



*The Episcopal Church in South Dakota is a sacred circle gathered around Jesus in prayer, loving and serving God and our neighbor in Jesus' name.*

## Everything we have is given to us by God

### Partners With God . . .

Stewardship – Motivate, educate, and support all to understand stewardship and promote responsible care of all God's gifts.

### MDG #7 – Ensure environmental sustainability

Scripture—St. Paul tells us everything has come into being through and for Christ. This doctrine gives us the ethics of caring for the earth. It is Christ's environment, not ours. He stands at the center of all creation – as both creator and redeemer.



**I**t's hard to dispute that our climate is changing, and that our lifestyles and the industries that fuel them are contributing to it. As the climate changes and impacts the earth it is clear that the poor are already suffering. The tragedy is that those with the power to do something about it are least affected and those who are most affected are powerless to bring about any change. That's why there's a moral imperative on those of us who emit more than our fair share of carbon to rein in our consumption.

It is estimated that the US and Canada emit 20 tons of carbon per person per year. Mexico emits 4.25 tons, Cuba 2.3 tons.

Books, magazines, news features, and the internet are full of information on small steps we all can take to make a difference. Here are just a few simple steps:

#### LIGHTING & ENERGY

- Replace light bulbs with an energy saving compact fluorescent bulb. Consider investing in rechargeable batteries.
- Switch off all lights as you leave the room.
- Check that all electrical equipment, includ-

ing your computer monitor, is switched off rather than on standby when not in use. Also make sure your mobile phone charger is unplugged when not in use.

- Turn your central heating thermostat down by one degree. If you have separate thermostats on radiators, adjust them to suit the use of the room.
- Check your house for drafts with a ribbon or feather. If it flutters, fix the leak.
  - The damper keeps the majority of indoor heat from escaping when the fireplace is not in use, but some still manages to sneak past. A piece of foam board cut to size and placed directly below the flue will eliminate 80 to 90 percent to those heat losses. Or, invest in a product like the Chimney Balloon ([www.chimneyballoon.com](http://www.chimneyballoon.com)).

#### RECYCLE, REUSE & REDUCE

- Say No to Unwanted plastic Bags (SNUB). Carry a couple with you and refuse the ones you don't really need. Or carry cloth bags. They last for years and years, and carry heavier loads. In January almost 42 billion plastic bags were used worldwide, according

*(Continued on page 10)*

**The Diocese  
of  
South Dakota**



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**South Dakota Episcopal**

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**Bishop's  
visitation dates  
in bold letters  
(Dates subject  
to change)**



**MARCH**

- Mar 2** Bishop visits Grace Church, Huron
- Mar 7-13 House of Bishops, Camp Allen, TX
- Mar 17** Collegial Chrism Mass, St. Mary's, Mitchell
- Mar 23** Bishop celebrates Easter at the Santee Mission
- Mar 28-29 Bishop Election Nominating Committee meeting, Pierre
- Mar 30** Bishop visits Church of All Angels, Spearfish

**APRIL**

- Apr 5 Ministry Weekend, St. Mary's, Mitchell
- Apr 6** Bishop visits Holy Cross, Pine Ridge
- Apr 10 ChurchNews deadline, May/June issue
- Apr 12 Ministry Weekend, Calvary Cathedral
- Apr 13** Bishop visits Calvary Cathedral
- Apr 18-19 Commission on Ministry meeting, Pierre
- Apr 20** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Vermillion
- Apr 21-26 ECCIM meeting in South Dakota
- Apr 25-26 Planning For Tomorrow conference, Pierre
- Apr 26 Episcopal Women's Council, Al's Oasis

**MAY**

- May 2-4 Work Camp at TEC
- May 4** Bishop visits Trinity Church, Pierre
- May 18** Bishop visits Trinity, Winner and Incarnation, Gregory
- May 23-26 Family Camp at TEC

**JUNE**

- Jun 1-6 Summer Seminary at TEC
- Jun 7-11 Camp Staff Training at TEC
- Jun 10 ChurchNews deadline, July/August issue
- Jun 12-17 Grade 5&6 camp
- Jun 19-22 Day Camp at Eagle Butte
- Jun 19-22 Niobrara Convocation, Eagle Butte
- Jun 24-Aug 1 High School camp

**JULY**

- Jul 6** Bishop visits St. Thomas, Sturgis
- Jul 7-10 Future Staff camp
- Jul 11-12 Diocesan Council meeting

## South Sudan School Project finds diocesan support

**M**oses Joknhial II, a Sudanese refugee and now a U.S. citizen, and his sponsors (Tania Hicks, Rhonda Morse, and Fr. Warren Shoberg) have been traveling the diocese to talk about his effort to build a simple school in South Sudan, in work that was begun at Holy Apostles, Sioux Falls.

The project goal is to construct a permanent school building in his home community of Panyang, South Sudan, Africa, nurturing peace and rebuilding people's lives through education after 21 years of Civil War which killed 2 million people, displaced 4 million more, and virtually destroyed the country's infrastructure and economy.

Because of that war, Moses was forced to leave his family and country when he was nine years old. He lived in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya for 14 years. Because of it, he and 2.5 million others did not receive basic education. In 2001, he was one of about 3500 "Lost Boys of Sudan", who was given a permanent home in the United States through a refugee resettlement program. Since his arrival, he has availed himself of many educational opportunities and expresses his gratitude for these.

Sudan's Civil War ended in 2005. With peace, people are returning to their destroyed villages. With peace, the opportunity is now for these people to rebuild their lives and communities. Through his own experience, Moses believes education is of utmost importance in helping his people in this process.

In his home village in South Sudan, school is held outdoors under shade trees. Classes are usually dismissed from April-November because this is the rainy season. A permanent school building will enable students to attend school year round.



Through education, people's lives and communities can be rebuilt and peace sustained.

The school building will consist of eight classrooms and one administrative office for the teachers, and will provide primary education for males and females, children and adults. The building will cost approximately \$50,000, and an additional \$12,000 will provide for the construction of a bore hole for a supply of clean water for the school and the surrounding community.

Construction is planned to begin in December, 2008, when Moses hopes to visit his home village for a few months to oversee the project during its initial construction.

Please join Moses in fulfilling his goal by contributing toward the costs of construction, making others aware of his project, offering your time and talents. Tax deductible donations may be made to the Diocese of South Dakota, earmarked "South Sudan Education."

Since Convention, Moses has visited at least eight congregations in the diocese, spoken to four other groups, and raised a total of \$9,578.38 (recorded as of February 15), with more promised.



**M**oses' visit to **St. Paul's Church in Brookings** in December created a "perfect storm," according to parishioner Elizabeth Williams.

The visit coincided with a birthday luncheon for parishioner **Leslie Smith**, who turned 100. Moses talked about South Sudan Education; Smith is a longtime advocate and practitioner of education, whose work took her to jobs not only in the USA

*(Continued on page 4)*



***Around  
the  
Diocese***



## Sudan. . .

(Continued from page 3)

but also Ecuador and South Viet Nam, In fact, she has traveled to every continent except Australia and Antarctica.



Leslie Smith with Moses

St. Paul's has adopted Moses and other Lost Boys' work, and one Sunday each month they will collect a special offering as an outreach effort.



## Belle Fourche holds ecumenical Ash Wednesday service

**A**bout 40 persons attended an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service and breakfast hosted by St. James Lutheran Church of Belle Fourche.

**The Rev. Evelyn Weaver** gave the homily and **Lorraine Klingler** was the organist. Both are from **St. James Episcopal Church** of Belle Fourche

Clergy attending the breakfast (in above photo) were Rev. Jeff Otterman, St. James Lutheran; Rev. Gail Arnold, United Methodist Church; and **Rev. Evelyn Weaver** and **Rev. Sandy Williams** of **St. James Episcopal Church**.

By Bill Kunerth

## POSITIONS OPEN To be elected at the 2008 Diocesan Convention

- Historiographer/Registrar/Archivist
- Province VI Deputies
  - 1 Clergy Deputy for 3 year term
  - 1 Lay Deputy for 3 year term
- Standing Committee
  - 1 Presbyter for 4 year term
  - 1 Lay for 4 year term
- Trial Court
  - 1 Clergy for 2 year term
  - 1 Clergy for 4 year term
  - 1 Lay for 5 year term
  - 1 Lay for 3 year term

*Nomination Forms will be available  
in July*

## Transitions . . .

**W**e welcome **The Rev. Wayne S. McIntosh** to the Diocese of South Dakota from the Diocese of Keewatin in Canada after a journey of almost two years through Immigration and Homeland Security.

Effective February 1, 2008, Fr. McIntosh is the Rector of **Trinity Church, Watertown**. The Bishop and Congregation celebrated his new ministry on February 23.

Fr. McIntosh is married to Lorraine and has four children. The family will join him in Watertown when the school year is finished.





## Bishop Robertson visits Belle Fourche



Belle Fourche Confirmands with Bishop Robertson

**O**n Sunday, January 13 Bishop Robertson visited **St. James, Belle Fourche**. His visit included meetings with the Vestry and others, and the confirmation of four young people.

Pictured with Bishop Robertson in the photo are **Karlee, Kemper, and Kaitlyn Gusso** and **Hunter Kunerth**.

The Gusso youngsters are triplets. Their parents are Clark and Valorie Gusso of Belle Fourche. Hunter is the grandson of Bill and Willie Kunerth.

*Photo submitted by Bill Kunerth.*



**William "Bill" Harris** of Yankton, died December 26, 2007 at the age of 90.

Bill spent most of his life in South Dakota teaching, in sales, and as Mine Inspector for the State until his retirement in 1983. He was very active in the Episcopal Church in Yankton and Sioux Falls – in Diocesan and parish positions, the Stephen Ministry, prison ministry, and pastoral care. He was also very active in the community as a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason and

in his work with the scouts, the March of Dimes, and the Elks, among other interests and positions.

Bill leaves his wife Inez, two sons, three daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held January 5, 2008 at Christ Church, Yankton.



**Lyal Larsen** of Lake Preston, died January 26, 2008 at the age of 79.

Lyle was the long-time senior warden of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in DeSmet and worked tirelessly in and for the church. Funeral services were held January 30 at the Lake Preston Lutheran Church with Pastor Wanda McNeill and Fr. George Parmeter

officiating.



### Province VI of the Episcopal Church Land of Mountains, Lakes and Plains

#### Annual Synod

**June 12 – 14, 2008**

Thursday afternoon – Saturday noon

Hosts:

The Diocese of North Dakota and the  
Episcopal Church on  
The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation

Place:

**Prairie Knights Lodge and Casino**  
[www.prairieknights.com](http://www.prairieknights.com)  
7932 Highway 24  
Ft. Yeats, ND 58538

**2007 PLEDGE TO THE DIOCESE**  
**As of December 31, 2007**

	Pledge	Payable To Date	Paid To Date	Balance	ChurchNews	Payable To Date	Paid To Date	Balance
<b>PARISHES:</b>								
Aberdeen - St. Mark's	7,500.00	7,500.00	13,500.00	(6,000.00)	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00
Belle Fourche - St. James'	3,360.00	3,360.00	3,360.00	0.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	0.00
Brookings - St. Paul's	7,800.00	7,800.00	7,150.00	650.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	0.00
Deadwood - St. John's	4,825.00	4,825.00	1,604.17	3,220.83	240.00	240.00	160.00	80.00
Huron - Grace	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	380.00	380.00	380.00	0.00
Lead - Christ Church	6,326.00	6,326.00	6,326.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
Mitchell - St. Mary's	6,720.00	6,720.00	6,720.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mobridge - St. James'	1,244.00	1,244.00	1,244.00	0.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	0.00
Pierre - Trinity	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,133.89	(133.89)	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Rapid City - Emmanuel	37,253.00	37,253.00	37,253.00	0.00	770.00	770.00	770.00	0.00
Rapid City - St. Andrew's	19,954.00	19,954.00	19,954.00	0.00	405.00	405.00	405.00	0.00
Sioux Falls - Calvary	57,342.00	57,342.00	57,342.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Sioux Falls - Good Shepherd	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.00
Spearfish - All Angels	18,711.00	18,711.00	17,151.75	1,559.25	340.00	340.00	311.67	28.33
Sturgis - St. Thomas'	4,199.00	4,199.00	4,199.00	0.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	0.00
Watertown - Trinity	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,886.02	(386.02)	285.00	285.00	285.00	0.00
Winner - Trinity	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	135.00	135.00	135.00	0.00
Yankton - Christ Church	20,895.00	20,895.00	19,153.75	1,741.25	500.00	500.00	458.35	41.65
<b>TOTAL PARISHES</b>	<b>238,629.00</b>	<b>238,629.00</b>	<b>237,977.58</b>	<b>651.42</b>	<b>5,085.00</b>	<b>5,085.00</b>	<b>4,935.02</b>	<b>149.98</b>
Bonesteel - St. Andrew's	797.00	797.00	797.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Chamberlain - Christ Church	2,492.00	2,492.00	2,492.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
Cheyenne River Mission	2,675.00	2,675.00	2,238.88	436.12	475.00	475.00	230.83	244.17
Crow Creek Mission	1,000.00	1,000.00	250.00	750.00	220.00	220.00	60.00	160.00
DeSmet - St. Stephen's	30.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.00
Flandreau - St. Mary's	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	90.00	0.00	90.00
Ft. Pierre - St. Peter's	2,480.00	2,480.00	2,480.00	0.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	0.00
Gettysburg - Christ Church	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Gregory - Incarnation	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Herrick - All Saints	115.00	115.00	115.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00
Hot Springs - St. Luke's	2,940.00	2,940.00	2,695.00	245.00	115.00	115.00	0.00	115.00
Lake Andes - St. Peter's	421.00	421.00	421.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
Lower Brule Mission	1,234.00	1,234.00	1,234.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	0.00
Madison - Grace	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	0.00
Martin - St. Katharine's	4,583.00	4,583.00	4,583.00	0.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	0.00
Milbank - Christ Church	2,139.00	2,139.00	2,139.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
Pine Ridge - Mesteth Cluster	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	230.00	0.00	230.00
Pine Ridge - Red Owl Cluster	995.00	995.00	995.00	0.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	0.00
Pine Ridge - Tyon Cluster	0.00	0.00	26.25	(26.25)	150.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Pine Ridge - West Cluster	0.00	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	225.00	225.00	80.00	145.00
Rapid City - St. Matthew's	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,504.00	(4.00)	105.00	105.00	110.04	(5.04)
Rosebud Mission	7,283.00	7,283.00	7,842.00	(559.00)	320.00	320.00	320.00	0.00
Santee Mission	2,753.00	2,753.00	2,753.00	0.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	0.00
Sioux Falls - Holy Apostles	8,153.00	8,153.00	8,153.00	0.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	0.00
Sisseton - Gethsemane	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	0.00
Sisseton Mission	1,900.00	1,900.00	1,800.00	100.00	240.00	240.00	180.00	60.00
Standing Rock Mission	0.00	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	270.00	270.00	70.00	200.00
Vermillion - St. Paul's	11,662.00	11,662.00	11,662.00	0.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	0.00
Webster - St. Mary's	1,000.00	1,000.00	700.00	300.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00



## CREM Looks Forward to 136<sup>th</sup> Niobrara Convocation

By The Rev. Marion Rectenwald

**A**ccording to the **Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission** 2008 Niobrara Convocation Planning Committee, plans are progressing well for the 136<sup>th</sup> Niobrara Convocation scheduled for June in Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Indian Reservation. The committee sent out a letter of invitation to all the congregations in the Dioceses of East Tennessee and South Dakota, along with a request for financial assistance in meeting the expenses of such a large event. "Response to this letter has been wonderful," reports Mother Marion. "We are most grateful for everyone's interest and support.

"We know that housing will be an issue, and we encourage those of brave hearts and adventurous souls to consider the idea of 'camping out.' There will be plenty of space for tents and campers, though RV hook-ups are not available. Historically, folks used to attend Niobrara Convocation in large numbers, and most of them brought along tents for sleeping nights, and for the occasional daytime naps. This may be our opportunity to resume some of the traditions of old that have not been lived out in recent convocations.

"We are communicating with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe about the possible use of their school dormitories for those attending the convocation, and expect to hear soon that rooms will be available. We already have motel information posted on the diocesan website, and we will add information about the dorms as soon as we have definite information.

"We are all looking forward to convocation with great excitement and to experiencing a weekend of warm fellowship, meaningful worship and a deepening of our relationships with our brothers and sisters of our companion diocese of East Tennessee and within our own diocese."

## Lodging at Niobrara Convocation June 19-22, 2008

**Super 8 Motel in Eagle Butte**  
605/964-8888  
\$47.66/night

**The Harding Motel in Eagle Butte**  
605/964-2448

Block of rooms reserved by Mother Marion Rectenwald for the Niobrara Convocation, \$39.90—\$51.48.

**The Prairie Vista Motel, Faith, SD**  
(40 miles west of Eagle Butte)  
605/967-2343

Block of rooms reserved by Mother Marion Rectenwald for the Niobrara Convocation.  
\$77.00/night + \$6.00/each additional person.

### CRST Dormitories, Eagle Butte

We are still working on obtaining use of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe school dormitories.

### CRST Pow-wow Grounds

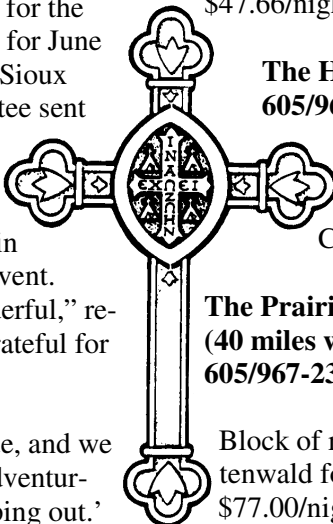
There is space for camping at the Pow-wow Grounds, but there are **NO HOOK-UPS**. There are a number of electrical outlets around the "Cook Shack," that might be used for power, and there will be port-a-potties available for use. Tent camping is encouraged.

### Dupree, SD (20 miles west of Eagle Butte)

There are maybe 2 RV hook-ups in Dupree. They appear to be very minimal. Anyone interested in these should call the City of Dupree at 605/365-5181.

### Others

There are many other motels available further away from Eagle Butte: in Mobridge, in Pierre, in Gettysburg, and in Rapid City.



**SOUTH DAKOTA EPISCOPAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
2007**

<b>Cash Balance, January 1, 2007</b>		<b>\$2,332.42</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Donations from Diocesan ECW's:		
Belles of St. Mary's, Mitchell	200.00	
Christ Church ECW, Yankton	240.00	
Trinity Guild, All Angels, Spearfish	60.00	
St. Monnica's Guild, Calvary Cathedral	84.00	
Ep. Women of Christ Church, Lead	57.00	
ECW, Huron	117.00	
ECW, Hot Springs	30.00	
Emmanuel ECW, Rapid City	400.00	
Trinity ECW, Winner	24.00	
Episcopal Guild, Milbank	36.00	
Church of Jesus, Laymen's Guild, Rosebud	50.00	
St. Andrew's Guild, Rapid City	40.00	
St. John's ECW, Deadwood	60.00	
Trinity Episcopal Women, Watertown	50.00	1,448.00
Diocesan Support		2,000.00
University Scholarships		
Yankton ECW--for 2007	250.00	
Donations from Individuals--for 2008	263.00	
Linda Zeier Memorial Scholarship donations	300.00	813.00
Scholarships for 2008 Women's Retreat		360.00
Patches Book Sales		49.98
Donations-Individuals		36.00
Total Receipts		4,706.98
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Province VI gift	100.00	
EWC Meeting Expenses	123.07	
Printing & Postage	524.17	
Niobrara ECW Support	25.00	
Scholarships	1,000.00	
Women's Retreat Expenses	270.00	
EWC Convention Table transmittal	45.00	
UTO Support	23.50	
Total Disbursements		2,110.74
<b>Cash Balance December 31, 2007</b>		<b>\$4,928.66</b>

## UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO) NEWS

*By Sherry Van Doren  
Diocesan Coordinator*

**T**he last issue of our *South Dakota ChurchNews* announced a new UTO vision statement: "We will focus on projects that implement significant change toward alleviating profound human suffering that directly impacts the lives of women and children."

This is a challenging and exciting goal, and our diocese continues to help achieve this goal. Your generous giving made 2007 a great year. South Dakota gave \$11,600 which is over \$4,000 more than 2006!



Church-wide Ingatherings totaled \$2,125,587.79. This money, and the interest accrued, will be the amount that will be granted at the April meeting.

*(Continued on page 9)*





(Continued from page 8)

Our Spring Ingathering is rapidly approaching and should be held around Ascension Day (May 1). Please remember to mail these gifts to the diocesan office. If materials are needed, you may call 1-800-

905-5544 or place your order online at [www.episcopalparishservices.org](http://www.episcopalparishservices.org). Spring packets should be arriving in your congregations soon.

Thanks to all of you for your dedicated work in expanding the circle of thankful people.

## 2007 UTO REPORT

#	Church Name	City	2007 SPRING	2007 FALL	2007 TOTAL
2	St. James'	Belle Fourche		114.98	114.98
3	St. Paul's	Brookings	195.95	124.36	320.31
4	St. John's	Deadwood		489.92	489.92
5	Grace Church	Huron	209.77	154.36	364.13
6	Christ Church	Lead	430.36	110.00	540.36
7	St. Mary's	Mitchell	587.00	385.00	972.00
10	Emmanuel	Rapid City	938.85	818.61	1,757.46
11	St. Andrew's	Rapid City	449.93		449.93
12	Calvary Cathedral	Sioux Falls	474.31	334.76	809.07
13	Good Shepherd	Sioux Falls	129.21		129.21
14	All Angels	Spearfish	1,362.63	642.31	2,004.94
17	Trinity	Winner	473.53	80.60	554.13
18	Christ Church	Yankton	707.40	552.52	1,259.92
23	St. Peter's	Ft. Pierre	199.98		199.98
26	St. Luke's	Hot Springs		31.00	31.00
29	Grace Church	Madison	78.00	252.73	330.73
31	Christ Church	Milbank	20.00	81.96	101.96
35	St. Paul's	Vermillion		176.02	176.02
39	Ascension	Blackfoot	45.00		45.00
51	Holy Comforter	Lower Brule	50.27		50.27
73	Rosebud Mission		61.70	99.52	161.22
74	Church of Jesus	Rosebud		82.03	82.03
87	St. James'	Enemy Swim	313.75	201.07	514.82
	Diocesan Convention			86.40	86.40
	Individual Donations		45.00		45.00
<b>TOTALS</b>				4,818.15	11,590.79
2002 Totals					9,658.37
2003 Totals					7,039.60
2004 Totals					11,851.24
2005 Totals					9,825.74
2006 Totals					7,358.23
Balance Forward					42.39
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>					11,590.79
Checks to National UTO			6,800.00	4,800.00	11,600.00
Balance as of 12/13/07					33.18

## Environment . . .

(Continued from page 1)

to reusablebags.com; the figure increases by more than half a million bags every minute. A vast majority are not reused, ending up as waste — in landfills or as litter. Because plastic bags are light and compressible, they constitute only 2 percent of landfill, but since most are not biodegradable, they will remain there. While paper bags, which degrade, are in some ways better for the environment, studies suggest that more greenhouse gases are released in their manufacture and transportation than in the production of plastic bags.

- Consider whether or not you're using all available avenues for recycling (don't forget that charity shops play a valuable role). When you buy a product or package that's recyclable, make sure it's actually recyclable in your area (and make sure to actually recycle it!)
- Find ways to save paper. Do you really need to print that email? Or print it on the blank back of a sheet you would have tossed away.
- Stop unwanted junk mail. Contact the firms yourself or register at [www.greendimes.com](http://www.greendimes.com) or [www.41pounds.org](http://www.41pounds.org) or [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org)
- Buy in bulk to reduce individual packaging.
- Use cloth napkins.

### AUTOMOBILES

- Plan your menu for next week, make one trip to the store, and buy only enough food to avoid waste.
- Check your tire pressure. Low tire pressure means high energy/fuel consumption.

### WATER

- Fill a liter plastic bottle with water, replace the lid and place it carefully into your toilet cistern. Water and energy will be saved with every flush.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Re-wear clothes which aren't dirty and only run your washing machine when you have a full load.
- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth.
- Stop spending money on bottled water when we have abundant clean water to drink from our taps. It takes a lot of oil to make and ship those bottles, and once they're empty, most wind up in landfills or as litter. Set aside a dollar for each glass a water you drink in lieu of bottled water and give it to those who don't have clean drinking water. If you are squeamish or know your water is unsafe or badly flavored, buy a water filter.

➤ [www.idealbite.com](http://www.idealbite.com)

➤ [www.waterfiltercomparisons.net](http://www.waterfiltercomparisons.net)

- Use “gray” water to wash your car – or a bucket rather than a hose.

### CLEANING

- Replace your cleaning products that contain substances toxic to the environment with simple, less expensive, less harmful, homemade products:
  - Baking Soda – cleans, deodorizes, softens water, scours.
  - Soap – unscented soap will clean just about anything. Avoid using soaps which contain petroleum distillates.
  - Lemon – one of the strongest food-acids, effective against most household bacteria.
  - Borax (sodium borate) – cleans, deodorizes, disinfects, softens water, cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors.
  - White Vinegar – cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, some stains and wax build-up.
  - Washing Soda (SAL Soda or sodium carbonate decahydrate, a mineral) – cuts grease, removes stains, softens water, cleans walls, tiles, sinks and tubs. Do not use on aluminum.
  - Isopropyl Alcohol – an excellent disinfectant.
  - Cornstarch – use to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets and rugs.
  - Trisodium phosphate (TSP) – a mixture of soda ash and phosphoric acid. TSP is toxic if swallowed, but it can be used on many jobs, such as cleaning drains or removing old paint, that would normally require much more caustic and poisonous chemicals, and it does not create any fumes.
  - When dusting, avoid using polishes. Just a cloth or duster will often do.
  - [www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com) for much more.

All Purpose Cleaner –

Mix ½ cup vinegar and ¼ cup baking soda (or 2 tsp borax) in ½ gallon (2 liters) water. Store and use as needed for on bathroom fixtures, windows and mirrors. *(Results may vary. Test before using. Keep homemade formulas well-labeled, & out of the reach of children.)*

Think about the role of your church within its local environment. Is there anything that could be done to make it more environmentally friendly?

Think prayerfully about how we are using up our resources at an unsustainable rate and what this means for future generations. Reflect on the fact that the richest 20% of the world's population consume 80% of its resources while the remaining 80% of people have to make do with the remaining 20%.

## 50 years ago . . .

From *The South Dakota Churchman*,  
February, 1958

**T**he Rev. Robert T. Wagner, Sioux Falls, was ordained to the priesthood at a service held at **St. Peter's, Sioux Falls**, January 1, 1958, by the Rt. Rev. Conrad H. Gesner, Bishop. Mr. Wagner serves St. Peter's and **Church of the Redeemer, Flandreau**.



Rev. Robert Wagner

Presenting the candidate was the Rev. Bruce W. Swain, Madison. The Rev. Frank M. Thorburn, Brookings, was epistoler; the Rt. Rev. W. Blair Roberts, retired Bishop of South Dakota, gospeler; the Very Rev. Francis X. Cheney, Sioux Falls, preacher; the Rev. E.J. Watson, Sioux Falls, litanist. The Rev. James Marrs, Cheyenne Agency, acted as server to the Bishop. Mrs. Frank Johnson was organist.

The Women's Auxiliary of St. Peter's was in charge of the reception following the service. About 75 were in attendance at the reception which was held in the undercroft at St. Peter's.

Same issue, from "Bishop's Diary"  
January 1, 1958:

**W**atched the Rose Parade on T.V. for a short while . . . At five o'clock in St. Peter's Church, Sioux Falls, the Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Robert Todd Wagner took place in the presence of a fine congregation and with a representative group of clergy." . . .

On January 3, Bishop Gesner drove to Brookings to catch the train for Rapid City.

From March, 1958

**T**he Rev. Webster Aaron Two Hawk, Lake Andes, was ordained to the priesthood at an evening service at **St. Peter's, Lake Andes**, on February 3, 1958, by the Rt. Rev. Conrad H. Gesner, bishop. Mr. Two Hawk serves chapels on the Yankton Mission in addition to St. Peter's.

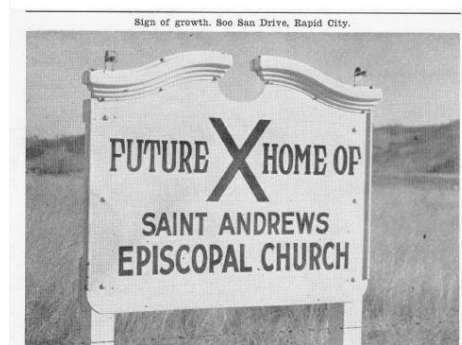
Presenting the candidate was the Rev. Stephen Moccasin, Wanblee. The Rev. R. W. Dunn, Winner, was epistoler; the Rev. James D. Marrs, Cheyenne Agency, gospeler; the Rev. John B. Clark, Sisseton, preacher; the Rev. W. Harold Luxon, Rosebud, litanist.

The Women's Auxiliary served the reception to 227 people in the undercroft following the service. The congregation was representative of both our Dakota and white members, who had come from all over the District to attend the ordination. Bishop Gesner called it "a particularly stirring service."

**O**n February 3, the new boys' dormitory building at **St. Elizabeth's School** was informally\* dedicated. Sixteen boys will live there under the watchful eyes of Mr. & Mrs. Hawk. The new building was a gift from the Lenten Mite Box Offering of 1956.

*\* Formally dedicated on May 10, but the school needed the space right away.*

**St. Andrew's, Rapid City** – 50 years ago.



(Continued on page 12)



## Diocesan History

(Continued from page 11)



**The Rev. C.E.B. Harnsberger**, who in December also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination, lived in this trailer while at Lower Brule in 1958.

## 25 years ago . . .

From 1983 *South Dakota ChurchNews*

### General Convention

Preparations were starting for the 1985 General Convention in Anaheim, CA.

*(In 2009 it will be again held in Anaheim.)*

### Bishop Election

Each issue in 1983 dealt with the timeline, canons, committees, and other details relating to the election of a new bishop upon the retirement of Bishop Walter Jones. (Other than dates and names, not much has changed in this process.) Here are some excerpts:



“The old adage ‘it takes one to know one’ applies here. If we desire a bishop who will lead joyfully, prayerfully, seeking God’s wisdom and strength through the spirit of Christ, WE must be joyful and prayerful, seeking God’s wisdom and strength through the spirit of Christ. If we are not, we will not be able fully to recognize those qualities in the candidates we nominate.”



“When we vote in any political arena, we usually select a person from a strictly personal point of view. In essence we say: ‘This is the person I want to represent

ME as \_\_\_\_\_.’ When we vote to fill a vacancy in the Church, we may have strong personal feeling, but our primary attitude should be to say: ‘God, Heavenly Father, this is the person I choose to act on my behalf to show the world what YOU are like!’ And then we must be willing to live with the choice God makes through His Church, and treat the new bishop as one whom God Himself has selected. The type of man [sic] chosen is not nearly as important as his openness to God’s guiding spirit. Who is chosen is not as important as our willingness to support him in prayer and deed in our openness to God’s guiding spirit.”



“Roll dem bones

By Mary Hobbs

“How shall a person choose whom to nominate for Bishop of South Dakota? How shall a nominating committee prepare a list of names and examine each candidate as to his [sic] worthiness? How shall the people vote to elect? As we tackle these questions, let’s think about the device the Israelites used, from the dawn of their history on: the lot, the dice, the marked sticks or cubes. This sounds like gambling: risky and probably sinful. Who wants to pick a bishop by rolling the bones?

“But consider casting lots as vulnerability and faith. When a man throws the dice, he’s leaning forward, a little off balance. His palm is up and empty – he has lost control of the dice. Whatever way they come up . . . well, he hopes Lady Luck is riding on them. This is how the ancient people of Israel cast their lots. They knew the Lord was in control of everything; they could do their best and then let go and He would make His will known to them.”

“And this is the lesson of the dice, the lots, for us: to choose, but to choose with our hands open, empty of pride and preconceptions; prepared to make a choice but vulnerable to the Lord’s direction.”



The April 1983 *South Dakota Churchnews* printed:

“Bill Harris, who is getting all the physical arrangements ready for the June election convention, reports things are moving so well that he is almost ready to start ‘engineering the cracks for things to fall through’ during convention.”



## Bread for the World Have Faith. End Hunger.

**B**read for the World is “a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.”

Bread for the World is sponsoring workshops in April in South Dakota entitled

“The Millennium Development Goals:  
Progress & Promise”

- **WATERTOWN, Thursday, April 3, 7-9 pm**  
Harmony Hill Hall at Mother of God Monastery  
1.5 miles South of Watertown on Hwy 81  
Contact: Sister Johanna 882-6640
- **BROOKINGS, Friday, April 4, 9:00–3:00**  
Not a workshop, but an opportunity: Stop by the Bread for the World table and visit with our staffer Tammy Walhof at the Festival of Cultures, Frost Arena, SDSU
- **YANKTON, Saturday, April 5, 10 am-12 noon**  
Christ Episcopal Church  
517 Douglas Ave  
Contact: church office 665-2456
- **RAPID CITY, Sunday, April 6, 2:00-4:00 pm**  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
717 Quincy St  
Contact: Jean 342-7562
- **SPEARFISH, Monday, April 7, 7-9:00 pm**  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1020 State St  
Contact: Laura 642-3715
- **SIOUX FALLS, Tuesday, April 8, 7-9:00 pm**  
3-in-1 room, Morrison Commons, Augustana College,  
parking off Grange Ave  
Contact: Erin 274-0122,  
freethinker@yahoo.com

For more info on the workshops -

**Phone:** 612-871-9084 or 605-335-6222

**Toll-Free:** 1-800-3637-BFW

**Email:** breadmn@bread.org or breadsd@gmail.com

For more info about Bread for the World, or to join:  
www.bread.org or call 1-800-82BREAD.

## ITTI/DFMS Scholarship deadline is April 21

**S**cholarships are available for Native Americans (U.S. citizens only), Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians who are members of the Episcopal Church. Preferences are given to theological studies, and NO money is available for non-theological graduate (post-Bachelor) work.

The current scholarship cycle concerns coursework that begins between July 1 and December 31, 2008. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is midnight, **April 21, 2008**; applications must be RECEIVED, not just postmarked, by that date. You can fax your application to 612.813.0111.

To obtain an application as a Word doc attachment, please send an email to [ittischolarship@aol.com](mailto:ittischolarship@aol.com). To get a hard copy, phone 1.800.818.0466, and clearly leave your full mailing address on the voicemail.

## ITTI helps sponsor weekend retreat

**“Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts”  
March 28-30, 2008**

**S**ponsored by the Indigenous Theological Training Institute (ITTI), The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Episcopal Office of Native American Ministries, and Minnesota’s Department of Indian Work.

“What does God want of me?” This is perhaps the most basic question that as disciples of Christ we must explore. This weekend will be a time of prayerful reflection upon the uniqueness of each person and the discovery of the gifts that God has given to you. A team of facilitators from a variety of experiences will utilize worship, music, presentations and specific exercises to lead each person in uncovering their God-given gifts.

If you are **Native American**, wondering what your spiritual gifts are and what God wants of you, set aside this weekend to explore those questions in the beautiful rustic setting of Concordia Language Villages near Bemidji, Minnesota.

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

Registration cost: only \$35. All meals and lodging provided. Some travel fund assistance is available. Space is limited, so register early.

To register, please contact the ITTI Office at 1-800-818-0466 or ITTIBarbis@aol.com

## Looking for more Episcopal news?

**E**pisiscopal Life is the independently edited, national monthly newspaper of the Episcopal Church, published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society upon authority of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

**Episcopal Life Media** in an integrated system of web, print, and broadcast communication resources serving Episcopalians, seekers and observers.

Here is a sampling of what is available for you:

**Episcopal Life Daily** – online news updated each business day. Subscribe free of charge by sending an email to news@episcopalchurch.org with “subscribe” in the subject line.

**Episcopal Life Weekly** – the popular Sunday bulletin-insert editions offered at no charge in English and Spanish at [www.episcopal-life.org/78650\\_8852\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopal-life.org/78650_8852_ENG_HTM.htm)

**Episcopal Life Monthly** – continues the award-winning newsprint edition circulated to a subscriber base of some 250,000 households. Subscriptions, priced at \$22.50 may be obtained by writing to PO Box 2050, Voorhees, NJ 08043-8000 or calling 800-374-9510.



**Episcopal Life Online** – for church news in real time. [www.episcopal-life.org](http://www.episcopal-life.org) is updated regularly as new reports become available. Includes **Focus**—a monthly half-hour video “multicast” featuring church mission, ministries and news at [www.episcopal-life.org/81231\\_89777\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopal-life.org/81231_89777_ENG_HTM.htm)

**EpiScope** - <http://episcopalchurch.typepad.com/episcope/> looks over the Episcopal Church in articles covering a wide variety of subjects.

**Episcopal Café** – a ministry of the Diocese of Washington in partnership with The Episcopal Church and

Visual Arts. “The Café is a collaborative effort by more than two dozen writers and editors, and an ever-growing list of visual artists who aspire to create a visually appealing, intellectually stimulating, spiritually enriching and at least occasionally amusing site where Episcopalians and those interested in our church can read, watch, listen and reflect upon contemporary life in a context informed by faith and animated by the spirit of charity.”

This site includes **Daily Episcopalian**, a blog devoted to news and commentary on events in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and also features articles on theology, peace and justice initiatives and popular culture. News items can be found on **The Lead** blog. **Speaking to the Soul** blog, includes sermons, reflections, multimedia meditations and excerpts from books on spirituality.

## St Augusta's Bookstore & Cathedral Shop

*As new Vestry members take-up their positions, they may be looking for resources on Church Leadership. When we become a member of the Acolytes, the Altar Guild, or even join a Bible Study Group, we are usually given a training manual or a lessons guide. However, when we join the Vestry, we are often left to learn on our own. Two good references include:*

### 5 Keys for Church Leaders

By Kevin Martin \$15

Suggestions for congregational development are incorporated into the five keys.

1. Build the Team
2. Pay Attention to the Generations
3. Tend the Two Doors
4. Keep Healthy
5. Raise the Stewardship Level

### Beyond Business as Usual

By Neal Michell \$15

This would be an especially effective Vestry Retreat workbook. It is full of nuts-and-bolts, practical ideas for forming the vestry as partners in ministry and mission. “Just as formation is important for the life of the individual Christian, so is it important for the collective life of vestries.”



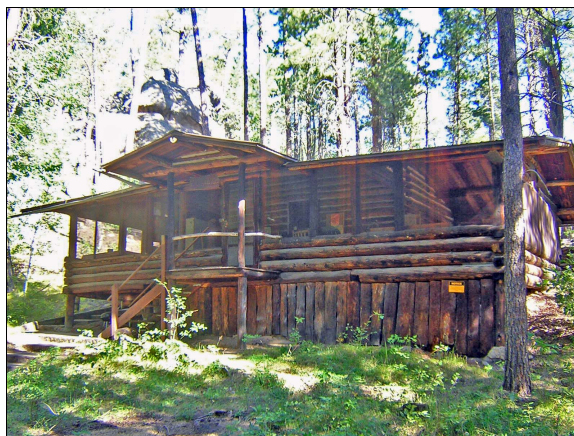
## Rustic Cabins In The Black Hills

Owned by the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota on land leased since 1922 from the Black Hills National Forest

Located off the Needles Highway (#87): South of Sylvan Lake—3 m. north of Playhouse Road.

3 screened cabins sleeping 4-6 +, each with outhouse.

Use 1 cabin or more for a minimum donation per night per cabin. Fees are being reviewed. Check with Randy when making a reservation for the suggested donation.



The Bishop's Cabin at Camp Remington

Provided: beds, mattresses, pots, pans, plates, cups, silverware, propane stove and refrigerator, fireplace. Water can be carried from nearby covered spring.

Bring your own: bedding or sleeping bags, blankets, towels, food and beverages, and lighting - fluorescent lanterns, propane lamps, Coleman lanterns with fuel, etc.

Episcopal services at the quaint Chapel of the Transfiguration Sundays in July through Labor Day at 10:30 a.m.



Chapel of the Transfiguration

FOR RESERVATIONS - Call Randy Barnhardt at 605-338-9751

FOR INFORMATION - Call Seymour Flinn at 605-342-0358

## The Anglican Way: Signposts on a Common Journey

**TEAC** (Theological Education for the Anglican Communion), a Working Party for theological education set up by the Anglican Primates in 2003.

*from Anglican-Episcopal World  
Issue #127 2007, pp. 50-51*

*This document has emerged as part of a four-year process in which church leaders, theologians and educators have come together from around the world to discuss the teaching of Anglican identity, life and practice.*

*They clarified the characteristic ways in which Anglicans understand themselves and their mission in the world. These features, described as the “Anglican Way,” were intended to form the basis for how Anglicanism is taught at all levels of learning involving laity, clergy and bishops.*

*This document is not intended as a comprehensive definition of Anglicanism, but it does set in place signposts which guide Anglicans on their journey of self-understanding and Christian discipleship.*

*The journey is on-going because what it means to be Anglican will be influenced by context and history. Historically a number of different forms of being Anglican have emerged, all of which can be found in the rich diversity of present-day Anglicanism. But Anglicans also have their commonalities, and it is these which hold them together in communion through “bonds of affection.”*

*The signposts set out below are offered in the hope that they will point the way to a clearer understanding of Anglican identity and ministry, so that all Anglicans can be effectively taught and equipped for their service to God’s mission in the world.*

**T**he Anglican Way is a particular expression of the Christian Way of being the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. It is formed by and rooted in Scripture, shaped by its worship of the living God, ordered for communion, and directed in faithfulness to God’s mission in the world. In diverse global situations Anglican life and ministry witnesses to the incarnate, crucified and risen Lord, and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Together with all Chris-

tians, Anglicans hope, pray and work for the coming of the reign of God.

### Formed by Scripture

1. As Anglicans we discern the voice of the living God in the Holy Scriptures, mediated by tradition and reason. We read the Bible together, corporately and individually, with a grateful and critical sense of the past, a vigorous engagement with the present, and with patient hope for God’s future.
2. We cherish the whole of Scripture for every aspect of our lives, and we value the many ways in which it teaches us to follow Christ faithfully in a variety of contexts. We pray and sing the Scriptures through liturgy and hymnody. Lectionaries connect us with the breadth of the Bible, and through preaching we interpret and apply the fullness of Scripture to our shared life in the world.
3. Accepting their authority, we listen to the Scriptures with open hearts and attentive minds. They have shaped our rich inheritance: for example, the ecumenical creeds of the early Church, the Book of Common Prayer, and Anglican formularies such as the Articles of Religion, catechisms and the Lambeth Quadrilateral.
4. In our proclamation and witness to the Word Incarnate we value the tradition of scholarly engagement with the Scriptures from earliest centuries to the present day. We desire to be a true learning community as we live out our faith, looking to one another for wisdom, strength and hope on our journey. We constantly discover that new situations call for fresh expressions of a scripturally informed faith and spiritual life.

### Shaped through Worship

1. Our relationship with God is nurtured through our encounter with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in word and sacrament. This experience enriches and shapes our understanding of God and our communion with one another.
2. As Anglicans we offer praise to the Triune Holy God, expressed through corporate worship, combining order with freedom. In penitence and thanksgiving we offer ourselves in service to God in the world.



3. Through our liturgies and forms of worship we seek to integrate the rich traditions of the past with the varied cultures of our diverse communities.
4. As broken and sinful persons and communities, aware of our need of God's mercy, we live by grace through faith and continually strive to offer holy lives to God. Forgiven through Christ and strengthened by word and sacrament, we are sent out into the world in the power of the Spirit.

### **Ordered for Communion**

1. In our episcopally led and synodically governed dioceses and provinces, we rejoice in the diverse callings of all the baptized. As outlined in the ordinals, the three-fold servant ministries of bishops, priests and deacons assist in the affirmation, coordination and development of these callings as discerned and exercised by the whole people of God.
2. As worldwide Anglicans we value our relationships with one another. We look to the Archbishop of Canterbury as a focus of unity and gather in communion with the See of Canterbury. In addition we are sustained through three formal instruments of communion: The Lambeth Conference, The Anglican Consultative Council and The Primates' Meeting. The Archbishop of Canterbury and these three instruments offer cohesion to global Anglicanism, yet limit the centralization of authority. They rely on bonds of affection for effective functioning.
3. We recognize the contribution of the mission agencies and other international bodies such as the Mothers' Union. Our common life in the body of Christ is also strengthened by commissions, task groups, networks of fellowship, regional activities, theological institutions and companion links.

### **Directed by God's Mission**

1. As Anglicans we are called to participate in God's mission in the world, by embracing respectful evangelism, loving service and prophetic witness. As we do so in all our varied contexts, we bear witness to and follow Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Savior. We celebrate God's reconciling and life-giving mission through the creative, costly

and faithful witness and ministry of men, women and children, past and present, across our Communion.

2. Nevertheless, as Anglicans we are keenly aware that our common life and engagement in God's mission are tainted with shortcomings and failure, such as negative aspects of colonial heritage, self-serving abuse of power and privilege, undervaluing of the contributions of laity and women, inequitable distribution of resources, and blindness to the experience of the poor and oppressed. As a result, we seek to follow the Lord with renewed humility so that we may freely and joyfully spread the good news of salvation in word and deed.
3. Confident in Christ, we join with all people of good will as we work for God's peace, justice and reconciling love. We recognize the immense challenges posed by secularization, poverty, unbridled greed, violence, religious persecution, environmental degradation, and HIV/Aids. In response, we engage in prophetic critique of destructive political and religious ideologies, and we build on a heritage of care for human welfare expressed through education, health care and reconciliation.
4. In our relationships and dialogue with other faith communities we combine witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ with a desire for peace, and mutual respect and understanding.
5. As Anglicans, baptized into Christ, we share in the mission of God with all Christians and are deeply committed to building ecumenical relationships. Our reformed catholic tradition has proved to be a gift we are able to bring to ecumenical endeavor. We invest in dialogue with other churches based on trust and a desire that the whole company of God's people may grow into the fullness of unity to which God calls us that the world may believe the gospel.





## Grace Happens

by the Reverend  
Fred Jessett

### GRACE HAPPENS

#### “Music and the Existence of God”

*“I’m Honorary President of the American Humanist Association, but I simultaneously say that music is the proof of the existence of God.” Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.\**

**W**hen I read those words by Kurt Vonnegut I knew just what he meant. I’ve been thinking for some time that music might be the most important thing in life that points to God. Music can make me feel that I’ve somehow touched God but I can’t explain how. It’s way beyond any words I know.

In this column I’ve written about moments when music was important. I’ve mentioned words in hymns that were meaningful in a particular context, but it was the fact they were sung that made the words so powerful.

When you think about the reality that is music, it’s quite amazing. Music is common to all humans. Different peoples make music that varies widely, yet all recognize music when they hear it. And music is closely related to another universal language, mathematics. At one time it was believed that because the planets and stars moved in such precise mathematical patterns they must be producing music, the “music of the spheres.”

It seems that music is the production of sound waves in certain frequencies that are received by our auditory nerves and transmitted to our brains, where it has a profound affect. This may be an explanation of how music affects us, but not why it has this effect.

Science can’t answer the mystery of why we produce music in good times or bad, in freedom or slavery, in war or peace, to celebrate or to mourn, or why has music persisted and developed into such a complex and rich art.

There are more mysteries. Why did we develop instruments like the violin or the piano? Who first discovered that the innards of some small animal, dried and stretched taut, might produce beautiful music? And think of Beethoven writing his Ninth Symphony while stone deaf, or Mozart hearing his compositions in his head before he wrote them down.

There is power in music – power to put us in touch with something greater than ourselves, and power to transform us. Here’s a story to illustrate.

In 1992, during the siege of Sarajevo the principle cellist of the opera, Vedran Smailovic, dressed in his formal attire, played each day at 4:00 PM for 22 days in the very spot where 22 people waiting to buy bread had been killed by a mortar shell. Then for the next 18 months he played in cemeteries and bomb craters as the siege raged around him. He called it his prayer for peace. And as his action became known, cellists around the world went into the streets of their own cities to play at the same time with Smailovic. And the world could no longer ignore the siege of Sarajevo.



By his action, Smailovic enabled God’s voice of love to be heard amid the terrible noise of war and hate. He lifted up the human spirit, our spirit, God’s sacred creation, for all to see and hear even in the face of fear and hate that threatened to destroy it. That’s what music can do. And that’s why I’m convinced that Vonnegut is right, music is the proof of the existence of God.

\*Kurt Vonnegut in Like Shaking Hands With God, a conversation about writing. 1999.

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(Continued on page 19)



(Continued from page 18)

## “The Singing Revolution”

**E**arlier I wrote about the connection between music and God. This column is a great story of how the power of music sparked a peaceful revolution.

The nation of Estonia, located on the Baltic Sea next to Russia, was under the control of many of its bigger and stronger neighbors for over 800 years. Poland, Sweden, Germany and finally Russia, took control of this nation of less than a million people. The Estonians kept their language and culture alive despite attempts to stamp it out. One important cultural institution, a song festival, was begun in 1869. Thousands of Estonians would gather together to sing their national songs about every five years.

At the end of World War I, Estonians were able to declare independence because in 1918 both Germany and Russia were exhausted by the war and racked with revolution. Still it took two years of fighting until February 1920 before Estonia was free and at peace. In 1940 the U.S.S.R. took over Estonia again and then the Germans attacked and took it over.

When World War II ended, Estonia was firmly under Soviet rule. Russian was declared the official language and Estonian culture suppressed. But the people kept their culture and language alive, as they always had, in their homes by teaching their children to sing their songs.

Starting in 1947 the people again gathered for the song festival and a new patriotic song, “Land of My Fathers, Land that I Love” even slipped past the Soviet censors into common use.

The Soviets tried to suppress it but when 10,000 or 20,000 people are singing a song together it’s very hard to stop. By 1980

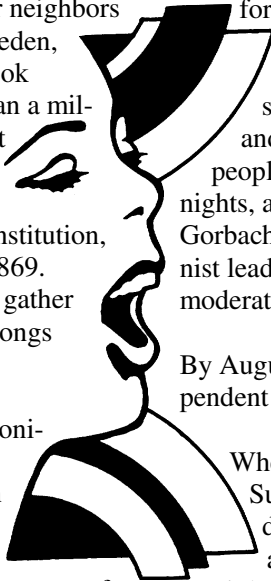
new rock songs extolling love of Estonia were appearing and being sung. Through the 1980’s the Estonians kept pushing, without violence, for increasing freedom.

A particularly critical moment came in June, 1988. Ten thousand or more people gathered at the festival were singing their country’s songs. This time the Soviets moved in and began to force them to stop singing and leave the festival location. The people moved, but the word went out. Before the night was over, not 20,000, not 40,000, but 100,000 Estonians had gathered in one place and they sang all night, and the next night and the next. One-hundred thousand people sang songs of protest for seven nights, and later that month Soviet ruler Gorbachev replaced the hard-line Communist leader of Estonia with a much more moderate one.

By August 1991 Estonia was free and independent and not a shot had been fired.

Where was God’s grace in all this? Surely when people strive for freedom, especially freedom of speech and expression, and they do so non-violently, God is present and grace is at work. In this case I believe it was the music which was channel of grace for the Estonian people. Music made by the voices of the people, that was the vehicle for grace which enabled a peaceful transfer of power. It was truly the “Singing Revolution.”

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## Politics and Religion

**L**ater this year, we'll be going to the polls to select our next president. If you're paying close attention to the news right now, though, you might think that we're electing the religious leader of our nation, not the president of the United States.

The Republican Party once cornered the market on religious talk in politics, but this campaign season we've seen the Democrats throw themselves into it with the zeal of a convert.

While Republican candidates have wooed the Religious Right at the "Values Voter Summit," Democratic candidates have embarked on "faith tours" around South Carolina, talking with reporters about their sins and prayers, and popping up in pulpits to convince the flocks of their worthiness.

Given this current nexus of politics and religion, the need is growing for the election-year work of the Interfaith Alliance.

The alliance's "One Nation, Many Faiths" program reminds all candidates that the sanctity of religion cannot abide the sharp elbows of politics and that our civic life suffers when a "religious test" – implicit or explicit – is imposed upon our election process. The program further affirms that our religious life is not glorified by the elevation of the political pursuit over the spiritual.

Those are lofty ideals, but they are followed by real-world details. Houses of worship hold a privileged status with the IRS, and the rules that go along with it can be confusing and unclear.

The Interfaith Alliance's campaign season guidance includes practical information about how a house of worship can involve itself in the civic process without jeopardizing its tax exempt status. Because we value the proper role of religion in public life, we also offer advice about how activities within the law still can be meaningful and effective.

The Interfaith Alliance's new guide for houses of worship in an election year will include a companion DVD featuring experts who have participated in educational events across the country.

The full film, nearly 30 minutes in length, is now available through the Interfaith Alliance's website or by phoning 202-238-3301.

[Episcopal Life] *Editor's note: The above text is adapted from remarks given by **Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon, Retired Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Washington**, at the Interfaith Alliance's recent Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Awards in New York, January 29, 2008*



### The Interfaith Alliance's election-year resources

The Interfaith Alliance (TIA) is making a difference in America by promoting the positive and healing role of religion in public life; encouraging civic participation; facilitating community activism; and challenging religious political extremism. However, religion's powerful healing force can be severely compromised when America's shared values are replaced by values that advance only particular sectarian interests.

TIA's election-year program, "One Nation, Many Faiths," analyzes and interprets the role that religion plays in an election year and seeks to establish a partnership between religion and government that preserves the autonomy of houses of worship and ensures that religious institutions are not held accountable to the priorities and interests of political candidates.

### Election Year Guides For Candidates AND Religious Leaders

The guide for religious leaders offers legal and ethical counsel on how religious leaders, congregations and religious institutions may appropriately participate in the electoral process. The guide for political candidates describes proper and improper ways to incorporate religious language and references into campaigns.

### Navigating Politics and the Pulpit: Phone Seminar with IRS.

This recorded phone seminar with the IRS covers the guidelines for what are appropriate activities by houses of worship in an election year. Also included is a Q&A with the IRS from various religious leaders around the country. "One Nation, Many Faiths" also educates Americans that their personal religious beliefs can and should find public expression through thoughtful involvement in the electoral process.



## Episcopal Youth Event (E.Y.E.)

***EYE: Sown in the Heart of Christ***  
Tuesday, July 8 – Sunday, July 13, 2008  
Trinity University  
San Antonio, Texas

### **EYE 2008 Registration is still open!!**

EYE will be this summer, July 8-13, at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

EYE is for young people who will finish 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades this spring. The cost is \$480 per person, but assistance is available. Don't let the cost keep anyone from registering!!

Our diocese has 15 slots initially available. Registrants over 15 will be placed on a waiting list, so don't delay!! Registrations are filling up fast.

We also have **CHAPERONES** registered. But we need **ONE MORE MALE** adult chaperone. Feel free to call Jane Hill with questions.

**YOUTH** interested in registering or in finding out more information should contact the Diocesan EYE Coordinator for 2008, **Jane Hill**, at [teenangels@rushmore.com](mailto:teenangels@rushmore.com) or by calling her at Church of All Angels in Spearfish (605) 642-4349 or on her cell at (605) 645-8204.

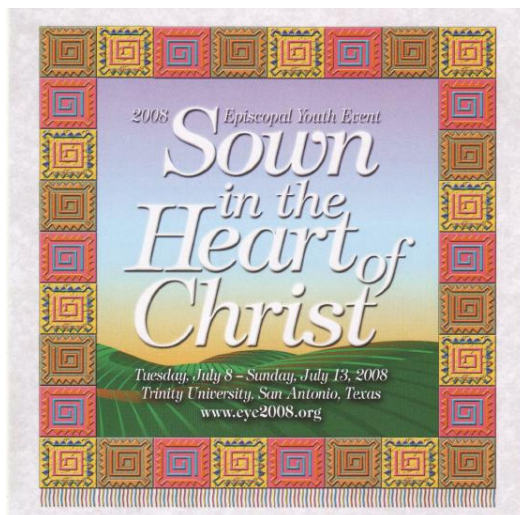
Be sure to visit the EYE website at [www.eyeye2008.org](http://www.eyeye2008.org)

## Congregations asked to survey Youth Ministry

**T**he Ministries with Young People Cluster at the Episcopal Church Center, is gathering information on youth ministry around the country in order to prepare a report on the status of youth ministries for General Convention 2009. To this end they have prepared a short survey and requests the help of the churches in South Dakota and across the country. This survey will show our strengths as well as where we need to work together to make changes.

Clergy or lay leaders of all congregations, especially – but not restricted to – youth ministers, are asked to take this important 10 minute survey. Though most questions require only a ✓ mark, there is an area for comments.

- Fill it out as a web-survey, by typing this address in your web browser:  
<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB22722JNF9VC> or
- Request a copy of the survey from the Diocesan Office, and return it by mail to New York.
- Request a copy by email attachment from the Diocesan Office.



## Thunderhead Episcopal Camp 2008 Summer Camp and Retreat Calendar

### THUNDERHEAD EPISCOPAL CAMP SUMMER 2008

May 2-4 **Work Weekend** - All able and willing workers are invited to help prepare camp for the summer. Cleaning and maintenance jobs to fit all ages and abilities are available. Register early to reserve a room in the lodge – no charge!

May 23-26 **Family Camp** - Whatever your family is, you are invited to a long weekend at camp. Come enjoy the peace and beauty of this special place. Camp begins with supper on Friday. Families may leave Sunday afternoon or continue relaxing through Monday morning. \$75/person; \$200 total

June 1-6 **Summer Seminary** - Continuing education open to all. Contact the Diocesan office for registration information.

June 12-16 **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Camp** - \$125

June 19-22 **Day Camp at Niobrara Convocation**

Jun 24-Jul 1 **High School Camp** – \$175

July 7-10 **Future Staff Camp** (entering 10-12 grade) – This camp offers leadership training as well as an introduction to camp operations. Campers showing advanced maturity and aptitude may be invited to assist with other camp sessions.— \$75

July 11-13 **Women's Retreat** - A wonderful weekend for all women. \$75. Scholarships available.

July 15-18 **Sisseton Mission Day Camp**

July 21-26 **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys' Camp** – \$125

Jul 28-Aug 2 **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls' Camp** – \$125

Aug 15-17 **Men's Retreat** – Good food, good fellowship, good lessons – open to all men. \$75

Sept 5-8 **Alumni Retreat** – If you are now an adult and want to recapture the peace and fellowship you

remember from camp, join us beginning with Friday supper and ending with Monday breakfast. If you cannot stay the entire weekend, join us for a meal (donation). \$75

#### NOTES:

**Grade level camps** – All young people entering the listed grades are encouraged to attend. Note that 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Camp is split into all boys and all girls sessions. Transportation provided. Scholarships are available for all sessions.

**Day Camps** – Children of the community entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to experience a taste of the fun, spirituality, and friendship provided through the camp program. Donations requested to offset the cost of the materials and staff.



**Thunderhead Episcopal Camp exists to provide an emotionally, physically, and spiritually safe space in which to nurture a relationship with Jesus Christ and with Christ's people.**

**Thank you for helping make this possible!**



### Men's retreat recommended

Attending the Men's Retreat last summer were **Josh Dunlap** (staff), **Bill Kunert** (Belle Fourche), **Deacon Mike Weaver** (Belle Fourche), **Jim Lang** (Belle Fourche), and **Fr. John Tarrant** (Pierre). All agreed it was "good food, good fellowship, good lessons." This year should be even better. Plan now to attend.



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## 2008 Course Offerings Niobrara School for Ministry

*St. Paul's Letters to Today's Church*  
—The Rev. Liam Muller, instructor

**February 2, 2008**

St. Matthew's, Rapid City

**April 5, 2008**

St. Mary's, Mitchell

*The History of The Episcopal Church in South Dakota*

— The Rev. Paul Sneve, instructor

**February 23, 2008**

St. Matthew's, Rapid City

**April 12, 2008**

Calvary Cathedral

*The Book of Isaiah: Immigrant's Journey from Exile to Homecoming*

— The Rev. Judy Wiley, instructor

— dates and places, TBA

*Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training*

— instructors to be announced

— dates and places, TBA

SUMMER SEMINARY

*Living in the Resurrection - Ethics after Easter*

—The Rev. Harvey Henderson, instructor

**June 1-6, 2008** at TEC

The family of **The Most Rev. Walter Jones** has established a trust in the Diocese of South Dakota to provide encouragement and support for continuing ministry education. Should there be more than one applicant annually for the available funding, preference will be given to those of native heritage. Contact Randy Barnhardt in the Diocesan Office if you have questions regarding the provisions of this fund or if you wish to apply for support.

605-338-9751

randy.diocese@midconetwork.com

## *Good Friday Offering*

In her Epiphany letter to all congregations, **Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori** has asked that Episcopalians continue to pray for their sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and to support the **Good Friday Offering** as an opportunity to demonstrate our solidarity with Anglicans and all Christians in that troubled region of the world. For the past 86 years The Episcopal Church has taken up a **Good Friday Offering** to be sent to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, symbolizing unity with and passionate concern for those who witness to Christ throughout that region.

A Bulletin Shell and Poster are available online, simply by accessing the **Good Friday Offering** home page at [www.episcopalchurch.org/agr/friday](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/agr/friday) and printing the file you select. **Good Friday Offering** materials are also available through Episcopal Books & Resources in New York City, by calling toll-free 800-903-5544.





## Nominating Committee meets in Pierre

*By the Rev. Judy Flagstad*

**T**he Nominating Committee for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor met in Pierre February 9, 2008 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Deacon Virginia Bird, chaplain for the committee, led the group in Morning Prayer.

Rodney Freeman, chairman of the committee, called the meeting to order and handed out sub-committee assignments and a tentative and preliminary timeline for our work. Additional information on interview protocols and screening and qualities in seeking a bishop were also distributed.

Subcommittee assignments are as follows:

### Communication:

- Valorie Augustson
- Dottie Lebeau
- The Rev. Judy Flagstad

### Survey and Profile:

- Don Eagle
- Deacon Hazel Red Bird
- Gladys Hawk
- Wilma Standing Bear
- The Rev. Webster Two Hawk

### Visitation and Interview:

- The Rev. Craig West
- Gene Murra

### Education:

- Wade Brings
- Deacon Barry Pitt-Hart
- Nyle Hedin

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### Screening:

- Mel Prairie Chicken
- David Wheeler
- The Rev. Evelyn Weaver

Chairman Rodney Freeman is an ex-officio member of each subcommittee.

The subcommittees all met individually to organize and plan. The meeting ended with the entire group gathering again and reporting on subcommittee work.

The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet again March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Trinity. The subcommittees will meet Friday evening beginning at 7 pm. On Saturday, the entire committee will meet and report on subcommittee activities.

Please continue to pray regularly for all clergy and people of the Diocese as we journey together through this challenging and hope filled time in the life of our Diocese.

The Mission of the Diocese of South Dakota is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ through the ministry of all.