



Evangeline window

Evangeline Vollmer

Rev. J. D. McConkey



All are welcome in this place.



John and Sarah Vollmer



**Gold and silver bonanzas** created Idaho Territory ... but the merchants found real gold in them-thar hills. They all came during the 1860's because Elias D. Pierce discovered gold on Oro-fino Creek. And there was an inland waterway on the Snake River for transportation..

The prospectors were looking for a bonanza and the merchants found one. The Gold Rush petered out, but the merchants stayed on to found Ragtown, later to be named Lewiston—after Meriwether Lewis-- not the GOLD.

Idaho Territory was created on March 4, 1863 and Lewiston became the territorial capitol.

So the story goes, one of the first Episcopal missionaries to the Northwest, visited the site in 1864 and held services under a tree at 2<sup>nd</sup> and D Streets—legend has it that the fishing was good! So the Episcopal Church of the Nativity has been worshipping in Lewiston for 150 years—this year.

**THE CHURCH AND TOWN CELEBRATE 150 YEARS!**

The church met in Red Cross Hall, Masonic Hall and other sites until 1881 when Bishop Tuttle from Walla Walla invited Rev. J. D. McConkey, an Irish priest, to move to Lewiston and serve the mission down on 4<sup>th</sup> street.

At that time, parishioners John P. and Sarah Vollmer stepped in and helped secure a lot at 11<sup>th</sup> and F Streets—far from the raucous Ragtown center. Here Vollmers, McConkeys, and parishioners built the church—the American Gothic structure that moved up the hill in 1920 to 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.



The tree, bell tower, and gated columbarium



Reason  
Tradition  
Community

Liturgical  
Sacramental  
Pastoral  
Incarnational  
Mystical



Body  
Mind  
Spirit

## Episcopal Church of the Nativity 1864--2014

John P. Vollmer, as well as J.D. McConkey, came to Lewiston via the isthmus of Panama. In Idaho the Vollmers shared the bounteous millions they made with the community-- Lewiston State Normal School—with the whole community—there was no organization they did not touch.

Sarah bore seven children; the Evangeline window at Nativity honors the loss of their eight year old girl, Evangeline. The yellow horn tree was moved to Nativity from their mansion.

Nativity moved into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with Rev. Dr. D.J.Sommerville and into 21<sup>st</sup> with Rev. Dr. Gretchen Rehberg. All are welcome in this place

The bell tower—town fire bell in 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the corner is the yellow horn moved from Vollmer's home when it was town down.



Rev. Dr. Gretchen Rehberg  
Rev. Dr. D. J. Sommerville

