



# The Forward

November 2008

## Letter from the Bishop

The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is drawing near. Maybe, by the time you read this article, the convention will have met and considered the mission of the diocese. The convention of the diocese, made up of the bishop, priests, deacons, and laity, is the governing body of a diocese and, therefore, key to our life together. All of us together provide the leadership for mission and ministry in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

This year, the convention will consider new canons for our diocese. The canons are the rules or law by

which we govern ourselves. Fr. Brian Reid often describes the canons as being the skeleton of the body of Christ. Some find canon law dull or irrelevant, but canons that are suitable for our ministry and our current context assist us in carrying the mission that excites us. The canons that we will consider are our canons, and they will come into being only by our action. They will not and cannot be 'imposed' on us. Instead, they are our creation, and we will perfect them to assist us in our ministry.

enough to have enjoyed my time serving as a Deputy to the General Convention. I value the conventions because they are The Episcopal Church at its best. We come together and grapple with the mission of the church and issues of the day, we disagree and sometimes argue intensely with respect for each other, and we walk away knowing we have done our best to build up the Body of Christ.



Fr. Bill Ellis always talks about our convention as our diocesan 'family reunion.' I agree with him that it has all of the dynamics (conflict included) of a good family reunion. What a joy it will be this year to join Fr. Bill

and the people of Holy Trinity, Houtzdale for this year's convention. The convention will provide an opportunity for us to see old friends and make new ones. It will also be a time to remember those who have gone to be with God like our old friend and Diocesan Chancellor Herb Johnson. I can hardly imagine a convention without him.

If you can join us, then I really do hope to see you Houtzdale. If not, then I hope you take the time to ask your delegates or your clergy person what happened. This is our diocese.

Blessings,

+Sean

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I have to say that I am one of those people who really enjoy the diocesan convention. I am even sick

### The 98th Annual Diocesan Convention to be Held November 7-8

It's that time of year! It is time once again for the diocese to gather at our annual convention. This year we will be hosted by Church of the Holy Trinity, Houtzdale. The convention will take place at the Madera Fire Co. Community Building in Madera, PA, on November 7-8. Registration will begin on Friday, November 7, at 8:30 AM and the convention will convene at 10:00 AM. The convention Eucharist will take place on Friday, November 7, at 4:30 at Church of the Holy Trinity, followed by a banquet at 7:00 PM back at the fire hall.

For clergy and delegates, things are being done a little differently, as many of you are well aware. This year, in the interest of being better stewards over our earth and over our finances, all of the materials needed for convention are available on our website at [www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention2008.htm](http://www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention2008.htm), rather than us sending out a number of costly mailings on top of providing packets at convention. We are asking that you bring the materials to convention. For those of you that do not have access to the internet (as we are aware that everyone does not) or for churches that do not have ready access to copiers, please let us know. Vanessa can either mail out packets or make sure that she has them for you at convention.

The following materials will need to be brought to convention:

- Proposed Agenda
- Resolution K – Proposed Annotated 2009 Budget
- Proposed 2009 Assessments
- 2008 Year to Date Financials
- Treasurer's Report
- Second Reading of the Constitution
- Proposed Canons – Final Draft
- Resolution A – 2009 Minimum Stipend
- Resolution B – Amendment to Title II Canon 7
- Resolution C – Amendment to Title III Canon 1
- Resolution D – Amendment to Title IV Canon 2
- Resolution E – Amendment to Title V Canon 5
- Resolution F – Of Deaneries
- Resolution G – New Constitution
- Resolution H – Adopting and Implementing New Canons
- Resolution I – On the Importance of Fostering Reconciliation
- Resolution J – To Fund Outreach in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania



Also on the website is the information sheet on the nominees, a sheet explaining some of the changes made to the final draft of the proposed canons, and directions to the fire hall and to the Church of the Holy Trinity.

For those of you who will be in the Clearfield-Houtzdale area already on Thursday, November 6, there will be a hospitality room set up at the Hampton Inn in Clearfield (we will be in a conference room on the first floor). We will be enjoying food and fellowship from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM, so please join us. You don't have to be staying at the Hampton to take part, so please come on down.

If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa at the Diocesan Church Center.

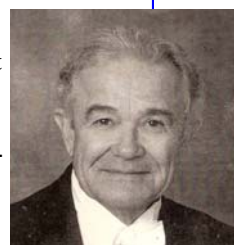
We will see you in Houtzdale!

### Memorial Service to be held for Bishop Davis

A memorial service will be held for the Rt. Rev. Donald Davis on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Paul. A reception will follow the service.

Bishop Davis was the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. He passed away August 31, 2007.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.



## Upcoming Ordinations

Please join us for some upcoming ordinations this fall.

The first will be held on Saturday, November 1, at 4:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Johanna Baker and Rebecca Lash will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. Johanna has been appointed to serve at Holy Trinity, Brookville.

The second will be held on Saturday, November 15, at 11:00 AM at Church of the Epiphany, Grove City. The Rev. Geoff Wild will be ordained to the priesthood and installed as vicar of Epiphany.

We ask for your prayers for those being ordained as they embark on their new ministries.

### My Journey to India Part 3—Mission & Ministry by the Ven. Gail Winslow

After a 13-hour flight, we arrived in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates where we stayed with Sunny's sister and family and were treated to wonderful hospitality and a taste of city and dessert life. After a few days stay, we left for the state of Kerala, India where we would spend the majority of the rest of our month.

We made a quick trip to Delhi to take in some sites, which of course included the Taj Mahal. After returning from Delhi, we visited the various communities that Trinity has been supporting since 2005.

First was the House of Hope. This is a home for over 55 displaced men. In 2005 Trinity raised \$10,000 to put on the second story of the main facility and bought beds and mattresses. When we arrived we brought with us money from Trinity for food and medicine and each man received a new set of clothes.

Next was the Birds of the Sky. This is also a men's facility with over 45 men residing there. Here we were able to provide a much needed new roof, with steel beams to replace the wooden ones, new clothes and food for several days. Prayer only supports Birds of the Sky. Let me explain. The family that cares for these outcast men used to go door to door and ask for money until someone asked them "How do I know this money is being used for what you say it is used for?" At that point, the family prayed and said to God that they would no longer go door to door but would just devote themselves to their ministry if God would provide the money to keep this home open. They have not asked for money since that day. The blessings from God continue. Our parish is blessed to be part of the answer to their prayer.

Our third stop was the Good Samaritan Home where 22 elderly men and women live who have been abandoned by their families. Here the money was used to provide an underground water pump system, clothes, food, mattresses and sheets.

Trinity was also able to assist some new ministries by providing money to The Sacred Heart Home where 15 children under the age of 5 are cared for. The money was used to finish their home so they can sleep without getting wet in the monsoons. Jocelin Thomas also celebrated her birthday here, having asked her family and friends for money to buy new clothes for all the children instead of birthday presents for herself. At Goodwill Home, where the 13 girls ages 7-14 live we were able to buy school uniforms, supplies and food. The August Club, a group of 11 young dedicated men who help the needy, was given money for a housing project for homeless. In addition to money from Trinity's outreach budget, money was also given by other individuals to take to India to use where needed. Those contributions bought school uniforms for Asaraman High School students, provided treatment for a cancer patient, two partially blind children, a patient who needed kidney dialysis, and helped an accident victim.

Next, we'll talk about the ministry that God added to the itinerary!

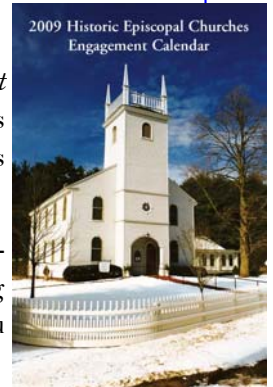


**If you have news, story ideas, or pictures that you would like to share with the diocese, please contact Vanessa at the Diocesan Church Center at 814-456-4203 or at [vbutler@dionwpa.org](mailto:vbutler@dionwpa.org).**

## St. John's, Franklin Featured in National Calendar

St. John's, Franklin is going to be featured in the *Historic Episcopal Churches Engagement Calendar* for 2009. The calendar showcases one church from every state, and St. John's is representing Pennsylvania. The church will have a photo and small vignette about its history.

The calendars are \$16.95 a piece plus 10% of the total cost added for shipping and handling (there is a \$3.00 minimum for the shipping costs). They can be ordered by sending a check or money order along with your shipping address and the number of copies you would like to: NEHA, 509 Yale Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081.



## Seamen's Institute in Need of Items for Gift Drive

The Seamen's Church Institute, a ministry affiliated with the Episcopal Church aimed at aiding mariners, is in need of items for their annual Gift Drive. For 110 years, the Institute has collected knit items, including hats and scarves, as well as small personal items, to send to mariners who are unable to get to shore to get the items themselves. This year, they are short roughly half of the items they need.



Knit items needed are scarves, hats, socks, and vests. Patterns are available on the Institute's website at [www.seamenschurch.org/484.asp](http://www.seamenschurch.org/484.asp).

Personal items they are looking for include small bottles of unscented, hypoallergenic hand lotion; unscented, colorless lip balm; sealed packages of holiday sweets; books or activities like playing cards or word searches; microwave popcorn, and sugarless chewing gum.

The items are needed by December 15, 2008. To get more information, you can go to the website at [www.seamenschurch.org](http://www.seamenschurch.org) or contact Jeanette DeVita, the Institute's Program Manager, at (212) 349-9090 x 257 or at [cas@seamenschurch.org](mailto:cas@seamenschurch.org). You can ship items to 241 Water Street, New York, NY 10038.

## Bishop Sean's & Canon Martha's Visitation Schedules November 2008

November 2nd - Bishop Sean - Church of the Redeemer, Hermitage  
- Canon Martha - St. Augustine, Edinboro

November 16th - Bishop Sean - St. John's, Kane  
- Canon Martha - St. Luke's, Smethport

November 23rd - Bishop Sean - St. Mary's, Erie  
- Canon Martha - Emmanuel, Emporium

November 30th - Bishop Sean - St. Mark's, Erie



St. Luke's, Smethport