



South Dakota Episcopal

# Church News

www.diocesesd.org

November/December 2008

## Diocese Forges Ahead!

**T**he Diocese of South Dakota met for their 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention October 3-5 at Cedar Shore Resort & Conference Center in Oacoma. The theme, carrying on from last year's adoption of the "Partners With God . . ." strategy, was "Partners With God—Forging Ahead!"

A review of the year shows that parts or all of the seven goals have been addressed and are in various stages of development. The seven goals are:

- Achievement Management
- Ministry Development
- Ministry Support
- Education (includes Youth & TEC)
- Evangelism
- Community Engagement (includes anti-racism training)
- Stewardship

**Clergy** met on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning before Convention started. Four diocesan clergy facilitated discussion on four subjects, three of which were also workshops on Saturday:

- Cross-Cultural Conversation
- Deanery Structure and Role
- Transition Time
- Youth Program in the Diocese

**Episcopal Women's Council** met on Friday for a business meeting covering EWC by-laws, the upcoming Triennial, Honored Woman, and budget.

**Deacon Judy Petersen** presided over the meeting. **Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and Niobrara Council** also met on Friday. The **Commission on Ministry** and **Standing Committee** hosted a reception prior to the Banquet on Saturday for those in the ordination process.

The Eastern Deanery hosted this year's convention. A BIG thanks to **The Very Rev. Liam Muller** (Mitchell) who was overall coordinator and to everyone who contributed in so many ways to the success of the weekend. Special thanks go to **Marge Gross, Myrna Brennick, and Liz Aanning** of Christ Church, Yankton who organized the Friday evening reception and the registration workers. Thanks as well go to **Jean Lacher** and **Barbee Hovelson** from St. Paul's, Brookings for organizing and hanging the quilts and to Barbee for also overseeing the mild chaos that is sometimes Registration. **Donna Wagner** (Calvary Cathedral) provided the "simply elegant" centerpieces for Saturday banquet and **The Rev. David Hussey** (Vermillion/Santee) arranged for the Sunday "sack lunches." Saturday entertainment was provided by the Singing Lay Readers of St. Mary's, Old Agency, Sisseton Mission.

Each year we seem to try something new, either out of necessity or in an attempt to streamline or enhance the weekend. So a HUGE thanks go to all the delegates and visitors who put up with little glitches with good grace. Overall it was a good time of fellowship and worship as well as business with a great group of Episcopalians.

### Attendance:

The official count was 103 lay delegates and 46 clergy delegates. Approximately 90 more were visitors or there in other capacities.

### Bishop's Charge

At the Friday night Eucharist Bishop Robertson gave his Charge to the Convention. This, and the response to it, are available on the website at [www.diocesesd.org](http://www.diocesesd.org).

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**The Diocese  
of  
South Dakota**



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



**NOVEMBER**

- Nov 2 Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov 1-2 Bishop visits Yankton Mission**
- Nov 7-9 Dakota Experience, Calvary Cathedral
- Nov 15 Ministry Weekend, Calvary Cathedral (*Isaiah*)
- Nov 16 Bishop visits St. Katharine's, Martin (morning)**
- Nov 16 Bishop visits Gethsemane, Wanblee (afternoon)**
- Nov 23 Bishop visits Cheyenne River Mission**

**DECEMBER**

- Dec 5-6 Diocesan Council
  - Dec 6 Mega Meeting (DC, SC, COM) in Sioux Falls
  - Dec 10 *ChurchNews* deadline, Jan/Feb 2009 issue
  - Dec 13 Ministry Weekend, St. Matthew's, Rapid City (*Isaiah*)
  - Dec 14 Bishop visits Mni Sose Cluster (this may change)**
- Parochial Reports mailed to churches, due March 1**

**2009  
JANUARY**

- Jan 16-17 Ministry Weekend, Pierre (*Baptism*)
- Jan 17 Ordination of Rita Powell to priesthood (tentative)

**FEBRUARY**

**Send delegate names & addresses to Diocesan Office**

- Feb 10 *ChurchNews* deadline, Mar/Arp 2009 issue
- Feb 13-14 Ministry Weekend (*Confirmation*), Sisseton Mission or RC
- Feb 16-19 Clergy Retreat, Blue Cloud Abbey
- Feb 25 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 28 Ministry Weekend, Rapid City (*Christian Education*)

- Mar 1 Parochial Reports due
- Apr/May Walk-about/presentation of bishop nominees around the diocese
- Apr 24-25 COM, Pierre
- May 9 Special electing convention, Pierre
- Jul 8-17 General Convention, Anaheim
- Sep 18-19 COM, Pierre
- Oct 2-4 Annual Convention, Cedar Shore
- Oct 31 Consecration of Bishop Coadjutor, Sioux Falls

## Convention . . .

(Continued from page 1)

diocesesd.org/WHAT\_WE\_DO/ or contact the Diocesan Office for a copy.

### Elections:

To Standing Committee  
**Pat White Horse-Carda**  
**The Rev. Marion Rectenwald**

Historiographer/Registrar  
**Dr. April Brooks**

Province VI Deputy  
**The Very Rev. Kathryn Costas**

To Trial Court  
**Norm Nelson** for a 4 year term

### Resolutions:

Two resolutions were *rejected* –

#### **RESOLUTION #01 – Request for Accounting of Episcopal Church Lawsuits**

**RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Twenty-fourth Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota requests that the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church provide the denomination with the following information:

- a. the dollar amount spent by TEC on litigation against dioceses, parishes, groups of churches and individuals since General Convention 2006;
- b. a list of the church accounts and/or budget items from which these funds were taken;
- c. an accurate comparison of dollars spent on litigation versus dollars spent on Millennium Development Goals since General Convention 2006;
- d. the proposed amount of money for litigation to be presented to the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

**RESOLVED**, that the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of South Dakota communicate this request to the Presiding Bishop no later than November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**RESOLVED**, that the Presiding Bishop's response (or lack thereof) be reported to the clergy and people of the Diocese of South Dakota prior to the Bishop Coadjutor election in 2009.

and

#### **RESOLUTION #02 – Request that the Episcopal Church Replace Lawsuits With Negotiation and/or Mediation Where Possible**

**RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Twenty-fourth Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota requests that the Episcopal Church adopt a policy of negotiation and/or mediation prior to initiating lawsuits over property.

**RESOLVED**, that the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of South Dakota communicate this request to the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council of the Episcopal Church no later than November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**RESOLVED**, that the Ecclesiastical Authority of this diocese report the national church's response (or lack thereof) prior to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor in 2009.

Two resolutions were *adopted* –

#### **RESOLUTION #03 – Establish the First Sunday of Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday**

**Resolved**, that the Diocese of South Dakota dedicate the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and that congregations and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.

**Resolved**, that the Diocese of South Dakota submit the following resolution to be considered and adopted by Province VI.

**Resolved**, that the Diocese of South Dakota submit the following resolution to the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Anaheim, California, July, 2009:

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**RESOLVED**, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, this 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church dedicate the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday and that congregations and individuals be encouraged to support Episcopal Relief & Development’s life-saving work through prayer and a special offering that will help heal a hurting world.

and

**RESOLUTION #04—Formation of a Diocesan Outreach Budget Line Item Oversight Committee.**

**RESOLVED**, that the One Hundred Twenty-fourth Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota recommends to the Bishop to authorize the formation of a volunteer custodial committee responsible for the Diocesan budget Outreach line item.

- RESOLVED**, that this committee be charged to
- a) Define guidelines for the use of the Outreach line-item in response to the Bishop's charge
  - b) Define and implement a grant process, covering identification of needs and oversight of use of Outreach line-item monies
  - c) Report on status and use of Outreach funds to the Diocese within the Diocesan Annual Report

One resolution was *referred* to the Constitution & Canons Committee for further work.

**RESOLUTION #05—Amendment of Diocesan Constitution**

**RESOLVED** by the One Hundred Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota that Article VII, Section I of the Constitution of the Diocese of South Dakota be amended to read as follows [amending language highlighted]:

Section I. Membership.

The Standing Committee shall consist of eight members made up of four canonically

resident presbyters or deacons and four confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing.

**Motion for Action**

Also passed was a motion for the Diocese to establish a stewardship commission, appoint appropriate persons to serve and staff it, and charge them with beginning a Capital Campaign as immediately as possible and in a way that best serves the diocese and its congregations.

<b>May 2009</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

<b>October 2009</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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**The 2009 Annual Diocesan Convention** will be held October 2-4 at Cedar Shore in Oacoma. The Northeast Deanery will host.

Please elect your delegates in January and notify the Diocesan Office of their names and contact information ***by late-February***. These are the delegates who will also attend the May 9 special election convention in Pierre and will need to receive registration and other information before the election.



Moses Jokhnial thanked convention for the tremendous support of his South Sudan School project.



The lay readers of St. Mary's, Old Agency, Sisseton Mission, entertained convention with hymn singing.



Bishop Robertson performed the wedding ceremony for The Rev. Ed Harnsberger and Margaret Shetka in Tucson in September. At 78 years old and never married before, Fr. Ed shows that it is never too late to find love.



St. Andrew's (RC) pets were blessed in a ceremony honoring St. Francis. After a short service of praise, thanks and intercession for the care of all animals, the gathered sang "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and not one dog howled. After individual blessings to each animal, the service concluded and all gathered (or jumped up on) the treat tables where refreshments were served.



**F**ootsteps In Faith—a regular column inspired by the Commission on Ministry to spotlight the many and diverse ministries performed daily in the lives of Episcopalians in South Dakota.

As we try to live out our Baptismal Covenants, sometimes our steps are going to go forward and sometimes we tend to take steps backward. Our steps can be large or other times they tend to be baby steps. But they all have a story to tell.

This month we hear from **Shelli Vallis**, a member of St. Andrew's, Rapid City:

**L**ast spring during a vestry meeting our Senior Warden, Harold "Obie" Oberlander expressed his wish for a grand and glorious "wake" complete with beer and a barbequed pig—with the condition that it would be held while he is still among the living. It seems he had left too many funerals feeling that he'd got to know someone too late, so his plan for the event included as many of us as possible sharing stories of ourselves. Obie got his wish (minus the beer) at an early summer garden party. Therefore and henceforth, we have begun a "new tradition" at St. Andrew's (which is, of course, anything done more than once) to get to know each other *before* the eulogy is read.

My footsteps toward faith began when I was presented for Holy Baptism at the altar of the fledgling mission church known as St. Andrew's in 1959, with my Great-Uncle, The Rev. John "Jack" Caton, assisting the Rev. Nordmeyer and serving as my Godfather. As soon as I could read, my mother suggested I might be interested in joining the choir—and when I demurred, she brought me anyway. In due time I was Confirmed by Bishop Conrad Gesner and later joined in marriage to Doug by Father Charles duBois (who also baptized our two daughters.) The love that brought me to this place, sustains me to this day. A choice begun in love, but made *for* me, has now become the same as the "choice" I make to breathe.

Part of sharing our stories involves some self-examination into the fascinating, mixed bag of past that makes us who we are. I do believe we have free

will, of course, but also recognize that part of who I am—how I look, how I sound, how I think—is a result of my thick-as-beef-stew and sometimes murky gene pool!

While traveling through Valentine, Nebraska over Labor Day weekend, we stopped so that I could call on some of my relatives. Nice folks, but quiet... since they all reside in Mt. Hope Cemetery. I can't adequately describe the feeling it gave me to stand in that sweet rain-washed grass at the graves of my great-great grandparents. I do have a short autobiography of my great-great grandfather (Watson Richard Towne), in addition to a couple of obituaries to help me know him, but during those few moments, I really wanted him/them to know *me* as well. I yearned to say, "Here I am in 2008, because of your life—and the 'footsteps in faith' that led you west."

I come from such a large and diverse extended family, that the world of "others" with "different ideas" was a part of life I took for granted. I discovered early on that there could be *very loud* "discussions" about politics, religion (or the "right" way to break a horse)—and then we would all sit companionably at the same table (albeit some of us were relegated to the kids' table) to share a common meal. It was a tangible lesson in love—to learn that I could safely express myself and never be shunned or humiliated for my views. "Win, lose or go broke"—the place to be was at that table, surrounded by a love that was deeper than mere feelings.

Our humanity gives us a relationship with each other that can be appreciated in terms of our common needs for food, shelter, health, work that satisfies—but we also have a deeper longing for acceptance, love—and, I think, the fundamental need to feel that we are being heard. Our youngest daughter, Meghan, was a chatterbox when she was little. Sometimes she would "rattle" on and on—and as parents sometimes do, we would only hear half of what she said. On one particular family outing in the car, I talked at great length about something, concluding with a question, only to find out that no one had been listening. I made a frustrated comment—and then heard a small voice from the backseat saying, "Welcome to *my* world!"

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During Diocesan convention I had the opportunity to take part in Fr. Paul Sneve's presentation "Cross Cultural Awareness". It was a fascinating lecture/discussion exploring some of the anthropological aspects of cultural differences. He used the visualization of an iceberg. What we see of an iceberg (or each other) is only a fraction of the whole—most of what constitutes an iceberg is below the surface—and that when we meet, we essentially "bump" at a lower level first before we even get close enough to know one another.

We promise at each celebration of Holy Baptism to "...respect the dignity of every human being." That is a powerful promise! It is a promise to make our "bumps" gentle ones; to *listen* to each other, with respect for the faith journey that brought them into our lives; to look closer than the iceberg on the surface—and to let the Holy Spirit so fill us that we are unafraid of the steps ahead—willing to take those steps together, nourished at the same Table, where all are welcome.



Another voice . . .

"Entrapment is standard fare in human competitions, from teenage popularity wars to office politics. Pretend to care, invite intimacy in conversation, then treat words shared in confidence as weapons to embarrass and undermine. I have had this happen many times in church politics, and yet I fall for it every time, because the need for connection conquers wariness . . . As often as I have had my own words used against me, I can't bear the thought of being so careful, political and untrusting that no human encounter outside family feels safe. If my mistakes and flaws provide opportunities for "gotcha" and not "love ya," so be it."

© Tom Ehrich, October 13, 2008.

## Martin church featured in calendar

The National Episcopal Historians and Archivists have just published their 19<sup>th</sup> *Historic Episcopal Churches Engagement Calendar*. There is a photograph and vignette of 53 churches from every state and the District of Columbia plus two extra. **St. Katharine's Church** in Martin represents South Dakota.

The week-at-a-glance, spiral-bound calendar costs \$16.95 per copy. Add 10% (\$3.00 minimum) for postage & handling. Payment should accompany orders sent to:

NEHA

509 Yale Avenue

Swarthmore, PA 19081

(Call 610-544-1886 or email [nehahqs@aol.com](mailto:nehahqs@aol.com) for bulk pricing)



St. Katharine's Church in Martin, SD

NEHA is also your source for the 2009 Episcopocot Calendar (\$8.95 each) as well as two helpful guides for those interested in preserving their history:

*Writing a Congregational History* (\$5.00 each)

*Archives for Congregations* (\$5.00 each)



*By the Rev. Deacon Rita Powell,  
Diocesan Youth Coordinator*

## Are You A Youth Minister?

Send your name and e-mail address to youth.diocese@midconetwork.com to stay informed about Youth Ministry Events and Opportunities in the Diocese!!!

## Youth Ministry Council and TEC Board Chairs Appointed

The Diocese is invested in the success of youth ministry. To that end, the new Youth Ministry Coordinator will work with two committees in addition to Diocesan and Niobrara Council. These are the Youth Ministry Council and the TEC Board. The Youth Ministry Council is a select leadership group of young people and adults, clergy and laity, appointed by the Bishop to advise, communicate and implement youth ministry in the Diocese. The TEC board serves to manage the entity of Thunderhead Episcopal Camp. The membership of these groups is as follows:

### **Youth Ministry Council**

The Very Rev'd Liam Muller, *Chair*, Mitchell  
Deacon Marty Garwood, Rapid City  
Rev'd Rita Powell  
Holly Huisken, Sioux Falls, TEC  
Dottie LeBeau, Mission  
Johnny Wilson, Kadoka  
Tara Jean Engel, Huron

### *Youth Members*

Kyle Fonder, Lower Brule  
Maria Murray, Parmelee/ Flandreau  
Jake Young, Spearfish  
Bailey Abbott, Vermillion

### **TEC Board**

David Wheeler, *Chair*, Huron  
The Very Rev'd Bunker Hill, Spearfish  
Deacon Mike Weaver, Belle Fourche  
Rev'd Rita Powell  
Holly Huisken, Sioux Falls, TEC  
Gladys Hawk, Wakpala  
Uhl Donovan, Silver City

The Youth Council had its first meeting on Saturday, September 27 hosted by the Rosebud Episcopal Mission at the Jones Building in Mission. We discussed some of the challenges of youth ministry, as well as some of the history of youth ministry here. We considered the power and potential of music as a focal point for youth ministry. We will meet again on Saturday, January 31 in Lower Brule, Holy Comforter hosting.

## Learning from Tradition, Listening to Younger Voices: Convention Workshops

Diocesan Convention and the Clergy Conference were a great venue to start conversations about youth ministry. At the clergy conference, the emphasis of the workshop was on the special gifts and insights we can hear from our young people. As younger folks are still forming their identities, they are a group capable of imagining real reconciliation between cultures, between ages. Young people have a capacity for passion that can keep the church on fire. We talked about who we are as Christians, and reconciliation as the mission of the Church.

At the convention workshop, we expanded to talk about how we can build from the riches of our Episcopal Tradition. Deacon Rita shared her witness to the power of liturgical church experience in youth ministry and in working towards the mission of the church. Good prayer experiences allow God to speak to us and this is what we are all hungry for. We formed a challenge to ourselves to make our faith relevant, to reach out to cross boundaries and meet and try to understand young people's lives today. We can be the Episcopal Church in today's world, working from our Prayer Book and our liturgies to help reclaim our churches as sacred spaces where we can find God together.



These workshops led nicely into the Next Step Workshop moderated by Tara Jean Engel, Kristen Sanford, Cary Thrall, and Holly Huisken. There, people were invited to share experiences large and small about where they had unexpectedly seen God in their lives. It was incredibly refreshing amidst the business and fellowship of convention to be reminded of how God can move in each of our lives. The content of the Next Step Workshop was a witness to what young folks are seeking from the church—less institution, more God-experience.

### Good youth ministry comes out of good training: Leadership Training in Pierre

Thanks to the energy and wisdom of Father Muller and Mother Costas, the youth ministry training day in Pierre was a great success. Twenty-one people attended the workshop to learn about how to engage scripture with young people, how to observe good safe boundaries in ministry to young people, and how to plan a fresh worship service of evening prayer or compline. Those who attended are (hopefully) feeling empowered to grow their own ministry and be a part of growing youth ministry in our diocese.

### Youth Coordinator Hitting the Road: Grand Tour, Visits

As summer rolls into autumn into winter, I have been starting to learn the geography of this fine Diocese. In August, I made a sort of “Grand Tour” to visit the Deans in each Deanery, as well as the Priests-In-Charge of the Sisseton, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, Pine Ridge, and Rosebud Missions. (Now that Mother Liz is with the Mni Sose cluster, I’ll be paying her a visit soon too!) The idea was to start visiting with folks, sharing some of my background and perspective as well as getting feedback and input on the state of youth ministry in South Dakota. I was also able to visit St. James, Belle Fourche; All Angels, Spearfish; Christ Church, Lead; St. Matthew’s, Rapid City; and St. Andrew’s, Rapid City this summer.

In September, the youth council met for the first time in Mission (thanks Dottie LeBeau and Father John Spruhan for hosting!) I also attended the National Church Commission on Young Adult Ministry

Conference in Houston, TX, getting to know the other people around the country who hold jobs similar to mine. In October, in addition to meeting people and presenting some ideas at Diocesan Convention, I helped lead a Diocesan Youth Ministry Training Day at Trinity in Pierre (thanks Father John Tarrant!). I was also able to visit St. Mark’s in Aberdeen, and spend some time with the youth and leaders in Sisseton (thanks to Father Les and Father Chan for hosting!)

For more details and pictures, visit [www.lumencordium.com](http://www.lumencordium.com) !

**Want to know EVERYTHING going on with Youth Ministry in the Diocese? Check out [www.lumencordium.com](http://www.lumencordium.com) and post YOUR news, ideas, events from you and your church.**

A new blog is being launched for youth and young adult ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota. It will have updates on what our Youth Coordinator is up to, what is happening all over the state. It will feature periodic meditations on God and culture. And most importantly, it will have your comments, conversation, updates. If you want to post a full story or set of pictures, e-mail Rita at [youth.diocese@midconetwork.com](mailto:youth.diocese@midconetwork.com)

Save The Dates!!!

\*\*\*Do you know of someone who would be a great counselor-leader for young people at Camp next summer? Please please please contact Rita Powell with your idea! \*\*\*

#### THUNDERHEAD EPISCOPAL CAMP SUMMER 2009

<b>JUNE 22-25</b>	<b>STAFF TRAINING</b>
<b>JUNE 26-28</b>	<b>TEC STAFF GOES TO NIOBRARA CONVOCATION AT ROSEBUD MISSION</b>
<b>JUN 29-JUL 2</b>	<b>FAMILY AND 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CAMP</b>
<b>JULY 6-13</b>	<b>HIGH SCHOOL CAMP</b>
<b>JULY 16-19</b>	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS RETREAT</b>
<b>JULY 19-25</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION CAMP</b>
<b>JULY 25-28</b>	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS RETREAT</b>



## Transition Committee plans “walkabout” visits by bishop candidates for April 29—May 3

**W**hile the Nominating Committee begins the task of reviewing nominations for Bishop Coadjutor, the Transition Committee is preparing for a five-stop visit this spring by an anticipated five candidates and their spouses.

The “walkabout” visits are set for April 29-May 3, followed by the Electing Convention on Saturday, May 9 at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre. The delegates that congregations elect for the 2009 Diocesan Convention will also serve as the delegates for the Electing Convention.

The Transition Committee, chaired by the Reverend **Mercy Hobbs** of St. Paul’s Vermillion and Santee Mission, also is charged with assisting in Bishop Robertson’s transition into retirement, and the incoming bishop’s introduction to the diocese.

Over 2000 people are expected at the consecration service, to be held Saturday, October 31 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. The time is tentatively set for 11:00 a.m. Presiding Bishop **Katharine Jefferts Schori** will preside at the consecration, and the other bishops of Province VI will be invited as well as other dignitaries.

The Transition Committee members are **the Rev. Liam Muller**, Mitchell, who serves as Chaplain; **Ann Bush**, Pierre; **Tara Jean Engel**, Huron; **Deacon Marty Garwood**, Rapid City; **Julie Gehm**, Sioux Falls; **Barbee Hovelson**, Brookings; **Sandy Magnavito**,

Rapid City; **Red Olson**, Ft. Thompson; **Dennis Potter**, Sioux Falls; **Vicki Sweet**, Rapid City; **Patricia White Horse-Carda**, Wagner; **Johnny Wilson**, Kadoka; and **Richard Zephier**, Aberdeen.

Check the diocesan website often for updates on the process. The timeline is published, as well as the diocesan profile published for review by candidates, listings of committee members, and all articles on the election process that have appeared in the *ChurchNews*.

Bookmark [www.diocesesd.org](http://www.diocesesd.org) and check it often to stay informed!

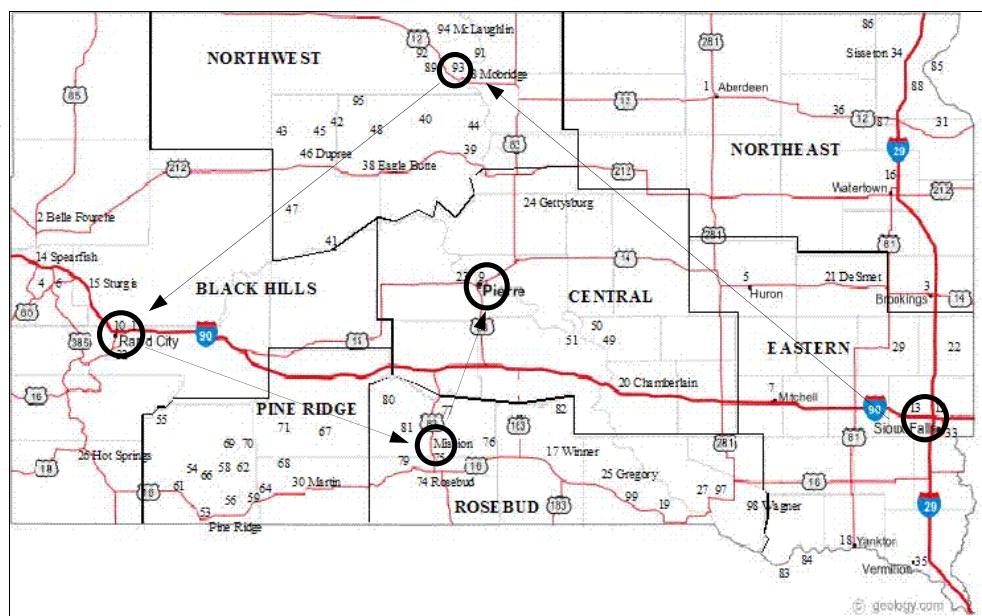
— *The Rev. Mercy Hobbs*



### Walkabout Schedule

The candidates are tentatively scheduled to visit according to this schedule:

- **Wednesday, April 29** – Sioux Falls, Calvary Cathedral
- **Thursday, April 30** – Wakpala, St. Elizabeth’s Church (Standing Rock Mission)
- **Friday, May 1** – Rapid City, Emmanuel Church
- **Saturday, May 2** – Mission, Bishop Hare Center (Rosebud Mission)
- **Sunday, May 3** – Pierre, Trinity Church



## GRACE HAPPENS

### “The Rose”

*By The Rev. Fred Jessett*

**S**ome years ago, while watching a network morning show, I saw an interview with the song writer, Amanda McBroom. The interviewer asked about her song, “The Rose.”

As Ms. McBroom began describing how she came to write it, she really caught my attention. She said that the words to the song came to her one day when she was driving. When she got home she sat down at her piano and the music of “The Rose” just flowed from her. It all happened so fast that it felt as if she hadn’t written the song; she felt it had been given to her.

That really intrigued me. I’d heard enough of the lyrics to know the song was about love and was different from typical popular love songs. So I got the lyrics and was amazed at how they connected to New Testament concepts. The song begins by giving several examples of what “some say” love is, all of which are negative. Then come the words, “I say love, it is a flower and you, its only seed.”

There it was. Many of Jesus’ parables about how God’s love is spread and grows are stories about seeds. Jesus talked of how small seeds are and how they lie hidden in the ground, but at the right time sprout and become mighty plants. He talked about the patient farmer who plants the seed and watches, not knowing how it germinates and grows but trusting that it will.

I don’t know if Ms McBroom had in mind only romantic love or not. What I do know is that what she says is true of the love God has given us and calls us to have for others. We are to be seeds so that God’s love can blossom in the world.

In the second verse of “The Rose” are these words: “It’s...the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.” This seems almost like an echo of Jesus words, “For whoever would save his life will lose

it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it.”  
Luke 9:24



Finally, in the last verse Amanda McBroom’s song reminds listeners that when they feel deprived of love they should remember they are the seeds of love and that even in the winter “...far beneath the bitter snow, lies the seed that with the sun’s love, in the spring becomes the rose.”

In some Christian symbolism Jesus Christ, the supreme expression of God’s love, is represented by a rose! An example of this, which also invokes a picture of winter, is the old German Christmas hymn, “Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming...” The first verse ends with the words, “It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.”

I don’t know if Ms. McBroom was aware of any of these connections or not, but that doesn’t matter. Coincidences will happen. What matters is that the good news is heard, even when and where it’s not expected. Grace does happen and it’s everywhere when we open our eyes.

© Fred Jessett 2008





## Dakota Experience:

An orientation to Native American (L/Dakota) history, culture, and spirituality within the context of the Episcopal Church.

*The next session is scheduled for*

**November 7-9, 2008**

at Calvary Cathedral in Sioux Falls

It is a *required* session for

- all clergy new to the diocese
- for those in the ordination process
- and for elected or appointed leaders of diocesan committees, commissions, agencies, or boards.

It is *recommended* for anyone interested in learning/sharing about the L/Dakota way of life.

Begins Friday 6:30 pm with supper and concludes after the 12:00 Holy Eucharist with Tiospaye Wakan on Sunday.

Facilitator: The Rev. Paul Sneve (St. Matthew's, Rapid City)

## Registration Form

I would like to attend Dakota Experience, November 7-9, 2008

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home (Evening) phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work (Daytime) phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Want help getting lodging?

Lodging requested:  Single  Smoking  
 Double  Non-smoking  
 No lodging needed (or I will make my own)

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$50.00 per person (unless required to attend—check with Diocesan Office)

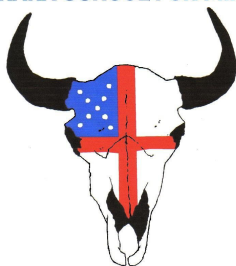
Return form with fee to: Diocese of South Dakota  
 500 S. Main Avenue  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6814

**Deadline: October 27, 2008** (late registrants, please call first—605.338.9751)

\*Spouses/friends are welcome. Please indicate name(s) of those attending the session (or send separate registration forms) so name tags and adequate meal preparations can be made.

Schedule for 2008-2009		
2008		
November 7-9	<b>Dakota Experience</b> The Rev. Paul Sneve	Calvary Cathedral 6 pm Friday – 1 pm Sunday
November 15	<b>Isaiah</b> The Rev. Mercy Hobbs	Calvary Cathedral 9 am – 3 pm
December 13	<b>Isaiah</b> The Rev. Mercy Hobbs	St. Matthew's, Rapid City 9 am – 3 pm
2009		
January 16-17	<b>The Sacrament of Baptism</b> The Rev. John Tarrant	Trinity, Pierre 6 pm Friday – 3 pm Saturday
February 13-14	<b>The Sacrament of Confirmation</b> The Rev. Mercy Hobbs - OR -	Sisseton Mission 6 pm Friday – 3 pm Saturday
February 13-14	<b>The Sacrament of Confirmation</b> The Rev. Rich Ressler	Emmanuel, Rapid City 6 pm Friday – 3 pm Saturday
February 28	<b>Christian Education for All Ages</b> The Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes	St. Andrew's, Rapid City 9 am – 3 pm
Spring 2009	<b>The Sacrament of Matrimony</b> Tally Salisbury	Site TBA
May 31-June 5	<b>Summer Seminary</b> Topic – Liturgics	Thunderhead Episcopal Camp Sunday pm – Friday
August 22	<b>Training for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct</b> The Very Rev. Kathryn Costas	St. Mark's, Aberdeen 9 am – 3 pm
October 17	<b>Training for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct</b> The Very Rev. Kathryn Costas	Christ Church, Chamberlain 9 am – 3 pm
November 6-8	<b>Dakota Experience</b> The Rev. Paul Sneve	Calvary Cathedral 6 pm Friday – 1 pm Sunday
November 21	<b>Christian Education for All Ages</b> The Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes	Calvary Cathedral 9 am – 3 pm
Interested in bringing The History Of the Episcopal Church in South Dakota ministry workshop to your congregation? ———▶		Contact Fr. Paul Sneve at 605-342-6199 for more information

NIORARA SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

### THE BOOK OF ISAIAH - Immigrant's Journey from Exile to Homecoming

Instructor: The Rev. Mercy Hobbs (St. Paul's, Vermillion)

I Will Attend:

\_\_\_\_\_ November 15, 2008 at Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls

\_\_\_\_\_ December 13, 2008 at St. Matthew's, Rapid City

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$15 toward meals + \$17 toward text\* = \$32 Total fee\*\*



### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

I Will Attend:

\_\_\_\_\_ January 16-17 at Sisseton Mission (The Rev. Mercy Hobbs, Instructor)

\_\_\_\_\_ January 16-17 at Emmanuel, Rapid City (The Rev. Rich Ressler, Instructor)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$25 toward meals \*\*

Lodging arrangements TBD

\*\*Send registration form and fees, at least 2 weeks in advance of class,

To: The Rev. Paul Sneve

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 1606

Rapid City, SD 57701-1606

\*Contact Diocesan office for text

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

Instructor: The Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes (St. Andrew's, Rapid City)

I Will Attend:

- February 28, 2009, St. Andrew's, Rapid City
- November 21, 2009, Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fees: \$ 15.00 toward meals\*\*



### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Instructor: The Very Rev. John Tarrant (Trinity, Pierre)

I Will Attend:

- January 16-17 at Trinity, Pierre
- I will need lodging

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$25 toward meals \*\*

\*\*Send registration form and fees, at least 2 weeks in advance of class,

To: The Rev. Paul Sneve  
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
 P.O. Box 1606  
 Rapid City, SD 57701-1606

## TRAINING FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Instructor: The Rev. Kathryn Costas (St. Mark's, Aberdeen)

I Will Attend:

\_\_\_\_\_ August 22, 2009, St. Mark's, Aberdeen

\_\_\_\_\_ October 17, 2009, Christ Church, Chamberlain

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fees: \$ 15.00 toward meals\*\*



.....

## THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Instructor: Tally Salisbury (St. Matthew's, Rapid City)

I Will Attend:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date and place to be announced in next issue of *ChurchNews*

.....

## THE HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Instructor: The Rev. Paul Sneve (St. Matthew's, Rapid City)

Would you and your congregation like to host this Ministry Workshop? Contact Fr. Paul Sneve to make arrangements. 605-342-6199

\*\*Send registration form and fees, at least 2 weeks in advance of class,

To: The Rev. Paul Sneve  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 1606  
Rapid City, SD 57701-1606




**2008 PLEDGE TO THE DIOCESE  
As of September 30, 2008**

	Pledge	Payable To Date	Paid To Date	Balance	Churchnews	Payable To Date	Paid To Date	Balance
<b>PARISHES:</b>								
Aberdeen - St. Mark's	18,243.00	13,682.25	13,682.25	4,560.75	45.00	33.75	45.00	0.00
Belle Fourche - St. James'	3,372.00	2,529.00	2,529.00	843.00	85.00	63.75	72.00	13.00
Brookings - St. Paul's	8,500.00	6,375.00	8,500.00	0.00	240.00	180.00	240.00	0.00
Deadwood - St. John's	5,805.00	4,353.75	4,018.75	1,786.25	255.00	191.25	255.00	0.00
Huron - Grace	15,750.00	11,812.50	11,817.00	3,933.00	380.00	285.00	285.00	95.00
Lead - Christ Church	5,706.00	4,279.50	3,880.00	1,826.00	140.00	105.00	140.00	0.00
Mitchell - St. Mary's	3,250.00	2,437.50	2,437.50	812.50	310.00	232.50	310.00	0.00
Mobridge - St. James'	1,244.00	933.00	622.04	621.96	70.00	52.50	0.00	70.00
Pierre - Trinity	13,000.00	9,750.00	9,293.57	3,706.43	50.00	37.50	50.00	0.00
Rapid City - Emmanuel	37,132.00	27,849.00	24,754.64	12,377.36	850.00	637.50	566.64	283.36
Rapid City - St. Andrew's	24,506.00	18,379.50	16,337.35	8,168.65	410.00	307.50	270.41	139.59
Sioux Falls - Calvary	60,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	15,000.00	1,020.00	765.00	1,012.50	7.50
Sioux Falls - Good Shepherd	8,000.00	6,000.00	6,004.66	1,995.34	25.00	18.75	0.00	25.00
Spearfish - All Angels	18,259.00	13,694.25	13,705.56	4,553.44	345.00	258.75	265.81	79.19
Sturgis - St. Thomas'	4,303.00	3,227.25	2,510.08	1,792.92	110.00	82.50	110.00	0.00
Watertown - Trinity	8,400.00	6,300.00	5,000.00	3,400.00	265.00	198.75	190.00	75.00
Winner - Trinity	1,000.00	750.00	815.00	185.00	135.00	101.25	135.00	0.00
Yankton - Christ Church	19,945.00	14,958.75	13,296.56	6,648.44	500.00	375.00	333.36	166.64
<b>TOTAL PARISHES</b>	<b>256,415.00</b>	<b>192,311.25</b>	<b>184,203.96</b>	<b>72,211.04</b>	<b>5,235.00</b>	<b>3,926.25</b>	<b>4,280.72</b>	<b>954.28</b>
<b>MISSIONS:</b>								
Bonesteel - St. Andrew's	799.00	599.25	799.00	0.00	30.00	22.50	30.00	0.00
Chamberlain - Christ Church	2,591.00	1,943.25	1,943.25	647.75	150.00	112.50	112.50	37.50
Cheyenne River Mission	1,900.00	1,425.00	859.50	1,040.50	495.00	371.25	225.00	270.00
Crow Creek Mission	1,050.00	787.50	550.00	500.00	220.00	165.00	110.00	110.00
DeSmet - St. Stephen's	30.00	22.50	30.00	0.00	15.00	11.25	15.00	0.00
Flandreau - St. Mary's	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	67.50	0.00	90.00
Ft. Pierre - St. Peter's	2,700.00	2,025.00	2,700.00	0.00	100.00	75.00	100.00	0.00
Gettysburg - Christ Church	232.00	174.00	182.00	50.00	50.00	37.50	40.00	10.00
Gregory - Incarnation	400.00	300.00	0.00	400.00	100.00	75.00	0.00	100.00
Herrick - All Saints	128.00	96.00	95.33	32.67	25.00	18.75	25.00	0.00
Hot Springs - St. Luke's	2,123.00	1,592.25	1,415.36	707.64	120.00	90.00	80.00	40.00
Lake Andes - St. Peter's	421.00	315.75	421.00	0.00	60.00	45.00	60.00	0.00
Lower Brule Mission	1,213.00	909.75	0.00	1,213.00	160.00	120.00	160.00	0.00
Madison - Grace	1,600.00	1,200.00	1,066.67	533.33	45.00	33.75	30.00	15.00
Martin - St. Katharine's	4,800.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	1,200.00	225.00	168.75	225.00	0.00
Milbank - Christ Church	2,184.00	1,638.00	1,638.00	546.00	65.00	48.75	65.00	0.00
Pine Ridge Mission	989.00	741.75	821.75	167.25	760.00	570.00	217.50	542.50
Rapid City - St. Matthew's	3,600.00	2,700.00	2,400.00	1,200.00	110.00	82.50	73.36	36.64
Rosebud Mission	7,283.00	5,462.25	3,850.25	3,432.75	335.00	251.25	335.00	0.00
Santee Mission	3,121.00	2,340.75	0.00	3,121.00	105.00	78.75	0.00	105.00
Sioux Falls - Holy Apostles	7,348.00	5,511.00	4,898.65	2,449.35	85.00	63.75	42.50	42.50
Sisseton - Gethsemane	700.00	525.00	200.00	500.00	80.00	60.00	0.00	80.00
Sisseton Mission	1,900.00	1,425.00	458.25	1,441.75	180.00	135.00	60.00	120.00
Standing Rock Mission	530.00	397.50	0.00	530.00	260.00	195.00	0.00	260.00
Vermillion - St. Paul's	13,075.00	9,806.25	8,712.00	4,363.00	180.00	135.00	120.00	60.00
Webster - St. Mary's	1,200.00	900.00	800.00	400.00	25.00	18.75	25.00	0.00
Yankton Mission	998.24	748.68	452.93	545.31	100.00	75.00	33.33	66.67
<b>TOTAL MISSIONS</b>	<b>62,915.24</b>	<b>47,186.43</b>	<b>37,893.94</b>	<b>25,021.30</b>	<b>4,170.00</b>	<b>3,127.50</b>	<b>2,184.19</b>	<b>1,985.81</b>

**A Jesuit Blessing** (quoted by Bishop Robertson in his Charge to Convention)

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships,  
so that we may live deep within our hearts;

May God bless us with anger at oppression, injustice, and exploitation of people,  
so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace;

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war,  
so that we may reach out with our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy;

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this  
world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

## Gratefully Serving is the foundation of stewardship

**I**n many congregations, stewardship has become so wedded to budgeting that many now see annual pledges as “dues,” a requirement of belonging, guided by an attitude of “How much must I give?” and “Do I like what you do with my money?”

A better approach, both for transforming members’ lives and for sustaining congregational life, is to teach the true foundation of Christian Stewardship: gratefully serving God by serving others.

Here are the key principles:

- **Gratitude for the Harvest**

Even though the ancient Biblical context was an agricultural economy’s actual harvest, the same principle applies today. Whether our work is farming or finance, sales or service, we apply skills that God made possible in us, to do work in a “field” that we didn’t create, and to earn a “harvest” that is about God’s grace, not our personal victory.

The proper attitude toward that harvest is gratitude

- **Giving from the Harvest**

The ancient Hebrew concept was a simple one: measure the harvest, and give the first-fruits of it back to God, specially, the first tenth portion, or tithe. In our language, this means giving “off the top,” not after expenses and taxes.

“Harvest Giving” is different from “charitable giving.” First-fruits are different from generosity with left-over abundance. We don’t measure our satisfaction with how our gifts are used; we measure the harvest.

- **Giving to the “temple” for its mission to others**

Harvest gifts were to be laid before the priests in the temple, for them to use in caring for widows and orphans. In this collaborative mode, the faith

community pooled its resources to care for the vulnerable and troubled.

In a membership-dues approach, givers assess how much they benefit from the institution’s work. In charitable giving, givers assess their pleasure in what the institution does. In harvest giving, however, the measure is the harvest itself, and gifts from the harvest are given away for the benefit of others.

- **Joining the Missionary work**

Christian stewardship adds an important element to harvest giving: personal engagement. Jesus sent his disciples out to serve. Their call was to love others, to care for “the least of these,” to “die to self,” to give away their lives. This was an intensely personal and sacrificial process.

In our times, this means giving away not only our tithe of harvest wealth, but our tithe of time. An effective stewardship program reminds members that they each have gifts that will benefit the larger community. Each can make a difference.

Tom Ehrich, Church Wellness Project

*To learn more about Church Wellness Best Practices, you can join the Church Wellness Project. They have a free newsletter plus an affordable collaborative project for nurturing healthy faith communities.*

[www.churchwellness.com/](http://www.churchwellness.com/)

**YOU CROWN  
THE YEAR  
WITH YOUR  
BOUNTY...**

PSALM 65:11





## ECW Scholarships

**T**he ECW scholarship fund needs only **\$125.00** more in donations in order to provide a third (\$500) scholarship for a **non-traditional student** for **FY 2009!**

**Sandy Magnavito**, Chair, would like to thank the three people who gave donations during the ECW annual meeting: Maxine Johnson, Vermillion; Diana Regan, Lead; and Sharon Van Doren, ECW Grace Church in Huron! We would like to continue offering this type of scholarship every year. So please ask your own church ECW (or donate as an individual) to send whatever you can afford to Sandy before December so that we can deposit the money into our ECW scholarship fund. Thanks so much for your support

Her address is: Sandra Magnavito, 1305 Kings Road, Rapid City, SD 57702.

## United Thank Offering

**I**t was great to see so many of you at Diocesan Convention, and hopefully the materials you selected are helping with your fall Ingatherings. If more supplies are needed, visit the United Thank Offering online at [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto) or call 800-334-7626 and ask for "UTO."

Please remember to mail these Ingathering gifts to the Diocesan office by December 10, 2008.

UTO is alive and well in our Diocese. Your generous gifts at convention totaled \$157.84. Thank you!

If your congregation is interested in applying for a 2009 grant, contact the Diocesan office as soon as possible. Deadline for these applications is December 15, 2008. (*See new UTO grant guidelines below.*)

As the holiday season approaches, let us continue to remember UTO's mission to expand the circle of thankful people.

Sherry Van Doren  
UTO Coordinator

### *New UTO Grant Guidelines*

The UTO committee has updated the grant application for 2009 and has adopted some changes in grant policy and criteria.

The 2009 grant application has been simplified and will consist of five pages of instructions and a five-page application form.

Changes in grant policy and criteria include the following:

1. Only ONE (1) grant application may be submitted by each diocese for use within the diocese. This should keep grant request totals more in line with ingathering funds.
2. Each diocese may submit one additional application with its Companion Diocese.

To implement the new vision statement ("We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.") UTO supports projects that:

- Address poverty of women and children
- Are significant in nature addressing compelling human need (need so great that it affects daily existence in terms of food, shelter, education, health, safety, or ability to make a life for one's self/family)
- Address a large number of people (especially women and children) in need, improve their opportunities for education, health care, relief from poverty or other limitations for self-sustaining life skills. It does not necessarily imply expenditure of a large amount of money.
- Demonstrate new and innovative work
- Are part of a planned diocesan mission strategy

UTO grants will NOT fund:

- Deferred maintenance
- Complete cost of vehicles
- Capital improvements that do not expand capacity to meet compelling human need or mission and ministry need in disadvantaged situations

The deadline for 2009 grant applications to the Diocesan Office is December 15, 2008.

**THUNDERHEAD EPISCOPAL CAMP  
SUMMER 2009**

JUNE 22-25	STAFF TRAINING
JUNE 26-28	TEC STAFF GOES TO NIOBRARA CONVOCATION AT ROSEBUD MISSION
JUN 29-JUL 2	FAMILY AND 5 <sup>TH</sup> AND 6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE CAMP
JULY 6-13	HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
JULY 16-19	MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS RETREAT
JULY 19-25	CONFIRMATION CAMP
JULY 25-28	MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS RETREAT



**THUNDERHEAD EPISCOPAL CAMP  
WISH LIST**

- PRAYERS
- BEDSIDE LAMPS
- YARN & FELT
- WHEELBARROW
- MATTRESS PADS—QUEEN & TWIN SIZES
- DIGITAL CAMERA W/MEMORY CHIP
- UNDERWRITE A BUS TRIP—10 @ \$3,000 EACH
- SIDING FOR SUPERTENT—LABOR & MATERIALS
- UNDERWRITE T-SHIRTS—\$400
- SPINE BOARD STRAPS—\$40 FOR A SET
- NEW SONGBOOKS
- SHARPIES (BLACK, SILVER, COLORS)
- VEGGIE TALES VIDEOS
- WINDOW REPLACEMENT—CABINS
- DOOR REPLACEMENT—4 @ \$500 EACH
- LOCKSMITH WORK
- POSTER BOARDS
- NEW FIRST AID SUPPLIES—SANITARY NAPKINS & TAMPONS, ALOE VERA LOTION/GEL, TYLENOL, IBUPROFEN, BENADRY (LIQUID OR CHEWABLE)

**ONGOING NEEDS:**

- VOLUNTEER GRANDPARENTS
- SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS
- OPERATING FUND DONATIONS
- MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS

FOR INFORMATION ON THUNDERHEAD CAMP FACILITIES

- Holly Huisken  
500 S. Main Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
605-336-3486  
thunderhead@dakotablue.net

FOR INFORMATION ON THUNDERHEAD CAMP PROGRAM

- The Rev. Rita Powell  
500 S. Main Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
605-338-9751  
605-659-0110  
youth.diocese@midconetwork.com

## Supply Clergy Policy amended by Diocesan Council

**D**iocesan Council recently approved a change to Diocesan Policy #6 regarding Supply Clergy in order to bring mileage reimbursement more in line with today's reality. The entire policy is reproduced below. (All Diocesan policies can be viewed at [www.diocesesd.org](http://www.diocesesd.org))

### **POLICY NUMBER 6—Clergy Supply**

DATE APPROVED BY DIOCESAN COUNCIL:

**October 3, 2008**

The relationship between a congregation and supply clergy is different than a congregation being served by full-time, part-time, interim or other resident clergy. The purpose of supply clergy is to provide only essential services, such as the Sacraments, funerals, baptisms and other special liturgies, and the like. Supply clergy do not sit on Vestries, Bishop's Committees, or other congregational organizations. Supply clergy are to be considered a self-employed person.

The policy of The Diocese of South Dakota regarding supply clergy is as follows:

1. Supply clergy are not responsible for the care and maintenance of the church buildings or other church property.
2. The church building shall be prepared for worship by a warden or other person assigned, at a time which allows the church to be prepared for scheduled liturgies.
3. The necessary supplies, vessels, and elements shall be set up for all services of baptism and Eucharist.
4. Services conducted by supply clergy will be done in accordance with their directions.
5. Supply clergy shall be paid as follows:
 

**Holy Eucharist** - \$100.00 for one service or \$125.00 for two or more services.

### **Baptisms, Funerals, and Other Special**

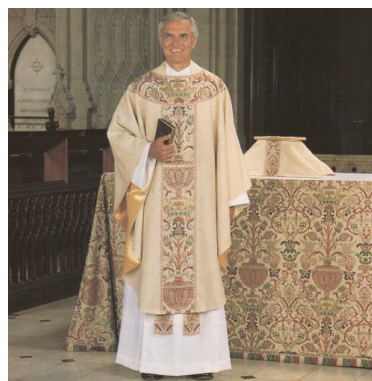
**Liturgies:** Supply clergy shall negotiate these rates with the local congregation or family for these services.

6. Mileage will be paid at the current Internal Revenue Reimbursement rate for business miles.\*\*\*
7. Other expenses, such as meals will be paid at the current diocesan rate. Meals will be reimbursed at the rate of \$5.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$10.00 for dinner. Motel expenses will be reimbursed for the actual expense. Receipts must be provided for reimbursements.
8. Services in congregations experiencing a vacancy shall be conducted only by the Bishop, Dean, Canon to the Ordinary, or supply priest. The use of catechists or licensed lay readers should have the approval of the Bishop or the regional Dean. Lay persons and Deacons are not eligible for supply rates.
9. All liturgies will be conducted in accordance with the rubrics of The Book of Common Prayer.
10. This policy and these guidelines apply to supply clergy who serve mission congregations. This policy may be used by parishes, with final supply rates and expense reimbursements to be negotiated between the supply clergy and the vestry.

\*\*\*Check IRS mileage rates at:

<http://www.irs.gov/taxpros/article/0,,id=156624,00.html>

Currently: 58.5¢ per mile.



## THE DIOCESE RESPONDS TO CHURCH CLOSINGS —

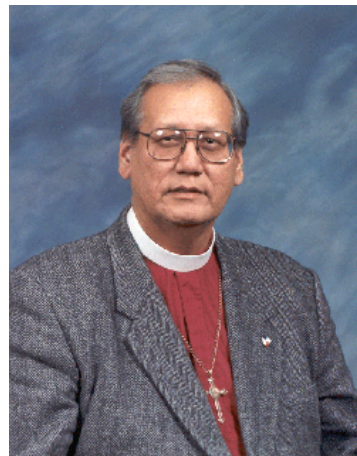
The Episcopal Church in South Dakota is a church that is called to minister to nearly 11,000 people who claim the Episcopal church as their home in South Dakota, according to latest reports. The Diocesan boundaries are the boundaries of the state, and include nearly 77,000 square miles, a total of 87 churches, missions and parishes, located throughout the state. Approximately one-half of the Episcopalians in the Diocese are Native folks and one-half are of European descent.

In the early church, established by Bishop Hare, the concept was to have a worship space as near to an existing community as possible. As a result, the church in Bishop Hare's time began to seek property upon which to build a worship space, and obtained sufficient property around this building in order that a Priest, Deacon, or Catechist could support themselves and their family in exchange for taking care of a worship space. In time, the Diocese acquired sufficient land in various areas to establish a worship space, cemetery, and enough land for the church worker to use for the support of the family.

Over time, a number of church buildings became unused or were not habitable due to deterioration of the building from non use, but a cemetery remained nearby. There were efforts to continue to use the old building for a worship space, but fewer and fewer individuals attended church and the building was unused and eventually taken down, keeping the cemetery for use by families who had attended the church building in the past.

Toward the end of Bishop Craig Anderson's episcopacy, there was a Property Review Committee established to review property status in the Diocese. This review was to include all buildings, land and cemeteries existing under the jurisdiction of the Bishop. During this time a number of buildings were deconsecrated and institutions closed or sold. Among them were St. Mary's School for Indian Girls, St Elizabeth's School near Wakpala, All Saint's School in Sioux Falls, St. Paul's Church in Niobrara, NE; Holy Faith Church near Lindy, NE; St. Luke's Church, Veblen, SD; a church near Watuga, SD on the Standing Rock Mission; Holy Fellowship and

Holy Name on the Yankton Mission were closed and a new church built in Wagner named Holy Spirit; two churches on the Lower Brule Mission were closed and a new church built in Lower Brule.



Previously on the Pine Ridge Episcopal Mission, three churches were closed: St. James and St. Peter's, both near Oglala, and Messiah, Wounded Knee. The recommendation to close those church buildings was made based on membership, financial support, number of families attending the church, possibility of growth, and the recommendation of the local Vicar or Priest in charge of those buildings.

At the 2006 Niobrara Convocation at St. James' Episcopal Church on the Sisseton Mission, there was discussion about what it means to be a viable congregation. Of course the Canons of the church and Diocesan policies speak to viability, but there is much more involved. In a letter to all mission congregations and mission clergy in July, 2006, further items were set forth:

- That each congregation needs to renew and raise up lay leadership. At least one licensed Lay Reader is expected in each congregation;
- That each congregation is to have services every Sunday, whether the Daily Office, or when clergy are present, the Holy Eucharist, and attendance must be increased;
- That individuals be identified and raised up as leaders and clergy prospects.
- That Sunday School or Adult Education programs begin, if not already present in each congregation;
- That each congregation become active in the wider church, including Niobrara Convocation, Diocesan Convention and Deanery events (it is interesting to note that no representatives from the currently affected congregations were present at either this year);
- That Lay Readers attend training sessions as

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provided, Ministry Weekends or if required, Niobrara Summer Seminary. In addition, other training and educational events sponsored by the Diocese should be included in the leadership training.

This is a difficult time in the history of the Episcopal Church in South Dakota.

Much has changed over the years on the Missions of this Diocese. Change will continue as difficult decisions will be made about congregations. I ask that God be with us in the days and time ahead in this Diocese.

Closing buildings formerly used for worship is a difficult thing to do. Evident by letters received and the articles written in various newspapers, including Episcopal News Service, people continue to have close attachments to a particular place in time. Closing buildings not being used, or consolidating church communities, is a difficult matter. There are emotional and sentimental attachments to sacred places in our past.

But just as society changes, the church must change as well. People move away from the older community establishments; new places of worship are established to meet the new spiritual needs of people. New denominations spring up and attract people, and some folks turn to worshiping in a tradition



way of a particular culture. Attendance at traditional Episcopal services has dropped over the past twenty years on every mission in this Diocese.

The Diocesan Council is charged with the responsibility of seeing that the resources of the church are used in a responsible manner. The process of closing old buildings is a long and arduous process, taking into account all information possible. The process begins with prayer and prayer dominates the entire process. Closing old buildings is not a matter that is taken lightly; all matters conceivable are considered relevant to

the closing process. Important to this determination is the information provided to the Diocese by the congregations themselves. Year end reports, when available, were scrutinized for information that might be helpful in determining whether a building continues as a worship space or is to be closed. The Council takes this responsibility very serious, closing buildings is a serious matter.

Concerning the intended building closures on the Pine Ridge Mission, information was collected beginning in 1994 and continued until 2008. In all of the intended closures, the people affected who might want to attend church services are near other worship spaces remaining open. If folks desire to receive the Sacraments of the church, they will be able to do so in a building set aside for worship. No one will be denied the Sacrament of the church.

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The process for disposing of excess diocesan property will continue for all diocesan owned property. That means that there may be closing of other buildings on other Missions. This is not an “Indian War,” as one priest wrote, this is a responsible review of property and use of resources entrusted to this Church, this Diocese.

I ask your prayers for the future of this Diocese, the church communities, and ourselves, as we discover new ways to live into our Baptismal Covenant.



**Election Prayer for the  
Diocese of South Dakota**

Sovereign Lord, you have created, redeemed, and cared for us: we give you thanks for all the bishops of your Church who have served us, the Diocese of South Dakota. We pray that your Holy Spirit will guide the work of all responsible for the nomination and calling of our next bishop and the heart of the one to be called. May she or he be passionate in encouraging and supporting all the baptized, that we, with the many and diverse gifts you have given us, may continue Christ’s mission of reconciliation, the restoring of all people to unity with you and each other. May we ever seek to widen the sacred circle gathered around Jesus in prayer, loving and serving you and our neighbors in Jesus’ Name. Amen

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Blessed are . . .

Blessed are those who have learned  
 To admire but not envy;  
 To follow but not imitate;  
 To praise but not flatter;  
 And to lead but not manipulate.

***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.***

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.