love of neighbor.

Yet, the people gathered in the Synagogue that Sabbath day in Nazareth did not want to hear this message. They did not want to reconsider who they had been excluding. Did not want to own the fact that love is really hard, and that we have to constantly strive for it day in and day out. So instead, they rejected the message of love and cast Jesus out.

Love is hard, y'all. Love is far from easy. Love is the most difficult thing we will ever do, and the only thing in this life that is truly worth pursuing.

Love is what binds us together, even in the most difficult of times.

The love of this church, is what called me here almost five years ago. My friends, we are far from perfect, and yet, I truly believe we, the people of St. Patrick's, are striving to live into God's message of love.

"Love is patient; love is kind," and you have modeled that with one another. When wildfires encroached upon our beautiful Basin, you called each other, making sure each parishioner had a plan in place for evacuation. You supported one another and quelled each other's anxieties. You gave in abundance to funds helping those who had been displaced or who had to leave to escape the suffocating smoke.

"Love is not.. arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way." You have been humble enough to reconsider how we are utilizing our campus in a way that welcomes all people, in a way that is reflective of Jesus' radical message of inclusivity. We were blessed to welcome back to our sacred space, Sierra Community House and their feeding ministry, as well as Tahoe Family Solutions and Café Conversacion.

You labored in love to create an outdoor space that was more hospitable for our community—expanding the outdoor chapel to host a diversity of events this past year, from 8th grade graduations, to music camps, from Mark Twain, to more than one wedding. And you are continuing to consider how that space and our whole campus can be more accessible in the future, more inclusive of all of God's children.

Letter from the Pastor cont'd

And the love that was outpoured for our community, also feeds us as a congregation. Praise God for the ability to worship amidst the glory of creation. For the grandeur of the pines, for the sweet singing of the birds, for the sacred moments shared in a simple Sunday Eucharist, in a confirmation service—bringing four friends formally into the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement—, and in the blessing of the animals in the fashion of beloved Francis and Clare of Assisi.

You have recognized that love is a lasting legacy. “[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” It is a legacy that we as disciples of Christ pass down generation to generation. And we see that love growing and blossoming in our young people—from Simple Gifts summer sessions and a Family Weekend at Galilee, to a community Trunk or Treat and our annual holy commotion that is Christmas Camp. I also might have a bit of a bone to pick with Paul in his thirteenth chapter of the first letter to the Corinthians. Although I understand his metaphor today in growing from adolescence into adulthood, I would have to argue with him that our children speak with grace and wisdom day in and day out, teaching adults in turn how to better be the Body of Christ in this time and place. Possessing the outstanding ability to cut through the cultural biases and stereotypes we adults have grown into, and reminding us through their words and actions, that it is all about loving one another.

My siblings in Christ, we have done amazing things this past year in the name of the God who is Love. And also, the work of that love is not yet complete. For that love will continue to refashion us, remold us, and reshape us. Because every beloved child of God we welcome into our community will bring a new perspective, a different dream, for how we can be Christ’s hands and feet in this time and place. This work of love will not continue to be easy, but the things that are worthwhile in this life, usually aren’t.

And yet, we achieved all of these accomplishments, not alone, but with God’s help. With the God who loves each and every one of us. With the God who loves each and every human being, animal, amiba, that walks, crawls, or wiggles across this earth.

I continue to be in awe of how God’s love, working through us, can do more than we can ask or imagine... What might that more look like in 2022? What dream might become a reality if today we once again recommit ourselves to the love of God? Onto whom might we be called to outpour God’s love?

I praise our Maker that in this beloved community faith, hope and love abide. Yet we all have been witnesses that the greatest of these is love. My friends, may all that we do be done in love.

I, Sarah, am grateful to be your pastor, rector, and friend, and will continue to walk this way with you.

Letter from the Vestry

After their election at our annual meeting, it's time to introduce you to your new Vestry members!

Elected to 3-year terms (2022-2025) were River Coyote, David Vomund and Mike Wang. They succeed Cindy Boudett, Mike Wang and Karen Colbert whose terms ended in 2022. We want to especially thank Cindy and Karen for their service as they completed 2 3-year terms! They will be missed.

You elected Gary Thomson to fill the term of Bob Brust through January 2023 and Geoff White to fill out the term of Kathryn Krivan through January 2024.

Elected as officers of the Vestry: Gary Thomsen, Junior Warden; Connie Skidmore, Clerk, and Lou McNerney, Treasurer. Rev. Sarah chose Mike Wang to be Senior Warden and continue his service with her through 2023.

Continuing in their role as Vestry members are Daniel Gollery, Kay Lehr, Nora Beauchamp, and Steve Barney.

We are sure that 2022 will provide us with challenges, and opportunities for fellowship, outreach and growth! Join us for the ride!



Lou McNerney



Geoff White



*River Coyote
(with Suz and
Sweet Pea)*

Sale of the Hammel Condominium: Potential for an Endowment at St. Patrick's Church

With the recent finalization of the sale of Sally Hammel's condominium, it seemed timely to describe some of the thoughts concerning how the church can invest the realized funds in a manner that honors Sally's legacy, her wishes and the future needs of St. Patrick's. As you may imagine, there are many views about how we should steward these funds. Some have suggested investing all the realized funds in an endowment, while others have suggested that we invest some significant funds into supporting programs for workforce housing. Many have noted that there is a need to dedicate funds into repairing and upgrading the church and rectory given that both are well over 30-years old and showing signs of age.

As with many such decisions, no one view can, or should, take precedence because all the views that have been (or will be) expressed, have value. In other words, your thoughts and concerns, when consolidated into a consensus, will likely guide the vestry's actions.

In general, suggestions we have heard thus far fall into a few basic categories:

- Fund the Sally J. Hammel Endowment at St. Patrick's Church that would support the work of St. Patrick's church in perpetuity. The endowment would have as core objectives to support the long-term vision and needs of St. Patrick's church while at the same time serving the needs of the regional community. In other words, the endowment would benefit the church and the surrounding community. One guiding philosophy would be to invest in a manner that is socially acceptable while keeping the principal amount intact.



Hammel Estate Update Cont'd

- Fund needed capital investment in the Church and rectory. The church infrastructure is showing signs of wear. For example, a more permanent solution to annual boiler design and operation needs to be explored. Similarly, some of our community members are limited due to lack of elevator access. As we considered including all of God's children, the lack of hospitality in this regard has become apparent. Some cosmetic improvements have been noted as well the need for improved campus access and storage. For the rectory, it seems clear that we need to put on a garage door and passageway is a necessity for safety and appearance.
- Retire the Rectory debt and allocate the remaining money to fund campus needs, outreach and an endowment.
- Fund current and future ministry. There has been discussion of some of this income helping to support a family ministry revival, knowing that this season has been especially difficult on our young families. Also, very much front and center in our community's mind is the current housing crisis. How can we support our neighbors experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, not just at this time, but into the future as well? There is discussion of designating funds now to help with this endeavor, as well as designating future income from a possible endowment.

Thank you all for your wisdom and invested interest in how we utilize such Divine abundance. Thank you to Sally, for this lasting gift on our beloved community. And thank you to the Vestry, who is approaching this as discernment, as a time for spiritual reflection. Praise God for such abundance, and may we continue to be good stewards of all the blessings the Holy One has bestowed upon us.





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Christmas Pageant

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HAMILTON

Email
office@tahoeepiscopal.org
for the link to join!

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS is an exciting new Lent course, inspired by the musical Hamilton. We will discuss what the Bible and the experience of Christian faith teach us about some of the big issues faced in the musical: response to injustice, adversity, and temptation; search for identity, and the realization that we can make a difference in the world. **THURS 9pst/12est**

MAR 10 'My name is': Identity & Belonging

MAR 17 'Rise up': Ambition & Temptation

MAR 24 'The unimaginable':
Forgiveness & Redemption

MAR 31 'We'll bleed and fight for you':
Love & Sacrifice

APR 7 'The Story of tonight': Hope &
Courage through Adversity

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