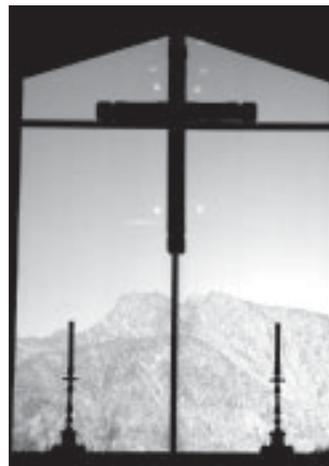


Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



Our Mission: To Share the Love of Christ / Compartir el amor de Cristo

Borrego Springs, California

December 2006

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Reflections from the Desert

The Christmas Gift

Just before Thanksgiving, Maria Sudekum Fisher from the Associated Press revealed the identity of the Secret Santa (see *The San Diego Union Tribune* 11/21/06 p. A2). It's a fascinating story.

For 26 years around Christmas time, in the Kansas City Missouri area, the Secret Santa had been quietly giving away cash which amounted to \$1.3 million dollars. At first he began with \$5 and \$10 bills; more recently, \$100 bills, sometimes two or three at a time to people in thrift stores, diners and parking lots.

The identity of the philanthropist may surprise you, but the origin and the yearly ritual will not. It was as predictable as the size and scope of the human heart. The script was vintage Hollywood from the 1950s. A hard worker is laid off. He ends up sleeping in his car. Out of desperation, he asked for help from someone outside of a church and is told to come

**This Christmas what will
our gift to ourselves be?**

back on Monday because the person in charge of giving out money was away. The man turned his back on that church that did not help him and never returned.

His own holiday giving started in 1979 when he was feeling sorry for himself for being out of work. It was the second year in a row he had been fired the week before Christmas. "It was cold and this car hop (what memories that scene brings back to Borregans of mature age!) didn't have on a very big jacket, and I thought to myself, 'I think I got it bad. She's out there in this cold making nickels and dimes.'" He gave her \$20 and told her to keep the change. "And suddenly I saw her lips begin to tremble and tears begin to flow down her cheeks. She said, 'Sir, you have no idea what this means to me.'" He then went to the bank that day, took out \$200 then drove around looking for people to whom he could give the money. He chose the simple gift of cash because it's something people don't have to "beg for, get in line for, or apply for." That was his Christmas present to himself.

Businessman Larry Stewart, 58, made his millions in cable television and long distance telephone service. Presently he is dying of cancer of the esophagus. Now his mission is no longer handing out \$100 bills but speaking to community groups about his devotion to kindness and to inspire others to donate their time and money.

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Amid Prayer and 'Shalom,' Katharine Jefferts Schori Invested as Episcopal Church's 26th Presiding Bishop

By Mary Frances Schjonberg
Saturday, November 04, 2006

[Episcopal News Service] The gates at the west doors of Washington National Cathedral opened shortly after 11 a.m. on November 4 and Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori stepped fully into her new ministry as the Episcopal Church's 26th Presiding Bishop,



calling all members of the Church into deepened service and "shalom."

After Washington Bishop John Chane and Cathedral Dean Samuel Lloyd opened the cathedral's doors in response to Jefferts Schori's three knocks, Jill Beesley, outgoing president of the Diocese of Nevada's Standing Committee and her successor, the Rev. James Kelly, presented Jefferts Schori as their diocese's "bishop, chief pastor, and sister in Christ" and sent her forth to be the Presiding Bishop.

"Katharine, Bishop in the Church of God, we have looked forward to your coming with great joy. In the name of Christ, we greet you," replied 25th Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold.

"I hope to serve among you in Christ's name and in the joy of the Spirit," she said.



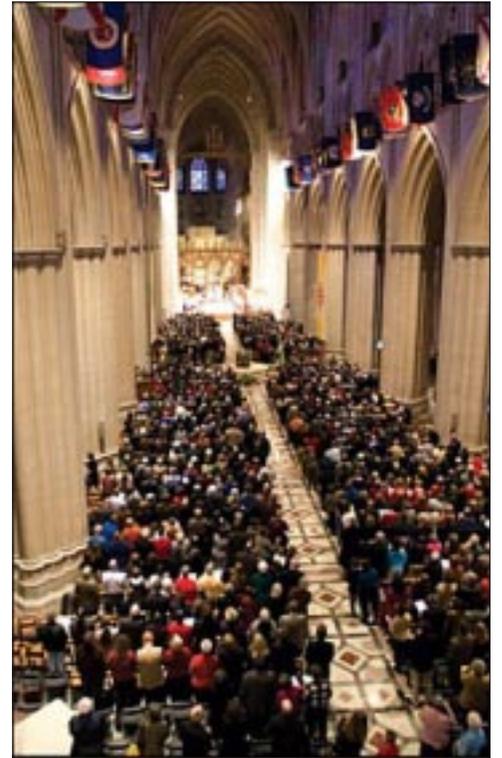
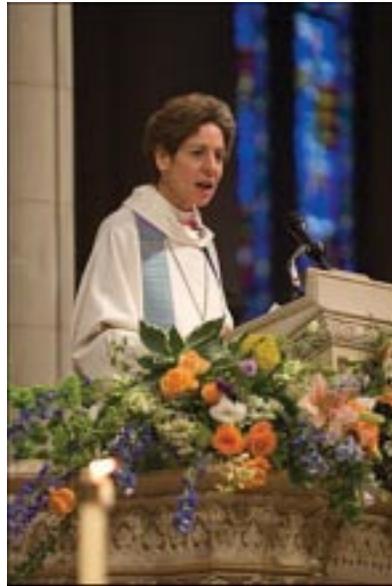
Griswold and House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson reiterated the circumstances of Jefferts Schori's election on June 18 during the Church's 75th General Convention and Jefferts Schori committed herself "with God's help to be a faithful shepherd and pastor among you."

The approximately 3,200 people present promised to uphold her in her ministry, Chane welcomed her to the Cathedral, and Lloyd invited her to celebrate the day's Eucharist.

"My brothers and sisters, as we begin this new season of ministry, may our celebration recall us to the unity that is given in Baptism and nurtured by the Eucharist," she said. "May we rejoice in the many gifts enriching the life of our Church and be strengthened to proclaim the Good News of Christ in the world."

As she came up the aisle from the west doors to the altar in the Cathedral's crossing, the congregation sang "Holy, Holy, Holy," and applauded loudly.

As Presiding Bishop, Jefferts Schori, 52, becomes chief pastor to the U.S.-based Episcopal Church, which includes more than 2.4 million members in some 7,600 congregations in 110 dioceses and one convocation of churches in Europe, spanning 16



countries. She will also join the Anglican Communion's Primates Meeting, a body of principal bishops who oversee the Communion's 38 member provinces, of which the Episcopal Church is one.

Jefferts Schori is the first woman in Anglicanism's five-century history to serve in this capacity. (The Anglican presence in North America dates to April 26, 1607, the date of the first landing in Virginia.) She served as bishop of Nevada from 2001 until

All photos are from Episcopal News Service except the one with Nancy that was taken by a fellow attendee.

October 25 of this year. A former university professor, Jefferts Schori is an oceanographer and airplane pilot. She and her husband, Richard Miles Schori, a retired theoretical mathematician, have one daughter, Katharine Johanna Harris, 25, who is a first lieutenant and pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

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Five Months After General Convention 2006

By Victor Levine

Background

So, how are we doing, five months after General Convention? It looked pretty grim for awhile amid dire reports the Church was in the process of breaking apart.

Dissenting bishops and congregations in eight dioceses had signaled their disagreement with the work of General Convention 2006, including its election of a primate, or presiding bishop. Just as threatening, those at odds in ECUSA found a rationale (see below) they thought would allow them to by-pass the just-elected primate.

What Dissidents Wanted

What roiled dissidents was the raising of homosexual priests to the episcopacy, and they wanted that stopped. They wanted an end to the public blessing of homosexual relationships and a commitment that such events would not be repeated in the future. In short, they wanted a less liberal reading of ECUSA policy and practices.

In this, they were joined by a small majority of primates in the Anglican Communion (an international organization that loosely covers all Anglican provinces, including ECUSA) who were demanding conformity with the more conservative interpretation of Anglicanism favored by certain members of the post-colonial world .

But General Convention of 2006 that represented the mood of ECUSA with its more than 900 deputies and bishops was in no mood to conform to those demands. What it finally agreed to do, under some prodding from the incoming primate, was to support efforts to find common ground between dissident elements in both the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

So much for early assessments.

After Five Months

What's clear in the five months since General Convention '06 is that the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion are not disintegrating as a result of decisions made in Columbus on the subject of human sexuality.

Rather, what's emerging is a slow dance around the issue by most dissident bishops and congregations in ECUSA. Meaning? There is an obvious reluctance on the part of dissidents to separate from ECUSA, despite their differences with the majority position voiced at General Convention.

There are reasons for the slow dance. There has been no support for the rationale chosen by some dissident bishops and congregations, to seek a primate to replace ECUSA primate, Bishop Jefferts Schori. Dissidents are further weakened by the minority position in which now they find themselves in the ECUSA.

A few dissident congregations have not exactly separated from the ECUSA but have aligned themselves with primates in Nigeria and Bolivia, among other foreign provinces. But it's unclear where this leaves them, since primates in the Anglican Communion have a prior agreement they will not poach on one another's territories.

“ . . . Presiding Bishop Katharine has emphasized in all her public statements that the work of the Episcopal Church to help eliminate poverty and disease will continue without pause. . . ”

Plus which, there are legal ramifications to the positions taken by dissidents. Alternate (or 'delegated') episcopal oversight was meant to apply to bishops within ECUSA. There was no thought of rejecting the Primate's leadership, or reaching across province lines.

As to actual separation, other dissidents have left ECUSA and joined forces with The Anglican Church of North America and other breakaway organizations. But it's a tough decision: parishes and dioceses that have gone their own way have tended to splinter and, in the process, lose the sense of unity and purpose they once enjoyed as members of ECUSA.

What Shape The Future?

How any of this will play out over the long haul is anyone's guess. The optimistic reading is that time and much dialogue will heal the rifts growing out of General Convention 2006.

That optimism seems to be shared by many, and the creation of the conciliatory Episcopal Majority tends to support that view. The Episcopal Majority met for the first time in early November '06, with the full support of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. Its design: To give voice to the "broad middle majority" of Episcopalians who agree with the Church in the direction it has taken .

The major point that Presiding Bishop Katharine has emphasized in all her public statements is that the work of the Episcopal Church to help eliminate poverty and disease will continue without pause, even while efforts are made to reach agreement with those in dissention.

Making the case that the central concern is not sexuality, but rather, equality of treatment within the Church, will take time and patience. The difficulty is that the two issues have been conflated by dissidents, and that is reflected in their statements at Convention '06, and later.

Death of a Teenager

By Jim Bennett
School Board Member



On the morning of November 18, Jill and I and hundreds of other people attended a memorial service for Chelsea Wellborn, a 14 year old freshman at Borrego Springs High School. Many in the audience who knew Chelsea, including her mother and her father, stepped forward. With tears and broken, broken voices spoke of the wonderful, caring and loving young girl she was and the tremendous unimaginable hurt they felt because she was gone. Gone forever!

Four girls were attending the football game at the High School and decided to have some fun going for a joy ride. Just for a little while. The fun soon turned into fatal fun for all of them because the driver lost control, the car rolled over, and Chelsea was killed. As her father said, "such a senseless death."

I hope the students attending the service and all of those in our school learned from this terrible loss. Doing something careless for excitement can turn into disaster very quickly. Chelsea paid the ultimate price to give that message to them and, along with their injuries, the three girls who were with her have a forever memory of sadness and loss.

Most of us, when we were young, did things or had friends that did things that were outright dumb. Were we just lucky, so lucky that we are still here? The fact that we are here gives us an opportunity to share our good fortune with the young around us. Can we make something positive out of the loss of Chelsea? I believe we can. With our experiences in life we can talk to the kids we know, not to lecture them but to share with them things we have seen and experienced in our lives. We can help them learn to weigh the risks when they want to try something exciting. They are young and learning. Let us help them learn.

Continued on page 7

Vestry Report

by Nancy Bye

Advent Plans

Only one member of the sitting vestry was absent from our November 20 meeting. Seems like old times.

On November 11th, 140 people attended the memorial service for Joni Lowe. The families have given a gift of \$2500, and at our last meeting we decided to use it for a walkway to the palapa from the labyrinth and at the entrance: "Come for comfort and peace. In loving memory of Dick & Joni Lowe. Susie, Carrie, Barbie and their families. November 11, 2006."

On the evening of the 12th the vestry hosted the annual "Welcome back Snowbirds" with a chili festival at the Roadrunner Club. Attendance was disappointing. Tell us what you would like to do next fall to gather with old friends and meet new parishoners.

Advent is upon us – that wondrous season of solemn preparation that begins the church year. We will celebrate the lovely old English lessons and carols at four the afternoon of Sunday, December 17th and hope the community will join us. Our choral Eucharist at 8:30 the evening of Sunday, December 24th is a favorite for many. Please join us.

Focus on Health



Curt Boulet, and Dave and Ruth Otis discuss the book, Younger Next Year in Bill Walker's class. It's not too late to join the group.

Women of St. Barnabas

by Nancy Bye, Chair: Gifts, Endowments and Memorials

Supporting Slab City Ministries

Kitty Phelps was good enough to be the hostess for Shirley Vialpando's first meeting as our new president. Ernie Loza gave a spirited overview of his Slab City Ministry and expressed his gratitude for all we have done with our gifts of clothes, toiletries, and especially the hundreds of gallons of drinking water supplied over the summer. We vowed to continue to help him and his very needy group. That includes some of our own villagers who have greatly reduced incomes during the summer months when many Borregans depart for cooler homes.

On Wednesday, December 6th, we will gather at the rectory at noon to share a potluck lunch and launch our cookbook fund-raising project. Shirley will be the publisher, Leslie Bellah has volunteered to handle production, Bev Ward and Nancy Bye will be the editors. We hope every one of you (heads up, gentlemen!) will be contributors. Since the publication of our last cookbook cooking and typesetting techniques have changed dramatically. We look forward to this nifty project. Please help!!!

From the Altar Guild

by Nancy Bye

New Members Help

Several extra services make for a busy, creative group. We are blessed to have a few new members who help make these activities a real service to our church rather than a chore. Thank you Sue, Mary and Jean as well as our returning members, and the faithful few who toil so loyally all summer..

It is time to make your donations for Christmas decorations and flowers. Give for the beauty of St. Barnabas, the miraculous birth, and for memorials and celebrations. Please give!

Investiture, continued from page 3

During her homily, Jefferts Schori called the Church to her vision of “shalom.”

Shalom “doesn’t just mean that sort of peace that comes when we’re no longer at war,” she said. “It is that rich and multihued vision of a world where no one goes hungry because everyone is invited to a seat at the groaning board, it’s a vision of a world where no one is sick or in prison because all sorts of disease have been healed, it’s a vision of a world where every human being has the capacity to use every good gift that God has given, it’s a vision of a world where no one enjoys abundance at the expense of another, where all enjoy Sabbath rest in the conscious presence of God,” she said. “Shalom means all human beings live together as siblings, at peace with one another and with God, and in right relationship with all of the rest of creation.”

Shalom is created, she said, when all people are at home with each other and with God. Echoing both Augustine’s belief that “our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee, O Lord,” and Robert Frost’s notion of an all-accepting, all-forgiving home in his poem “Death of the Hired Man,” Jefferts Schori said: “We all ache for a community that will take us in, with all our warts and quirks and petty meannesses – and still celebrate when they see us coming!”

“That vision of homegoing and homecoming that underlies our deepest spiritual yearnings is also the job assignment each one of us gets in baptism – go home, and while you’re at it, help to make a home for everyone else on earth,” she continued. “For none of us can truly find our rest in God until all of our brothers and sisters have also been welcomed home like the prodigal.”

“The home we ultimately seek is found in relationship with creator, with redeemer, with spirit,” she said.

Jefferts Schori called the Church to live out “the vision of shalom embodied in the Millennium Development Goals that the Church committed itself to at the 75th General Convention.

Reflections, continued from page 1

It seems to us that as a church and as individuals we can learn two very important lessons from Larry Stewart. When asked for help, is our first instinct to refer to someone else OR to ask ourselves how WE can use our resources to help generously? As people of faith we acknowledge God as the creator of our fulfillment in helping others. Giving without being asked to strangers in need was the Secret Santa’s gift to himself. This Christmas what will our gift to ourselves be?

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+

Dissidents, continued from page 4

The resulting confusion makes it difficult to see that the true concern remains what it has been all along: the equal treatment of all persons (without reservation) before God, as well as in the just apportionment of all positions within ECUSA.

During this season
of expectation
join us in an old-fashioned
English service of

Lessons & Carols 

Sunday, Dec. 17th
at 4pm

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Mark Your Calendar

DECEMBER

- Dec. 3 Look for the Advent Wreath and blue vestments as visible reminders of Advent.
- Dec. 15 Women's Fall Bake Sale from 7 - 10am at Christmas Circle.
- Dec. 17 Lessons & Carols at 4pm. Community invited.
- Dec. 24 Regular two services at 7 and 9:30am for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Festivities:**
8:15pm congregational caroling
8:30pm Holy Eucharist
- Dec. 25 **Christmas Morning**
Holy Eucharist 8:30am.

- Dec. 31 Regular two services at 7 and 9:30am for the First Sunday after Christmas

JANUARY

- Jan. 7 Regular two services at 7 and 9:30am for the Epiphany.
Annual open house at the Rectory from 5 - 8pm at 3425 Santa Saba. Please join us!
- Jan. 14 Stewardship Sunday
- Jan. 19 & 20, 26 & 27
Hospice Volunteer Training from 9am to 3pm in the Parish Room.

St. Barnabas Carillon

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