

#9 NATIVITY TIME LINE: From the thin years of the Depression to the War years: Nativity on its continuum...

Through all the years Nativity has worshipped in the Lewis Clark Valley, we have prayed together, accepted our differences (albeit with effort) and focused on our similarities: **loving God and loving our neighbor.**

As the thin times of the Depression abated in the later 1930's, Rev. Calvin Barkow served Nativity as rector (1936-1941) with his "activist" wife, Caroline Barkow. It was a growth time for Nativity.

Caroline Barkow was instrumental in doing a little "evangelism" of her own persuasion by forming St. Alban's Guild. It was originally conceived to attract young couples to the church by hosting monthly dinners and card parties at the rectory east of the church on 8th Avenue. It worked and the church grew! ¹

The Guild grew into a service organization which utilized social occasions to further its work. "As St. Alban's women looked about for projects, the number of "feeds" husbands could expect declined from once a month to once a year. But at the same time the gustatory occasions were going down, fund raising projects were going up..." ² (😊)

"Mr. Barkow's tenure sparked another period of growth in the church and there were many regrets when he [the Barkows] left the parish to serve a larger one at Everett, Washington in August, 1941." ³

Thin times turned into WAR TIME. "The Rev. William Gilbert came to Lewiston from CleElum, Washington, in November, 1941 and served the parish during the trying years of World War II. A man of spirit and vigorous attitude, his leadership was very evident during his years as rector. Mr. Gilbert went to Walla Walla in 1945." ⁴

The Rev. Frederick Belton came to Nativity in 1946 and Nativity experienced the second major construction project of the 20th century. The church building was moved to the corner of 8th and 8th, a new basement made room for much activity, and the Chancel, the ceiling and the Narthex were increased in size. Our present rectory was constructed! ⁵ [WOW!!! Response here: Thanks be to God!]

So from 1864 to until 1973, seventeen men served the Church of the Nativity.

"For some, their service has been over a period of years, for others only a brief while.

Being mortal, they have been subject to the vagaries and uncertainties which afflict all men. As all men [and all women], they have known exaltation and they have known despair. But something sets them apart:

A total, not partial, dedication of their lives to Christianity. They have placed themselves in the hands of God and gone where He has directed them. Something most ordinary men—entangled as they are in worldliness—are not willing to do." ⁶

Time takes time...olden times, our time, prayer time, good times, bad times, story time, trying times, the herb Thyme, it's about time...150 years of TIME...KAIROS time—CHRONOS time. The story continues...

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together...a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.



End notes:

- 1 Boren, Charles P. and Campbell, Thomas W. *The Centennial Booklet* p 23.
- 2 *Ibid* p 23.
- 3 Jennings, John Richard *The History of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity* p 8. The booklet history is an outgrowth of Mr. Jennings' work toward the "God and Country" award given by the Boy Scouts of America. J. R. Jennings is Nancy Rosch's cousin.
- 4 *Ibid* p 7-8.
- 2 *Ibid* p 8.
- 3 Boren and Campbell p 29.

Works cited:

- Boren, Charles P. and Campbell, Thomas W. *The Centennial Booklet*, Episcopal Church of the Nativity Lewiston, Idaho 1873 1973
- Jennings, John Richard *The History of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity* Editorial contributors Mr. Bayne McCurdy and Thomas Campbell, Supervisor The Rev Peter Stretch
- O'Day, R. and Petersen, David, General Editors *The Access Bible* New Revised Standard Version New York Oxford Oxford University Press 1999.

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