



# The Forward

July 2009

## Letter from the Bishop

Once in awhile I am surprised. Once in awhile events in life will exceed even my highest expectations. Our diocesan summer camp and our Waldameer picnic were 'awesome' experiences in the truest sense of the word.

Our diocesan summer camp had nearly 100 young people and adult staff from around the diocese for an uplifting week of fun and formation. Fr. Denny Blauser, who serves as camp dean, said it was one of the best camps in thirty years, and I would agree that is was incredible. We are blessed with gifted young people who



represent the best of congregations as they are right now. We explored issues of faith and had fun together in the context of intentional Christian community. Even though we had a few days of rain, we heard no complaints. This year I had the cabin with 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Development of their faith in Jesus Christ is a high priority for these young men even if going to sleep before 2 AM is not. I count it a blessing to be with them and all of our young people for a week.

Our camping program would not be what it is without dedicated people. This year marked 30 years for Fr. Denny Blauser (New Castle), 20 years for Sharon Gregory (Houtzdale), and 20 years for Fr. Doug Dayton (Sharon). I give thanks for their willingness to serve our young people.

That would be enough, but then we gathered at Waldameer for a diocesan Eucharist and picnic that was out of this world. Close to 700 people were present for worship and many others joined later. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed spending time with the people of our diocese. Even though I was running a serious sleep deficit after a week of summer camp, I was energized by our diocese gathered in one place for worship and fellowship. Thank you to all of you who supported this wonderful event. If you were unable to join us this year, I hope you will make an effort next year.

I want to thank Paul and Lane Nelson and Steve and Nancy Gorman for their gracious invitation to Waldameer and for providing us with ride and water park passes. I also want to give a shout out to Fr. Denny Blauser (New Castle) and Mo. Holly Davis (Franklin) for organizing the liturgy and to Craig Dressler (Cathedral), Colleen Prittie (Cathedral), and Fr. Doug Dayton (Sharon) for providing us with music.

Being surprised by the abundant grace of God is a good thing every once in awhile. I give thanks for our ministry together and our emerging mission.

Blessings,

+ Sean

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## Notes from the Diocesan Health Team

by the Rev. Holly Davis

Our discussion continues on **Natural Church Development** (NCD). As I continue to meet folks of all ages throughout our *Diocese*, I am convinced God has blessed Northwestern Pennsylvania with dedicated, educated, vibrant, enthusiastic evangelists—lay and ordained *leaders*—people of God who are prepared to go into the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus the Christ! **Healthy communities** and **healthy servants** are meeting the *needs* of a world aching for the **Word of God!**

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### QUALITY CHARACTERISTIC 4: FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES

Our fourth quality characteristic is **functional structures**. **NCD** studies have determined of all the eight marks of growing churches “functional structures” is the most *controversial*. Something which is **functional** is used to contribute to the development or maintenance of a larger whole (envision our **Diocese**). Such a structure is designed and developed **solely** to be of **use**. A structure, for the purposes of this quality characteristic, is the *arrangement* of the parts of the **body of Christ**. Quite simple, really.

So, why is this characteristic the **most** controversial? The struggle comes from **fear**. The fear is that **change** will cost the Church her *liturgy*, *theology* or *Christology*. Instead, looking at what *may* change **strengthens** our understanding of **Episcopal** and what makes us a part of our beloved **Anglican Communion**. Structures are *not* an *end*, but instead a *means to an end*. Whatever does not **measure up** should be *changed* or *laid to rest*.

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### THE PROPOSED DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT:

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is One Church under the Lordship of Christ, equipping **Transformational Leadership** for Transformational Ministry through our missionary outposts  
—our Congregations.

“**Transformational Leadership**”- Working for a **Transformational** leader can be wonderful and uplifting. The Apostles experienced this *first hand*. Jesus put **passion** and **energy** into everything. He *cared* about His disciples and wanted them to **succeed**. **Transformational** Leadership starts with the development of a *vision*—a mission—a view of the *future* that will excite and convert followers. Sound familiar?

What can be more exciting than engaging in providing the *Kingdom of God* here on earth and spending eternal life with Christ? This takes **energy** and a **commitment** to take any and every opportunity to share the radical **vision** of proclaiming the **Good News** to all who are in need of hearing God’s promise of salvation.

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### Prayer for the Diocesan Organic Quality Management Diocesan Health Team:

#### For Guidance:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer: 1979*

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Please contact The Rev. Adam Trambley at [atrambley@trinitywarren.org](mailto:atrambley@trinitywarren.org) for more information.

Also, you may find the Natural Church Development home page to be of assistance: <http://www.ncd-international.org/public/seminars.html>.



### Vicar Appointed to St. Peter’s, Waterford

A new vicar has been appointed to St. Peter’s, Waterford. The Rev. Norm Field will be installed as the vicar on Saturday, September 19, at 11:00 AM at St. Peter’s.

Fr. Norm has previously served at St. Peter’s and has spent the last few years serving a number of our congregations as a supply priest.

Everyone is welcome to attend the installation service.

## Rector of St. John's, Sharon to Retire

*Father Doug Dayton is retiring from St. John's, Sharon after serving there for over twenty years. His last service officiated as rector will be on Sunday, July 26th. Below are his reflections on his years of ministry.*

Therefore Father, through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to Douglas; fill him with grace and power, and make him a Priest in your Church. May he exalt you, O Lord, boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- - *Ordination of a Priest (BCP p. 534)*

On April 27, 1991, Bishop Rowley laid hands on me and prayed the words quoted above. And for the past 18 years it has been my joy to serve God and the parish family of St. John's as priest and pastor. As I reflect on these past 18 years along with the preceding five years of ministry as seminarian and deacon, two observations come to mind.

First, how honored I feel to have had the opportunity to serve you. When I was in college I thought God's plan for my life was as a public school teacher. But then the Vietnam War intervened and a 20 year career as an Education and Training officer in the United States Air Force ensued. Then the G.I. bill enabled me to attend seminary and prepare for my next "service" assignment: St. John's, Sharon. These past 23 years have taught me so much about the real purpose of the gospel—the "good news of Jesus Christ"—that we learn it best when we live it in community; ie. the community of our family and the community of our church. Just as Jesus left the proclamation of the gospel in the hands of his 12 disciples, so we have inherited that great commission of telling "the greatest story ever told" to our families, friends, and neighbors both by what we say and how we live. I've also learned that everyone has a personal story to tell...the story of who first prayed with you, who first told you about Jesus, who first brought you to church. My role as pastor and priest has been to enable you to "own" your spiritual story, to help mature in Christ as we've grown in grace Sunday by Sunday, Season by Season. So that our knowledge of Jesus Christ can make a difference in our lives.



Second, the great satisfaction and enthusiasm I have felt being here with you at this critical point in the life of this wonderful church called St. John's. Perhaps better than anyone else, I have had a vantage point that has allowed me to witness how we have chosen time and again, to work together and serve one another. We have completed the most successful capital campaign that St. John's has ever undertaken. Over six hundred fifty thousand dollars in pledges along with a three quarter million dollar bequest have enabled us to accomplish a major repair and improvement of our physical facilities. Yet, the most heartening result of that campaign was the spiritual growth that we experienced by engaging the majority of our parish family in the various campaign projects and activities...all undergirded by scripture and prayer.

For 143 years St. John's Church has been a beacon of spiritual help and hope to our parish family and our community. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life to have served this parish and helped us grow in faith for God, in service to Christ, and in fellowship with one another. May God continue to bless St. John's with all that is good and holy.

Together in Service to our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Douglas Kennedy Dayton, Rector



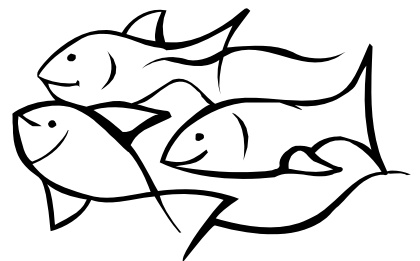
### General Convention 2009

General Convention will be July 7-18. You can get up-to-date news from General Convention at the media hub at [www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub).

The Diocesan Church Center will be closed from July 4-19 due to the bishop and staff being at General Convention.

# Camp Nazareth 2009

## Go Fish!



## St. John's, Sharon Calls New Rector

St. John's, Sharon, has called a new rector. The Rev. Adam Trambley will be joining St. John's in August. Fr. Adam has served Trinity Memorial, Warren, since 2004. He is a current member of the Standing Committee and a deputy to General Convention this summer.

Fr. Adam will succeed the Rev. Doug Dayton, who has served St. John's for twenty years and whose last service there will be July 26th.

Please keep Fr. Adam; his wife, Jane; their daughters, Lillian and Julia; and St. John's in your prayers as they embark on their new ministry together.



## Our Saviour, DuBois Calls Interim



Church of Our Saviour, DuBois, has called the Rev. Brian Reid as their interim priest, following the retirement of their rector, the Rev. Bob McKay. Fr. Brian will begin his official interim duties in August.

Fr. Brian has served at a number of congregations in our diocese, his last position being interim at St. John's, Franklin.

Please pray for Fr. Brian and the congregation of Church of Our Saviour as they embark on their new ministry together.

## Confirmations at St. John's, Franklin.



*The bishop recently visited St. John's, Franklin. St. John's presented twelve people for confirmation. Front Row (l-r): Alex Trautman, Mike Trautman, Chuck McKain, Peg Dickens, and Angel Phillips. Middle Row (l-r): Canon Francis Zagar, Steve Luxbacher, Wendy Sloss, Kaity McDonald, J.J. Thompson, and Heather Matthews. Back Row (l-r): Harrison Greene, Bishop Sean, the Rev. Holly Davis, and Matt Shaffer.*

**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 [vbutler@dionwpa.org](mailto:vbutler@dionwpa.org).**

## Call for Resolutions and Nominations for 2009 Convention

The Secretary of Convention and the Nominating Committee are requesting resolutions and nominations for the 2009 Diocesan Convention. Information on submitting a resolution or nomination will be on the Diocesan website's Convention 2009 page ([www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention09.htm](http://www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention09.htm)) by the beginning of July.

Also on the convention page will be draft versions of the 2010 budget, the 2010 assessments, and the clergy minimum stipend resolution. Diocesan Council is seeking feedback on these documents. Please send comments and suggestions regarding the drafts to Mary Bowers at [mebowers@dionwpa.org](mailto:mebowers@dionwpa.org).

Resolutions, nominations, and feedback on the draft documents are due to the Diocesan Church Center **no later than September 8, 2009**.

Diocesan Convention will be November 6-7 in New Castle, PA, and will be hosted by Trinity Church.



## Spiritual Gifts - Introduction

by Jack Malovich, the Rev. Mary Norton, & the Rev. Brian Reid

We're all familiar with the scriptural discussions of spiritual gifts from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, and we have encountered the discussion or mention of gifts in other parts of scripture as well. But neither Paul nor others issued a "guide to spiritual gifts" for the new churches. Since then, however, there have been research, study and application trials on the part of organizations and individuals working to determine how best to assess and use these God-given gifts.

In particular is a program called, "The Three Colors of Ministry," which is part of the Natural Church Development system. The program uses a Trinitarian approach to identifying spiritual gifts and goes beyond identity to actual application. The distinctive aspects of this approach are the following: it is "natural," not forcing gifts or behaviors, but allowing them to develop; church-centered; research-based; holistic; creative; biblical and practical. There will follow a series of articles in *The Forward* about this program, how it works, how it can be applied and how it will be implemented throughout the diocese.

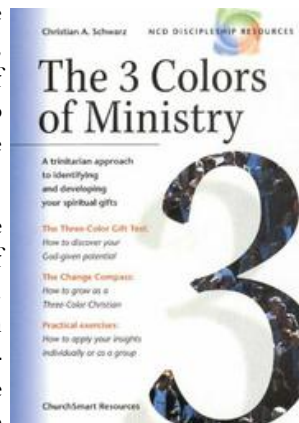
But first, what is a spiritual gift? According to "The

Three Colors of Ministry," it is "a special ability that God gives, according to his grace, to each member of the body of Christ to be used for the development of the church." Every Christian has a different gift mix, and our gifts—or perhaps our ability to use them—may change over the course of our lives.

And why do we care about spiritual gifts? Well, we can all go along in life pursuing our interests and our careers or jobs (which hopefully hold some interest for us), our leisure activities and hobbies, engaging in things we enjoy or maybe even in which we believe we have a talent. But what if God is calling us to more? Okay, silly question. We know that God is always calling us to more. And one way to learn what that "more" is is to find out about the special gifts with which we have been endowed...gifts we can use in service to God and God's people.

In future newsletters we will address the following:

- \* How many gifts are there and what are the categories of gifts?
- \* How do I identify and use my gifts?
- \* How you can learn more at the spiritual gifts programs offered in your area this fall



**Correction:** In the June edition of the *Forward*, it was stated that this would be Gary Yaeger's fourth time as a deputy to General Convention. It will in fact be his sixth time as a deputy.