



# The Forward

July 2008

## Letter from the Bishop

The Lambeth Conference of bishops is just around the corner. Beginning July 16, bishops from all over the Anglican Communion will gather at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The bishops will spend several days on retreat with the archbishop at Canterbury Cathedral. Following the retreat, we will spend two weeks at the University of Kent considering the missionary leadership of bishops and the various issues facing the Anglican Communion. The days will be structured with nearly four hours of bible study in small and large groups that will focus on the 'I AM' statements in the Gospel of John. The bible studies will be followed by afternoon and evening plenary sessions covering a wide range of issues. One of the issues before the bishops will be the matter of an Anglican



Covenant or constitution of sorts that could serve as a way to govern the communion. That promises to be a source of serious discussion and deliberation if not tension.

During the last House of Bishops meeting I served as one of the bishops who participated in the daily press briefings. For the Lambeth Conference, the office of the Presiding Bishop

has decided to create a Lambeth Bishop's blog, and I have been asked to coordinate the effort and serve as the lead blogger. I will see to it that you have more information on the location of the blog as that becomes available. The blog, official press briefings, and regular communication with me will, I hope, mean that you will be connected in some way to what will be taking place at Lambeth. Take some time to read about the Lambeth Conference and stay connected to the larger communion. This is your church.

As always and especially now, it really is a privilege to serve you as your bishop. Northwestern Pennsylvania will be at the table in the worldwide Anglican Communion this summer. The archbishop has also invited the spouses of bishops to attend and participate in a parallel conference and so Carly and I will both travel to Lambeth.

I ask for your prayers especially during the conference. Please pray for Carly and me and all of the bishops who will gather. Remember the Lambeth Conference in your personal and corporate prayer. It will make a difference in the conference.

Blessings,

+ Sean

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## Summer Camp Dates

Mark your calendars now! Next year's Diocesan Summer Camp will be held June 14-20, 2009 at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. More information will be released as that time comes closer.



### Archbishop of Canterbury's Statement on Lambeth

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, set out his hopes for this year's Lambeth Conference in a video message addressed to Bishops and Dioceses across the worldwide communion:

"Every ten years the Bishops of the Anglican Communion worldwide meet for the Lambeth Conference.

The Archbishop who began the Lambeth Conference, Charles Longley, was somebody who had a vision of the Anglican identity, the Anglican way of being Christian, as something that was no longer just confined to the British Isles or to North America but that was in principle becoming a universal reality and he wanted Bishops speaking for those new communities, those different Anglican communities across the world, to be able to share with one another

what their priorities were, their concerns and their hopes, and that has always been at the very heart of the Lambeth Conference.

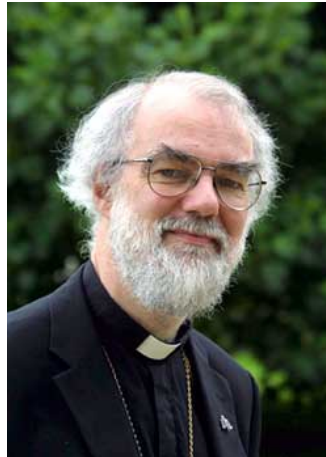
What I would really most like to see in this year's Lambeth Conference is the sense that this is essentially a spiritual encounter. A time when people are encountering God as they encounter one another, a time when people will feel that their life of prayer and witness is being deepened and their

resources are being stretched. Not a time when we are being besieged by problems that need to be solved and statements that need to be finalised, but a time when people feel that they are growing in their ministry. And for that to happen once again, we are going to need the prayers and the support of so many people around the world.

And that is why I have encouraged people across the Communion to prepare for the Lambeth Conference not only by praying for Bishops as they gather but also by sharing some of the material that has been provided for Bible study at the Conference- sharing in reflection on St John's Gospel - so that Bishops and their people and their clergy will in the months ahead be going through the same kinds of processes of thinking and praying around St John's Gospel that will lay the foundations for what we hope to achieve at the Lambeth Conference. So

please pray for the Conference and please share in that process of preparation, that reflection of God's word in the Gospel of John that will open up to us the horizons that we need in order to be better Bishops for the sake of a better Church."

For more information on the Lambeth Conference, or to view the Archbishop's video statement, go to [www.lambethconference.org](http://www.lambethconference.org).



### ECW Annual Meeting a Success

The Episcopal Church Women held their Annual Meeting May 16-17 and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Rev. Alan Coudriet and Christ Church, Oil City. We held the business meeting after a buffet dinner Friday evening and spent Saturday learning to "welcome one another as Christ" as the Rev. Dr. Jane Tomaine deepened our understanding of the role of hospitality in Benedictine spirituality. The program presented a perfect blend of listening, learning, and sharing. Special thanks go to Fr. Coudriet's wife, Karen Schmidt, and to the secretary of Christ Church, Carolyn Judy, who served us a delicious luncheon. The day ended with Holy Eucharist, celebrated by the Rev. Canon Martha Ishman, assisted by Fr. Coudriet; the Rev. Tomaine, preacher; and the Rev. Charl Kapp, deacon. Keep the last weekend in September open for our Chautauqua retreat, which this year will be silent, led by the Rev. Lynn Sinnott from Ascension, Bradford.



## Who's Who for EYE Part 2 by Carly Rowe

On Tuesday, July 8, ten young people from our diocese will begin their journey to the 2008 Episcopal Youth Event. They will travel to San Antonio, Texas, where they will join some 1500 other young people from all over the world. This is their opportunity to experience the church on a global level and to deepen and develop their own ministries in the church. So just who are these young people representing the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania? Following are the profiles of the remaining five of the youth that will be attending. The other five were featured in June's edition of the *Forward*.

**Paige Greene** has been active at St. John's Church in Franklin for seven years. She is the daughter of Dave & Becky Greene of Franklin and has a younger brother, Harrison. Paige is completing her sophomore year at Franklin High School where she is active in the Marching, Concert and Stage Bands, the Yearbook Staff, Spanish Club and a member of the Tennis Team. She is the President of the Youth Group at St. John's and serves as an Acolyte. Paige also participates in the Diocesan Summer Camp Program. When asked what she is most looking forward to at EYE, Paige says, "I am excited about meeting people my age that have the same beliefs that I do, and getting a chance to interact with my peers from other countries."

**Nathaniel Ropski** has attended St. Stephen's Church in Fairview for two years. He is completing his freshman year at Mercyhurst Prep School in Erie where he is a member of the Junior Varsity Soccer

Team. Nathaniel is the son of Steven Ropski & Melanie Gustafson-Ropski and has one sister, Meaghan. He has become active as an Acolyte at St. Stephen's and also participated in a 2007 mission trip to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. Nathaniel has a great interest in History and enjoys playing classical guitar. While in San Antonio, he hopes to learn more about his faith and is looking forward to the opportunity to meet new people.



**Josh Sutley** has attended St. John's Church in Sharon for almost 18 years and is the only young person in the group to be attending a second Episcopal Youth Event. He represented the diocese three years ago in Berea, Kentucky, as a freshman. He is a 2008 graduate of Sharpville High School. He is the son of Kevin & Ann Sutley of Sharpville and has an older sister, Amy DelFratte and a younger sister, Heather. In school, Josh was active in Wrestling, Cross Country and Track. At St. John's, he serves as an Acolyte, is active in the Youth Group and also volunteers with the parish's afterschool program. In the diocese, Josh participates in the Summer Camp Program, Happening and attended General Convention in 2006 as a participant in the Youth Program. Josh is looking forward to "seeing that many Epis-

copalians together in one place at EYE and hopes to meet new friends and have a great time!"

**Hannah Beckman** has been active at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie for fifteen years. While there, she was a member of the Children's Choir. She recently graduated from Collegiate Academy where she was active on the Crew team, in Chamber Singers, and with the World Language and Cultures Club. She lives with her parents, Steve and Carrie, and her older sister, Elizabeth. At EYE she is "looking forward to meeting others and learning more about my faith."

**Sarah Wilson** is a member of Trinity Church in New Castle. She is in ninth grade at Laurel High School where she is a part of many activities. At Trinity, she acolytes and works in the nursery. She lives with her parents, David and Elizabeth Wilson, and her four brothers.

Please keep these youth, as well as their chaperones, the Rev. Dennis Blausner and Sharon Gregory, in your prayers as they travel to San Antonio.

If you have news, story ideas, or pictures that you would like to share with the diocese, please contact Vanessa at the Diocesan Church Center at 814-456-4203 or at [vbutter@dionwpa.org](mailto:vbutter@dionwpa.org).

### **Bishop Sean's & Canon Martha's Visitation Schedules**

Due to their busy summer schedule, Bishop Sean and Canon Martha will not be making Sunday visitations until the fall.

### **St. John's, Franklin Calls New Rector**

St. John's, Franklin has called a new rector. The Rev. Holly Davis, a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, will be joining St. John's in July. She comes to us from the Diocese of Lexington, where she was ordained a deacon in January of 2008. She served as a deacon at St. Francis in Great Falls, VA while at VTS. She was also the leader of two mission trips while at VTS: one to the Gulf Coast region immediately following Hurricane Katrina and the other to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Holly said that she "gives great thanks for God's grace in calling [me] to the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and to Bishop Rowe, Bishop Stacy Sauls, and the people of St. John's for the opportunity to minister to God's people in this, our one holy, catholic and apostolic church. It's a Great Day in the Kingdom!"



Photo by Susan Shillinglaw, VTS

For more information on Holly, please visit St. John, Franklin's website at [www.stjohnsfranklin.org](http://www.stjohnsfranklin.org).

### **Mission Statement Development Ongoing for Diocese**

We would like to thank all of you who attended the Diocesan focus groups in late April.

The program yielded what we were seeking: useful and usable feedback from the three focus groups. The responses revealed several areas of common thinking among those who participated, and these will likely be the areas which will form our mission.

We have already begun to analyze the responses and information we gathered. The primary themes we have seen emerge regarding how we are to serve God are: church growth, leadership development, stewardship, Christian education, and outreach.

The diocesan health team—a group charged with helping not only to establish the diocese's mis-

sion, but also to develop methods through which we can unite the diocese in prayer, discernment and communication—will have a functional mission statement to present during the 2008 Diocesan Convention. As mission statements go, that's pretty fast work for a diocese. And it is only possible due to the current and ongoing cooperation of individuals throughout the diocese.

Again, thank you to all who participated. For those who did not or could not, we hope that you will take advantage of such opportunities in the future. When we gather in faith and community at events such as these, we each come away with more to give to God and to our neighbor.



### **Prayer Request from the Diocesan Health Team**

The Diocesan Health Team is requesting your prayers for the Lambeth Conference.