

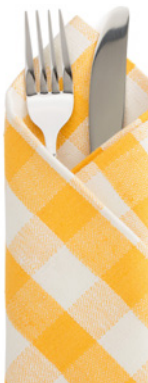


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Annual Meeting & Potluck

Sunday January 28th  
Immediately following the morning service.



The Episcopal Church  
of the Holy Nativity  
828 W. Cherry Lane  
Meridian, Idaho 83642-1619  
(208) 888-4342  
Sunday Services 10:00am



Monthly Message

A Letter from Rev. Jennifer Anttonen

Isn't it strange how you know something is coming and when it is right on your doorstep you are surprised by the mix of feelings. That's how it is for me and for John. I knew my time as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Nativity would come to an end sometime. Now it is here and my emotions are flooding me.

What a gift and blessing our time together has been for us. All along John and I have been calling this ministry our “Last Hurrah”! It has truly been a dream ministry, in that you have accepted me as who I am, no frills, just Jennifer, flawed, ministering the best I can, trying to listen to what God wants me to do at Holy Nativity for this short time.

I know there is so much more that could and can be done, but my energy level is not able to do it all. So, I tried to love you the best I could and you loved me back.

My tears, that seem to keep leaking, are in thanksgiving for all the love we have shared, all the laughter, the deep conversations, challenging adventures, quiet moments and sharing the Body and Blood of Christ together. I know the love that Fr. Shibu and his family are going to be part of, and they too will be blessed beyond words. I thank you all for our journey together.

For now the future is shining as bright as the star of Bethlehem! May we all welcome this family with the abundant love that is Holy Nativity.

Joy+,

*Jennifer*

## Ladies Time Out

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

7PM at the Majestic Theater

2140 E Cinema Drive • Meridian, ID

We'll get the available films beforehand and make our choice for this fun evening.

**Cost is \$5.50 on Tuesdays.**

If you have any questions contact  
Sue Pahlas • 208-891-3258

### Save the Date:

Pre-Valentine Celebration  
Monday, Feb. 12th for lunch at  
Café de Coco in Nampa.  
More details to follow.



## Holy Nativity Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28th

Potluck with chicken provided, please  
bring a side dish or dessert to share...  
followed by annual meeting.

## Giving Made Easy

*by Richard Bowring*



Everyone hates to part with their 'hard earned cash' but it is also true to say that 'money makes the world go round' :). As we have all heard over the past weeks, the church needs to make sure that it has the money to 'keep the lights on' and how many times have you arrived at church without either 'cash' or your cheque book'?!? Our household was the same until I found out that you could send 'money' from the comfort of your home! ***What could be easier!!!***

The Bowring family have used '**Bill Pay**' for as long as I can remember to send money to the church and the best bit is that I set it up once a year and forget about it! I do this through our bank '**Bill Pay**' and the Bank sends a cheque every time I get paid to the church for the same amount! No hunting for a pen that works, remembering to do it, remembering how much you said you would give or even better if you happen to be away on that long overdue holiday, then you can continue to send money to the church.

So next time you are checking out your Bank Account online go to their '**Bill Pay**' option and follow the instructions. Some of the details you'll need are:

**Name:** Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity  
**Address:** 828 W Cherry Lane | Meridian, ID 83642  
**Phone:** (208) 888-4342

*Paying shouldn't be a chore ..... try out Bill Pay!*



## Making a House a Home

Fr. Shibu, our new Priest-in-Charge, will be here at the end of January and we are anxious to make the whole family feel welcomed in their new parish and home.

As you can imagine, you don't ship furniture or household items when you move from India. That being the case, it's understandable that they have few things they will be bringing with them from Florida. It is therefore our desire, to do what we can to make their new home comfortable, warm, and welcoming.

After discussions, the Vestry approved the purchase of furnishings so that the bedrooms and living room are (more or less) ready when they arrive. We have had a number of parishioners offer to help make the **"house a home"** by purchasing or giving additional needed items. If you would be willing to help in this regard, please add your name to the listing in the Parish Hall. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

We are confident that together, we can help this family to settle in as quickly as possible, feel the love from their new community, and know they've found a wonderful home at Holy Nativity.



# THE GIVING TREE

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY OUTREACH



This year, we sponsored two families from Meridian Elementary School (MES) for our Giving Tree Christmas Family Outreach. Tags representing the needs and wishes of our two families decorated our Giving Tree, set up in the Narthex by the First Sunday of Advent (Dec. 3rd). All gifts were collected by the 17th and delivered to MES on December 21st. We were met by the MES Counselor and some of the Administrative Staff, who were very appreciative to accept this outpouring of love for their families and so moved by the thoughtfulness and genuine concern we have for our neighbors. The MES staff coordinated with the two families to privately pick up their gifts later that day.

In addition to providing gifts of toys, books, games, art supplies, home goods, gift cards, shoes, and clothing, Holy Nativity parishioners contributed an additional \$1,100 to the Christmas Family fund this year! With these extra funds, we purchased gift cards from Zoo Boise so that each family can purchase a year's membership to attend the zoo whenever they'd like once they activate their memberships. This will provide these families with many special memory-making adventures in the coming year! We also purchased gift cards to: Chevron for fuel/automotive-only needs, IHOP, Lowe's, and Shoe Carnival.

From the 2 Cents a Meal fund, \$600 in family-friendly WinCo gift cards were purchased for each of the two families. (Just an FYI, these family-friendly WinCo gift cards prohibit the purchase of tobacco and alcohol products.) With so many generous donations to the 2 Cents a Meal fund in 2023, we were able to purchase an additional \$400 in smaller denomination WinCo family-friendly gift cards, which were given to the MES Counselor to share with other MES families in need of a little extra help putting food on the table. There



are also some “angels in disguise” in our parish who, for the fourth year, generously donated Walmart gift cards to be disbursed to other Meridian Elementary families. (In the past, the Counselor has shared with us that quite a few families rely on the school as a resource of financial help throughout the year, especially during the winter months. He typically receives numerous phone calls or emails the last few days before the Winter Break from parents/guardians panicking over how to feed their children during the school break, pay the rent/mortgage and utilities. These extra gift cards provide MES with the means to quickly remedy a stressful time, providing some extra food staples, baby supplies, or hygiene and cleaning supplies for a few more days.)

An extremely helpful community outreach program of their own accord, The Holy Nativity Be Our Guest team contributed two heaping bags of food and treats (weighing at least 50 lbs. each, if not more!) for the two families. Four additional bags of these goodies were also given to the Counselor to share with other MES families, as many of the items can be easily tucked in backpacks for those who participate in the Backpack

*Continued on page 5*

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY OUTREACH *(cont'd)*

Program. We also took an opportunity to share details about the Be Our Guest Meals with the MES staff. I later sent an email to the Counselor, which he can forward to the MES staff or quickly pull up to share when speaking one-on-one with MES families.

I'd like to thank each person at Holy Nativity who contributed time, talent, and/or funds to this vital outreach program. These gifts all make a positive impact for the families and is just one way we become the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. There are several "elves" who provided me with extra help this year and deserve a shout-out:

- **Setting up the Giving Tree** on the December 2nd — **Kellen Magette**
- **Sorting & Organizing Gifts** on the 17th - **Jennifer and Morgan Erickson, Orve Hendrix, Carol Tracy, and Phil Street**
- **Ideas and last-minute Gift Gard Shopping** the Week of the 18th - **Sue Pahlas**
- **Delivery of Gifts to Meridian Elementary School** on the 21st – **Richard Jones (and four-legged elf, Lady), Sandra Koerner, and Phil Street**

Wishing everyone at Holy Nativity  
a healthy and Happy New Year!



# OUR 2024 VESTRY CANDIDATES

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity will elect two new Vestry members, three new Diocesan Convention Delegates, and one Convention Alternate at the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 28, 2024. The new Vestry members will serve a three-year term beginning February 1, 2024.

## Jerrod Horn

I live in Meridian with my wife Claudia and our children Mateo and Sophia. We also have two dogs name Oso and Taquito. I received my Bachelors degree from Washington State University where I majored in accounting and my MBA from the University of Washington. I come with 15 year's total experience in finance. I am currently employed by Micron Technology where I served as a Senior Financial Analyst managing the budget for the mobile division, and was recently promoted to Finance Manager with Micron. I monitor inventory levels to optimize the financial outlook of the company and analyze various financial metrics to provide business leaders with potential improvement opportunities.

I would be honored to serve Holy Nativity as a vestry member and believe my financial analyst background could be beneficial.

Respectfully,  
Jerrod

## Phil Street

I am very interested in serving on the Church of the Holy Nativity Vestry Board. My family and I started attending Holy Nativity in 2003 shortly after moving to Idaho. I have been a member of numerous Episcopal Churches from childhood to present. I have served Our Church as Junior Warden 2012 – 2017, Vestry Member, and Sexton. I last served on the Vestry from 2011 – 2017. I have held many leadership positions in the course of my career in wildland fire management as well as having served on numerous boards of directors for Idaho Sportsman's organizations.

I would be honored to serve Holy Nativity as a Vestry member once again, and believe I have a lot of experience that would be helpful to our Church Congregation and Vestry Board.

Sincerely,  
Phil Street

## Eucharistic Visitor Training

Archdeacon Eileen O’Shea will provide Eucharistic Visitor training at Holy Nativity on [Sunday, January 21 at 11:30](#), immediately following the 10AM Service. Anyone needing this training is welcome to attend.

On the 21st, Eileen will share information on the history, licensing, and responsibilities of a Eucharistic Visitor. A follow-up training will be held at Holy Nativity on **February 4th at 11:30**.

At this time we will practice using communion kits from your home parish, setting up communion and offering communion. Each training will last about 90 minutes. Please let Eileen know if you will be attending at [archdeacon@episcopalidaho.org](mailto:archdeacon@episcopalidaho.org).

## Preaching Practicum

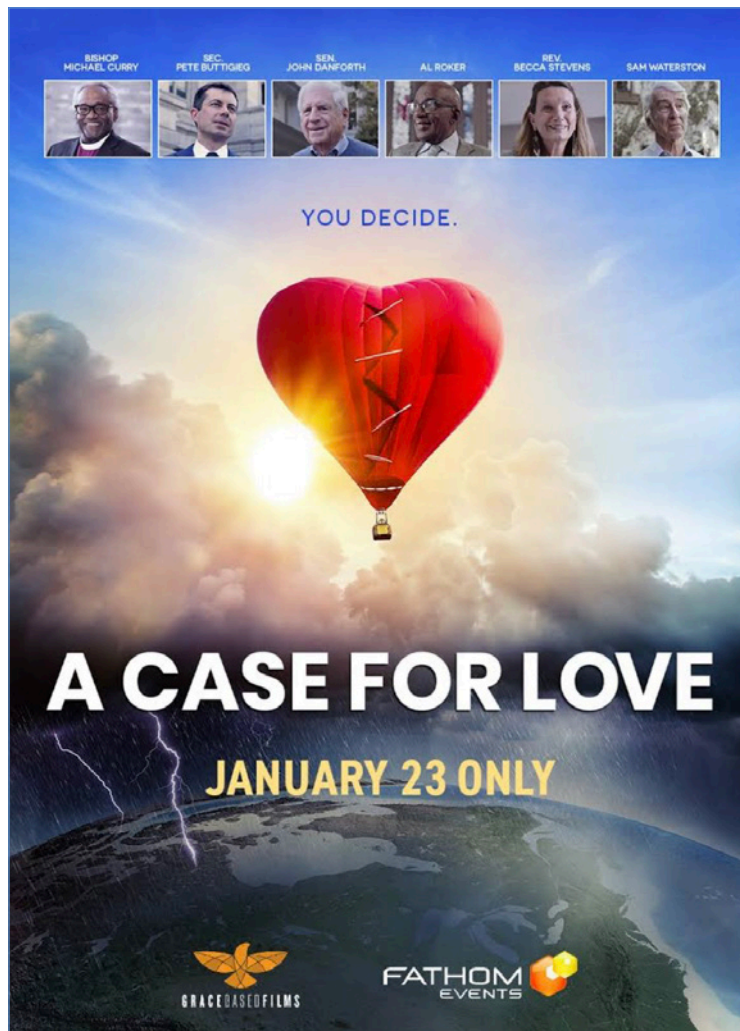
Called to Preach? Did you know that lay people can be authorized to preach at parishes within the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho?

Training by invitation or nomination (*Speak to your priest or deacon or call the Diocesan Office, Canon Emily or Deacon Tammy Jones*) is offered once or twice yearly to lay people who seek to develop and hone their skills in interpretation of Scripture, approaches to homiletics and practice preaching within a group setting.

Lay preachers are licensed by the Diocese and preachers serve at the discretion of the priest/deacon or senior warden in charge of the parish. Licenses are renewed through regular training, group work and feedback. Feel called? We might be ready to hear your voice!

**Save The Date:**  
**Preaching Practicum 2024**  
**February 9-11, 2024**

St. James Church and Retreat Center  
 Payette, ID



Join us on Tuesday, January 23rd for  
**“A Case For Love”**  
 Documentary Theater Screening

“Our society is more divided than ever. Many have moved into tribal corners, seeing the world from an “us versus them” point of view. The teachings and writings of Bishop Michael Curry, most well-known for his passionate sermon about “The Power of Love” at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, inspire **A CASE FOR LOVE**. This feature-length documentary examines the question of whether or not love, specifically—unselfish—love, is the solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the world.

**Click here for more details:**  
<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/a-case-for-love/>

*Four Locations: Boise, Meridian, Nampa, and Twin Falls.*



**NOVEMBER 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cash Balance		\$96,066.11
Accounts Payable / Bills		676.66
Balance After Payment		\$95,389.45

**FUND BALANCES**

Operating Reserve	\$9,287.71	
Be Our Guest	\$4,636.45	
Caring Closet Fund	\$2,162.83	
Children's Ministry	\$645.08	
2 Cents A Meal	\$2,284.96	
Building Fund	(\$2,449.76)	
Memorial Fund	\$2,835.84	
Paradise Point	\$3,941.08	
Youth Mission	\$1,373.00	
Kitchen Improvements	\$8,808.56	
Kitchen: New Dishwasher	300.00	
Music Fund	\$95.00	
Altar Guild Donation	\$1,090.73	
Landscaping	\$1,050.00	
Sound System	\$2,300.00	
Discretionary Fund	\$4,196.73	
Full Time Priest Fund	\$135,471.19	
Nampa & Meridian Irrigation	200.00	
Thanksgiving Baskets	350.00	
Total		\$178,579.40

**MONTHLY RECURRING EXPENSES**

New Commercial Loan	\$2,251.00	
Priest	\$1,760.68	
Total		\$4,011.68



- Carol Tracy . . . . . 1/1
- Jennifer Anttonen . . . . . 1/2
- Juanita Garza . . . . . 1/2
- Alice Farquhar-Mayes . . . . . 1/3
- Tammie Bradley . . . . . 1/4
- Jim Grooms. . . . . 1/6
- Dennis Feeney . . . . . 1/10
- Ferb Tracy . . . . . 1/12
- Steve Bush . . . . . 1/16
- Dawn Yadao . . . . . 1/16
- Mark Haustveit . . . . . 1/17
- Gil Walker . . . . . 1/17
- Linda Czarkowski. . . . . 1/20
- Carl Pierce. . . . . 1/20
- Peter Haskins . . . . . 1/20
- Jerrold Horn. . . . . 1/21
- Mary Kay Martin. . . . . 1/21
- Jamie Sterbis . . . . . 1/23
- Al Gunther. . . . . 1/24
- Carla Bulen . . . . . 1/26
- David Smith . . . . . 1/29



- Caleb & Rachel Schneiderman . . . . . 1/28

## Vestry Meeting Minutes

December 17th & 20th, 2023

### *Special Vestry Meeting*

**December 17, 2023 • 3PM**

Present: Bishop Jos Tharakan, Barbara Samperisi, Mary Buchanan, Sandra Koerner, Jon Anson, Richard Jones, Vance Wegner, Cindy Wolfenbarger and Karen Ryker.

Absent: Mike Magette

The Vestry meeting continued at 4:42 pm after the departure of Bishop Jos.

The first order of business was the need to remove the wooden shed in the Rectory back yard and replace it with a more substantial metal building which can be used to hold yard tools, etc. Vance has gotten a bid from Spartan Home Industries for dismantling in the amount of \$1400.00. This includes haul-off of materials and recycling of metal roof. Jon offered to use his equipment to demolish the shed and haul off debris. This would save us money but unfortunately, he is not able to do it until spring. Time is of the essence as we need to clean up that area before a new priest arrives. Vestry voted to accept the bid from Spartan Home Inc. and will ask them to begin immediately.

**New Shed:** Vance spoke with 3 local shed companies and received bids. Vance feels that the bid from Stor-Mor Sheds is the best for our needs. The vestry voted unanimously to accept the bid from Stor-Mor Sheds.

**Bathroom floor cleaning:** Our cleaning service gave us a very reasonable bid to clean/refurbish the tiles/grout on the bathroom floors. They were unaware that the tiles had been sealed with an acrylic product. Getting it off has taken many hours and the trying of different solvents. The hours spent have gone way over the estimate. The Vestry agreed to cover the cost of additional labor.

**New Church Office:** The church office needs to be moved from the Rectory to the Library room. This entails getting phone/wi-fi service installed. Mary has contacted Sparklight but does not know the cost yet. A desk for the priest will need to be purchased.



The Vestry reviewed the potential cost of having a Priest-In-Charge outline. The total annual cost for priest with family, living in the Rectory is \$92,816. This includes salary, health and dental insurance, Self-employment tax reimbursement and continuing education. The Vestry felt that it was appropriate.

A unanimous vote was taken to call Fr. Shibu to be our next Priest-In-Charge.

Next meeting will be held on December 20, 2023, at Jennifer Anttonen's home at 7:00pm.

The incoming priest has NO furniture so we will have to begin furnishing the Rectory. Several ways were discussed and about how to obtain furniture and other household items.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:59pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ryker

### **December 20, 2023 • 7PM**

Present: Richard Jones, Barbara Samperisi, Jon Anson, Mary Buchanan, Sandra Koerner, Karen Ryker, Cindy Wolfenbarger, Jennifer Anttonen.

Absent: Mike Magette and Vance Wegner.

Minutes of November meeting were approved by e-mail. The meeting was held at the Anttonen residence and called to order at 7:19pm with Cindy reading the Prayer for Vestries.

The main purpose of this meeting is to approve the budget for the coming year. As Mike, our Finance Chair, is ill and cannot attend, Mary presented the 2024 budget



that Mike prepared. A few items were discussed:

1. Slavic Church rent has been raised to \$350 from \$300.
2. The monthly budget for Be Our Guest has been raised to \$500.
3. The salary package for our new Priest-In-Charge.
4. Continuing financial assistance for EFM participants.

This budget shows a deficit of \$60,911. Mary has spoken to Bishop Jos about the possibility of getting financial help from the Diocese. Bishop said he would get with Barbara Rudin to see what can be done. Jon mentioned at the October meeting that there were discretionary funds available through the Diocese for capital improvements. Jon and Mary applied, and we received a \$10,000 grant which will help pay for the HVAC replacement.

Cindy asked if the church would continue to reimburse EFM participants for their fees. We did that this year when a group began meeting in the Parish Hall. The Vestry did not approve an ongoing reimbursement, just a one-time payment. We decided that we would reimburse First-time participants from now on.

The Priests salary was reviewed. The Priest and his family will live in the Rectory. This led to discussions on how best to furnish their home as they have very few possessions. Mary asked Mike if it would be appropriate to use some of the funds that we would have to spend on moving costs. Mike agreed at this point to set aside \$2000 for furniture, etc. The Diocese agreed early on to purchase a stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher. Jon graciously agreed to donate a television. Mary will contact the family to ascertain what they need, color preferences. The congregation will be afforded the opportunity to donate or purchase items once we know particulars. Sandra's quilting group expressed an interest in making quilts for the children's beds.

The Vestry unanimously voted to approve the budget for 2024, having faith that all will be well.

Two Vestry positions need to be filled at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. Mary spoke to Jarrod Horn and Phil Street, and they agreed to be Vestry candidates.

Bishop Jos is planning a Paradise Point Dinner to be held in the Parish Hall on the 10th of February.

Our next Vestry meeting will be January 24, 2024, before the annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen*

Karen Ryker, Clerk

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Sunday, January 28th

Our Annual Meeting is slated for Sunday, January 28th. We will have a potluck immediately following that morning's service. Chicken will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Once everyone has had a chance to enjoy their meal and fellowship time, we will begin the Annual Meeting.

If you are the lead person in charge of a specific ministry or area, please email your report to me **no later than January 20th** so that it can be included in the printed report to be handed out.

We are hopeful that Fr. Shibu and his family will be here at that time and will be able to join us.

Warm regards,  
Mary Buchanan  
Senior Warden



### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bishop of Idaho: The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan  
 Interim Priest: Rev. Jennifer Anttonen  
 Assisting Priest: Rev. Alice Farquhar-Mayes  
 Church Musician: Heidi Roberts  
 Senior Warden: Mary Buchanan  
 Junior Warden: Vance Wegner  
 Finance Chairman: Mike Magette  
 Treasurer: Sue Pahlas  
 Office Manager: Cindy Wolfenbarger  
 Ministry Schedule: Mary Buchanan  
 Sunday School: Carrie Magette  
 Altar Guild: Clare Barrett  
 Food Bank: Richard Jones  
 Fellowship: Sandra Koerner  
 Women's Group: Sue Pahlas  
 Worship: Rev. Jennifer Anttonen  
 Newsletter: Mary Buchanan  
 Website: Mary Buchanan