

South Dakota Episcopal
Church News



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THE BISHOP'S MISSIONARY MILES

February 2021 *Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rapid City: February 7*

Kim and I once again ventured towards Rapid City, and this time it was for a visitation service to Emmanuel! Emmanuel Episcopal Church is being served by their Rector, the Rev. J.D. Barnes, newly transplanted into our Diocese from Alabama. Additionally, Mother Virginia Bird continues to serve God and Emmanuel's good people as their Assistant Rector. Our time began by joining Fr. J.D. and Mother Virginia for dinner on Saturday night. Kim and I always enjoy this time with the clergy in our Diocese and their spouses when they can join us. (Amanda, Fr. J.D.'s wife, was bringing their youngest son home from a Boy Scout outing.)

Fr. J.D. had his "baptism" into the Diocese of South Dakota by being asked to host one of our locations for last year's Diocesan Convention — something that he and the team from Emmanuel did very well! Fr. J.D. is very knowledgeable and adept with technology, and that certainly has come in handy during these times.

At 8:00 AM, we celebrated a Rite One celebration of the Holy Eucharist and, during announcements, recognized one of their young members who had learned the Lord's Prayer. There was a Zoom coffee hour in-between services during which I had an opportunity to hear from some Emmanuel members, some of whom had been there most, if not all, of their lives. Amanda brought in a few of the Sunday School children who were on a scavenger hunt in the middle of this coffee hour. For a brief, fleeting moment, I thought that one of the items that they had to collect on this hunt was a bishop! Luckily, they were searching for the Bishop's Niobrara cross and ring — and this allowed me to do a little show and tell! (See picture below — and my thanks to Fr. J.D. and Amanda for supplying the photos for this visit!) At 10:15, we celebrated a Rite Two celebration of the Holy Eucharist and recognized two other youngsters who had learned the Lord's Prayer.

I could not be more pleased or happy with Emmanuel's choice of a new Rector, and I commend their Search Committee and Vestry for a task well done. I am looking forward to hearing about the ministry that will be happening in Emmanuel and wish God's blessings upon all their fine congregation!

Following the visit, Kim and I drove over to St. Andrew's in Rapid City. There we joined Canon Portia Corbin, Fr. Cody Maynus, Deacon Marty Garwood, and Anne Popejoy (Diocesan Council member) to draw the winning ticket for the quilt raffle. The quilt being offered had been donated by "Grandpa Don" Metcalf, and the proceeds from the ticket sales are going towards supporting Thunderhead Episcopal Center. The winning ticket belonged to Kristinn Heinrichs and we offer our congratulations to her! We also wish to thank everyone who participated by buying a ticket and for your ongoing support.

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South Dakota



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Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming: February 13

This weekend, I was in Laramie, Wyoming, to participate in the Rt. Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler's consecration service as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Wyoming. The service was held at St. Matthew's Cathedral and the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, former Presiding Bishop, presided. (Due to the COVID-19 virus, there is a travel ban for all National Church staff.) This was my first opportunity to meet Bishop Paul-Gordon in person, and I am looking forward to a good and strong friendship over the next several years. For more information about Wyoming's tenth bishop, please visit <https://www.paulgordonchandler.com/>. The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming has been a very supportive partner of Thunderhead Episcopal Center, and we are grateful!

The bishops gathered at 8:30 AM to sign and seal the new Bishop's consecration certificate, which was a first for me. Whereas most bishops use their rings to make their imprint on the wax, South Dakota has a stamp that is rather...large by comparison!

It was good to re-connect with Bishop John Smylie, Bishop of Wyoming retired; Bishop Brian Prior, Bishop of Minnesota, retired; Bishop Kym Lucas, Colorado; and Bishop Robert Jones, Bishop of Wyoming, retired. (Bishop Jones — whose picture is also included — was the Bishop of our very own Fr. George Parmer when he served in the Diocese of Wyoming.)

At this service, I was also able to thank The Very Rev. Lori Modesitt, Director of Education of the Diocese of Wyoming, for the Safe Church Training that she provided our clergy in January. Additionally, I met Jessica Reynolds, Comptroller and Bishop's Assistant, who has been a tremendous resource and friend to Canon Mitch Honan. Collaboration in our province is a blessing, and I look forward to seeing that continue!

As we entered the Cathedral, we participated in the cedar smoking ritual. A picture of the Arapaho man in charge of the ceremony is included in the photos posted on our website. Although COVID-19 did change some protocols, it was a superb service, an excellent day for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, and a blessed day for the church! May God bless Bishop Paul-Gordon and his upcoming episcopate.

(Oddly enough, the book that I will be discussing with our clergy during 2021 is entitled *We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church*, edited by Bishop Mark Edington. I was finishing that book on this trip. Want to guess who wrote the first essay? The newest Bishop of Wyoming!)

Continued on page 4



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

408 North Jefferson Ave.
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
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To: Diocese of South Dakota Mission Churches and Parishes
From: Reverend Richard G. Zephier, Itancan, Niobrara Council
Subject: Cancellation of 2020 Niobrara Convocation

This is to advise the churches within the Diocese of South Dakota of the decision to cancel the 149th Niobrara Convocation scheduled for June 24 - 27, 2021, on the North Dakota side of the Standing Rock Reservation. The decision was made after a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of going forward or canceling it in light of the rising number of Covid 19 cases and deaths and the variant yet to be identified in both states.

A vote was taken after each Niobrara Council member and the North Dakota representatives were given an opportunity to give their opinion on what they felt would be the best decision for all concerned. The final decision was to cancel the 2021 Niobrara Convocation.

It was a decision that weighed very heavy on the Council, but it was felt it was in the best interest of those who would be attending Niobrara Convocation.

It is hoped that the Niobrara Convocation scheduled on the Sisseton Oyate Reservation for 2022 will go forward as planned as the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was contacted and asked to be a part of the convocation as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Niobrara Convocation.

Please advise those churches under your jurisdiction of both decisions. Also, the Niobrara Council meetings are still on hold for the time being.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please call Fr. Richard at (605) 380-2149.

Sincerely,

Reverend Richard G. Zephier
Itancan, Niobrara Council

Trinity Episcopal Church, Pierre: February 21

On Saturday, February 20, I had the pleasure of having dinner and meeting with the Rev. Mercy Hobbs and some of the Vestry members of Trinity, Pierre. It was a time of fellowship as well as an informal “Question and Answer” session. For those who are reading this and may not be aware, our Diocesan Offices are located at Trinity Episcopal Church. Although Google still has us located at Calvary Cathedral in Sioux Falls, Bishop Tarrant moved the offices to Pierre during his episcopacy to be more centrally located in the Diocese. As a result of our offices being housed at Trinity, Mother Mercy and the Vestry are familiar faces!

We enjoyed an excellent time of worship on Sunday, February 21, and a time of fellowship with the congregation afterward. They have done a fantastic job dealing with COVID-19 and its various challenges and were among the first of our numbers to begin offering their services on FaceBook with no small credit given to Claire Hussey, daughter of Mother Mercy and Father David Hussey. Trinity was the first church I visited after the consecration service on November 2, 2019, and it was a joy to return to their pulpit and stand behind their altar!

February 28 (and March 7) -- Vacation Time!

On February 22, Kim (my wife) and I left South Dakota to take a two-week vacation. The first part of our vacation was spent in Sanibel, Florida, visiting Kim’s parents — and the second part was spent in Boerne, Texas, visiting my parents. We had a glorious time seeing family and old friends. Because of the timing of our vacation and having reached out to friends of ours in Buda, Texas, I was invited on March 6 to preside over the committal service of Bill Bedingfield, Bishop’s Warden Extraordinaire, and Godfather to our eldest son, Cameron, at Camp Capers (Diocese of West Texas). While in Florida, I literally “lassoed” a mangrove snapper on a fishing trip my father-in-law arranged. The hook never went into it — the fishing line went around its mouth and behind its fin. In complete deadpan mode, when the guide asked me how I lassoed a fish, I told him that that’s the way we do things here in South Dakota....

Because we were traveling home on a Sunday, I regret not being able to worship with the good people of St. Helena’s in Boerne. Before I became your Bishop, St. Helena’s entered into a partnership relationship with Messiah Episcopal Church in Pine Ridge Mission, under the leadership of Fr. Harold Eagle Bull. While in Texas, I was able to meet the Youth Director at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Kerrville, Texas, and discovered that they are partnering with St. Helena’s in this venture. (As a result, he and I had a fruitful 90-minute meeting after I returned home — he thought we were going to meet for 30 minutes — but who can talk about South Dakota’s blessings for only half an hour???)

I am looking forward to seeing this partnership develop and, now that the COVID restrictions are lessening, being able to visit Fr. Harold and the people of Messiah soon!

March 2021 Eastern Deanery Visitation: March 21 - March 28

On Saturday evening, March 20, I began the first deanery visitation of 2021. It started with taking several clergy from Calvary Cathedral and their spouses out to dinner before the official visitation the next day. To say that it was glorious to be able to see and to talk with friends in person, without little boxes framing our heads, would be an understatement.

On Sunday morning, March 22, I celebrated and preached at Calvary Cathedral at their 8:00 and 10:00 AM services and at the Tiopsaye Eucharist service at 12:30 PM. Additionally, I was able to join their virtual coffee hour in between the morning services. I am grateful to the Very Rev. Ward Simpson for his leadership, and it was good to be able to worship at God’s altar with him and with Deacon Arlene Pearsall.

Then, from 2:00 -4:00 PM, I joined the Rev. Shaneequa Brokenleg and many others who gathered back at the Cathedral for a beading workshop that I had learned about the night prior. Having never beaded before and having earned the reputation of running away from all things related to arts and crafts (long story), Shaneequa+ was a great instructor! As a result, I've now got a new hobby that is not church-related...kind of. Most of all, I enjoyed the stories and conversations at the table! I've completed two bookmarks on a loom and am in the process of finishing a third.

On Tuesday, March 24, the clergy of the Eastern Deanery and I met for Holy Eucharist, lunch, and discussion surrounding the book, "We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church" by Bishop Mark Edington of the Episcopal Congregations in Europe. It was great to be with all these clergy colleagues, and I was grateful that two of them could join us by Zoom.

At 5:00 PM on that same day, I had the blessing of preaching at the service held by the Benedictine Community Prior of Our Lady of Walsingham that worships and shares fellowship together at our Cathedral. The Very Rev. Prior Warren Shoberg celebrated and has the most natural singing voice for chanting the Eucharist that I have ever heard in my life. Afterward, we shared a delicious meal as it was a very festive occasion — it was St. Benedict's Day as observed by Benedictines. (It's observed differently by others — but I'm going to let you visit with Fr. Warren to learn why!)

On Wednesday, the 24th, I met with Dean Ward in the morning and had lunch with our Diocesan Chancellor, Steven Sanford, over the noon hour. This was the first time Steven and I have just visited face to face, and I was highly grateful for his hospitality and time. Steven has served our Diocese well, and I am so thankful.

That afternoon, I met via Zoom with the Indigenous Ministry Advisory Council and then attended an evening ordination rehearsal at our Cathedral for the (now) Rev. Lydia Simmons, deacon. Much later that night, I headed to the airport to pick up my wife, Kim, who was flying in from Indianapolis, after having spent nine days with our middle son and his brand new type one diabetic service training dog (Rosa!).

At 7:30 AM the following morning, I joined a group of men from Church of the Good Shepherd and Calvary Cathedral on Zoom for a Bible study. (Given the hour I picked up Kim, and given the hour of this study, I participated from the hotel's lobby...) At 10:00 AM, I met via Zoom with the clergy of our Diocese for our weekly meeting and, at 11:00 AM, I met via Zoom with the Rev. Lauren Stanley, our now new Canon to the Ordinary.

That evening, at 7:00 PM, in the presence of God and a physical and virtual congregation, we asked the Holy Spirit to make Lydia Simmons a deacon in Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. This was my second ordination service to preside over as your Bishop, and my first ordination to the diaconate. I was and am so proud of Deacon Lydia and of all who have played such an instrumental role in her formation. Deacon Lydia, who will graduate from seminary in May, will be serving as our Missioner for Camp and Young Adult Ministries and as the Rector of Christ Church, Lead.

On Friday morning, March 26, I spend a few hours perusing through our diocesan archives at Augustana University. After just a few minutes of reading letters addressed to Bishop William Hare — some of which were extraordinarily hard to decipher due to the handwriting — I came into an even deeper appreciation for Virginia Sneve and all her research piecing together the history of our Diocese. I look forward to returning and learning more about Bishop Hare, the first Bishop of South Dakota, who has my utmost admiration and respect.

That afternoon, I spent two hours on Zoom visiting with a priest interviewed by the Search Committee and Vestry of Christ Church, Yankton. I am delighted to report that a call has been extended and accepted, and as soon as a Letter of Agreement is signed, we will release this new priest's

name. Christ Church has been without a priest for almost four years — and this is indeed a reason to celebrate!

That evening, I met with the Vestry of Calvary Cathedral. Typically, I meet with the Vestry or Bishop's Committee of a congregation when I visit. However, due to COVID-19, we decided to have a separate meeting to discuss how the Cathedral participates with God and each other in God's mission. (Meeting with me by Zoom, by the by, is ALWAYS an option for Vestries or Bishop's Committees.)

On Palm Sunday morning, March 28, Kim and I traveled to Christ Church in Yankton. There we were met by Deacon John Keyes, faithful servant of our Lord and current worship leader of this stalwart parish. Words cannot begin to describe my experience that Sunday with this patient and faithful congregation. This was the **first** time that they had gathered for public worship since COVID-19 started — a new acolyte, named Matthew, was serving for the **first** time — another young person, named Emma, allowed herself to be recruited pass out palm branches — and we SANG (with masks) the Palm Sunday hymns! It was simply glorious. I also thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the Vestry and Search Committee of Christ Church afterward and, as previously stated, am very happy for them and the call to the new priest, which has been extended and accepted.

During this week, the Letters of Agreement (job descriptions) between our Diocese and Canon Cody Maynus, Canon Lauren Stanley, and Missioner Lydia Simmons were all composed, communicated, and agreed upon the following week. All in all, this was a fabulous first deanery visitation, and I am looking forward to the others that follow!

April 2021 *Christ Church, Lead: April 4, Easter Sunday*

Given that the congregation that I was scheduled to visit on Easter Sunday asked to be re-scheduled due to COVID-19 concerns, I was able to offer my services to Christ Church, Lead, for Easter Sunday. Christ Church, up until her departure to Wisconsin in mid-March, had been lovingly and faithfully served by the Rev. Portia Corbin. Beginning in June, the Rev. Lydia Simmons, Deacon, will be their new Rector.

I had the blessing of having dinner with Bob and Lee Thrall on that Saturday evening – and it was a double-blessing because it turned out to be Bob's birthday! Bob is the Senior Warden of Christ Church and his leadership is well appreciated.

It was a joy to be able to worship indoors with this congregation on Easter morning – the last time I visited, it was Mother Portia and me, in front of a camera, recording the service! Now we had PEOPLE in the pews and were able to sing a couple of Easter hymns to boot. Their organist has served for 65 years and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting her. Afterwards, we all enjoyed hot cross buns, coffee, and good conversation!

Grace Church, Madison: April 11th

Michelle Keppen, faithful powerhouse behind Grace Church, never ceases to surprise or to amaze! Kim and I made our way to Madison on Saturday afternoon and, at Michelle's arranging, we were able to gather at the home of Bishop Constanze Hagmaier (Bishop of the South Dakota Lutheran Synod), her husband, the Rev. Dirk Hagmaier, and their daughter Emma. Michelle's husband, Charlie, was there as well! This was the first time that Bishop Hagmaier and I had seen each other "face to face" and it was wonderful to come to know her better. We are looking forward to participating in God's mission together in this beautiful part of God's kingdom.

Kim and I were most fortunate to be Michelle and Charlie's guests and we are so grateful for their hospitality! After a big breakfast, we made our way to Grace Church where we worshipped around tables in the parish hall. I brought my vestments in from the car and Michelle said, "Bishop...you

won't really need those..." And I didn't! It was a wonderful experience to worship literally around a table, to share God's word, and to share Holy Communion. Afterwards, we talked about Grace Church's ministry in the community and I was impressed to learn that they had made a hundred and fifty May Day cups with candy and flowers to take to the local nursing homes. This congregation is also blessed with some mighty fine quilters, and we further discussed the potential idea of inviting high schoolers to come to a six-week long quilting workshop.

After the service, we returned to the Keppen's home – which is located inside of an airplane hangar – and Charlie took Kim and me for a ride in one of his biplanes! It was a perfect day to fly and the scenery was spectacular. It was a wonderful way to end a great visitation!

All Angels, Spearfish: April 18th

On Saturday, April 17th, Kim and I travelled to Spearfish to be with the Rev. Clay Riley, the Rev. Steve Christy, the Rev. Deacon Tom Regan, and the good people of All Angels. The visitation started with a social gathering with the Vestry and other leaders of All Angels – the first since COVID-19 had become a reality! – and we enjoyed a very good question and answer session.

The next morning, we enjoyed two morning worship services as well as some beautiful music provided by three youth members of the congregation! In-between services, we all gathered for coffee and muffins and fine conversation. It was great to be back at All Angels, and I so appreciate the leadership of Terri Weber, Senior Warden, and all who help All Angels be who they are!

St. Mary's, Flandreau: April 25th

On Sunday, April 25th, I was able to step through the doors of St. Mary's, Flandreau, for the very first time! The last time I "visited" it was via Zoom – and I was in a hotel room in North Dakota, in-between Lutheran bishop consecration services! This was also the very first time that Fr. George Gehant, their very faithful pastor, and this congregation had returned to their building!

It's a real blessing watching Pastor George minister to his flock. From the beginning of our time together (which started with going through and updating a prayer list before the worship officially began) to the end, one can just sense that you are in the presence of genuine community. Pastor George invited me to share a children's sermon as well as an "adult" sermon, and we were blessed to have three little ones with us that morning. (There would have been more, but they were home with colds.)

Afterward, Pastor George afforded me some time to visit with the congregation about my recent published statement regarding the establishment of a racism task force and responded to various questions.

Following that time, I had the blessing of sharing a very nice lunch with Pastor George and his wife, Mavis, at the church. We must have visited for about two hours and it was so enjoyable to learn about their background and what brought them to St. Mary's. There is an awful lot of ministerial creativity happening at this congregation, and I am so grateful to have been able to worship and to meet all of them face to face!

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New Staff Appointments & New Convener of the Black Hills Deanery

Dear Ones in Christ:

Alleluia! May the peace of our risen Lord be with you all on this Thursday of Easter Week!

Last March, we bade farewell to the Revs. Portia and Dr. Chris Corbin as they made their transition to the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac. Portia and Chris served our Diocese well in their roles of Canon for Formation and Canon to the Ordinary and we ask God's blessings to be upon them as they embark on their new ministries with their respective congregations.

As a result of their departure, I made the decision to restructure our Diocesan staff, redistribute various areas of ministry, and add some new ministry areas to help further our participation in God's mission and live into the areas of our Star Quilt Vision (relationships, communication, formation, transformation, and advocacy). It is a pleasure to share these names and appointments with you, as well as their main areas of responsibility, and I look forward to serving God with them and making the love of Jesus known throughout our Diocese and beyond.

Faithfully,
Bishop Jonathan

The Rev. Dr. Lauren Stanley, Canon to the Ordinary

Canon Lauren has accepted the invitation to serve our Diocese as the Bishop's new Canon to the Ordinary. In this new role, Lauren will oversee our Diocese's deployment and will be working closely with congregations who are searching for new clergy.

She will also be providing training with both groups and individuals in leadership and congregational development. When a clergy person or Vestry asks, "How do I/we do....", Lauren will be the one to visit with you. Lauren will also oversee our Diocesan partnership ministries and help us to begin new relationships and strengthen older ones.

She will be on the road visiting congregations two or three Sundays of the month and is available to preach, celebrate, conduct a forum or simply worship in the pew and visit with clergy and parishioners. As Canon Lauren finalizes her ministry with the good people of Rosebud Mission West, she will be working for our Diocese two days a week. Her last official Sunday as Superintending Presbyter will be June 6 and she will begin working full time in her new role on June 15. Lauren will be living in Pierre and her office will be at the Diocesan offices in Pierre.

The Rev. Cody Maynus, Canon for Formation

Canon Cody formerly had been our Program Director for Thunderhead Episcopal Center (TEC) on a half-time basis and we are so pleased that he has accepted this new call as the Bishop's Canon for Formation. In this new role, Cody will be taking greater responsibility for the operations of Thunderhead Episcopal Center including working with the TEC Board regarding its buildings and development.

Cody also is the new staff contact person for Camp Remington and will be working closely with the volunteers who keep that fine place going. Additionally, Cody has oversight of the Niobrara School of Ministry weekends and is working very closely with Archdeacon Paul Sneve in the con-

struction of our Diocese's two-year deacon formation program which the two of them will be running. Cody also will be arranging and facilitating our priest/deacon/catechist information days and discernment retreats for those discerning a call to ordained ministry.

And finally, he will be overseeing our Safe Church program, will be keeping the records of clergy continuing education, and will work with a small group of clergy volunteers and the Bishop in the construction of clergy conferences and retreats. Canon Cody lives in Rapid City where he also serves as Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Lydia Hird Simmons, Deacon, Missioner for Camp and Young Adult Ministries

Deacon Lydia has accepted the invitation to serve as the Bishop's Missioner for Camp and Young Adult Ministries (formerly known as "Program Director for TEC.") In this role, Lydia will have all the responsibilities that come with overseeing the summer program and staff at Thunderhead Episcopal Center and will be living at TEC throughout the summer program months.

She also will be working collaboratively and under the supervision of Canon Cody regarding Thunderhead's summer programs, preparing and promoting the camp, and helping everyone have an enjoyable, safe, and holy time in one of the most sacred places in our Diocese.

Additionally, Lydia will be serving as a ministry resource to all congregations located in college towns and cities. The purpose of this new ministry is to aid the leadership of these congregations in reaching out to and serving the needs of college students in whatever ways best suits their respective contexts and abilities.

Lastly, Lydia will also serve as a youth ministry training resource for our congregations and Diocese and will guide and aid congregations seeking to establish or strengthen their youth programs or being new youth initiatives. Deacon Lydia will begin on a very part-time basis with us in mid-April as she finishes her last semester in seminary. Right after graduation, she will be moving to Lead and immediately starting her ministry with the young adults who are participating in this summer's adapted program at Thunderhead. When not living and working at Thunderhead, Lydia's office will be at Christ Church, Lead, where she will be serving as their new Rector on a quarter-time basis. Deacon Lydia was ordained to the diaconate last month and will be ordained to the priesthood, God willing, this fall.

The Rev. Clay Riley, Convener, Black Hills Deanery

The Rev. Dr. Chris Corbin, while living in Lead, was serving as the Convener of the Black Hills Deanery. With his departure, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Fr. Clay Riley, Rector of All Angels in Spearfish, to that role. The Black Hills Deanery, under Chris's leadership, has been meeting very regularly.

Clay is very interested in continuing these gatherings and building up the relationships of the clergy who serve in this part of our Diocese.

To the people of the Diocese of South Dakota,

We hope that this Lent is providing you with an opportunity to remember the graciousness and forgiveness of our God as we seek to grow more and more into the full stature of Christ. With a mixture of joy and sadness not unbecoming this season, we announce to you that we have accepted new calls in the Diocese of Fond du Lac and will be starting there on April 1st. Chris will begin full-time parish ministry as priest-in-charge of Trinity Church in Oshkosh, WI, and Portia will serve as part-time rector of St. John's parish in New London. Besides providing us with new ministry opportunities, this move also will put our family only a 20-minute drive from Portia's parents.

The pandemic and the ways it has, in many ways, served as a pause for the normal flow of life and ministry, have offered us the occasion to discern that it is time for us to commence the next stage in our service to God and the Church. This is likely the case for many people in several professions. For Portia in particular, part of this decision came from the vision and challenge she continually has presented during her ministry with young adults in our Diocese. There comes a time in everyone's ministries when the only move that can be made with integrity is to step aside and allow new, young leaders to step up.

Chris's last day to focus on Diocesan work will be March 12th. Portia will conclude her work in South Dakota with services at Christ Church, Lead, on March 14th. We have begun working with Bishop Folts to ensure that our respective diocesan responsibilities continue. We feel incredibly confident in the staff who are being selected to take over this vital missionary work.

We cannot iterate enough how appreciative we are for our time serving alongside you, the people of the Diocese of South Dakota. This Diocese raised Portia in the Christian faith, and it raised both of us for ordained ministry. Our experiences of joy, sorrow, and steadfast faithfulness, exhibited by so many in our church, will stay with us for the rest of our lives. The tremendous hospitality and patience you have shown us have served to make us better priests and, more importantly, Christians. Know that we will carry with us more experiences and relationships than we can ever hope to describe, and the people and ministries of the Diocese of South Dakota will remain ever in our prayers.

With Christ's Grace and Peace,
Chris and Portia Corbin



Ann Robertson was awarded the Sioux Falls Teacher of the Year award on March 8th. Out of 1800 teachers in the Sioux Falls area - she was selected as the teacher of the year. Her name will be submitted for the South Dakota Teacher of the year as well. She was nominated by her family with support from co-workers, and previous students all writing letters of support.

2021 Dr. John W. Harris



Ann Robertson
WHITTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL
NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

Teacher of The Year

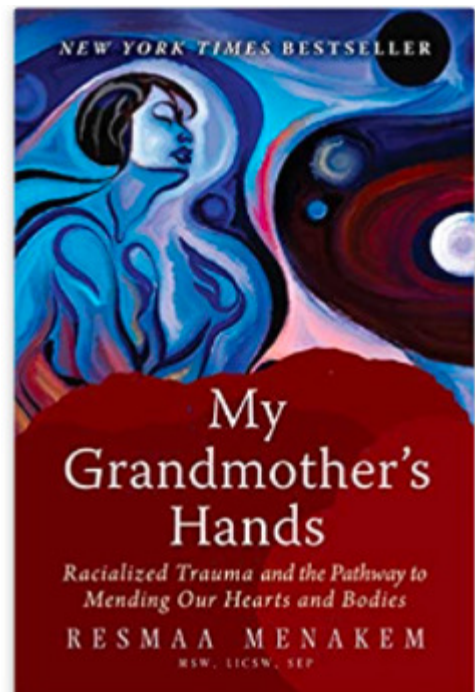
The Rev. Christina O’Hara would like to recommend this book to those interested in healing and better understanding of what racial trauma means and how to heal from it.

For white bodies, BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) and police bodies . It is amazing!

The book is

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies

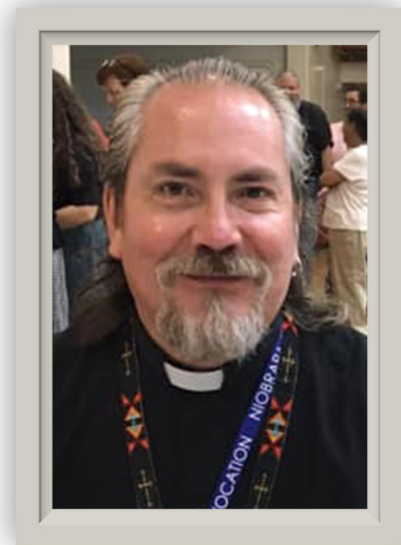
Written by **Resmaa Menakem**



NEW PRIEST IN WAGNER

A warm Wagner welcome to the Rev. James Marrs, Jr., the new Superintending Presbyterian of the Yankton-Santee Missions of the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota. Rev. Marris is the priest for the congregations of Blessed Redeemer and Our Most Merciful Savior on the Santee Sioux Reservation, Nebraska. On the Yankton Reservation the congregations are at St. Philip the Deacon, Lake Andes; and Woniya Wakan (Holy Spirit), Wagner, South Dakota.

Rev. Marris graduated from Sewanee: The School of Theology (The University of the South, Sewanee, TN) with a Master of Divinity (MDiv) in May 2018. He previously provided pastoral care on the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission and the Rosebud Episcopal Mission. He was assigned to the Yankton-Santee Episcopal Missions on January 1, 2021.



Rev. Marris, Jr. follows in his father's footsteps, as the senior Rev. Marris was the priest here on the Yankton Episcopal Mission in the 1970's. Living with him in the Episcopal rectory in Wagner are his son Domenick, their three dogs, and their three cats.

At this time, Rev. Marris will be following the same Sunday schedules for each congregation as set forth by the previous Superintending Presbyterian, the Rev. Pat White Horse-Carda, who has retired and now lives in Vermillion, SD.

Welcome, Rev. Marris and Domenick!

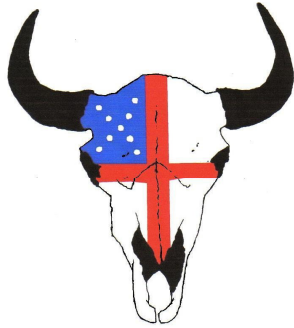
Church BY-LAWS and Committee BY-LAWS

Now doesn't that title just grab you and make you want to run out and scream hallelujah.?

Personally, not so much. While trying to update our files I have noticed we only have a handful of copies. And yet the Diocesan office is where people call when wanting such records. If your committee or church has a set of By-Laws please mail or email a copy to the Diocesan Office. Office@episcopalchurchsd.org. Please mark the year written and consider if they need revising.

Having enough space and time are the two main reasons why people don't keep records. Besides who thinks history is important? For those that enjoy history, simple letters written to family members or diary entries paint pictures of our past. Church minutes, today we find these to be a tedious and painful experience. But in 50 years they will shine a light on who we were and what our dreams and goals are or were.

NIORRARA SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY



**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
SOUTH DAKOTA**

An Update from the Niobrara School for Ministry

Dear friends, Greetings to you from the Niobrara School for Ministry! As you all know by now, the Rev. Dr. Chris Corbin has accepted a new call in the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac and will no longer be coordinating the Niobrara School for Ministry. Father Chris has done excellent work in establishing the Niobrara School for Ministry as an excellent resource for ministry formation in our diocese and I think you all for the ways that you have helped build up the School into its current state.

I'm excited to begin stewarding the Niobrara School for Ministry into its next chapter of forming leaders to join God in mission and ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota! Moving forward, the Niobrara School for Ministry will offer courses in the following three categories:

- 1) Ministerial Formation for the Diaconate : We will be offering ministerial formation for persons discerning ordination to the (permanent) diaconate in the Diocese of South Dakota. Courses will be offered in a two-year rotation and will be taught by scholar practitioners from within and outside our diocese. We are also pleased to be collaborating with Bexley Seabury Seminary's Pathways for Baptismal Living program to offer our deacon-aspirants a chance to learn alongside people throughout the whole Episcopal Church.
- 2) Ministry Weekends: We will be offering four or five ministry weekends (and possibly week-long intensives during the summers) focusing on a wide variety of topics of interest to both clergy and lay leaders in our diocese.
- 3) Required Trainings for Lay and Ordained Leaders: We will continue to offer canonically required trainings for lay and ordained leaders include Safeguarding God's Children, Safeguarding God's People, Title IV, and Anti-Racism trainings.

The next issue of The Church News will have a full 2021-2022 ministry weekend course schedule! I'm delighted to be joining you in the important work of forming and equipping the people of the Diocese of South Dakota to be God's hands and feet in their families, neighborhoods, and communities.

I am also very eager to hear from you! If you have suggestions for continuing education opportunities that you think would benefit the people of our diocese, please reach out to me by email and let me know!

Yours faithfully, Cody+ The Rev. Canon Cody Maynus Canon for Formation

cody@episcopalchurchsd.org

Diocese of South Dakota
Episcopal Church Women
Scholarship Application

Deadline: July 31
Please Print

Episcopal Church Women
Scholarship Application

Instructions

Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail: _____

College, University or Technical School (**with address**) that you plan to attend:

Proposed plan of study or major _____

Church Membership (Name and address of parish or mission)

Church Activities _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Fill out the application form and a written letter describing your educational goals and how the scholarship will help you achieve them.

Give the recommendation form to your priest, deacon, senior warden, or a long-standing member of your parish or mission, and ask him or her to complete it. Ask them to mail your letter along with the application form to the chair of the scholarship committee at the address below. They may e-mail this also.

Ask one other person not related to you – a member of your parish or mission, or a high school counselor or teacher, or an employer – to write a letter of recommendation for you and have him or her send it to the chair-person at the address below.

Deadline for submission of materials is July 31.

Scholarships will be announced in August and will be published in the Fall issue of South Dakota Church News. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college or university that you will be attending, to the office that you select. For questions or additional information, please contact:

Sandra Magnavito, M.Ed.
Scholarship Chair, ECW
255 Texas Road Apt. 412
Rapid City, SD 57701

605-390-7698
(leave a message if there is no answer)

Or e-mail: ahedlupus@aol.com

Every copy of *The South Dakota Church News* that has an incorrect address ends up being returned to the Diocese with a 75¢ postage due charge.

Please use this form to update your address or supply your new address **BEFORE** you move.

Moving? Please tell us...

Change Cancel- lation Contribution

Name.....

NEW mailing Address:

City, ST, Zip

Effective Date

Church we plan to attend after the move :.....

Please mail your changes to Diocese of South Dakota

Bishop's visitation & travel dates are in **bold letters**.
Please remember the Bishop's schedule is subject to last minute changes.

Diocesan Calendar

May

Grace Church, Huron	May 9
Rosebud Mission West	May 15-16
Christ Church Milbank	May 23
Reservation Clergy Meeting	May 27
TEC work weekend	May 28-29
TEC Board meeting	May 29

June

Pine Ridge Mission	June 2-7
Rosebud Deanery	June 12-15
Yankton Santee Mission	June 19-20
Thunderhead Episcopal Center	June 29-1

July

St. Luke's, Hot Springs	July 18
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South Dakota Episcopal Church News

THUNDERHEAD TO HOST YOUNG ADULT INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

THIS SUMMER After consulting with multiple health care professionals, we have come to the difficult decision that in-person youth camp at Thunderhead will once again be suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Because of the residential nature of Thunderhead—with its small cabins and limited bathroom facilities—and due to a lack of vaccinations for children under the age of 16, we have been advised that overnight camp would still not be safe this season.

The good news is that we have taken this opportunity to try something new! This season, we have invited a small number of young adults to come live at Thunderhead in an intentional community. Young Adult counselors have been coming to Thunderhead to live in community with one another for many years, so this intentional community will not be new in and of itself!

This year, the eight young adults—who have all been vaccinated—will live together in Super Tent, so that each person can have a private room. The sharing of bathrooms will also be limited to two people per bathroom to further limit exposure. The program this summer will focus on helping the young adult residents discern their own vocations in the Church and in the world. In addition to living, working, studying, and praying together, the young adult residents will work toward creating opportunities to connect with young people and others throughout the diocese over the course of the summer.

Although we wish that we could proceed normally this summer, the health, safety, and flourishing of our young people remains our top priority. Although we would prefer to be having a ‘normal’ summer at Thunderhead this summer, we are excited that the mission and ministry of Thunderhead will continue in 2021 in spite of the pandemic and the limitations it has brought with it.

Please keep the eight young adults who will join the Thunderhead family this summer in your prayers. And keep an eye on the diocesan website and social media for updates throughout the summer!

Yours faithfully, Cody+ The Rev. Canon Cody Maynus Canon for Formation
cody@episcopalchurchsd.org