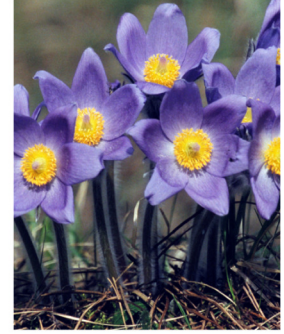


South Dakota Episcopal
Church News



www.episcopalchurchsd.org

SPRING 2019

The Standing Committee would like to announce an additional
two candidates
for the IX Bishop of South Dakota



The Rev. Dr. John Floberg
Church of the Cross, Selfridge, St. James,
Cannon Ball, St. Lukes, Ft. Yates, North
Dakota



The Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts, Rector
St. Johns Episcopal Church
Essex, Connecticut



The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Story, Rector
St. Marys Episcopal Church
Edmond, Oklahoma



The Rev. Bob Two Bulls Jr., Vicar
All Saints Indian Mission, Minneapolis, Minne-
sota, Missioner of the Department of Indian
Work & Multicultural Ministry

**The Diocese of
South Dakota**



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Bishop John
Tarrant,
X Bishop

Steve Sanford
Diocesan
Chancellor

Randy
"Barney"
Barnhardt,
Retired
Diocesan
Financial
Officer.



Steve Sanford was presented with a star quilt in appreciation and thanksgiving for his ministry to this Diocese.

Steve has been Chancellor for the Diocese of South Dakota since 2002. He represents the Diocese in legal matter and sees this as part of his ministry through the church. Steve has spent his life in the Episcopal Church, baptized at the Cathedral and he deeply both theologically and spiritually grounded. I have often turned to him seeking his wisdom and advise on matters far beyond the legal realm. He has been a tremendous support to my ministry and personal growth over these past ten years. I am deeply grateful for his ministry in this Diocese.

Pat, Jessica and my schedule:

The movers will be coming the week of May 5th to take our belongings to our new home in Dalton, Massachusetts. I will be going with Pat and Jessica to help with the settling and then I will be returning to South Dakota towards the end of May to continue the transition. In mid-June Pat and Jessica will return to South Dakota for our final visit at the Cathedral and participation in the Niobrara Convocation. On July 1st the three of us will head East. We haven't even left and we are already miss you. It has been a blessing to share this part of our journey with you. It has been a privilege to serve God with and among you. Thank you!

God's peace be with you

John+

**147th Niobrara Convocation, National Guard Armory
Wagner SD June 27 – 30, 2019**

The miles are from the National Guard Armory
The rates include taxes

	Single rate	Double rate
Fort Randall Casino ** (605) 487-7871		
10 miles West	\$50.85 if paying cash	
38538 SD Highway 46	they require a \$100 deposit when making the reservation	
Lake Andes, SD 57356		
**Let the motel know you are making a reservation for Niobrara Convocation		
Wagner Lakeside Motel ** (605) 384-5464	\$73.60	\$90.85
1 mile West		
710 W SD Highway 46		
Wagner, SD 57380		
**Let the motel know you are making a reservation for Niobrara Convocation		
Fort Randall Inn (605) 487-7801	\$56.00	\$68.00
13 miles West		
116 W US Highway 18		
Pickstown, SD 57367		
Dakota Inn (605) 487-7404	\$63.00	\$73.00
13 miles West		
320 E US Highway 18		
Pickstown, SD 57367		
Landing Strip Motel (605) 487-7680	\$42.00	\$59.00
16 miles Northwest		
723 Us Highway 281		
Lake Andes, SD 57356		
Ohiya Casino & Resort (402) 857-3860	Rates are on-line	
43 Miles Southeast		
53142 Hwy 12		
Niobrara NE 68760		
North Vue Motel (605) 286-3202	\$51.30	\$62.35
16 miles East		
509 Poplar St		
Avon SD 57315		

Dear Friends:

I'd like to introduce my family and myself to you. We aren't new to the Dakotas. This has been the only home our sons have known. It is here that we hunt, fish, camp, attend pow wows. I wait for winters like this one and then I wait again to see them go so that we can get on the boat and go fishing.

My wife Sloane is a Deacon and works in youth ministry and counseling. We've raised four children: Allison graduated from Standing Rock and Concordia College in Moorhead and lives in Minnesota with her daughter. She is a Social Worker and engaged to be married. Isaiah is in McLaughlin doing youth ministry with the Young Life collaboration. Joshua graduated a year ago from high school. He is a Deputy to the General Convention and serves on the Liturgy Committee for the Episcopal Church. John Michael has a few years before graduation. He loves woodwork.



Maybe its because I've lived my life in the north that I am attuned to seasons. There is a repeating pattern of how seasons come and go and how to prepare for their return. That's a good analogy of our diocesan stories as well. Proverbs says that everything has its season. That indicates that with some variation we will see similar things over and over again. We can anticipate change and loss and how the opportunity for renewal will present itself.

I am often asked how I've been able to serve so long on Standing Rock. I'm going to credit the Holy Spirit and four mentors and storytellers for helping me do that for nearly 28 years. They are Bill Little Bird, Fr. Wilbur Bears Heart, Bishop George Harris and Dr. Tom Christensen.

Tom was my college instructor. He had been a missionary in West Africa among the G'baya people. He worked with inculturation, which is very different from assimilation. Tom taught me how to appreciate the culture of the people as the place to learn to understand the Christian faith from within their culture. It is a way of perceiving what God was already doing in anticipation of hearing the story of Jesus and to locate the similarities between them.

Bill was born just after 1900 and knew most of the bishops serving in North Dakota. One broke his wagon's buckboard he picked him up to bring him to Convocation. Bill's memory was sharp until he went on his journey at 101 years old. I keep the stories of bishops, priests the congregations and about the reservation.

Fr. Bears Heart taught me how to sing the Dakota Odowan with gusto. He shared the struggle of his own call to the priesthood. He told me what it was like for him to go off to seminary and the promise of the Dakota Leadership Program. Wilbur shared with me the importance of language – in song, liturgy and speaking. He taught me my place in the community as a priest.

Bishop Harris, himself a former director of the Dakota Leadership Program, was my project mentor with the Leadership Academy for New Direction (LAND). My project was about community discernment that determined ministry opportunities and whom it was that we could positively identify to help lead those ministries.

Each one of these four have helped me to put pieces together and have helped us create models

of ministry. I continue to learn and become more able to engage some of our most difficult challenges. Jon Eagle, Sr., the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for Standing Rock and Dakota Goodhouse, a history instructor at United Tribes College, give me insight. They help me make valuable connection between Lakota culture and the Christian faith's advocacy and understanding of worldview. Another of the influential people over the past two decades has been Bishop Mark McDonald, the Indigenous Bishop of Canada. His understanding of connection between people and the land as well as advocacy for self-determination have informed our debates and discussions.

Dr. Martin Broken Leg taught me that cross-cultural skills are transferable. I've developed the skills to learn what is needed when entering new places and avoid being disrespectful in the process. The keys are how to show respect, how to eat a meal, appreciating the importance of their language, accepting the way that they use a clock, a calendar and the seasons, what is done to show generosity, how their family systems are set up.

These are skills that I would bring to each congregation to enter more fully into the context of your lives and ministries and to learn my place in your communities. For me to consider God's call requires those skills to be used with the Great Sioux Nation, the Sudanese and the ways of what is considered "dominant culture" with its own sub cultures of East River and West River.

The Church exists in time and is made up of multiple generations – likely as many as five at a time. Things don't just stay in place. We have the reality of our own seasons dealing again and again with persistent issues. Indigenous ordained leadership is a primary example – or finding Sr. Wardens and Vestry Members, attracting clergy to the diocese and then supporting them, renewing youth ministry and finding new ways to do old things are more examples. Bishop Hobart Hare ordained several men and together they shaped what was to become our history. That set into motion a generational rhythm through which we inherit from the generations before us and we pay into the generations that are yet to come after us. We are always going to be in the midst of our own seven generations as we lean on the past for context and lean into the future under the Spirit's direction and power.

I was fortunate that Bishop Fairfield sent me to Standing Rock with wisdom to be there a developer and not as a caretaker. He also encouraged my involvement with the larger church. I've followed his advice. Before I came to Standing Rock, I worked at the Cathedral in Fargo in a youth ministry position and then in a program-sized congregation in ministry development for three years in Rochester, NY, while in seminary. I've consistently served on Diocesan Councils, Committees and as a Canon Missioner for a decade and being the priest in charge of our "urban" congregation in Minot. I was part of Coalition-14, on the Province VI Executive Committee, served a six-year term on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and have been seven terms in the House of Deputies at General Convention where I have served repeatedly on the Program, Budget and Finance Committee and once on Liturgy and Worship.

If your vote discerns the call of the Holy Spirit for me to become Bishop, I will bring with me a resolve to serve. I will serve you, the church and South Dakota through that same Spirit's gifts and talents developed through the generosity of others in my life.

Faithfully,

John +

Dear People of the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota,

It is an honor and a joy to stand before God and you and to continue in this faithful work of discerning whom the Holy Spirit may be calling to serve as your next bishop! This spiritual expedition has been a sacred, insightful journey and it has brought me unexpectedly into a place of very intentional prayer. The idea that God might be potentially calling me into the episcopate, during an era when much of a bishop's work seems to be more consumed with matters of administration than with the nurturing and strengthening of pastoral relationships with clergy, laity, and congregations, was not easily conceivable. As a parish priest who loves God and the members of his parish, the notion of swapping the deeply relational for the deeply administrative is not a trade that I would ever lightly consider. Yet through time spent invested in prayer and the reading of our Scriptures; and through the excellent counsel from my family, spiritual director, bishops, and trusted clergy and laity friends; and most importantly of all, through my hearing and reflecting upon how God's story is being lived out and told in South Dakota, I have discovered anew that the Holy Spirit continues to be full of surprises.



The stories shared with me about how God is working through and with the people of South Dakota were not “sugar-coated” to disguise the challenges that you are facing and continue to encounter. At the same time, going all the way back to the stories told through Bishop Hare's letters, there is, to this day, no lack of witness to God's hope, to God's faith, and to God's love that is being expressed for South Dakotans as you follow Jesus. Your stories remind me of some of my most in-depth experiences with the Holy Spirit during my ministry in Connecticut, Texas, Mozambique, and Haiti combined. Through these stories, and through my personal encounters with the people of South Dakota, I have come to know your diocese as being tremendously rich in the gifts of spiritual vitality, community, and hospitality. Furthermore, your view of what the ministry of a bishop looks like, and how the ministry of a bishop is pastorally practiced, is the same model and view that I grew up with, share with you, and value tremendously. As a result, all of these profound connections have caused me to reflect upon whether God has been using these past experiences to form and shape me for a final chapter of “episcopal” ministry with you.

By way of personal and professional background, I am fifty-one years old and a life-long Episcopalian, raised in a clergy family in the dioceses of West Texas and Northwest Texas. A great blessing and source of incredible support in my life is my marriage to the Rev. Kimberly Folts, and the relationships that we have with our three children: Cameron and Garrett, who are both in college, and Chloe, who is a rising senior in high school. The first eight years of my ordained ministry were spent serving God as a Vicar in small rural and suburban mission congregations in central Texas, followed by a call as Rector in a medium-sized congregation in a city in south Texas. For the past 15 years, I have been honored to serve as Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex, Connecticut. Here, my time has been spent in the deep pastoral and sacramental care of my parishioners, raising up several young curates in their first years of ministry, and participating in the life of this historic colonial town. My parish, a community of wonderful faith, is one that fully participated with me as I earned my doctoral degree in teaching and participating in missional church work. Our shared experience has helped our parish live on the cutting edge of the current focus of our diocese — namely, joining together as we live and move into our neighborhoods, and paying keen attention to what Jesus is up to and joining in however we can. This “focus on God's

mission” is at the heart of our vocation as a church and, in Connecticut, I have enjoyed sharing this experience with many of our nearby Episcopal congregations.

Should I be invited by the Holy Spirit and by you to continue to write and tell God’s story in South Dakota, there are five fundamental elements that I would initially ask us to explore with God and with one another. These elements are communication, relationship, formation, transformation, and advocacy.

I would, for instance, want to explore with you the ways that we Episcopalians are communicating with one another — congregations with other congregations, congregations with the bishop, the clergy with the bishop, etc. How might we strengthen the methods of communication that currently exist? How aware are we of opportunities for ministry and collaboration that are within easy reach? Second, how are the relationships between our churches and the communities in which they are planted? Are we aware of and are we seeking, through prayer and discernment, what God is up to on our reservations and in our neighborhoods? Third, how are we forming people in the Christian faith? The ministry of Thunderhead Episcopal Center, the ministry of deacons and catechists, and the formation process of our future clergy are all of highly significant value. Yet what other avenues might the Holy Spirit be inviting us to explore as we seek to raise servants of God and leaders of the Church? Fourth, how do we use our gifts to exercise faithfulness in God’s transformation of our communities, our state, and the wider Church? How is the Holy Spirit inviting us to be transformed to share our gifts of faith, life, hospitality, and our specific relationships with God amongst those who may find themselves coming to South Dakota to “give” and risk the possibility of receiving and being transformed themselves? And finally, I would want to explore with you the question of advocacy — namely, our collective invitation to the broader Church to come and experience God as God is known in South Dakota. I firmly believe that we have the real potential of offering people an experience of God’s mission in our midst that will deepen people’s relationships with God’s Spirit, their commitments and expressions of faith, and expand our financial resources. Through the recruitment of those seeking to make a spiritual pilgrimage to South Dakota; through the offering of a variety of ministry experiences to seminarians; and through the invitation to clergy who are exploring God’s call to ministry amongst a strongly relational, faithful people, we will be telling God’s story in South Dakota anew. And I have every reason to expect that those who hear God’s story being told in South Dakota will be just as moved, inspired, transformed and motivated as I was when it was first shared with me many months ago.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this — and thank you especially for inviting me to share in this Spirit-filled discernment process. If you were to have told me a year ago that, come February 2019, I would be sitting around a table in Rapid City, learning how to sing hymns in the Dakota language, while winds of almost 40-degrees below zero whipped through the Black Hills, my response would have been that it could only be God at work. And God, my friends, is always at work. I may not immediately know what that work is or where that work is leading me — but God is still, surprisingly, lovingly, at work in my life. And I can imagine the same is true for each of you. Whenever we respond to that invitation of God with faith, that’s where God’s mission becomes our shared reality; and it is God’s Spirit, God’s holy wind, that will move us ever forward to do the work that God has given us to do.

Faithfully yours,

Jonathan+

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am humbled and honored to share this journey with you. Although I was born in Texas, South Dakota is my home. My heart lives here. I grew up in Sioux Falls. The Church of the Good Shepherd was my family's parish. I was graduated from Washington High School and Augustana College. Susan and I were married in 1980 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clark. Pastor Albert was gracious enough to invite Father Robert Wright and Bishop Walter Jones to assist. Susan is a teacher and a librarian.



We have three children. Matthew is 30. He and his wife Paige live in New York City where he works as an architect, and she teaches first grade. My daughter, Morgan, 23, is preparing for her professional life as a funeral director. My younger daughter, Katherine, 22, lives in Washington, D.C. and works with a non-profit law firm which represents undocumented detainees as they present their petitions for legal status.

I was graduated from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, in 1983. That same year, I was ordained as a deacon at Good Shepherd by Bishop Conrad Gesner. He was amazing. The following morning, Fr. Tim Vann allowed me to baptize a child. It was the best way to begin my ordained ministry. I hold those memories deep in my heart. My service as a priest began as a curate at St. Luke's in Kalamazoo, MI. At St. Luke's, Fr. Jim Holt taught me that you are never called away from someplace, but to someplace. In 1986, Susan and I moved to Traverse City, MI, where I served as the Rector at Grace Church. In 1992, we moved to Irving, TX, where I served as Rector and Headmaster of The Church of the Redeemer and Redeemer Montessori School. That service ended in 2002 when I accepted the call to serve as Rector of St. Mary's in Edmond, OK. In 2005, I received my DMin from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 2005. The emphasis of that study was on family systems theory and how it can illuminate the biblical narrative. Over these years, I have served the church in various capacities. At a national level, I currently serve as a member of the General Board of Examining Chaplains. The Board's responsibility is to produce and administer an annual written examination of persons who have been prepared for ordination. I have served in three dioceses. In Western Michigan I was twice elected as a deputy to the General Convention, and I taught theology in their Diaconal Formation Program and later became a co-developer of a revised formation process. I also served on their Constitution and Canons and Liturgy Committees. In Dallas, I shared ministry on the Diocesan Council and Commission on Ministries. In Oklahoma, I was a member of the Finance Committee and was the principal author of the Diocese's response to the Proposed Anglican Covenant. Over the years, the congregations I have led have raised up five persons for ordination. More importantly, however, I encourage lay ministry initiatives. I do not see myself as a gate-keeper on ministry. Instead, I see myself as a person who has been empowered by the church to embolden and provide support for laypersons to serve their Lord in the power of the Spirit.

Our lives are shaped by change. Sometimes that change brings joy and at other times it brings grief. That thought brings to mind the text from Ecclesiastes. In South Dakota, with an economy largely driven by agriculture, we know this to be true. Life is seasonal. Several things have changed in my life. My high school moved; my college became a university, and my seminary

closed. My family has changed by virtue of death and birth. However, love endures. The Diocese of South Dakota has experienced similar changes. Depopulation in rural communities, the growing tendency toward secularism, chronic extreme poverty and other social trends such as the growing interest in recreation challenge the way we do “church”. We are now competing for time that was once just given to us. Some people despair because winter is coming. I think it is time to plant winter wheat. We are living in a time where we need to be imaginative. We can no longer expect people to respond to the way we have always done ministry. That is like asking a fish to jump into our boat. We need to learn how to fish for people again. We must learn to discern where the Spirit is working and then move into those places. I don’t know a lot of detail, but Trinity Church in Wattertown is a likely example of what I’m talking about. Wherever we are, we must answer the question, “How do we sing the Lord’s song?” If you call me to serve you, I need you to teach me. I have component parts of a vision, but it is incomplete without you.

We will proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ by making the way of the cross to be the way of our life, and we will walk in apostolic power as witnesses to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We have been using the Baptismal Covenant since 1979 and our Presiding Bishop has cast vision for the church drawn from the water of our baptism. He borrowed it from Jesus. Bishop Curry’s call to love is a call to live more powerfully into the reality that we are all wonderfully made. He talks about the Jesus Movement and he has articulated that journey to be a process that incorporates Turning, Learning, Praying, Worshipping, Blessing, Going, and Resting. While our nation is struggling with racial division and political dissension, I imagine the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota, being recognized as a model of reconciliation, a place where people are valued and a place where compromise is seen as a means of embracing complex and comprehensive truth. The diocese may be numerically and financially challenged, but we can still grow in the quality of our love for one another and in service to those both in and outside of our diocese. Ministry is always reciprocal and spiritual health is learning how to receive and how to give. Living in the power of the Spirit is awakening to the God given desire to do more today than we did yesterday. I love South Dakota. It has always been my home. If God calls me to return, my aspiration is to be a servant among servants, to love, support and provide for the clergy who serve throughout this wonderful diocese. I have the heart of a pastor and would welcome the opportunity to continually proclaim, with you, the hope that is within us.

Faithfully,

Mark+

In humility and honesty I extend my hand before God and you, my friends and neighbors, who are the faith communities that make up the Episcopal Church in South Dakota. I reach out to you that you may take hold and together we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and show us the way during this time of discernment as to who will be your next Bishop.

My name is Robert Two Bulls and I am an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Oyate (aka, Oglala Sioux) who reside on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. I was born in Rapid City in 1963 and come from a large Tiospaye (extended family) most of whom still reside on Pine Ridge.

In 1986 I moved to Washington, D.C. to be part of the Washington National Cathedral Volunteer Service Community, which was an urban intern program for young adults living in an intentional community, living a simplified life and working in social service type work. We were to spend the year reflecting on our life and work both theologically and spiritually. My year was spent renovating houses as a carpenter (the trade I was learning prior to my move east) in the Shaw and U Street Neighborhoods of DC, working for Manna Inc. Living in the volunteer community had a tremendous positive impact on my spiritual journey and life. After the year ended I made the decision to live and work for the next eleven years in DC pursuing my many interests, including attending the University of Maryland and earning a degree in American History. During these years I began the work of discernment that brought me to seminary and then Diaconal ordination in Utah, and finally my Ordination to the Priesthood in Los Angeles.



While living in DC, I began developing my creative side by foraying into the life of a working artist. I spent three years as a sign writer apprentice, learning the art of the sign writer and calligrapher, and then later a logo designer in the late 1980's and early 90's. Since my ordination to the priesthood I have been exploring the connection that exists between art and spirituality in both art making and the viewing of art. I had the great gift and opportunity to take a sabbatical last year where my focus was on art and spirituality. I am currently writing about this experience.

My vocation and ministry has been focused on work within the Native American communities first as a lay person and then as an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. I attended the General Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained to the priesthood in 2001 in Los Angeles, CA. I currently work in the inner city, urban and reservation settings.

I met my wife Ritchie, who was in the same volunteer community in Washington D.C. We married in 1990 at Christ Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill, where we were both members. While living and working in the DC Metro area Ritchie taught preschool and completed her Masters Degree in Art Therapy at the George Washington University. Upon graduation she worked with children in residential treatment. For the last 8.5 years she has worked with Native women in recovery. In 1997 our son Grant was born in DC. Grant is now finishing his college career at Dartmouth College and will soon be out on the job market. Reed, our daughter and youngest was born in 1999 while we were in seminary. She decided to defer undergraduate studies for now to pursue a career in the performing arts in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Reed is finishing up in a production with the New Native Theater. She is an accomplished singer and has recorded with an alternative rock band and is working on forming her own band. Reed is also a visual artist.

My first work as an ordained person was at a church in the suburbs of Los Angeles. St. George's in La Cañada was a family size church on the cusp of becoming corporate size. I am grateful that the opportunity to be there came my way. I had always thought of my ministry as that of being a bridge between Native folks and others. To begin that work, I founded a project, now in its 20th year: The Red Shirt Project. Initially, it began as a small group of youth and their parents, all of whom were from St. George's parish who would travel to my Dad's family's community of Red Shirt on the Pine Ridge Reservation. What began as a "church outreach ministry work" has evolved and grown. The Red Shirt Project now has youth from all over the world involved coming together to focus on relationships, to care for one another, and to work hard on projects that are requested by the community members and that are economically viable for the community.

I worked on Bishop J. Jon Bruno's staff as the Missioner for Native American Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. I was called to do a "church plant" in what is considered to be home to the largest urban Native population in the U.S. This faith community still gathers and does the work of the Gospel. After six years I accepted a call to the Episcopal Church in Minnesota as the Missioner for The Department of Indian Work and Multicultural Ministries and also as Vicar of All Saints Indian Mission, Minneapolis. My role as a Missioner is to help support our eleven Native faith communities with their work and ministries. This is accomplished with being a direct link to the other Missioners, as well as helping these communities find necessary funding to support initiatives including, and not limited to, leadership development and youth work. When the need arises I assist in finding suitable candidates to be interviewed to be their priests. I am grateful that I have had an altar where I can lead worship and do the work of the Gospel. While at All Saints I have been able to work with our congregation to realize their vision of a major feeding ministry, a community meal flavored by radical hospitality. First Nations Kitchen (FNK) serves some 150 meals every Sunday night, and has never missed a meal in over ten years. We work with metro area churches, schools, and organizations who partner with us to provide healthy, organic meals. All Saints' outreach in FNK is a great example of doing the work of Gospel in the community with the relationships with a committed network of people which continues to grow.

While in Minnesota, as part of Bishop Brian Prior's team, I believe strongly and help to shape an exciting and challenging approach to ministry. The language is familiar to us all, but the application of the work is what is so exciting to me. Our work is to discern our gifts, and, in partnership, join with God in the work that God is doing in the world. We understand our work together to be broken up into three areas — each distinctive, but interconnected, nonetheless: ministry, mission and management.

Mission: living out our gifts and passions in partnership with those out in the community and neighborhoods to meet needs and engage in transformation. "God created the church for mission, not a mission for the church."

Ministry: living into the ministry of all the baptized by discerning gifts and being in relationship with all four orders of ministry: lay, deacon, priest and Bishop. And we are called to engage God's mission and not our own.

Management: stewarding resources (people, property, pennies) in such a way that the work of the church can continue sustainably.

I believe this to be an excellent approach to ministry, and that it can be the way we engage the Spirit at work in our communities on a local level. South Dakota is wonderfully diverse and is a large diocese geographically. The idea of connecting faith communities to one another through a two or three times a year meeting means that we can get to know our neighbors, build relationships that come from being together in the name of Jesus, and gather to support one another in work, love, and prayer.

I am excited at the prospects of gathering around the Gospel in a circle and sharing the stories of our ancestors, kin and our young people; of helping our leaders raise up those who are hearing their own call in the work of the Gospel; of listening to the experiences of our young people at Thunderhead Camp and other such gatherings, and the immersing in the wisdom of the elders in our faith communities and our lives. Nothing is as important as building relationships among the people in our faith communities.

We need to be innovative in our approach to stewardship so as to be able to provide for all of us. Stewardship includes helping each other, stewardship of our lives; helping to manage our resources and buildings, stewardship of our land and communities; and sharing the gifts that God has given us so that all have enough in living and working the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On the day I was born in mid March, western South Dakota was having one of those harsh late winter blizzards. My mother barely made it to the hospital before the temps and snow dropped to record levels. This was the world that I came into, the last gasp of winter and the wonderment of springtime soon to arrive. I come from a strong resilient people and I know that we South Dakotans are tough folk. The people, the beauty of Gods created order and the changing seasons helped form me to be the person I am today to be able to go out in the world to proclaim the Good News of Christ. And if the Spirit is calling I very much want to be among you proclaiming the Word as your servant bishop.

Peace and Blessings Bob+

NOTICE OF SPECIAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION
POST THIS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Pursuant to Article III Section 2 of the Constitution of the Diocese of South Dakota and in accordance with Canon 3 of the Canons of the Diocese of South Dakota and as directed by the Rules for Election of Bishop adopted by the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota
the Diocese of South Dakota will meet in Special Convention on May 4, 2019 for the purpose of electing the 11th Bishop of South Dakota.

What: Special Convention to elect the 11th Bishop Diocesan of South Dakota
Where: First United Methodist Church 117 North Central Avenue Pierre, SD, 57501
When: Saturday May 4, 2019

10:00 - 11 :00 am Registration 11 :00 am Call to Order

- *A box lunch will be provided for all registered attendees.
- *Clergy Delegates shall be those clergy who are canonically and physically resident within the Diocese of South Dakota.
- *Lay Delegates shall be those who were selected at the most recent Annual Meeting or were otherwise selected as Lay Delegates in accordance with the Constitution and Canons.

Agenda

- Call to Order with prayer
- Report of the Committee on Credentials
- Appointments
- Report of the Parliamentarian (Rules of Order)
- Report of the Nominating/Search Committee (Nominations)
- Election of the 11th Bishop of South Dakota
- Celebration of the Election
- Closing Prayer
- Adjournment

The electing convention is governed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of South Dakota, the Rules for Election of Bishop adopted by the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota, and the Rules of Order for the Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota.

Voting shall be by order (lay, clergy). To be elected a nominee must receive a concurrent two-thirds majority on the same ballot. This means that the nominee must receive at least two-thirds of the lay vote and at least two-thirds of the clergy vote on the same ballot. The two-thirds calculation shall be calculated separately for each ballot and shall be based on the total number of valid votes cast in that order on that ballot.

It's time to start thinking about how many Church Kalendars your churches will need in 2020.

Please email your churches order to Marlys at office@episcopalchurchsd.org

Workshop titles and a brief description will be in the next Church News.

If you have a suggestion on a topic please contact me.

Niobrara Convocation

June 27-30, 2019

Army National Guard, Wagner

Diocesan Convention

September 27&28, 2019

United Methodist Church, Pierre, SD

Don't forget to check out our website
<https://episcopalchurchsd.org/>



Follow us on Twitter
@DioceseSD



Follow us on Facebook
The Episcopal Diocese of South
Dakota



Follow us on Instagram
@episcopalchurchsd

In the Winter Issue of the Church News on page 11.

I failed to notice that the credit for the article "AM I my brothers keeper" had dropped off the page.

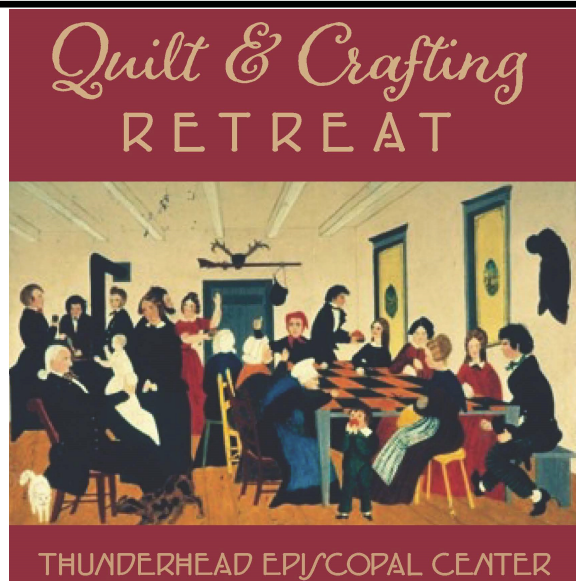
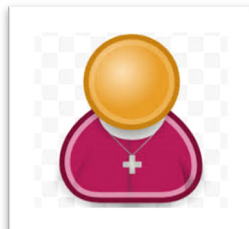
This article was written by Michael LaFontaine, a member of St. Mary's, Old Agency, Sisseton Mission my apologies Michael.



The women's retreat is tentatively scheduled for August 23-25.
The program is TBD.

November 2, 2019

**Consecration of the XI
Bishop for the Diocese of
South Dakota**



*July 21-28 come for a day, a weekend or the whole week.

*Bring your project supplies including your sewing machine and create with others.

*\$75 per person per day (meals included)

*Accommodations vary and private rooms will be first come first serve.

*Registration opens in April.

*Shop hops in the Black Hills area will be organized for anyone interested.

*Thunderhead Episcopal Center is a drug and alcohol free facility.

*If you have questions please contact

*The Rev. Portia Corbin at portia@episcopalchurchsd.org

2019 Diocesan Convention Positions Open

Diocesan Convention will be held September 27 & 28 at the First United Methodist Church in Pierre.

It is the usual course of business for delegates to vote on nominees to fill various positions. This year the following positions will be open for a 4 year term:

Standing Committee—1 lay person
Standing Committee—1 clergy (priest or deacon)

Convention Representative to the Diocesan Council

Convention Representative is a person elected by the body of the Convention, who will attend Diocesan Council meetings giving voice, vote and representation on behalf of the convention

Standing Committee

With a Bishop in charge of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Bishop's Council of Advice. When the Diocese is without a Bishop...the Standing Committee of the diocese shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority as provided by the General Convention Constitution and Canons. The Standing Committee also plays a part in the ordination process and deals with certain property issues.

The Standing Committee consists of eight members, and election shall be made by the diocesan convention for a term of four years. Members are entitled to election for two terms. The Standing Committee meets 3-4 times a year, or as needed.

A member of Standing Committee is a voting delegate to Annual Convention. A member of Standing Committee is also a member of the Title IV Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board.

The nomination form is posted on the diocesan website (www.episcopalchurchsd.org) and on page 6.

Resolutions to Diocesan Convention

All Resolutions to Diocesan Convention are to be submitted in writing to the Committee on Resolutions through the Diocesan Office. They should be clearly typed. The committee requests that resolutions do not begin with "whereas" but simply state the resolution, followed by the explanation and rationale. The "whereas" is not part of the resolution. This format for resolutions allows for greater clarity as to what the resolution is attempting to communicate.

Resolutions should take the following form.

Submitted by (name of individual, church, or deanery).

RESOLVED, that the One Hundred Thirty-third Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota (state the resolution).

RESOLVED (Further resolves may also be stated).

Explanation: (This is where informative material and rationale for the resolution is inserted. It is used in place of "whereas")

Impact on Budget: (This is where an estimate of costs is placed and suggestions for funding)

*****The deadline for submitting resolutions generated before the pre-Convention deanery meeting is one week before those meetings and the deadline for submitting resolutions generated at pre-Convention deanery meetings is no later than the Friday following those meetings.**

According to Rules of Order, Rule number 6.1

No proposed resolution may be submitted for consideration after the close of the first plenary session. All proposed resolutions shall be referred to a Convention committee by the Chair, in consultation with the Dispatch of Business Committee. Such reference may be appealed in the same manner as a procedural decision of the chair.

There must be an opportunity for a hearing on any resolution, other than a courtesy resolution, before it will be brought before the whole body of the convention.

**Nomination Form
2019 Annual Diocesan Convention**

DEADLINE: Before the close of business on day one. (September 27th)

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Congregation/City: _____

Nominated by:

(Signature)

____ **Yes, I accept this nomination:**

(Signature)

I nominate this person for:

Standing Committee (terms expires 2024)

___ 1 Clergy (Priest or Deacon) to fill 4-year term

___ 1 Lay person to fill 4 year

See page 14 for information.

Registration Form

All information on this form is required. Please provide complete information for every area.

Camper's Name: _____

Male Female

Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Parent or Guardian Name and Phone Number: _____

If there is someone else to contact in the case of an emergency, please list him/her here: _____

Please tell us about the camper's health:

Dose the camper have any dietary restrictions, allergies, or restrictions on activities?

If the camper takes medications of any kind:

Please attach a list of medications with instructions as to the method of administration and dosage. Medications will be turned in to camp staff upon arrival.

Camper's Health Insurance Provider:

(UnitedHealthcare, Medicaid, IHS, etc.)

Policy Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Release:

The health history for this child is correct to the best of my knowledge. This child has permission to attend camp and engage in all activities, except as noted above. If I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the Camp Director or Nurse to hospitalize, secure treatment, and to order injections, anesthesia, or surgery for my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date: _____

Cost of camp

We want you to come to camp! **No one should feel he or she cannot go to camp because he or she doesn't have the money.** The Diocese subsidizes the operations and staffing of its camps to minimize camper fees for everyone and also has additional financial assistance available.

Check which camp the camper will attend:

- 9th & 10th Grade Camp: \$150
 5th & 6th Grade Camp: \$100
 7th & 8th Grade Camp: \$150
 11th & 12th Grade Camp: \$150

Check one:

- Camper will need a full scholarship.
 Camper will need a partial scholarship.
 Camper can contribute \$ _____
 Camper does not need a scholarship.

Transportation options:

- I will arrange transportation myself for the camper.
 Camper needs a ride provided by the diocese.
(Campers MUST register before May 15th to receive this ride)

Behavior Expectations:

No drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or anything that can be considered a weapon are to be brought to camp. Camp is a place of spiritual community and renewal. Because of this, we will ask you to turn in all electronics, including cell phones, e-readers, etc. in order to be fully present at camp. Campers must also refrain from sexual or violent behavior while at camp. We also insist that campers be respectful of everything and everyone at camp.

You should also know that completion of registration grants permission to use photos of the camper, taken at camp, for publicity purposes. Smile!

Send this form and payment to: TEC Registration c/o Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota
 408 N. Jefferson Ave.
 Pierre, SD 57501-2626

ECW Honored Woman 2019

**Applications will be accepted until ~~April 15, 2019~~
May 3, 2019**
for ECW Honored Woman of 2019.

*Due to several unforeseen delays with getting this issue to the printers.
ECW agreed to a later deadline date.*

**~~April 15~~ May 3 is fast approaching so please submit your nomination
as soon as possible.**

We are encouraging ALL congregations throughout the Diocese of South Dakota to consider nominating a woman from their congregation for this honor. There are many women throughout the Diocese who give much of their time and of themselves in serving the needs of their community, their church, their family, and throughout the world they encounter outside their communities. Please take some time in the next 2 weeks to present a name and resume for your nomination. An accompanying photograph would also be appreciated. You may send this recommendation to:

Vicki Sweet (State ECW Vice-President)
2910 Stockade Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702
or you may email to: sweetmomsd@gmail.com.
Or call 605-390-8558.

All nominated women will be presented and voted on at the Spring ECW Meeting that will be held at Trinity Church, Pierre, June 1, 2019.

Any questions please contact Vicki Sweet.

Episcopal Church Women Scholarship Application

Instructions:

Fill out the enclosed application form.

Write a letter describing your educational goals and how the scholarship will help you achieve them. Mail it with the application form to the chair of the scholarship committee at the address below. You may e-mail this also.

Give the recommendation form to your priest, deacon, senior warden, or a long-standing member of your parish or mission, and ask him or her to complete it and send it to the chair at the address below.

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

Deadline for submission of materials is July 31. Scholarships will be announced in August and will be published in the Fall issue of South Dakota Church News. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college or university that you will be attending, to the office that you select. For questions or additional information, please contact:

Sandra Magnavito, M.Ed.
Scholarship Chair, EWC
255 Texas Road Apt#232
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

Or e-mail: ahedlupus@aol.com

**Diocese of South Dakota
Episcopal Church Women
Scholarship Application
Deadline: July 31**

Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail: _____

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

Proposed plan of study or major _____

Church Membership (Name and address of parish or mission) _____

Church Activities _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____



CAMP REMINGTON UPDATE SPRING NEWS

At the time of this writing the camp is still covered in snow but it is spring and the time for people to use the camp and enjoy the serenity and peace of mind the camp instills is fast approaching. If you have never been to the camp, we encourage you to come and see.

We will be having a work day to get Camp Remington ready for the camping season. The work day will be **May 18, 2019. We will meet at the camp at 9:00 AM** to begin with the mowing on the yard, placing of the picnic tables, cleaning of the cabins (sweeping, putting out mattresses, checking of linens, cleaning appliances, lighting of appliances), cleaning out houses, cleaning of the chapel, putting out chapel benches.

As there is no water or electricity, please bring your own drinking water or beverage and gloves. Water for cleaning, cleaning supplies, and lunch will be provided.

Remember that many hands make it an easier task for all.

If you can attend and help, please let Les Koss (390-7451 or Key Parker(484-6898) know. We always have great time getting the camp ready and enjoying the setting and wonderful time with each other.

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 an outhouse.

Cabins are available for a minimum donation of \$35 per night per cabin.

Provided: beds, mattresses, pots, pans, plates, cups, silverware, propane stove and refrigerator, fireplace.

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 are held at the Chapel of the Transfiguration.

FOR RESERVATIONS - check out our page on the website Episcopalchurchsd.org for available dates and then call Marlys Fratzke @ 605-494-2020 to book your reservation.

FOR INFORMATION about the area please call

Niobrara School for Ministry offers courses that supplement the local ordination curriculum, provide continuing education, and give valuable training and experience for licensed lay ministers. And anyone interested is welcome to attend.

- 1) These courses are open to any person interested in enhancing their ministry.
- 2) Anyone in the Diocese may attend any Niobrara School event, and some weekends are well suited for licensed lay ministers in the church or for clergy as continuing education.
- 3) Classes are \$30 per weekend, except Summer Seminary.
- 4) If you are in Niobrara School for the ordination process, you are **required** to attend every weekend that fulfills a requirement you have not yet fulfilled. If you have already fulfilled a particular requirement, you may still re-attend that weekend.

To register please go to the Niobrara School website at www.episcopalchurchsd.org/niobrara-school-for-ministry to register for ministry weekends or contact Marlys at 494-2020

For more information email Chris Corbin at chris@episcopalchurchsd.org

NSM schedule for **2019**

Book of Common Prayer: May 17, 2019
Deloria Center, Pierre
Beginning Friday at 5:30pm central time and
ending Saturday by 3:30pm.

Niobrara School for Ministry

The 'Ministry Weekend' courses are affordable continuing education opportunities for lay and clergy in our Diocese.

All those in the ordination process must attend, but these events are also intended to be an educational opportunity for anyone wishing to attend.

The canons of the Episcopal Church call upon all clergy to participate each year in continuing education. These offerings can meet that requirement.

I encourage clergy, lay leader and especially those who participate in leading worship to attend. Scholarship help is available for those who have financial need. Please, consider being part of this learning opportunity.

Bishop John



**Footsteps
In Faith**

Every copy of *The South Dakota Church News* that has an incorrect address is returned to us with a 75¢ postage due charge.

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

Moving? Please tell us...

Change Cancellation New Subscription

Name.....

NEW Address.....

City, ST, Zip

Effective Date

Church we will attend after move

**Mail to: South Dakota Church News
408 N. Jefferson Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-2626**

THANK-YOU



Bishop's visitation & travel dates are in bold letters.

Please remember the Bishop's schedule is subject to last minute changes.

Diocesan Calendar

April

April 28 Emmanuel, Rapid City

May

May 4 **Special Election, Pierre**
*First United Methodist Church,
117 N. Central Pierre, SD*

May 14-18 NSM weekend
The Book of Common Prayer
@ the Deloria Center, Pierre

May 18 Camp Remington Clean up

May 24-26 TEC work weekend

June

June 9-15 9th & 10th grade camp TEC

June 16-22 11th & 12th grade camp TEC

June 16 Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls

June 23 Trinity Church, Pierre

June 27-30 147th Niobrara Convocation
Wagner, SD

July

July 10-13 5th & 6th grade camp TEC

July 14-20 7th & 8th grade camp TEC

September

September 26-27 Clergy Conference, Pierre

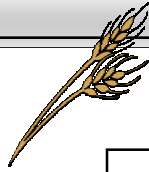
September 27-28 Diocesan Convention,
First United Methodist Church, Pierre

November

November 2 Consecration
XI Bishop of South Dakota

Time to Change the Clocks.
Daylight Savings time

Ends: November 3, 2019 Fall Back



Thunderhead Episcopal Center Wish List



“At camp I learned that sometimes our hopes and dreams can be crushed, but we can make something good out of it.” - 7th grader

I will support the 2019 TEC season by:

Sponsoring a Camper Scholarship for \$150

60% of campers in 2018 required a full scholarship

Contributing \$5-30 for Sewing Club Supplies

Throughout the summer, campers learned how to sew and made 26 dresses to donate to the "Little Dresses for Africa Project." Campers also made 21 pillowcases to donate to local shelters.

Donating to the Renovate the Chapel Project

Our chapel needs major work! Donate to this special project to make our most-used space more efficient.

Contributing to the TEC Endowment

Send payment to: Diocese of South Dakota
408 N. Jefferson, Pierre SD 57501

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Please note which project you would like to support
Don't forget to register your young person.