

Summer 1999



During the month of May, the Community remembered in Communion Prayer Estella Heavener, the mother of the Reverend Carol Ann Crabb, who passed away on May 2, and Jo Ann Marie McIntyre, the mother of Deacon Michael McIntyre, who passed away on May 20.

*

On June 3, 1999, the second luncheon gathering of Reno-Sparks religious leaders was held, this one at Temple Sinai at the invitation of Rabbi Myra Soifer. This gathering represented primarily clerics, with about thirty in attendance, including the Reverend Robert Petrovich from the Second Advent Church, while the first such meeting included more attendees from service organizations and missions. Following lunch, table groups formed to discuss possible goals and purposes for the continuance of such interfaith gatherings.

While there was no formal general consensus, there was general agreement that similar gatherings should continue quarterly, hosted by the various religious groups involved, on a rotating basis, and that the host should take the opportunity to introduce those gathered to his or her ministry and religious customs. There was a strong consensus that no strict agenda or organization or guidelines be developed for the gatherings but

rather that the gatherings be kept informal and open-ended to encourage individuals to get to know each other by name and face, learn to trust each other, and discuss possible coprojects with the idea that there is a great value in encouraging trust, collegueship, and fraternal and sororial feelings toward other leaders in the religious community.

This was decided because all present recognized that there were really very few places and circumstances that allowed religious professionals to discuss spiritual matters and religious concerns in a personable environment. There was also mutual agreement that anything that developed during these gatherings should develop naturally, that nothing be forced, and that developments be progressive and not be "decided by committee." Both of these principles have continued to be held until the present.

While several of the founders of this interfaith gathering have retired or passed on, others have risen to take their places, and the Second Advent Church continues to be active and central to the organization.

*

On Friday, July 2, 1999, Bishop Gene Savoy delivered the first of the twenty-four lectures of the Project "X" series on Metaphysics, Philosophy, and Mystic Theology under the auspices of the American Philosophical Institute of Cosolargy. The series, dealing primarily with the teachings of ancient Greece and Egypt, presents advanced theories of the ancient metaphysical teachings that centered on theophany and the personal experience of God's powers, which involved the priestly science of theurgy. Little-known concepts are also highlighted in a way that "takes down the wall" built around the ancient philosophies of Greece and Egypt by secular authorities. With this series, the science of Cosolargy, which is based on old and new concepts and revealed information, penetrates the arcanum of the mysterious science of ancient

metaphysics.

*

The Reverend Deaconess Victoria Skinner passed away on Wednesday July 28 at 8:00 p.m. at Manor Health Care Services in Reno.

Spring 1999



January 17, 1999, marked the first time that ministers of the Second Advent Church attended the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration in Reno in an official capacity. Since that time, ministers of the Second Advent Church have attended faithfully each year and for the past several years have played a prominent role in the organizing of the event.

*

On Saturday, February 27, 1999, Tobin Keane Oberhoulser, the son of Andrew Oberhoulser, was Confirmed, at which time he was formally admitted to the Second Advent Congregation.

*

On March 3, 1999, at the Little Flower Catholic Church, the Rite of Investiture of the Reverend Robert Bowling to the office of Monsignor was attended by the Reverends Gene Savoy Jr. and Robert Petrovich of the Second Advent Church. The only other non-Catholic clergy present was Father Jim Jeffery of the Episcopal Church, a leader in the Reno interfaith community. Unexpectedly, Monsignor Bowling recognized the presence of the International Community of Christ during his acceptance speech and expressed his great pleasure that priests of other denominations would appear at the ceremony held in his honor, calling it "icing on the cake." At the reception following the service, Bishop Gene Savoy made an appearance to offer congratulations to Monsignor Bowling.

*

On March 6, 1999, a Memorial Service was held at the Chapel of The Holy Child for Jeanette Elliott, mother of the Reverend Rebecca Willis.

*

On March 13, 1999, Jonathan Kanzelmeyer, Gabriel Kanzelmeyer, Tobin Oberhoulser, and Megan Sherrell were Anointed in private ceremony and presented as new members of the Minor Order of Acolytes.

*

On March 11, 1999, the Reverends Gene Savoy Jr. and Robert Petrovich attended an informal, friendly luncheon gathering of about fifty local clergy of varying faiths at the invitation of Father Jim Jeffrey at Trinity Episcopal Church. The purpose of the gathering was to bring local clergy together to discuss the idea of holding such gatherings at regular intervals throughout the year at rotating locations in order to provide a means for improving ecumenism, human services, and unified action on matters confronting all religions in Northern Nevada. This gathering proved to be the first of many such

gatherings, which continued to be held quarterly or semiannually every year since. At the present time, the Second Advent Church acts as the information center for this regional interfaith group, which has since come to be known informally as the Nevada Clergy Association.

*

During the months of March and April, renovations, remodeling, and repair of the Steamboat Springs Spa and workshop were completed by the men of the Community, at times working day and night.

COMMUNITY COMMUNIQUE FALL 1996 THROUGH FALL 2007



NOTICE: The Summer 1996 edition was the last *Community Communiqué* published until the Winter 2007 edition. For this reason, you will not find archived copies of the *Community Communiqué* from Fall 1996 through Fall 2007.

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COMMUNITY COMMUNIQUE SUMMER 1996



COMMUNITY communique

VOLUME XL
NO. 2

SUMMER
1996

THE REV. GENE SAVOY, JR. WEDS SIMONA SHARP *Vows Exchanged During Special Nuptial Communion Rite*

Miss Simona Kory Sharp, daughter of Stephen and Gail Sharp of Lakewood, Colorado, exchanged wedding vows with The Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr., at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, May 18, 1996, at the University Chapel in Reno. The special Nuptial Communion, which included the exchange of vows, was officiated by the groom's father, The Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy, with assistance from The Right Reverends Roger Wold and Dennis Isom and Deacon Gary Simonsen.

Approximately 120 guests attended the ceremony. Special guests included the groom's mother, Sylvia Omoneda-Bernales, the bride's parents, and several other members of both the bride's and the groom's families. The groom's sister, Janella Savoy, away at school in New Zealand, was unable to return to the United States for the ceremony.

In the bride's party as maids to the bride were Debra Postbury, Kory Pendergast, Andrea Snyder, and Becky Sack. The flower girl was Megan Sherrill. In the groom's party were The Right Reverend Robert Petrovich and Robert Roy, head ushers, and Dr. Steven Larsen and Shane Grady, ushers. Matron of Honor was The Reverend Lucinda Gibson. The groom's brother, The Reverend Sean Savoy, acted as best man.

Following opening musical selections on carillon and organ, soprano

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Miss Simona Kory Sharp and The Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr. exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, May 18, 1996, during a special Nuptial Communion held at the University Chapel.

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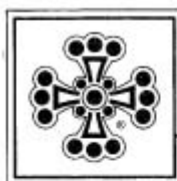
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NO. 1

SPRING
2006

STEAMBOAT HOT SPRINGS SPA OPENS TO PUBLIC

Business License Granted After Final Repairs

After several months of final preparations, the Spa at the Steamboat Springs Fishery opened to the public on March 1st. The Spa has been used by Church members since The Church first received the Steamboat property. Although members of the public have not yet come in great numbers, the first non-Church members of the Spa already appear to be a varied group of people.

"We have a gentleman who comes regularly because his muscles get sore after doing a full day of gardening work," said The Reverend Rebecca Willis, Administrator of the Spa. "We also have several people who come for very specific physical problems. Several of these are from out of town. They come because they are working with a doctor in town, stay in town for a short time, and then leave."

"Some of our clients are people who have been to mineral springs all over Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado," she added. "They can describe to you the facilities that exist in mineral springs all over the West. Right now we have a high percentage of these kinds of people because they are always seeking out mineral springs."

Besides mineral spring aficionados, the Spa has also attracted and gained the support of immediate neighbors. "During the process of getting our approval with the County, several of our neighbors were exceedingly helpful," Rev. Willis said. "They went to some of the County meetings

and supported us. When we opened, we issued special invitations to those individuals to use the Spa; and they have continued to be very sympathetic and supportive of what we are doing."

Rev. Willis said it was a period of months from the time she first thought the Spa was ready for approval by the Washoe County Building Department and the date the Building Department actually signed off the Spa facility. "Then, once we had taken off from the Building Department, we had to wait for the County to issue a business license before we could actually open the doors and start accepting paying customers," she said.

Initially, it was expected that the baths would be open for public use by the end of October, 1995. At the end of February, 1996, a few building re-

quirements still remained to be met before Washoe County would grant the Spa a business license.

The Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr., one of the Church administrators involved with the project, explained the difficulties involved with receiving the Washoe County Building Department's approval of the physical facility for public use: "The Building Department had given us one set of requirements in November. Our architects wrangled with them over certain things that were not necessary because of the nature of the project. After that we got a second list, which included the handrail ramp and the order to remove a sliding glass door."

"When the inspector finally came out for the first visual inspection, he gave us another list. That was in February, a week before we finally got our license. The repairs we had to make after the first walk-through

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Sacred Calendar Holidays Observed Advent Day and True Easter Celebrated

Remembrance, Jan. 29-30

Each year the Second Advent Church observes the anniversary of the Second Advent with a Vigil held at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary. The manifestation of the Son of Righteousness thirty-four years ago was celebrated in a special manner this year. In addition to the traditional sunrise services beginning on February 2nd, the day of the manifestation,

special commemorative services were held on January 29th and 30th in honor of The Child Jesus and his world message.

"This evening we break bread in memory of the little war-child who came into the world as a messenger of God to announce the advent of a new cosmic and spiritual event." With those words, Bishop Gene Savoy opened the special commemorative ser-

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WINTER
1995-1996

CHURCH ACQUIRES ADDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS

Red Rock Sanctuary Water Supply Quadrupled

On February 7, 1996, The Church received a letter from the State Engineers Office, Department of Water Resources, regarding The Church's permit applications for additional water rights at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary. The letter stated that The Church had been granted the additional water rights it applied for two years ago.

The Church initially acquired four permits for water rights when it purchased the property at Red Rock during the years 1985-1982 for a total of 17.1 million gallons of water annually (MGA). In 1991 a fifth permit was acquired for an additional 17.1 MGA, which gave The Church a total of 34.2 MGA, or approximately 105 acre feet of water annually. In 1994 The Church made three new applications.

"Back in April 1994 we applied to the State Engineers Office for additional water rights at the Sanctuary," said The Reverend Gene Savoy Jr., Episcopal Vicar. "It has taken two years for us to receive them."

The State of Nevada is divided into water basins, where natural water runs off collects. The State allocates the amount of water which can be used each year from each basin. Property owners have the right to claim a certain portion of water in each basin for their use, depending upon how much property they have and their uses.

"When Red Rock Estates was originally formed in the 1970's," Rev. Savoy explained, "the investors had taken out a certain amount of water

rights. Even though they were in the name of Red Rock Estates and the investors, no one had ever taken any action on them. What we discovered this, we put in our three new applications in 1994. Basically, we claimed an abandonment and asked the State to transfer them to us. This is what they did."

The State of Nevada requires that once the recipient of water rights is given a permit, he must be able to prove to the State that he is capable of using the amount of water he claims. This is done by proving beneficial use. To prove beneficial use, the applicant has to use a certain percentage of the total amount of water which he is permitted. "We are now using as much water as we can each day, particularly watering trees. Records of water usage are kept in a log by The Right Reverend Riano Castell."

"Beneficial use does not mean just running the pump and letting the water run out somewhere," Rev. Savoy explained. "Beneficial use means agriculture, irrigation, fisheries, water bottling, dumps along those lines, as well as use for actual structures."

Rev. Savoy further explained: "In Nevada water rights are very precious. They are assets. You may buy or sell water rights for a monetary value. In a state that is obviously very dry, you need water rights for development. The future development of the Sanctuary depends upon having water rights. Without them we would not be able to put in the groves of trees, the Shrine of God's Waters, the

university building, the Abbey, the parsonages. All those things depend on having water. You cannot build unless you have water."

Most of the water The Church expects to use in the future will be for parsonages. Each parsonage has to have a minimum of 1.5 acre feet per year. "Just for a comparison, with the amount of water we have out at the Sanctuary, a contractor could build a two hundred-house subdivision. Obviously we are not going to do that."

The water for these three new applications is equivalent to an additional 110.1 MGA, which gives The Church a total of approximately 144.3 MGA or approximately 442 acre feet of water per year. (One acre foot is equal to one acre of land covered with one foot of water.) The new permits have quadrupled the water rights The Church held in 1991.

"The value of the new water rights is incalculable," Rev. Savoy said. "I would estimate it to be approximately \$1.3 million."

Sixteenth Anniversary of Epiphany Observed Thirteen-day Vigil Held at Consecrated Sanctuary

The resident Congregation of the Second Advent Church celebrated the traditional thirteen-day Vigil of the 1995-1996 Christmas-Epiphany season with daily sunrise services beginning on Christmas Day, December 25th, and continuing through the

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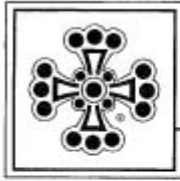
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COMMUNITY COMMUNIQUE FALL 1995



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FALL
1995

MINISTERS ORDAINED DURING SANCTUARY CEREMONY

Open-air Rite Conducted at the Cathedral Church of the Americas

Sunday, October 8, 1995, marked an auspicious day in the history of the Second Advent Church. Thirty-three men and women were received into the active ministry of The Church as Deacons and Presbyters on that day. It was only the second time a rite of this magnitude has been conducted. The previous ceremony was performed on October 9, 1994 (see *Communiqué*, Fall 1994).

The ceremony, which took place during this year's October Convocation for clergy and ministerial students of the Second Advent Church, was originally scheduled for February 2nd, Second Advent Day, but was postponed—first to April 18th, Second Advent Easter, and then to June 6th, Second Advent Pentecost. When unseasonal inclement weather prevented the ceremony from being conducted on those holy days, it was rescheduled for Sunday, October 8th, a day when a large number of Second Advent clergy could be assembled to witness the rite.

Following sunrise Divine Service and Communion of Fellowship, at which nearly 300 attending resident and visiting clergy were united, The Rev. Jackson Lord, an Elder, called forth the thirty-three candidates for ordination. Within the hour, ten of them would be ordained as Deacons, the remaining twenty-three would as Presbyters, both lay and religious (see tract on page 3 for full list of candidates).

The ceremony commenced at 8:15

A.M. and was officiated by The Most Rt. Rev. Gene Savoy, Head Bishop of the Second Advent Church. He was assisted by The Rt. Reverends Roger Weld and Robert Petrovich and The Reverends Gary Buchanan, Gene Savoy, Jr., and Sean Savoy, all of whom also would receive ordination that morning.

With bells atop the iconic cross-towers of the Cathedral ringing "The Assen My," candidates assumed their places on the Chancel of the Cathedral to await Bishop Savoy who entered a few minutes later with crozier and mitre. He was followed by his five assistants who carried liturgical books, sacred vestments for the assisting, and other appointments. Once the officiant had entered, the bells ceased and the lone voice of soprano Michelle Carothers was heard singing "So Is My Joy The Lord," a traditional musical piece of The Church used at special

liturgical rites. The antiphon eloquently tells the story of the spiritual ascent and his struggle for salvation. The words of the song were adapted from the *Gita of Solomon* in 1983 by Bishop Savoy and were set to a melody by The Rev. Gary Buchanan, Musical Director of the Second Advent Church.

Following the singing, the solemn ceremony commenced according to the prescribed liturgical books and according to the rubrics. After Bishop Savoy addressed the candidates, passages were recited by Rt. Reverends Roger Weld and Robert Petrovich from the *Gita of Solomon* and from "The Community Rule." Upon the candidates' acceptance of their vows, each was anointed with sacred chrism by Bishop Savoy by means of the laying on of hands, investiture with stole and appropriate vestments followed.

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Second Advent Clergy Gather for Convocation

Main Proceedings Held at Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary

The Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary was the site for several of the main events held from October 5th through 12th during this year's Convocation. The annual clerical gathering was attended by nearly 100 resident and visiting Second Advent clergy and ministerial students.

Events at the Consecrated Sanctuary included the fifteenth annual Councils, the annual Human Spirit-

ual Rights celebration, a Sanctuary tour, and liturgical services. Other events of the annual Convocation were held at various other sites in the Reno area, including the University Chapel, Rectory-Abbey, and the Steamboat Priority-Mission. Also included in this year's agenda were a brunch and dinner at the Airport Plaza Hotel.

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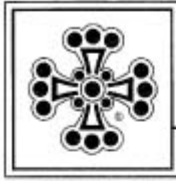
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**COMMUNITY COMMUNIQUE SUMMER
1995**



COMMUNITY communique

VOLUME XXXIX
NO. 2

SUMMER
1995

Steamboat Villa Hot Springs Spa Will Open to Public Renovations Begin on Tub Rooms, Steam Bath, Interior

The Second Advent Church is currently making preparations at the Steamboat Springs Priory-Mission to open the Steamboat Spa facilities to the general public. Although the Spa has been open for private use by the members of The Church Congregation for several years, The Church now plans to open membership to the public before the end of 1995.

The Spa will operate as the Steamboat Hot Springs Spa under The Church's affiliation, the International Community Guilds. Facilities will be open to the public on a limited membership basis. Memberships will be made available through the Guilds.

The final stage of interior renovation

is presently underway. Planned remodeling involves the complete refitting of the tub rooms and steam bath; the replacement of old doors and the addition of new furnishings. Tub rooms will be equipped for color and sound therapy.

General planning of the Spa project is being directly overseen by The Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy, Bishop of the Second Advent Church, with the assistance of The Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr., in his capacity as Episcopal Vicar. Legal aspects of the project are being overseen by The Reverend Rebecca Willis together with The Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr. Renovations are being directed by The Rt. Rev. Remo

Castell, Head of The Church's Department of Ecobiology.

The building and site must meet a number of County requirements before the Spa can open as a public facility. In mid-June the Guilds made application for a business license with Washoe County to operate the Spa. Within the next two weeks, the Guilds filed for business registration with the State of Nevada and with the Department of Taxation.

According to Rev. Gene Savoy, Jr., "Filing with the State was the easy part. The hard part was meeting the County requirements. The County required quite a few things. We had no idea at the time all that this project would entail." The County required approval by four agencies: the Department of Development Review (for a commercial site review of the property itself), the Building and Safety Division, the Fire Protection District, and the District Health Department. "That is what took all the time this summer," he said.

The opening of the Spa to the public also required that the property have a commercial site review. In 1990 the state legislature passed a law regarding the regional development plan for the Truckee Meadows that shifted a number of the old zoning. Although the Steamboat property was originally under a commercial zoning, under the new law it was given the new designation of general rural.

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Building Department Begins Summer Projects Spa and South Sanctuary Amphitheater Renovated

Every Sunday from mid-June through July, volunteers and members of The Church's Department of Ecobiology worked together to prepare Steamboat Hot Springs Spa for public use and the Sanctuary grounds for the October Convocation.

Men, women, and youths of The Church grouped together as weekend volunteers at the Steamboat Priory-Mission in June and early July to prepare the interior of the building for refurbishing of the spa baths and to beautify the surrounding grounds before County inspections. Crews organized to complete a variety of tasks:

general cleaning of the facilities and chapel, removal of furniture and office equipment stored within the main building to separate storage units, removal of rubbish, cleaning of grounds, and clearing of fields.

In the latter part of July, work crews began the long overdue second phase of reconstruction on the Forum below the Cathedral Church of the Americas at the Red Rock Cassiomed Sanctuary of Prophecy. Men of The Church volunteered Sundays to begin repair work on the walls of the Forum. The first phase of renovations

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**COMMUNITY COMMUNIQUE SPRING
1995**



COMMUNITY communique

VOLUME XXXIX
NO. 1

SPRING
1995

CHURCH SELLS DOWNTOWN PROPERTIES TO HOSPITAL *University, Parochial School, Production Facilities to be Relocated*

The International Community of Christ Church has sold three of its downtown properties to neighboring St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. The buildings on these properties have held The Church's production and printing facilities, Parochial School, Episcopal See, and University facilities for over a decade.

In April 1994, St. Mary's Medical Center first approached The Church about purchasing its four downtown properties—the Chancery, the Annex, the School and the Episcopal See Building. The initial price St. Mary's offered was not satisfactory to The Church, neither was The Church willing to sell the Chancery building itself. Further negotiations continued on and off for about a year.

The Church originally purchased the downtown buildings in 1979-80, not only to accommodate the various functions and facilities of The Church but to make an investment. The Church purchased the buildings with the knowledge that these properties could be sold to St. Mary's at some later time, when they would no longer be worthwhile for The Church to maintain.

The Reverend Gene Sevey, Jr., The Church's financial officer, said, "We were located in a very good spot because of St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. They owned all of the property on the three or four surrounding blocks, except for ours and one other."

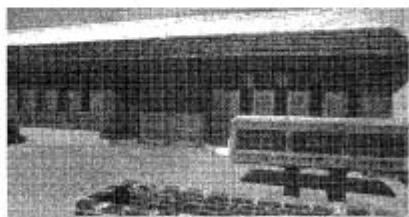
The sale agreement was made between the end of March and the beginning of April. "We close the deal on May first," Rev. Sevey said. "We agreed that we would be moved out on the first of May, and that they would legally take possession on that day."

The medical center insisted on completing the sale quickly. Rev. Sevey explained: "As I understand it, the hospital went through some very serious administrative changes, especially in the issue of management personnel. They got a new managing staff, and that may have had something to do with it. Besides, the hospital is always in need of expansion."

been worked on for months, or years, that were suddenly scrapped, and he had a fear that something similar might happen to us, that they might have a change of mind. He did not want us to be caught in that type of a situation."

The Right Reverend Renee Castelli, head of The Church's Department of Technology and responsible for overseeing the actual move, first learned of the sale and the impending move only two weeks before it was scheduled to occur.

"Because St. Mary's wanted us to move out by the 23rd of April, I asked



Exterior view of the building at 626 Hudson Street that housed the Episcopal See and University.

"Our real estate broker advised us to close the deal as quickly as possible because things at the hospital were uncertain in regards to the administration. He knew of plans that had

for an extension," Rev. Castelli said. "I knew we did not have enough time to move the See, the School and the Annex in fourteen days, so I asked for a

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1994**



NOTICE: *The Winter 1992 edition was the last Community Communique published until the Spring 1995 edition. From Spring 1993 through Winter 1995, the quarterly publication of The Community Communique was on hiatus, picking up again with the Spring 1995 issue. For this reason, you will not find archive copies of the print Community Communique from Spring 1993 through Winter 1994. However, we are providing coverage of Community events for this season is the collection of articles you will find below.*

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Following the Sacred Calendar

Fourteenth Annual observance of Epiphany cycle

Christmas-Epiphany Vigil (December 25–January 6). The Congregation of the Second Advent Church celebrated a thirteen-day Vigil during the 1994–1995 Christmas-Epiphany season. A Vigil of daily sunrise services continued through January 6, Second Advent Epiphany Day.

A Vigil of sunrise services for ministers of The Church was held from Monday December 25 through Saturday January 6 at the Church of Second Advent Epiphany in the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary of Prophecy. These Divine Services at sunrise are days of special blessings for those in attendance.

On First Dispensation Christmas, Monday December 25, the first day of the Vigil, the Ministers and Congregation of The Second Advent Church were joined by other members of the Reno civic community in a Communion of Fellowship held at 11:00 a.m. at the University Chapel. (See Christmas article this issue.)

On the evening of January 5, Second Advent Epiphany Eve, the

final evening of the days of Vigil, Church members gathered with their families at the Rectory-Abbey for dinner, festivities, and an exchange of gifts. (See Epiphany Eve article this issue.)

On January 6, Second Advent Epiphany Day, following the sunrise Divine Service at the Church of Second Advent Epiphany, a Communion of Fellowship was held at the Cathedral Church of the Americas, officiated by the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy. Assisting at the service of Communion were the Right Reverend Reano Castell (Lector), the Reverend Tom Rees (Cantor), and Gary Siroshton (Reader). Following the Communion Service, light refreshments were served at the Refectory.

By special invitation of the Bishop, all those present at the traditional Christmas Service at the University Chapel on December 25 were invited to attend both the Divine Service and the Communion Service held on Epiphany Day.

* * *

The Church of The Second Advent celebrates the thirteen days of Christmas each year with a sunrise Vigil. Divine Service is held at the Church of Second Advent Epiphany in the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary of Prophecy. The Vigil begins on the morning of December 25, the date commemorated by First Dispensation Churches in the West as the day of Jesus's birth, and continues through the morning of January 6, the original day of Christmas in the early Church, and the date recognized by the Second Advent Church as Second Advent Epiphany.

The first manifestation of the New Sun was witnessed by the congregation on January 6, 1981, from the foot of the Mountain of Silver in the Sanctuary of Revelation. The solar manifestation on that date confirmed the authority of The Church and its mandate to establish the cycles and the liturgical dates of the Second Advent Calendar. The event is recorded in the *Prophecy of the New Covenant*. In 1982 sunrise

service was held at the Rectory-Abbey in Reno. This event also is recorded in the *Prophecy of the New Covenant*. From 1983–1986 Second Advent Epiphany sunrise service was held at the Church of New Pergamos, built atop the Mountain of Silver. From 1987–1988 Epiphany sunrise service has been held at the Church of Second Advent Epiphany in the Sanctuary of Prophecy.

From the opening chapter of the *Prophecy of the New Covenant*, titled “God’s Appearance at Epiphany,” we quote:

In the twenty-first year of The Great Work, The Man, in company with the Companions of The Way and the general Community in assembly at the Rectory-Abbey, awaited the coming of the sun on the morning of January 6th at Epiphany.

On this twelfth night after Christmas, following a midnight meal of fellowship, they turned to a reading of scripture. Towards dawn they celebrated a Communion Service and liturgical expression of the breaking of bread and the taking of the cup. The Man officiated in the dress of his office, a vestment of white linen with golden insignia of God’s Cross of Enlightenment, reading the litany to the accompaniment of sacred music played on the handbells.

While breaking bread and taking water, The Man asked that God prepare the celebrants to receive the True Bread and the True Water of Heaven—at the rising of the Spiritual Sun—and that God endow the material bread and water with special blessings to give them health of body, peace of mind, and spiritual strength by which to do God’s Will in His Divine Plan for human salvation in the Second Advent.

Following the Service, The Assembly went outdoors to meet the rising sun. While anxiously waiting for the sun to emerge out of the shimmering mist enshrouding the sky, each remembered this sacred day of the year before [1981].

On that day [Epiphany 1981], when all had gathered at the Sanctuary, they had observed a display of brilliant light

while the sun assumed strange and wondrous shapes. All had observed the transformation of the sun into geometric configurations: from a circle to a square, to a shape of six sides and then to one of eight sides; and, finally, to a pinched or trefoil figure, a clover-leaf of three lobes progressing to a four-lobed shape. The eyes of the beholders filled with awe at this phenomenon. And they described the event as the Sun of Epiphany, for this was the handiwork of God.

The Prophecy also states that the Old Covenant, lost to the world with the passing of Christ Jesus, has been restored with the Second Coming of God as Christ. God's Law, written in heaven, manifests to us in the New Sun of Righteousness. The manifestation of God's Light come as His Image and Word, called Christ, dictates a New Covenant.

The Ministry of the Second Advent Church has inherited this New Covenant and holds to it in Community. The promise of the New Covenant is celebrated at Epiphany and is the hope of humankind during the Second Advent Age.

Commemorative Services

First Dispensation Christmas observed

Christmas Day, December 25. A Christmas Day Service was held on Monday December 25 in The University Chapel. Each year on this date a special service is performed in observance of the birthday of Jesus as celebrated by First Dispensation Christians in the West. The Service of Communion and Fellowship, officiated by the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy, was preceded by a special presentation and selected scriptural readings.

Prior to the 11:00 a.m. service, members of the Congregation placed bouquets of flowers on the chancel area beneath the

communion table and placed loaves of bread upon the table for blessings at this special service.

The Reverend Rebecca Willis, as Reader, opened the service with an announcement of the Christmas rites to be observed during the Christmas season and introduced the first musical selection, the antiphon "So Is My Joy The Lord," composed for this Service in 1983 by Church Composer the Reverend Gary Buchanan with lyrics adapted from the Odes of Solomon by Bishop Savoy. Soprano soloist Michelle Carrothers performed the song accompanied by the Reverends Jacklynn Lord and Amanda Buchanan of the Jamilian Handbell Choir, the Reverend Elizabeth Reece as harpist, and the Reverend Gary Buchanan as organist.

Following the performance, Rev. Willis continued her announcement of Christmas rites, explaining that the votive candles that Church members and their guests placed on the candelabrum as they entered the vestibule of the Chapel would now be lit in remembrance as a gesture of love to family and friends who have passed on. And she asked that each person present reflect for a moment in silent prayer, remembering those loved ones who are no longer with us.

As Acolytes light the Candles of Remembrance during the service, Scriptural Reader the Reverend Gene Savoy Jr. delivered a reading taken from the Odes of Solomon (See *Odes of Solomon*). Liturgical music of the Second Advent Church underlined the reverential tone of the Service. Candles remained burning throughout the day.

The Reader invited the Congregation to join in a Communion of Fellowship and partake of the Bread of Health, according to ancient tradition, with these words:

"We take bread and water at Communion asking God to endow these elements with a special blessing. We invoke God to manifest His Divine Presence for a blessing upon us, and pray

that we may be worthy to receive the True Bread and Water which gives Life Eternal as given by Almighty God from the abode of heaven—that Bread and Water which is His Image and Word, the Divine Light by which his creation was brought forth; that same Light that transforms our spirits and souls through rebirth.”

Following the Communion Service, the Congregation and guests joined in singing a second selection, titled “Grant Life unto Me,” with the accompaniment of the handbell choir. This song is an adaptation from the traditional “Dona Nobis Pacem.”

The commemorative sermon, delivered each year by the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy following the Communion of Fellowship, addressed the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany in God’s Second Advent. The Reverend Gary Buchanan accompanied the sermon with arrangements of ancient Hebrew melodies performed on the organ.

Assisting Bishop Savoy during the Communion Service were the Right Reverend Robert Petrovich (Lector), the Reverend Sean Savoy (Cantor), the Reverend Gene Savoy Jr. (Scriptural Reader), and the Reverend Rebecca Willis (Reader).

Sunrise Divine Service is held on December 25, traditional Christmas Day in the West, and daily thereafter, culminating on January 6, the date of Second Advent Christmas, the original birthday of Christ celebrated according to the tradition of the early ‘edah Church.

Odes of Solomon

This selection from the Odes of Solomon is recited from the Chapel Chancel on First Dispensation Christmas morning during the candle-lighting ceremony.

1. *He hath filled me with words of truth; that I may speak the same;*
2. *And like the flow of waters flows truth from my mouth, and my lips show forth His fruit.*
3. *And He has caused His knowledge to abound in me, because the mouth of the Lord is the true word, and the door of His light;*
4. *And the Most High hath given it to His words, which are the interpreters of His own beauty, and the repeaters of His praise, and the confessors of His counsel, and the heralds of His thought, and the chasteners of His servants.*
5. *For the swiftness of the Word is inexpressible, and like its expression is its swiftness and force;*
6. *And its course knows no limit. Never doth it fail, but it stands sure, and it knows not descent nor the way of it.*
7. *For as its work is, so is its end: for it is light and the dawning of thought;*
8. *And by it the worlds talk one to the other; and in the Word there were those that were silent:*
9. *And from it came love and concord; and they spake one to the other whatever was theirs; and they were penetrated by the Word;*
10. *And they knew Him who made them, because they were in concord; for the mouth of the Most High spake to them; and His explanation ran by means of it:*
11. *For the dwelling-place of the Word is man: and its truth is love.*
12. *Blessed are they who by means thereof have understood everything, and have known the Lord in His truth. Hallelujah.*

ODE 36

1. *I rested in the Spirit of the Lord: and the Spirit raised me on high:*
2. *And made me stand on my feet in the height of the Lord,*

before His perfection and His glory, while I was praising Him by the composition of His songs.

3. The Spirit brought me forth before the face of the Lord: and, although a son of man, I was named the Illuminate, the Son of God:

4. While I praised amongst the praising ones, and great was I amongst the mighty ones.

5. For according to the greatness of the Most High, so He made me: and like His own newness He renewed me; and He anointed me from His own perfection:

6. And I became one of His Neighbours; and my mouth was opened, like a cloud of dew;

7. And my heart poured out as it were a gushing stream of righteousness,

8. And my access to Him was in peace; and I was established by the Spirit of His government. Hallelujah.

ODE 6

1. As the hand moves over the harp, and the strings speak,

2. So speaks in my members the Spirit of the Lord, and I speak by His love.

3. For it destroys what is foreign, and everything that is bitter:

4. For thus it was from the beginning and will be to the end, that nothing should be His adversary, and nothing should stand up against Him.

5. The Lord has multiplied the knowledge of Himself, and is zealous that these things should be known, which by His grace have been given to us.

6. And the praise of His name He gave us: our spirits praise His holy Spirit.

7. For there went forth a stream and became a river great and broad;

8. For it flooded and broke up everything and it brought

(water) to the Temple:

9. *And the restrainers of the children of men were not able to restrain it, nor the arts of those whose business it is to restrain the waters;*
10. *For it spread over the face of the whole earth;, and filled everything: and all the thirsty upon earth were given to drink of it;*
11. *And thirst was relieved and quenched; for from the Most High the draught was given.*
12. *Blessed then are the ministers of that draught who are entrusted with that water of His:*
13. *They have assuaged the dry lips, and the will that had fainted they have raised up;*
14. *And souls that were near departing they have caught back from death:*
15. *And limbs that had fallen they straightened and set up:*
16. *They gave strength for their feebleness and light to their eyes:*
17. *For everyone knew them in the Lord, and they lived by the water of life for ever. Hallelujah.*

ODE 37

1. *I stretched out my hands to my Lord: and to the Most High I raised my voice:*
2. *And I spake with the lips of my heart; and He heard me, when my voice reached Him:*
3. *His answer came to me, and gave me the fruits of my labours;*
4. *And it gave me rest by the grace of the Lord. Hallelujah.*

Commemorative Christmas Sermon

"The Appearance of God at His Second Advent"

The following sermon is delivered each year by the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy to the Christian public gathered at the Christmas Communion and Candle-Lighting Service to encourage the understanding and exemplification of Jesus's true teaching in the light of God's Second Advent. The sermon has been abridged for publication.

"Those of us gathered together in this Chapel dedicated to the worship and service of God are drawn together from many faiths. But we are all one in the Family of God.

"We of the Second Advent Church celebrate today the birth of Jesus as a human being born into the world. For thirteen days we celebrate the Christmas season, which culminates on the sixth day of January; that is, Epiphany, when Jesus was baptized at the Jordan by John the Baptist and God spoke out from Heaven saying: "Thou art my beloved son, in thee I am well pleased. This day I have begotten thee." Thus Jesus—because of the love expressed during his life—was given New Birth by God the Father in Spirit. This event occurred on Epiphany.

"From what ancient scripture tells us we can ask ourselves: What is the real day of Christmas? The birth of the man on December 25, or the spiritual birth God gave Jesus on January 6? In the Second Advent Church we declare both days important, for Jesus was both man and Son of God. This explains why we celebrate for thirteen days, from December 25 to January 6.

"The message is quite simple: We are both mortal beings and spiritual beings. And as we feed our mortal bodies at Christmas time, we must also feed our souls. How do we do this? The answer is to be found within the message conveyed at Christmas in the words of the Odes of Solomon, Ode 36:

I rested in the spirit of the Lord: and the spirit raised me

on high, and made me stand on my feet in the height of the Lord, before His perfection and His glory, while I was praising Him by the composition of His songs.

The spirit brought me forth before the face of the Lord: and although I was a son of man, I was named the illuminate, a Son of God. For according to the greatness of the most high, so He made me: and like His own likeness He renewed me, and He anointed me from His own perfection.

And I became one of His neighbors; and my mouth was opened, like a cloud of dew. And my heart poured out as it were a gushing stream of righteousness.

And my access to Him was in peace; and I was established by the spirit of His kingdom. And I went up to the light of truth which preserved me. And it became to me a haven of salvation: and set me on the arms of immortal life.

“The following words, from the Gospel of John (15:9–12) express the Christian hope which we remember as expressed by Jesus:

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

“Beyond all theological questions is the singular precept given us that each must express as a person, as an individual—that we love one another. It begins in our family life, reaches out to friends and embraces our neighbor. Like a seed, it must be planted before it can grow. If we can express love as we do at Christmas time throughout the whole year,

each one in his or her own way, we begin to live the life exemplified by Jesus.

“From what has been said, let each of us examine his or her heart and spirit. The real world takes away our ability to love one another at times. This inability harms the spirit. Thus each of us must rise above the physical limitations of the material world and embrace the spirit, which is expressed by love. By so doing, God comes to each of us, adopting us as His Son or Daughter, for we are all Children of God, who loves us one and all.

“In lighting the candles today in remembrance of those who have gone on to another life, let us place our faith in God, who is Author of our Spirits and Souls. When death claims the mortal body, as it does every one, it is the spirit and soul that endures and goes on to a higher world. But if we not love, our spirit and soul fades like a flame and goes out. Love kindles and brightens the spirit and soul. By loving we are made eternal, for God is love. Love binds us to those departed, it binds us to those about us while we live, and it binds us to God. For how else can we know God if we not love?

“You may ask, How do I love? This loving expression is reflected in the words of the former Prophets who wrote upon the Beauty of God and who placed their faith in an Almighty Good Father. These verses are not generally known to modern Christians, but in olden times they were common to such men as Jesus. Perhaps he remembered these words at times, perhaps while on the cross as he looked down upon the throng below. [See *Ode 16 below*]

“These words taken from the old, apocryphal Odes of Solomon teach us that the human Spirit needs to identify with God by the living of a Way that is regulated by God’s Law. When one lives that Way, one’s Spirit shines bright. It gives Life, it does not darken or cast a shadow over others. And it is made of that Light that comes from God, that same Light that

ennobled Jesus.

"We remember the scene of His Transfiguration on the mountain when He stood there beneath a cloud made bright by the Divine Presence of God with His face shining like the Sun and His raiment white as snow. Moses and Elijah had appeared and spoken to Jesus. And Peter, and James, and John had witnessed it.

"This event tells us two things. First, that the Spirit is eternal. And second, that life goes on because God does not forget the Good. For being all Good, God is not the author of death but the Creator of Eternal Life.

"Therefore, on this day commemorating the birth of Jesus, we should all remember what He taught: All men and women everywhere may shine forth as the Sun in Righteousness if they but live and exemplify the Love of God in their daily lives."

Ode 16

"The beauty of God's creation."

1 *As the work of the husbandman is the ploughshare: and the work of the steersman is the guidance of the ship:*

2 *So also my work is the Psalm of the Lord: my craft and my occupation are in his praises:*

3 *Because His love hath nourished my heart, and even to my lips His fruits He poured out.*

4 *For my love is the Lord, and therefore I will sing unto Him:*

5 *For I am made strong in His praise, and I have faith in Him.*

6 *I will open my mouth and His spirit will utter in me the glory of the Lord and His beauty; the work of His hands and the operation of His fingers:*

7 *The multitude of His mercies and the strength of His word.*

8 *For the word of the Lord searches out all things, both*

the invisible and that which reveals His thought;

9 For the eye sees His works, and the ear hears His thought;

10 He spread out the earth and He settled the waters in the sea:

11 He measured the heavens and fixed the stars: and He established the creation and set it up:

12 And He rested from His works:

13 And created things run in their courses, and do their works:

14 And they know not how to stand and be idle; and His heavenly hosts are subject to His word.

15 The treasure-chamber of the light is the sun, and the treasury of the darkness is the night:

16 And He made the sun for the day that it may be bright, but night brings darkness over the face of the land;

17 And their alternations one to the other speak the beauty of God:

18 And there is nothing that is without the Lord; for He was before any thing came into being:

19 And the worlds were made by His word, and by the thought of His heart, Glory and honour to His name.

Epiphany Eve Celebration

Family Devotion and Gift Giving

On the evening of Friday, January 5, Second Advent Epiphany Eve, the Congregation of The Second Advent Church gathered with their families at the Rectory-Abbey for the traditional banquet and festivities at the invitation of the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy.

The assembly gathered in the main salon for the candle-lighting ceremony that opened the fourteenth annual celebration of Second Advent Epiphany Eve. Before those

present approached the large golden candelabrum to light candles while offering up their silent prayers, Bishop Savoy explained the threefold significance of the ceremony in an informal homily.

Following the opening ceremony and singing of the Second Advent Hymn "Grant Life unto Me," nearly one hundred Congregation members and guests were invited to a banquet featuring cuisine of the Greek Islands prepared under the direction of the Right Reverend Ileana Isfan.

Later, the play of children replaced previous solemnity. All children, from the youngest to those in their teens, were invited to take their turns at breaking the piñata, a large golden ball called the "Egg of Plenty." This breaking of the piñata does not simply reenact Mexican festivities held during the holiday season but signifies the gifts and blessings showered from God's Sun with the aid of the children and youths of The Church.

Once the "egg" was emptied and its candy contents gathered up, the younger children retired upstairs for a short rest. Soon their mothers woke them and gathered them all together on the balcony overlooking the parlor and the Christmas tree, there to await the timely arrival of reindeer and Santa Claus, who leaves them gifts on the ledge beside the tree.

The evening of festivities concluded with gifts exchanged among friends, families, and children. These gifts, along with others, were taken home and placed beneath the families' trees until opened the next morning, following the families' return from the Sanctuary after Divine Service.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Nevada Clergymen's Appeal

The Nevada Clergymen's Association (NCA) was organized in 1984 by the Second Advent Church to act as a political body separate and independent of The Church. Over the past ten years, the organization's activities have been minimal. Early this month, however, after the resignation of the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy as president and the Reverend Doctor Arline Peace as treasurer, the Nevada Clergymen's Association was reorganized as a nonprofit organization and opened to participation by all religious bodies.

The NCA is dedicated to securing and protecting the civil and religious rights and liberties of all churches, synagogues, temples, and other religious societies in the state of Nevada. It is now organized to represent the special needs of religion to appropriate government officials and bodies.

In October the NCA initiated a campaign to inform religious organizations throughout the neighboring area of a new state law affecting tax exemption of religious properties. Some 250 congregations in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area were contacted by phone and informed of the proposed change in legislation. These congregations represent the faithful in the 250,000 population area of the Truckee Meadows.

Although in October more than 50 congregations in the Northern Nevada area showed interest in Washoe County's application of Nevada's new religious property exemption law, the November 10 meeting was not well attended. However, Nevada state senator Joan Lambert, the chair of the state Tax Committee, which reviews proposed state legislation, has offered to help the NCA.

Despite the lack of participation at the meeting by local religious representatives, a steering committee was formed to inform other ministers of the tax problems in Nevada that congregations of the faithful will be facing in the future.

In the opinion of the NCA, stated by steering committee

chairman the Reverend Gene Savoy Jr., existing laws governing religious property tax exemption in Nevada are unclear and give county officials too much leeway in deciding according to their own judgment which organizations and which properties should be exempt.

In 1974 a Nevada legislative study (Tax Exemptions for Charitable Societies, Bulletin No. 122, Legislative Commission of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, State of Nevada, September 1974) concluded the same, that tax exemption laws are unclear and are applied differently from one county to another.

The legislative study also states that the taxing of religious organizations does not even provide significant income to the state and local governments. If all property owned by churches and charitable organizations were taxed, the resulting income to governments would be less than 0.003 percent of their budgets. However, in many cases the tax bills that have been charged to charitable organizations have dealt them crushing blows. This fact is stated in the legislative study: "While the dollar impact of charitable tax exemptions on local governmental budgets is very small, it is very large on the budgets of the organizations receiving them."

The 1990 Nevada Supreme Court decision *Simpson v. The International Community of Christ* adversely affected the tax exempt status of Nevada's religious organizations. In that decision, one of the justices stated, "Determinations concerning the extent of land exempt from taxation under NRS 361.125 are now left to human judgements and predilections rather than the law.... I would prefer to have the legislative branch of government, after full debate and consideration of the alternatives and consequences, resolve the type of issues presented by this appeal in the form of more comprehensive legislation."

As a result of this decision, The International Community of Christ Church has had to pay more than \$160,000 in property

taxes over the past fourteen years and continues to be assessed taxes. One of the main tenets of The Church is that it must hold certain of its religious services in outdoor, open-air church structures surrounded by temples "built by the hand of God, not the hand of man."

County officials argue that land which is not "improved" is not "used." "Use" for religious worship is the criteria imposed by NRS to determine which plots of land and which buildings qualify for exemption, and it is either the county assessor or the district attorney who makes this determination. As the new law is being applied, churches are subject to property tax while new church buildings are under construction. Land that is purchased for the building of a new church is taxed until such time as the building is completed and "used."

In the opinion of the NCA, according to a statement made by Rev. Savoy Jr., it is not the business of government to determine how or where religious services should be held. "All churches should take heed of this case," he said, "because once the precedent exists of taxing one place of worship, it is easy to justify taxing other places of worship. Nevada needs a law that clearly defines which properties should be exempt."

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

The Ninth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service was held Wednesday November 23, 1994, at Trinity Episcopal Church. The ecumenical event included local choirs and inspirational readings from various traditions.

Representatives of Reno community churches opened the program with their formal entrance during a processional hymn sung by the congregation. As representatives of the Second Advent Church, the Reverends Gene Savoy Jr. and Sean Savoy took part

in the procession wearing surplices and festive stoles.

Participating members of various churches and faiths provided the main body of the program. Following a word of welcome delivered by Father James Jeffery, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Church members recited selected readings in a program interspersed with religious anthems and choral hymns. Guest speaker the Reverend Jacqueline Meadows of First United Methodist Church delivered the keynote address.

Prayers of Thanksgiving, a benediction delivered by Deputy Sheriff Sita Singh of the Sikh community, and a congregational hymn closed the main program.

The Thanksgiving Eve event is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Northern Nevada Region. The National Conference, founded in 1927, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism in America. The Conference promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions, and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution, and education.

rites and services

Anointing

Donald Crook Jr., by the consent of his parents, the Reverends Elizabeth and Donald Crook, was Anointed with Holy Oil and Sacred Balm in private ceremony in the Bishop's Chambers on Saturday November 12, 1994. Among those in attendance were his godmother and godfather, the Reverend Doctors Arline and Tyrus Peace. By this Anointing, Donald, who has reached the age of ten, indicates his readiness to assume liturgical responsibilities as an Acolyte and takes another step in his devotion to God in The Church of the Second Advent.

Following the Communion of Fellowship on that day, Donald was

formally presented in The University Chapel for public acceptance by the Congregation. The youth will sit among the Assembly under the responsibility of his Office as Acolyte until his fifteenth year, when he may be Consecrated to God and accepted within the Sacred College for instruction in the theological studies as a young minister in training, Emancipated by rite from childhood into the responsibility of a person seeking true understanding and knowledge of God within the divine structure of The Church.

The importance of the children in The Church was revealed in a simple statement made in 1991 by Bishop Savoy during the formal presentation of another Acolyte. After delivering the Blessing over the Children, which he described as "the old Essene prayer over the children," he said: "The children of the Essaei are no longer with us, except as they are coming forth in this Church. And, although we are small, let us each be reminded that twelve men changed this world." These words, though few, reveal clearly a child's bond to The Church and to its Ministry.

Baptism

The daughter of Amy Beth Walters and Jeffrey Walters was Baptized on Saturday November 26, 1994, at 11:30 a.m. in The University Chapel.

The ceremony was performed by the Most Right Reverend Gene Savoy. The Right Reverend Roger Weld and Cynthia Lang avowed themselves as godparents of Amanda Marie Dominique Walters during the service.

The Reverend Gary Buchanan, grandfather of the child, accompanied the service on the organ, playing the liturgical compositions A Baptismal Hymn and Music for a Christening.

A reception was held in the vestibule following the service.

Amy is the daughter of Amanda and Gary Buchanan.

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