

The Parish Visitor

published by St. George's Anglican Church, Las Vegas, Nevada
and Holy Trinity Anglican Mission Church, Henderson, Nevada

ADVENT I - ADVENT III

Diocese of the Southwestern States

Anglican Province of Christ the King

The editors wish to thank everyone who helped in the Newsletter Name search. From start to finish, June to November, refining the choice was very difficult because any one of the suggestions would have been appropriate. We are not yet sure that the person who suggested The Parish Visitor wishes to remain anonymous - a matter that can be easily settled in our December edition. At the moment, we simply wish to thank everyone who helped in any way with the choice. - Editor and Assistant Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

As the holidays descend upon us with their many, pressing, secular demands, we become acutely aware how impossible it is to do everything that needs doing. Thanks be to God, the Faithful have a haven, a refuge from the chaos of secular life; the Church is where we turn for joy, for solace, and for strength.

God reminded me of this in the Mass on Re-Commitment Sunday. He spoke to me about my own concerns. His message was this, "Do the best you can, and leave the rest to Me." I was humbled, for I was being taught once again to trust in Him. He can handle all the challenges of your life and of mine; indeed, this abandonment of self-centeredness is precisely what God requires of us. It is only when we depend on Him that He can effect great things in us. The Desert Fathers were taught by God that the religious life does not imply reaching perfection; they walked with God, even as they grew in the knowledge of their personal shortcomings. God spoke to St. Paul: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Cor. 12:9) When we seek His will, everything in our lives falls into place: "Come unto Me all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you." (St. Matt. 11:28)

The season of Advent (the word means Coming), which is now upon us, is essentially a little Lent, a season with a penitential tone, meant to prepare us for the glories of Christ Mass. It is a season which encourages us to come to Him, in prayer, in the Mass, in the devotions the Church offers Her pilgrims. Our Lord offers us nourishment through His Church to sustain us on our journey, with Mary and Joseph, toward Bethlehem.

May I encourage you with these words I gave you last Advent: The seasons of Advent and Christmass provide what we need; however, they require participation if we are to fulfill God's Purpose.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Hines+

THREE ADVENT EVENSONGS

Advent marks the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year, traditionally a time not only for hopes and plans but also for quiet reflection and resolve. "Evensong" is a very beautiful short service developed from the Prayer Book's, "The Order for Daily

Evening Prayer." Evening Prayer itself was formed by Archbishop Cranmer who combined sections of the monastic Vespers and Compline.

The text of Evening prayer and Evensong is exactly the same, but in Evensong, as the name implies, certain sections are sung instead of being said. Over the years, and from place to place, slight variations have been made, but our Evensong will follow the traditional form with the singing of the Versicles and Responses, the Psalm, two Canticles (Magnificat, and Nunc Dimittis) and two evening hymns and an Advent hymn. It lasts some 30 - 35 minutes.

As we did in Lent, we plan to meet at 6:15 PM for a light supper, and then, after a few minutes to talk to each other, we shall go into chapel for Evensong.

1st Advent Evensong: Thursday, December 7, 6:15 for 7:00 pm

2nd Advent Evensong: Thursday, December 14, 6:15 for 7:00 pm

3rd Advent Evensong: Thursday, December 21, 6:15 for 7:00 pm.



START OUT WITH CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

KCNV 89.7 FM 8:00 AM, DEC 24

Because of the continued generosity of one of our members,

St. George's Anglican Church, Las Vegas

will be announced on KNPR 88.9 as the sponsor of the traditional Christmas broadcast of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge. In England, the "Nine Lessons" is always held and broadcast live at 3:00 PM (**but 8:00 AM, USA!**) on Christmas Eve. The broadcast will be a very beautiful preparation for your own part in the Nine Lessons here at St. George's at 10:30 AM. Full details will be given in the special December edition of the *Parish Visitor*.



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN MISSION HENDERSON, NEVADA

Holy Trinity is readying itself for Advent and the upcoming year. The first item on the agenda is stewardship. Sometimes people tend to be negative when talking about monetary issues, especially when discussing the church's needs and requests for tithing. This does not need to be the case. When stewardship is viewed as a sense of gratitude toward God for the gifts and blessings that He has shared with us, the concept is only appropriate. After all, good stewardship is part of our baptismal responsibility. From a practical perspective, budgets need to be prepared so that the Church can be a good steward of resources, thus Holy Trinity

Anglican Mission is planning a budget for 2007. Once we have a budget, we will be able to start looking at possibilities for the immediate future of the Holy Trinity Mission. We are looking to either expand into another space for our Sunday School program, or maybe find a space of our own. The thought of having a space that does not require us to completely assemble an altar, and later dismantle it for storage each week, is very appealing. Further, in regard to first time visitors, it can be difficult to meet and get to know our members amongst the apparent chaos of transforming the room from a church environment into a meeting hall for coffee hour or potluck dinners.

Please prayerfully consider any help you may be able to offer. The simple act of prayer is the greatest gift one can offer. For any questions or suggestions please contact Bill or Heidi Recher at 564-7677.

Regarding the Holy Trinity Hymnal Drive of 2006 ... thank you to all of the generous supporters. It has been a great success! Considering that this is the first organized effort for the benefit of the Mission, it is fantastic to see the support from both Holy Trinity members and from other parishioners and other churches, both inside and outside of Nevada. An unexpected surprise was the donation of an older Anglican Missal that is in good condition. Thank you again to one and all. New labels are in the process of being prepared for the hymnals and a search is on for a missal stand. Please come by and say "Hello," open a hymnal and hear our organist, see the Missal, and share in worshipping God. If you need directions to find us, or a calendar of meeting times, please check out the Holy Trinity web site, www.HolyTrinity-NV.org, or send an e-mail to HolyTrinity.NV@cox.net.

~~ Bill Recher, Lay Reader-In-Charge

"AN ALPHABET OF THE LANGUAGE OF HEAVEN"

Frances Havergal (1836-1879)

On Trinity XXIII, our Sermon Hymn was sung from an insert of the original version of Frances Havergal's hymn, "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee." Frances was deeply religious, a brilliant scholar and a prolific writer. She loved music and defined it as being, "a sort of alphabet of the language of heaven."

In a footnote on the hymn insert, I said that despite the chasm between our dry climate and the one that she knew, I would include an article from her "Memoirs" - here it is. - jgr

Twelve Reasons for Attending Church on a Wet Sunday

1. God has blessed the Lord's Day and hallowed it, making no exceptions for hot or cold or stormy days.
2. I expect my minister to be there. I should be surprised if he were to stay at home on account of the weather.
3. By staying away, I may lose the prayer which may bring God's blessing, and the sermon that would have done me great good.
4. My presence is more needful on Sundays when there are few, than those days when the church is crowded.
5. On any important business, rainy weather does not keep me at home, and Church attendance is, in God's sight, very important.
6. Such weather will show me on what foundation my faith is built; it will prove how much I love Christ. True love rarely fails to meet an appointment.
7. Though my excuses satisfy myself, they still must undergo God's scrutiny, and they must be well grounded to do that.
8. There's a special promise that where two or three meet together in God's name, He will be in the midst of them.

9. An avoidable absence from church is an infallible evidence of spiritual decay. Disciples first follow Christ at a distance, and then, like Peter, do not know Him.

10. My faith is to be shewn by my self-denying Christian life, and not by the rise and fall of the barometer.

11. Such yielding to surrounding difficulties prepares for yielding to those merely imaginary, until thousands never enter a church and yet think they have good reason for such neglect.

12. I know not how many more Sundays God may give me, and it would be a poor preparation for my first Sunday in heaven to have slighted my last Sunday on earth.

ADVENT I, 2006 through ASH WEDNESDAY, 2007

This calendar contains only items submitted up to the time of publication. It will be continuously updated from month to month.

November

November 28, Tuesday, Sunday School CP rehearsal, 6:30 pm.

December

December 7, Thursday,

First Advent Evensong: Supper, 6:15 pm, Evensong at 7:00 pm

December 9, Sat., Sun. Sch. CP rehearsal

w/org. & choir 3:00pm

December 10, ADVENT II

December 10, Sunday, the Annual Raffle Basket Award

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, 11:30 AM

December 14, Thursday,

Second Advent Evensong: Supper, 6:15 pm Evensong at 7:00 pm

December 17, ADVENT III

December 21, Thursday,

Third Advent Evensong: Supper, 6:15 pm, Evensong, 7:00 pm



DECEMBER 24. SUNDAY,

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY

8:00 AM Low Mass

10:30 AM: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

10:30 PM: CHORAL MASS



December 25, MONDAY,

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:00 AM, MASS, with hymns



December 26, Tuesday, St. Stephen, Mass 9:00 AM

December 27, Wed, St. John the Ap., Evening Prayer, Mass, 5:45 PM

December 28, Thursday, Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Mass 9:00 AM

January, 2007

TBA Episcopal Visitation by Archbishop Robert Morse.

January 1, Monday, Circumcision of our Lord, Mass 9:00 AM

January 6, Saturday, Epiphany of Our Lord, Mass 6:00 PM

JANUARY 7, SUNDAY, EPIPHANY PARTY (FOLLOWS MASS) 11:45 AM

JANUARY 25, THURSDAY, CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, AP., MASS, 9:00 AM

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2, FRIDAY, TO FEBRUARY 4, SUNDAY

"GETAWAY TO GETAWAY" TRIP - FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

FEBRUARY 20, TUESDAY, SHROVE (FAT) TUESDAY

PANCAKE SUPPER, 6:30 PM

Lector Schedule

Nov.26 - Dec.31

Each week: 8: 00 AM: John Riley.

10:30 AM Mass:

Sunday Next

Before Advent	Nov. 26	Don Tracey
Advent I	Dec. 3	John Pelham
Advent II	Dec. 10	Mike McKeag
Advent III	Dec. 17	Tom Covert
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	Howard Winters
Sunday,	Dec. 31	Don Tracey

HOW ARE THE SCHWARZ'S?

We have been in our new house in San Antonio, Texas, for six months already. We live in the county, located in the north part of the city, and are about 25 miles from the downtown area. The scenery is much different from that of Las Vegas, with stands of trees and forested areas throughout the city and surrounding towns. We are close to the Texas Hill country and areas around us are quite hilly. It is a lovely area with a golf course close by, and lots of wildlife, including deer. Sadly, many of the trees are being taken down, due to developers marching in and taking over land for shopping centers, apartments, houses and more houses. In our smaller sub-division of around 100 homes, some trees have been left on each lot, with two extra trees being planted per home. It is taking some time for us to get used to living here, as it seems at times that living in Texas is like living in a foreign country! We must say that we have encountered some very nice people. The Texans come across as having an inborn courteousness and friendliness, which is so refreshing. Our neighborhood loves to have block parties, so we can get to know each other, and I suspect these will continue for some time. Many of the homes here are rented or leased, so we'll wait to see how much of a transient population we will have.

We have been fortunate to find an Anglican church, St. Chad's, which is a dear little church with a small congregation. Originally it was an Anglican seminary. Most of the parishioners who started the church have passed on or are too elderly to come to church. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any young people to carry on, which means no children or Sunday School. In fact, very few people have even heard of an Anglican church and are quite puzzled when one tries to explain it to them. But we are happy have our Prayer Book service and to sing the old familiar hymns.

We have two priests, one is a missionary priest from Nigeria, who preaches a most passionate 30-minute sermon on alternate Sundays. Fr. John, our resident priest, preaches on the other Sundays, and is really a part-time priest. With such a small congregation the church cannot afford to pay him a living wage salary and he must work outside the church to earn a living.

The people are very nice and friendly and we really feel that we belong. I have joined the Women of St. Chad's who meet once a month, and will be taking the Minutes of their meetings starting in the New Year. They recently held their annual 3-day Rummage Sale, and John helped out a lot, as I was unwell during that time. We have had a rough time of it since coming here last December, what with illnesses and surgery, problems with our animals - 1 dog and 2 cats - and many problems with our new house which had to be rectified. We still have several items that need to be resolved. We are trying to make the best of it and look

forward to better days ahead. We miss all our friends in Las Vegas, too numerous to mention, and especially John and the choir, the ACW .

ladies and all the children, We miss our priests of course--Fr. Hines, Fr. Greer and Fr. Cantrell. We shall especially miss the children's Nativity play and the glorious Christmas music. We miss all our friends in Las Vegas, too numerous to mention, Our love to you all. Irene and John

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Dec.3

Coffee Hour Tracey Belt

Dec.10

Coffee Hour Dale and Donna Foust

Dec.17

Coffee Hour Elizabeth Bass and Rosemary Dehn

Dec.24

Coffee Hour Alice Rose Thatch

Dec.31.

Coffee Hour Edward and Karen Jost

ACW BOOK SALE

In an ongoing strategy to reduce our church mortgage, members of the ACW are going to begin a 'used book' sale

We hope everyone will participate in this effort by donating

Used Books,

CD's,

DVD's, and

VHS video tapes.

A bucket for your donations will be provided in the hallway near the receptacles for other appeals items

With your generous help,

we plan to begin the sale in January.

We will all be rewarded with a good **book**, a good **movie**, or enjoyable **music**. After you have read, seen or heard something you really enjoy, you may wish to re-donate it for others to enjoy.

The items should be tasteful but that is probably an unnecessary reminder for a Christian family such as ours.

PHOTOS, PLEASE!

The Parish Visitor is in dire need of photos of any parish event or scene at St. George's or Holy Trinity. If you have such a photo, please e-mail johngriley1@earthlink.net about it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

November 28, Tuesday, at 6:30 PM

December 9, Saturday, at 3:00 PM

with organ & choir.

December 10, Sunday, after 10:30 AM Mass.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

is impossible to decide which is of the greater effect, the pews in the choir area, or the stained glass windows. It matters not, we are

St. George's Anglican Church
7676 West Gilmore Avenue
Las Vegas NV 89129

NOVEMBERKWIZZ

1. Don't look! How many verses does the longest psalm have:
65? 88? 112? 158? 176?
2. What was the official language of the Persian Empire?
3. What does the word, "Apostle" mean?
4. What was (Gospel writer/Saint) Matthew's name before his conversion?
5. Within +/- 20 years, in what year did the Church of England accept the hymn as a definite part of its worship?
6. Who gave Wolfgang Mozart his 'middle' name, "Amadeus" ?

OKTOBERKWIZZ

Answers

1. "Father of the English Hymn": Isaac Watts
2. A.D. 1050: The Great Schism (Church W-E 'split')
3. "Cannon"(two n's) has several meanings, an artillery piece being one of them, but a canon (one n) also with several meanings, can be a priest in a cathedral or college.
4. 600. The supplemental tunes are not hymns.
5. Apocrypha: 14 books
6. The Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Potiphar.

THINGS OF BEAUTY...

Without exception, everyone has been enraptured by the transformation brought about in our chapel in recent weeks. and it

grateful for them both, and the choir robes, and the vestments, and the powerful IHS on the altar. We have indeed been blessed. It had been the editors' intention to include a few photographs in this edition, but we were not able to apply the technical skills needed. Making a good photograph of opaque stained glass with very strong light outside and very little light inside presents major problems, and we admit that so far, our attempts have not been successful. Undaunted, we shall try to enlist help, and hope to have some worthwhile photographs in our next issue. Obviously, the need for photographs is virtually meaningless to our parishioners, but we now have a considerable number of people who for varying reasons are very interested in St. George's but no longer live in Nevada. For them, surely, a picture would be worth a thousand words. (*Apologies, couldn't resist that one*)

DRIVERS NEEDED

Perhaps you are aware of our continued need for people to drive some of our members to the 10:30 Sunday morning Mass. You may have noticed that in this edition, the "Here Am I" section has been reduced to the list of Coffee Hour hosts; please do not interpret that as indicating that we no longer need volunteer drivers - we do! Our request is for volunteers who will undertake one or two occasions every six months to drive people to and from church - it is not for someone who will be there every week, although in the past a couple of people did undertake the mission every week.

If you can help, and will help, please leave a message for Fr. Hines at church, **395-4576**, or for Alice Rose Thatch at **869-2635**