



# *The Trumpet*

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## *of the Church of the Holy Nativity*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many people have asked me about my beard, and there has been some consternation about it, since it has grown rather long. In light of that, I thought I would write a few thoughts concerning beards in general and mine in particular.



I have nothing against men going clean-shaven. That has been the style occasionally in history. Some of the early Christians probably came from Roman and Greek families and shaved off their facial hair. Christians are free from the ceremonial law of the Old Testament, so we can shave our beards, just as we can eat pork.

That being said, the earliest Christians were good Jewish folk, and the mature males among them certainly had full beards, as did our Lord Jesus. And the wearing of beards continued for some time, at least among the clergy, as a customary pious practice. The Eastern Church has mostly continued this even to the present, although modernization has taken hold on this, as on some other things, during the last century.

Speaking frankly, it is the natural state of male human beings to be bearded. Some of us grow fuller beards than others, but there it is. The Jewish and Eastern Orthodox custom has always been an affirmation and celebration of God's created order and a rejection of pagan rites which featured shaving, cropping, and unnaturally ornamenting the hair.

So what about *my* beard? Well, it began when Jenny asked me to grow it longer to play the Father in *Two Sons Have I Not*. But she likes it long now, too. My girls like it and think that I should always *fork* the beard. They keep bringing me pictures of historical figures (like St. Benedict) with impressive forked beards.

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# STEPHEN MINISTRY

by Marilyn Browne

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

## CONFIDENTIALITY.... WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Confidentiality is a mainstay of the Stephen Ministry. Let's talk about why it's so important, although I think you all know the answer to that. When you are the person needing someone with whom to talk and share your concerns and feelings, you would not want that information spread, not anywhere. I know I wouldn't. In fact, if you thought the Stephen Minister might spread your personal information, you probably wouldn't agree to having a Stephen Minister, let alone share with one. I know I wouldn't. That's why we pledge to maintain the confidentiality of every care receiver and what passes between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister, what is shared between those two individuals, remains only with them – and God. In fact, information would not even be shared with families or with the clergy without your permission.

I know there will be questions as to how that can be maintained. Who does know that someone is receiving care from a Stephen Minister? Only three people: Fr. Garrin, the Stephen Leader who handles the details of the assignment, and the Stephen Minister who is assigned. Who doesn't know? Everybody else! The other Stephen Leaders don't know. The other Stephen Ministers don't know. The spouse of a care giver doesn't know.

In one of the prayers at commissioning, Stephen Ministers were told, "Be free to share your own personal frustrations and needs with others so that you might receive the same kind of care and love you offer others." This is done in our monthly supervisory peer group sessions, but names and details of a situation which may point to someone in particular are never shared. Supervisory is primarily for the benefit of the Stephen Ministers – to assist them with their

feelings and methods and interactions and Christian caregiving skills. Each person receiving care is referred to simply as that, “My Care Receiver.” The only paper records with names are in the possession of Fr. Garrin and one Stephen Leader, and no one else; not the parish secretary or office volunteers, the vestry, nor the Stephen Ministers group as a whole.

At the commissioning when we promised to use the skills we have learned, maintaining confidentiality was one of the promises. This pledge of confidentiality is binding for the Stephen Ministers and Leaders. If however, at some time, the care receiver, wishes to have others know because it is or has been a rewarding experience, that is their prerogative.

We want you to know that we all take this pledge very seriously. We look forward to serving those in need in our congregation. If you have an interest in having a Stephen Minister now, please talk with or leave a note for Fr. Garrin or Marilyn Browne, our Stephen leaders.

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The beard is significant to me for several reasons. For one, it connects me with that ancient, pious tradition that accepts the goodness of God’s creation. It doesn’t connect me with the Eastern tradition so much, because that would include growing my head hair long, as well. But it does signify my identification with the Reformation tradition. Through the late medieval period, the fashion among the Roman Catholic clergy was to be clean shaven. Many of the Reformers grew beards as an outward sign of their break with Rome. Also, in many times, the beard has been seen as a symbol of manliness, maturity, and wisdom. Finally, just as with many Greco-Roman philosophers, the beard is a sign that I try to live my principles, rather than blowing with the winds of prevailing fashion, or even just sticking with the fashion of my youth.

So, will I someday trim my beard again? Possibly. Is there anything wrong with being clean-shaven? No. But neither is there anything wrong with the hair styles of Archbishop Cranmer, William the Conqueror, St. Benedict, or Jesus of Nazareth. We all have different associations with different fashions, based on our age and geographical history, among other things. Ultimately, though, it is an issue of personal taste, unless we ourselves exalt it unnecessarily into a principle.

*Garrin +*

## Prayer List

**PARISH FAMILY:** Don Webb, Pinkie Webb, Stephanie Gentry, Sid Bigby, Sarah Niday, Virginia Brandon, Carol Wright, Pat Sessions, Bill Shrewsbury, Bill Backvold, Marty Johnston, Juanita Frances, Sharon Macduff, Frances Andersen, Richard Gay, Phil Wylie, Kathy Biegler, George Belshaw, Geri Carpenter, Bob Brady, Ben Moore, Vibert LaMaison, Bud Marecek, Erika & Russell Kinder, Sandy Smith, Linda Adams

**FRIENDS & FAMILY:** Kiersten\*, Jim\*, Bernice\*, Miriam (Tex), Jessie\*, Robert\*, Grover\*, Abbie, Ronnie\*, Donna\*, Howard\*, Ann, Charly\*, Marlona, Linda\*, Tim\*, Don\*, John, Emily, Peggy, Aubrey, Junior, Jenny, Michael, Sharon, Bruce, Michelle, Terry\*, Jim\*, Jerry\*, Abby\*, Heather, Kalyn, John Thomas, Becky, Ted

### **SEMINARIAN:**

Perry Mullins

**SERVING IN THE MILITARY:** Vernon Allison, Karl Anker, Norman Bodley, Frank Colon, Kevin Fralish, Devin Frank, Jesse Gerber, Brice Glasscock, Aaron Greenhaw, P. J. Grube, Mark Jones, Nathan Jones, Orion Jones, Glenn King, Christopher Kirscht, James Kirscht, Bengamin Luker, Nick Mitchell, Brett Muse, Brian Patton, Greg Phillips, Todd Prichard, Edward Matthew Schmidt, Timothy Shrewsbury, Garrett Stevens, Albert Tao, Rob Taylor, Patrick Webb



## JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S 2012

Achol Atem	1
Ed Simmons	2
Hannah Kunz	6
Steve Smith	6
Maria Elisa Estes	9
Janice Ashmore	11
Maria Estes	14
Doris Chumley	16
Pat Sessions	16
Helen Rhine	16
Marge Batzler	17
Linda Flack	17
Jeffrey Wright	21
Ashton Redmon	21
Tony Gerber	22
Grace Wright	24
Leo Fitzgerald	28
Nathan Tryon	28
Emily Federico	28
Melissa Kunz	29
Chris Peel	30
Carol Wright	30
Louise Weeks	31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Marge Smith	5
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**Tuesday Night Bible Study** will resume January 10, 2012; studying the gospel of Matthew. Anyone is welcome to join us on Tuesday nights from 7 - 8:30 in the parish hall.

### **Thursday Women's Bible Study**

The group will resume on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, with a study entitled The Jesus I Never Knew, by Philip Yancey. The book by the same name has been given great reviews in the press: 'There is no writer in the evangelical world that I admire and appreciate more,' says Billy Graham. Philip Yancey helps reveal what two thousand years of history covered up. What happens when a respected Christian journalist decides to put his preconceptions aside and take a long look at the Jesus described in the Gospels? How does the Jesus of the New Testament compare to the 'new, rediscovered' Jesus—or even the Jesus we think we know so well? Philip Yancey offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work—his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection—and ultimately, who he was and why he came. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith. The Jesus I Never Knew uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. 'No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same,' says Yancey. 'Jesus has rocked my own preconceptions and has made me ask hard questions about why those of us who bear his name don't do a better job of following him.' Our Brotherhood did this study and several of them recommended it. Participants' guides will be available at the first meeting. All women are welcome to join us for the video, sharing, prayer, and fellowship.

**New Members/Adult Confirmation Class** - Sunday mornings @ 9:15 in the sanctuary.

**Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm, Sundays, 9:30 am \*Anyone interested in singing with the choir please talk to Gene or simply come to a Wednesday practice.

**Intercessory Prayer** is offered after both services on Sundays. Please come to the altar rail where a Stephen Minister will offer private prayer for you.

**Mass is Offered** at 12:10 Tuesdays & 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays. If you are praying for people, attend and offer them to the Lord in the Eucharistic meal.

**Prayer List Updates** . . . Requests previously submitted for prayer need to be renewed monthly. Email or call Allison and give her updates. Thank you in advance for helping us keep our prayer list up to date.

**Christmas Decorations** – On behalf of Altar Guild, I would like to thank all those who assisted in decorating the church for Christmas. The transformation of our beautiful Nave is a gift we all share in giving to the glory of God. Now I must ask for some extra hands to help in removing the decorations on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. **God Bless you all this Christmas season and throughout the New Year!** *Marge*

**Mercy Ship Needs Our Help**, please consider donating: dry erase fine pt markers, tissue paper, pipe cleaners, bright yarn, #9 & 10 crochet needles, black socks, towels & wash clothes-dark colors. same



**Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The 9th Annual Boar's Head Festival**

will be celebrated at Holy Nativity on the 7th & 8th days of January, year of our Lord, 2012 at 5:00 each evening.

This is a fun evening of Olde English merriment combining the secular celebrations of the Yule Log & Boar Hunting with the religious elements of Jesus birth and the coming of the Wise Men in Epiphany. A costumed procession, music, entertainment and banquet provide people of all ages an evening to remember.

This parish-wide event sponsored by the Choir and the EYC will benefit the Organ Fund. The **performances are free**; tickets for the Feast should be purchased or reserved early to ensure your choice of seating day. Tickets are available through the office weekdays . . . Adults-\$10, Children 10 & under-\$5, 3 & under free, max per family-\$35.



**For 2012, The Brotherhood of St. Andrew** will continue its mission of prayer, study, and service by participating in many different events for Holy Nativity as well as the diocese and community.

We continue to pray and study as a group during our monthly Saturday meetings – something all men of the parish should experience. We will continue our fellowship events such as the Super Bowl party, Ascension BBQ, and others.

While our service with Habitat for Humanity has regretfully come to an end, we have two new service projects – Patriot Paws and Hearts and Hammers – that will continue our tradition of service to the Diocese Brotherhood Assembly and the community at large. You will be hearing more about these soon.

**Our Super Bowl party is coming up! Save the date – February 5! More details will be coming in the service bulletins.**

For 2012, we'd like all men interested in participating with us to come and visit on the second Saturday of the month starting at 8:30 in the Parish Hall! You will find the fellowship and study a blessing in your religious faith.

**2012 Giving Envelopes** are available for pick up off the table in the narthex. If you don't have envelopes, please notify the office at 972-424-9574. Thank you.

**The Stable** – Please stop in and see the new updated gift selections.

**The Food Pantry** needs two volunteers to fill orders the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month. PLEASE HELP! Call Sharon: 214-704-5689.

**Thank you!!**

The priests and staff would like to “Thank You” for remembering us at Christmastime. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated! Please know how happy we are to be here for you & serving the Lord. **Blessings & Thanks, Fr. Garrin, Fr. Kline, Fr. Mendez, Allison & Gene**

**Adult Forum Series – The Apostle’s Creed:** meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the parish hall; we will have video followed by discussion...Join Us!

The Adult Class will not meet on January 1st. We agreed to watch the children’s Birthday Party for Jesus which will take place in the Parish Hall. We will resume our study of the Apostles Creed on January 8. The topics for January and February are as follows:

January 8 - He was buried, descended into Hell, and rose on the third day.

January 15 - He ascended into heaven, and is our intercessor.

January 22 - He shall come again to be our judge.

January 29 - I believe in the Holy Spirit.

February 5 - The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints.

February 12 - The Forgiveness of Sins.

February 19 - The Resurrection of the Body.

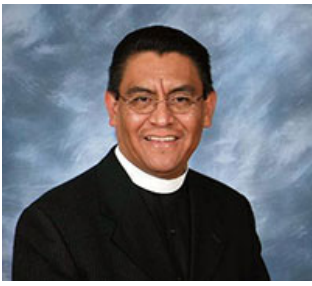
February 26 - The Life Everlasting.

We say this statement of our belief whenever we attend a Baptism, Confirmation, or one of the Daily Offices. The Nicene Creed which we use at Mass is an expanded version of the Apostles’ Creed so the study of this creed or symbol is absolutely appropriate. It is referred to, when used in Baptism and Confirmation, as our Baptismal Covenant.

The Sunday program begins with a recorded program with comments from theologians from various Communion. Though a bit long, these comments are eye openers and provide information that we all should want to know.

Would you like to know more? We will convene promptly at 9:15 on each of the Sundays listed above. I hope to see you there!

Malcolm Catter



# *Ministerio Hispano*

**en La Iglesia de la Santa Natividad**

Queridos hermanos del pueblo de Dios en la Iglesia de la Santa Natividad. Estamos terminando con un precioso año que llega a su fin, en el que nuestro padre Dios nos ha acompañado, ha sido un año lleno de bendiciones pero también de retos. Podemos decir bendecidos porque nos hemos esforzado por cumplir con nuestra misión de seguir predicando las buenas nuevas de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Nuevos hermanos se han unido a nuestra congregación, a través de nuestros esfuerzos por traer más personas a los pies de nuestro soberano Señor Rey Jesucristo.

Hemos cumplido con nuestra promesa de compartir el pan con nuestros hermanos necesitados, a través del programa de “Lonches para los niños de Jesús Fuente de vida” en Perú. El pasado agosto hemos realizado nuestro segundo viaje misionero a Arequipa Perú, donde desarrollamos la “Escuela Bíblica” y establecimos los lazos de hermandad con nuestra iglesia hermana de la Santa Natividad en Yarabamba Perú.

Nuestra educación cristiana en la “Escuela Dominical” ha sido accesible para todas las edades, siguiendo el firme propósito de prepararnos en el conocimiento de las verdades del evangelio de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. En el entendimiento de cómo ofrendar a Dios, sigue siendo un reto, este año 2011 hemos decrecido en la ofrenda a Dios comparado con el año 2010. Necesitamos tomar conciencia que nosotros somos la iglesia, por lo consiguiente debemos ser responsables con nuestras ofrendas ya que son para el sostenimiento y funcionamiento de todas las instalaciones de nuestra Iglesia.

En la convención anual hemos tenido un delegado hispano, aparte de mi persona, el hno. Mario Fajardo. Hoy al final del año 2011 en la junta general anual de la parroquia hemos logrado elegir a otro miembro más al Vestry, a la hermana Rosalía Gonzalez donde junto con el hermano Gabriel Guerra y el hermano Joel Zúñiga, serán la voz del pueblo hispano en el Vestry. El hermano

William Macario, fue elegido delegado a la convención diocesana para el 2011. Nuestra campaña de evangelización Agosto 2011, fue un éxito, porque ustedes la hicieron, un esfuerzo más para traer más personas Para Cristo. Estoy muy orgulloso del pueblo de Dios que somos todos, por la hermandad, por sus esfuerzos en todas las actividades, sirviendo en varias áreas; Acólitos, siervos del altar, lectores, Ushers, ministros Eucarísticos, comités para las diferentes festividades y todos en general por su dedicación y servicio, que los bendiga siempre.


Mis queridos hermanos, de la Iglesia de Santa Natividad, en el amor que les tengo en Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, les doy las más profundas gracias a Dios y a ustedes por haberme permitido ser su sacerdote, su pastor, su consejero, su maestro, pero sobre todo su amigo y hermano, muchas gracias. Quiere decirles humildemente, he hecho todo lo posible por servirles en sus necesidades espirituales, y en todo lo que he podido, y si no es así, les pido me perdonen por no ser un pastor capaz de servirles en todas sus necesidades. Espero por la gracia de de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que el año venidero me de las fuerzas y sabiduría para seguirles Sirviendo.

Permítanme felicitarlos por su fidelidad y amor a Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, y les exhorto a seguirlo solamente a Él.


Que la gracia de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo este siempre con ustedes. Les deseó con todo mi amor ¡Una Feliz Navidad y un Nuevo Año lleno de Bendiciones!

Su siervo en Cristo.

The Rev. Fr. Noe Mendez  
Diciembre 30, 2011



**The Rt. Rev'd James M. Stanton, The Bishop of Dallas**  
**The Rt. Rev'd Paul E. Lambert, Bishop Suffragan**  
**The Rev'd Fr. Garrin W. Dickinson, Rector**  
**The Rev'd Canon John W. Kline, Priest Associate**  
**The Rev'd Fr. Noe Mendez, Spanish Speaking Ministry**  
**Mr. Eugene Meyer, Church Organist**  
**Mrs. Allison Maybery, Parish Secretary**



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