

What's the Difference?

An often-asked question during the past few years has been **"What is the difference between the Galilee Board and the Galilee Foundation?"** As recently as the 2004 Diocesan Convention, a related question was asked from the floor. "If I want to donate money to Galilee, where should I send my check?" This article addresses those questions. As is usually the case toward better understanding, some history* may be helpful so we will begin there.

The original Galilee was located at Stateline, Nevada in 1920. With the growth of tourism and gambling, those interests and the Diocese's purposes were not in harmony so in 1944, Galilee moved to its current Logan Shoals/Glenbrook location. In both locations, the property and buildings have belonged to the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. In 1947, portions of St. John's in the Wilderness Church in Goldfield, Nevada were moved to Galilee. The church building was dedicated the following year and a parish was established. As are the other Episcopal parishes in Nevada, the church belongs to the Diocese of Nevada. Saint John's, has its own Vestry and is overseen by the Diocesan Standing Committee.

Through the years, the number of campers and the financial stability of Galilee have fluctuated considerably. Factors such as the involvement of each Bishop have influenced the usage and visibility of Galilee. Later, the increasing access to the property and the area's economic condition became influencing factors as well. As the Diocese grew, the governing, supervising and management of Galilee also changed. All these things affect whether or not Galilee was or is self-supporting.

No matter what the influences or factors, Galilee ceased operation only once and that was during the gasoline rationing years of World War II. That is until 1996! Due to financial and staffing difficulties, the then Galilee Board and the Diocese made the difficult decision to close Galilee and cancel that summer's program. The property across Highway 50 and the water rights were sold and one parcel of the eight acres on the lakeside of the highway was proposed for sale. The Standing Committee approved plans to build a new dormitory building and make improvements in the dining hall.

Combining the money from the sale of the land with sponsorships of weeks of summer camp by individual parishes and fundraisers held around the Diocese, the newly formed Friends of Galilee group was instrumental in achieving the 1997 re-opening of Galilee. Instead of building a new dormitory, the existing dormitories were refurbished. It took a tremendous amount of professional and volunteer work to accomplish the re-birth.

The Galilee Board, its advisory committee and the Friends met to reorganize Galilee. They began with defining the purpose of Galilee, working on a business plan, budgeting, management, staffing and developing an expansion plan. The re-vitalization of Galilee was underway. In addition to being accountable to the Diocese, the Galilee Episcopal Camp and Conference Center incorporated and is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. In 1999, as the vision of the expansion plan to rebuild Galilee gained momentum, the Friends group dissolved and the Galilee Foundation was formed. The Foundation also became a 501(c)(3) organization with one of its purposes to raise funds for Galilee.

The Galilee Board of Trustees focused on filling the summer camps and making Galilee available year-round by opening the facility to conferences when camp was not in session. The Galilee Foundation Board of Directors proceeded with work on the expansion plan and contracted with a fundraising firm to begin raising funds for the \$11 million expansion.

On the advice of their consultants, the Foundation asked the Galilee Board not to raise any funds or accept any donations. The Galilee Board agreed but soon found it hampered their ability to keep up with maintenance projects, repairs and improvements to the existing facilities. The two groups agreed that the Foundation would raise money for the expansion project and the Galilee Board would put a *Wish List* in their newsletter mentioning on-site needs. That may be when the confusion began about where to send donations for Galilee.

Another unclear area was which organization should be responsible for implementing the expansion plan working with the architects and engineers, TRPA (Tahoe Regional Planning Agency) and Douglas County. After Katharine Jefferts Schori was consecrated as Bishop, she convened numerous meetings to address the issues of authority, accountability and communications between the Galilee Board, St. John's and the Foundation.

(Continued on page five)

Difference (continued from page four)

In May 2003, in another attempt to resolve these issues, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted. Some compromise was achieved on certain sections of the document but to date the agreement has not been signed by the Galilee Board. The reason for not signing is that the Galilee Board believes that the governance issues have not yet been adequately addressed.

In September 2004, the Foundation made a proposal to the Standing Committee to borrow now \$15 million to build the entire expansion project. The Standing Committee did not approve that proposal. In February 2005, the Foundation proposed obtaining \$3 ½ million in bond financing for the water and infrastructure portion of the expansion project. The Galilee property was the security for both proposals. The Galilee Board and St. John's were extremely concerned about these financing proposals and the possibility of losing the property.

With financing concerns and the MOU stalemate, the Galilee Board asked to appear before the Standing Committee. During the Committee's meeting in February, and with representatives from the Foundation in attendance, presenters from the Galilee Board and St. John's made several requests of the Standing Committee. The first was to have an independent firm conduct a feasibility study of the expansion plan considering it has been five years since the plan had been initially proposed. Associated with that was a request that no financing action be taken until the results of the feasibility study were available. Another request was that after the feasibility study is completed that a Galilee business plan be authorized and developed. The final request was to retain a reconciliation expert to talk with people who, primarily since the 1996 closure, have been actively involved with, frustrated by or hurt in dealings over Galilee.

The Standing Committee acted on all the requests. Information is currently being gathered by an independent person in preparation for a feasibility study, work on a business plan has been authorized and a reconciliation consultant has been retained and has been talking with people associated with Galilee. Obviously, each of these processes takes time. No one knows the results of any of these efforts yet but there is optimism that a productive direction will be achieved. As results are received, we expect they will be shared.

The answer to where donations can be sent is "donor's choice". Donors have three choices depending upon how they would like their donation to be used. One is to the Galilee Episcopal Camp and Conference Center, Post Office Box 6472, Reno, NV 89513-6472. GECCC welcomes gifts toward the ongoing improvements, special on-site Galilee projects or general operating expenses. Another choice is to the Galilee Foundation, Post Office Box 20162, Reno, NV 89515-0162 for the water and infrastructure and projects for the expansion plan at Galilee. Or if a third choice is preferred, donations can be sent to The Episcopal Diocese of Nevada, 6135 Harrison Drive, Suite 1, Las Vegas, NV 89120 stipulating its use at Galilee.

Galilee's campers and conference attendees will absolutely benefit from every donation no matter to which entity a donation is sent. The Galilee Board, the Foundation and the Diocese of Nevada are all grateful for the support for the unique place that is Galilee. Hopefully the information above answers the two major questions asked about Galilee and clarifies some of the other questions about what the situation is with Galilee.

Trustee Ben Turner
St. John's Representative
to the Galilee Board

President Larry A. Moris
Galilee Board of Trustees

*For more history of Galilee and St. John's, see Jim Stickney's *Galilee 1920-2000*. Copies are available from The Galilee Foundation.

CAMPERSHIPS

Scholarships for campers are a great way to make it possible for individuals or families who would otherwise not be able to attend Camp Galilee to do so.

Want to help make that happen? All it takes is \$130 (½ the week's camp fee) per camper. Financial assistance is awarded by a committee on

the basis of need or circumstances. Send your response to:
Galilee Episcopal Camp and Conference Center
Post Office Box 6472
Reno, NV 89509-6472.