



The Forward

June 2008

Letter from the Bishop

There is one aspect of the Christian life that we tend to forget: Christian formation is a lifelong process. Sometimes we remember that and sometimes, especially when our faith is challenged by our life experience, we tend to forget about formation and get stuck.

The task of formation is difficult. It's difficult because it requires being vulnerable and being vulnerable requires risk. In order to grow up into the full stature of Christ, we must be willing to risk the security of what we think we know and walk a path with God to something new.

In my experience, the youth of the church are most open to the task of formation when we encourage them to engage the disciplines of the church. Our

diocesan summer camp program is a powerful time of community and formation. Those of us who are present have the powerful experience of seeing formation happen before our very eyes—formation of youth and our own formation. I think youth tend to be more open because, when it comes to

God, they know they don't have it all figured out.

Several people in our ordination process have completed a part of their journey of formation. Fr. Shawn Clerkin of the Cathedral, Michele Hanes of the Church of the Holy Spirit, and Joanne Piatko of Church of the Ascension in Bradford received their Masters in Divinity from Bexley Hall Seminary in Rochester, New York last week. Johanna Baker will graduate from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale over the Memorial Day Weekend. Each of them has made themselves vul-

nerable for the sake of growing more fully into God.

Think about Autumn. I know it seems like a long way off. Look at your schedule. How can you make more time for the task of formation? I encourage you to join a bible study, attend or teach an adult forum, or take on a new discipline. God just might surprise you and take you to new depths.

Bishop Sean



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Church of the Holy Trinity, Houtzdale

Call for Nominations & Resolutions Coming

The request for nominations and resolutions for the ninety eighth annual Diocesan Convention will be coming soon. Nominations and resolutions that will affect the constitution or canons will be due by September 8. All other resolutions will be due by October 7.

The convention will be held November 7-8, 2008 at the Madera Fire Co. Community Building and is being hosted by Church of the Holy Trinity, Houtzdale. For more information on the convention, please visit our website at www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention2008.htm. It will be updated frequently throughout the summer and fall.

The Importance of a Mission Statement

by the Rev. John Wesley and the Rev. Mary Norton

A group of clergy and lay persons, called the Diocesan Health Team, has been working with the Bishop to develop methods for gathering input from people throughout the Diocese that will lead to a well defined and clear Mission Statement. An effective Mission Statement is important because it can be used as a guide in both planning and evaluating events and activities. When, in the past, people have seen Mission Statements written but not used in this way, they conclude that creating a Mission Statement is an empty exercise or even a waste of time. Out hope of course is that, for our Diocese, the Mission Statement that is developed will be used effectively to guide planning and evaluating every program and activity of the Diocese.

Let me give you an example of how a Mission Statement can be used effectively. Say, for example, your congregation comes up with a Mission statement

that says: *"We exist to help our members experience closeness to God."* Then the Vestry decides that it is time for a Capital Funds Campaign; the ECW wants to have a Fall Crafts Sale; and the youth leaders decide it is time to take the Acolytes to



see the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

To effectively apply the Mission Statement in the Planning process, the following question could be used for each activity:

- How can a Capital Funds Campaign be undertaken in a way that will help the members of our congrega-

tion experience greater closeness to God?

- How can a Fall Crafts Sale take place in a way that will help every participant experience greater closeness to God?

- How can going to Washington National Cathedral help our acolytes to experience closeness to God?

Then after the events take place, a similar question is used to guide discussion among the planners of the event, to see if the event achieved its intended purpose:

- How did participating in the Capital Funds Campaign [or the Fall Crafts Sale / or the trip to the National Cathedral] help you experience greater closeness to God? Please give specific examples.

It is our hope that this same process will help in planning and evaluating Diocesan activities, programs and budget allocations.

Prayer Request from the Diocesan Health Team

The Diocesan Health Team is requesting your prayers for discernment concerning the proposed new diocesan canons which will be coming out soon.



Steadman Appointed as New Diocesan Chancellor

Attorney James Steadman was recently appointed as the diocesan chancellor following the resignation of Canon Herb Johnson, who previously held the position. Atty. Steadman is a member of St. Stephen's, Fairview. He and his wife, Alison, reside in Girard and have three daughters.

Canon Johnson, who served in the position of chancellor for thirty five years, will continue to serve the diocese as the vice chancellor.

Who's Who for EYE Part 1 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 North-western Pennsylvania? Following are profiles of five of the youth that will be attending. Please watch next month's Forward for the other five!

Edward Baxter has been a life-long member of St. Stephen's Church in Fairview. The son of Donald & Susan Baxter of Erie, Edward is completing his freshman year at Mercyhurst Prep School. There he is active in Student Government, Theater, People to People (student Ambassador program), International Thespian Society, and the Mercyhurst Prep Show Choir. Edward is also a volunteer for the Feed the Hungry Program in Erie and an Ambassador for the United Arts Fund Drive. He serves as an Acolyte at St. Stephen's and participated in a Katrina Mission Trip in 2007. Edward has an older sister Emily and when asked about EYE says, "I am most looking forward to the fellowship with like-minded teens from around the country. I am also looking forward to learning more about my faith and how it translates to kids my age."

Diana Fraser is a member of St. Clement's Church in Greenville where she has been active for the past three years. Diana will be

completing her sophomore year at Greenville High School. She is the daughter of Gordon & Julia Fraser of Greenville and has an older brother, Jon and a younger brother, Tim. In school, Diana is active in the Theatre, Forensics and Band (*Jazz, Marching and Concert*). She is also a member of the school Choir and the Tennis Team. She is an active member of the Youth Group



and the Choir at St. Clement's. Diana also participates in the Diocesan Summer Camp program. As for EYE, she tells us that she is most looking forward to "finding a sense of community with teenagers of my same faith".

Matt Guerriero has been a life-long member of the Cathedral of St. Paul. He is a 2008 graduate of McDowell High School and plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. He is the son of John & Judy Guerriero of Erie and has a younger brother, Alex. In High School, Matt was active in Cross Country, Track & Field, Honors College and Key Club. At the Cathedral, he currently serves as an Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Minister and Reader. Matt participated as an acolyte in both the Consecra-

tion and the Seating of Bishop Sean last fall. When asked what he is most looking forward to at EYE, Matt says, "meeting people from all over the world and spending a week in Texas!"

Christian Lowery has been a member of St. John's Church in Sharon for 14 years. He is completing his sophomore year at Sharon High School where he is active in Cross Country, Wrestling, Baseball and also Men of Note. He is the son of Russ & Sherri Lowery of Sharon and has an older sister, Amber. At St. John's, he serves as an Acolyte and is active in the Youth Group. Christian participates in the Diocesan Summer Camp Program and served as an Acolyte at Bishop Sean's Consecration in the fall. He is looking forward to exploring his faith and meeting new people while in San Antonio.

Heather Sutley is a member of St. John's Church in Sharon where she has been active for 16 years. Heather will be completing her sophomore year at Sharpville High School. She is the daughter of Kevin & Ann Sutley of Sharpville and has an older sister, Amy DelFratte and an older brother, Josh. In school, Heather is a member of the Chamber Women's Choir, is the Statistician for the Wrestling Team and participated in the Spring Musical. At St. John's, she is active in the Youth Group, is a Children's Chapel Leader and volunteers with the parish's afterschool program. "Making new friends, learning more about our church and its history" and what this all has to do with her, is what Heather is most looking forward to when it comes to EYE!

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.



Grace, Lake City

Bishop Sean's & Canon Martha's Visitation Schedules June 2008

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| June 1st | - Bishop Sean - Grace, Lake City
- Canon Martha - Christ Church, Oil City |
| June 22nd | - Canon Martha - St. Agnes', St. Marys |
| June 29th | - Canon Martha - St. James', Titusville |

St. Stephen's Strawberry Festival

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1070 Dutch Road
Fairview, PA 16415

Saturday, June 21, 2008
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Games, Food, Giant Slide, Dino Jump, DJ,
Auctions (adult/children) and Strawberries!

Please come and join us for some fun and celebration
with a special **SUNSET SERVICE**
introducing Father Geoff Howson!



Mission Trip to Tanzania by the Rev. Charl Kapp

Two people from Christ Church, Oil City, Mr. Joseph Croskey and Deacon Charl Kapp, and Mrs. Monica Bauschard from St. Francis of Assisi, Youngsville, will be traveling to the United Republic of Tanzania in East Africa in July. This is Monica's first visit, but Joseph and Deacon Charl have previously been to the remote mountainous Karagwe district in northwestern Tanzania. Two projects will be the focus of this trip: the completion of an orphanage and an assessment of the status of the Milk Fund, both initiated in 2003. Both the orphanage and the Fund are affiliated with Nyakahanga DD Hospital, a ministry of the ELCT (Lutheran) diocese of Karagwe. The orphanage needs electrical and plumbing work completed and windows installed. The Milk Fund, which provides milk as a dietary supplement to children and some adults whose healing and wellness benefit from the milk, is also utilized to purchase maize and soy flour for the porridge provided as basic nutrition for indigent hospital patients and orphans. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to either of these projects may send a check made out to Christ Episcopal Church -with "Milk Fund" or "orphanage" in the memo- and mail it to the church at 16 Central Avenue, Oil City, PA 16301.



This is Twize, one of the orphans who benefits from the milk provided by the Milk Fund.

Diocesan Council

Diocesan Council members, please remember that the council will meet on Saturday, June 21, at 10:00 AM at St. John's, Franklin. Please let Vanessa know whether or not you can make it to the meeting (814-456-4203 or vbutler@dionwpa.org). Lunch will be provided.