



The Forward

May 2008

Letter from the Bishop

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The diocesan staff and I thoroughly enjoyed being out in the diocese over the past week visiting with you and participating in the focus groups. We continue to be encouraged by your hospitality and by your willingness to engage the matters of mission, ministry, and vision. Together, we continue to move forward and to advance the Kingdom of God in our diocese.

What is particularly evident to me is the awareness of our call to exercise, with intentionality, our various ministries. Who can forget Bishop Rowley calling us to recognize and live into our Baptismal Covenant? Hardly a sermon or meeting went by without considering the Baptismal Covenant. His continual teaching in that area and for-

ward thinking about mission has provided a strong foundation on which to continue to build and develop our leadership for the future. What we do today will plant the seeds for a future harvest.



Already, we have met to consider your ideas and reflections, and how we might best move the diocese toward a Comprehensive Mission Strategy. Sometimes our tendency is to want results and action tomorrow. The reality is that, while we are making great progress, the process takes time to do well.

Your commitment to pray for our mission, our leadership, and our bishop are essential. I want to thank you for taking the time to make your ideas and reflections known. We are honored and blessed by them.

Bishop Sean

Inside this issue:

Thank You for Your Participation	2
Prayer Request from the Diocesan Health Team	2
Fr. Hamblin Awarded Attending of the Year	2
Healing Services Scheduled	2
Listen Up!	3
Lift High the Cross	3
Visitation Schedule	4
Trinity Celebrates 160th Anniversary	4
ECW Annual Meeting & Retreat	4
Diocesan Council	4

Give It 4 Good – Choosing Compassion Over Consumption

by the Rev. Adam Trambley

In the coming months most taxpayers will receive an economic stimulus check for between \$600 and \$2,100. Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation is asking us to pay particular attention to those in the worldwide economy who face extreme poverty and starvation on a daily basis, not just the setback of a consumption-



driven U.S. economy. We are being asked to consider contributing .07%, 10% or 100% of our economic stimulus checks to organizations fighting extreme poverty throughout the world, organizations that include Episcopal Relief and Development and others. For more information, go to www.giveit4good.org.

Thank You for Your Participation! By the Reverends Mary Norton & John Wesley

Bishop Sean began his Episcopate with a desire for the people in all the congregations of this Diocese to have a greater sense of inter-connectedness with all the other people and congregations of the Diocese. Toward that end, three Focus Groups were scheduled to gather as much input as possible from the grassroots of the Diocese about what the direction and mission of the Diocese should be. The three groups met toward the end of April in Franklin, Ridgway and Erie. Participants were divided into small groups and were asked to respond to two questions: (1) "What does it mean to say WE ARE THE DIOCESE?" and (2) "How is the Diocese called to serve God?" Group discussion was energetic and yielded many thought-provoking responses. A review of these responses was begun the day following the final Focus Group meeting and will continue until all the results are grouped together in useful categories so it can be seen which issues generated the most response. This process of evaluation will continue through the summer with the expectation that by Diocesan Convention 2008 we will have a clearer sense of the Diocesan Mission and how to accomplish it. The encouragement of grassroots participation will lead us to being a more unified and vital Diocese.



Prayer Request from the Diocesan Health Team

The Diocesan Health Team is requesting your prayers for the development of a comprehensive mission strategy.

Fr. Hamblin Awarded Attending of the Year

Fr. Jeff Hamblin, former rector of St. Mark's in Erie, was recently awarded Attending of the Year by Kings County Hospital Center. Kings County is the largest of the New York City hospitals linked to the State University of New York. Fr. Hamblin serves with their Behavioral Health Services department. Though Fr. Hamblin now works in NYC as a psychiatrist, he remains canonically resident with our diocese.



Healing Services Scheduled

Two healing services are coming up in the diocese. The first will be held on Sunday, May 11 at 7:00 PM at Emmanuel in Corry. The second will be held on Sunday, June 1 at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's, Erie. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Listen Up! by Carly Rowe

Biblical prophets brought messages from God to the people in their own communities and beyond. From June 8 – June 13, five of these prophets will be bringing their messages to Camp Nazareth as part of this year’s Summer Camp program. *Listen Up! Messages from God*, will be the theme for our campers from around the diocese. They will meet Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Amos, and Daniel. They will also discover that God’s messages of hope, transformation, mercy, justice, and faithfulness still hold true for people today. All youth who have complete grades 2 through 12 are encouraged to join us for one of the best weeks of the summer. Don’t worry, there is so much more to this year’s Summer Camp than just the prophets! Campers will also participate in team building, scavenger hunts, an outdoor movie night, singing, dancing, and worship. The list could go on forever! The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania comes together and comes alive every year during this week in June. Encourage the young people from your congregation to be a part of it!



Registration materials will be available starting next week in your church office and also at the Diocesan Church Center. For more information or if you have any questions about our Summer Camp, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Denny Blauser (*Summer Camp Dean*) at 724-654-8761 or by email: frdenny@earthlink.net; or Carly Rowe (*Youth Commission Chair*) at 814-474-2399 or by email: carlyhrowe@hotmail.com.

Lift High the Cross by the Rev. Adam Trambley

God is very good! On Tuesday, April 16, workers placed a new cross on top of the refurbished steeple of Trinity Memorial Church in Warren. This six-foot high, gold-plated cross was donated by Fiske and Sons Inc. of Erie, a restoration contractor whose original owner began donating crosses a hundred years ago on churches they restored.

About a year ago, we contacted Fiske to help us deal with moisture seepage through some of our walls. A close inspection showed multiple problems where acid rain and other erosion had damaged hundred year old stonework and Trinity's turreted tower. Last summer, Fiske began a comprehensive

project including roof repair, covering the tops of the stone walls with turncoat stainless



steel gables, constructing a new steepled roof for the tower, and cleaning, pointing and sealing the church's stonework. The entire project will continue through this summer.

While all the work is essential to help us maintain our buildings into the future, the high point, figuratively and literally, is the new cross, which was blessed by Bishop Sean in a ceremony last November. Offered as a sign of hope and resurrection for our community, the cross will greet visitors coming into downtown Warren and offer inspiration to patients at Warren General Hospital's Critical Care Unit, which has a number of rooms facing Trinity. Symbolically and concretely, our buildings and our block are now placed at the foot of the cross of Christ, and we have a glorious new reminder of that fact as we move forward in our parish's mission and ministry.

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.



Emmanuel, Corry

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

- May 4th - Bishop Sean - Trinity Church, New Castle
- Canon Martha - Emmanuel Church, Corry
- May 11th - Bishop Sean - St. John's, Franklin
- Canon Martha - St. Clement's, Greenville
- May 18th - Bishop Sean - St. Joseph's, Port Allegany
- Canon Martha - Emmanuel Church, Emporium

Trinity Celebrates 160th Anniversary

Trinity, New Castle will be celebrating their 160th anniversary on May 4, 2008. In honor of this occasion, they will have an Anniversary Open House on May 4 from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. There will be historical tours of the church, music, refreshments, and children's activities. Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful occasion.



Episcopal Church Women Annual Meeting & Retreat by Monica Irwin

The Episcopal Church Women of Northwestern Pennsylvania will hold its Annual Meeting Friday, May 16th at 7:00 PM at Christ Church, Oil City. Supper will be provided.

The following day, May 17th, the Rev. Dr. Jane A. Tomaine, author of *St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living*, will lead a workshop on "Benedictine Hospitality: Welcome One Another as Christ."



The Rev. Dr. Jane Tomaine, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Livingston, NJ, earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Theological School of Drew University in Madison, NJ. Her interest in the Rule of Benedict began in the late 1990s through several summer courses at General Theological Seminary in New York City. As a part of her doctoral program, she introduced the Rule of Benedict to her parish through a parish-wide, liturgical study and renewal program.

The day will include a continental breakfast, two sessions, and lunch, followed by Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Sean.

Registration costs \$20. Please make checks payable to ECW of NW PA and mail to: Enid Bishop, 1415 Atkins Street, Erie, PA 16503 by May 10 or phone 814-455-9601.

All are welcome! Our Mission: "to live, to love, to give through Christ."

Diocesan Council

Diocesan Council members, please remember that the council will no longer meet on Saturday, May 10th. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, June 21, at 10:00 AM at St. John's, Franklin.